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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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GOVT. OF TAMIL NADU

Madras Information

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Editorial Notes

Procurement in Madras

Producers should sell their stocks

PROCUREMENT of foodgrains in the Province continues to be a source of anxious concern in view of the rapid approach of the lean season and of the necessity to replenish and build up stocks before the existing stocks are completely depleted. On steadily increasing procurement within the province alone is dependent the maintenance intact of the rationing system at the present level of 10 oz. rice ration per adult. The position has to be considered in the light of the unforgettable consideration that the prospects of outside assistance in the shape of imports of foodgrains of any category are extremely negligible, as the figures for the last fortnight of May indicate. During that period only 2,838 tons of rice were received from other provinces and 8,500 tons from overseas, which included 3,500 tons of rice in replacement of supplies to be made to the Defence Services. So far as internal procurement is concerned the total quantity procured during the fortnight ending 31st May was 70,554 tons of rice as against 58,498 tons during the previous fortnight. Rice procurement is undoubtedly steadily going up but the millets' position remains more or less stationary, the implication being that those who are accustomed to consuming millets will also have to be given a rice ration, which means increased pressure on the already depleted rice stocks.

Local Self-sufficient

INDIVIDUAL districts are showing improvement in their procurement figures and the Northern Circar districts are pulling their weight in a steadier manner than sometime back, facilitating a more satisfactory movement of stocks from them to the deficit districts. But the situation calls for equally steady improvement in the procurement of foodgrains throughout the province, so that local self-sufficiency can as far as possible be ensured and there will be correspondingly less pressure on the stocks in other districts. It must be constantly remembered that it is only if the over-all stock position in the province remains satisfactory that the movement of supplies to deficit districts can be maintained in the coming difficult months. As on May 29th, the stock of rice in the province was 240,289 tons as against 242,348 tons on May 15th. The meaning of these figures is plain enough and their implications must be regarded as discouraging in the context of the fact that the position with regard to millets is only still more unsatisfactory and discouraging.

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FOR the whole province the targets for procurement of rice and millets respectively for the present *kharif* year, that is, for the period between 1-11-1946 and 31-10-1937, were fixed at 1,787,600 tons and [illegible]70 tons. Up to the end of May, the total procurement amounted, however, to only 917,386 tons and [illegible]8 tons respectively of rice and millets. Considering that the next few months are usually months of gradually declining incoming of stocks and that the normal peak period of deliveries is passing off, the over-all position, as it exists at present, cannot provide room for complacency but on the other hand affords [illegible] reason for concern as mentioned in the beginning. Greater and more intensive efforts on the part of the authorities are indeed imperatively essential. But the situation demands even greater willingness and readiness on the part of the producers to sell their stocks, as only such willingness can give purpose and meaning to official efforts and can retrieve the progressively uneven balance between stocks and requirements. The Board of Revenue conclude their report on procurement for the period ending 15th May with the statement that "all Collectors are informed that the present position is causing anxiety since no import assistance can be had in the near future and that they should bestow concentrated attention to procure all the available surpluses of rice and millets to maintain the present scale of ration."

Need of the Hour

IT is, therefore, of primary importance that the district authorities everywhere must be up and doing; but as has already been stated, it is equally or much more important that the cultivators, particularly the bigger ones, should rise to the occasion too and fulfil their part so that the province as a whole, and particularly the chronically deficit districts like Malabar, may be rescued from the effects of shortage in the difficult months ahead.

OUR exhortation to all producers will, therefore, be:

RELEASE YOUR SURPLUS STOCKS OF FOOD-GRAINS AND SAVE THE PROVINCE FROM FOOD SHORTAGE;

IN THE WELL-BEING OF THE PROVINCE AS A WHOLE CONSISTS THE WELL-BEING OF EVERYONE ALSO.

TO SELL STOCKS IN TIME WILL BE TO SELL THEM FOR A GOOD PURPOSE, FOR IN THE HAPPINESS OF THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE LIES THE HAPPINESS OF EACH OF ITS INDIVIDUAL UNITS.

IF a food shortage threatens the province or some important parts of it and the scale of ration has to be reduced, not only the non-producers, who are of course in an overwhelming majority, but even the producers too will be overwhelmed by the calamitous consequences of such shortage.

Reform of Village Panchayats

SOME of the fundamental principles on which the Government are contemplating a reorganization of the village panchayat system in Madras were enunciated by the Minister for Local Administration at a press conference recently. Village autonomy is an ideal which is very dear to the Indian people, in whose long history the village constituted the pivot of the administrative, economic, and social organization. In recent decades, village life in many parts of the country has been undergoing a process of progressive disintegration and disruption owing to the invasion of various extraneous forces and foreign ideas into our body-politic and the importance of the village as the centre and pivot of our national life has been on the decline Factionalism instead of co-operation, poverty and ill-health instead of economic self-sufficiency and healthy existence, social disintegration rather than integrated social life have come to dominate the villages, bringing in their train economic impoverishment, social and communal disharmony, ill-health and disease, mental inertia and ignorance. To restore to the villages what they had lost, to impart to them the purposeful dynamism which once was the distinguishing characteristic of their communal life, is an ideal worthy of pursuit.

Main features

THE scheme, the outlines of which were unfolded by the Hon'ble Mr. Chandramouli, seeks to attain these objectives and transform the villages once again into centres radiating robust ideas of organized democratic life and co-operative living to attain a richer and self-contained village life. The central idea of the scheme is that every village, big or small, should have a Panchayat Board, the members of which will be elected by the entire adult population of the village and with a president also directly elected by the people themselves. The Panchayat will have control over all branches of village administration subject, of course, to the control and supervision of the Provincial administration. To enable the Panchayat to discharge its obligations efficiently and without the continuous embarrassment implicit in inadequate financial resources, it is proposed to allot to the panchayat some sources of revenue like the land cess and other cesses collected from the village. It is also proposed that the Panchayat President and members, once elected should be irremovable for the entire term fixed for them by statute. The Panchayat will function through a number of sub-committees appointed by it to look after different objectives like Sanitation and Public Health, village public works, collection of revenue, procurement and sale of commodities essential for the village and criminal and civil justice, but elementary education will be a State concern and out of the purview of the Panchayat.

Internal Autonomy and External Control

THE scheme is clearly an attempt to reconcile the internal autonomy of the village with efficient and effective control from above to ensure its successful operation. There is, however, no inherent conflict between internal village autonomy and Provincial Government control, once it is granted that they can co-exist without the former being impinged upon unnecessarily and so long as the latter in its punitive form is exercised only in extreme cases to prevent maladministration and inefficiency. Nor need there be apprehension that the Provincial powers of control will be abused in view of the fact that the Provincial Government will itself be a democratic one and will be responsible to the Legislature. And lastly, lest it should be said that there is a wide administrative gap between the Village Panchayat and the Provincial Government, which may prevent effective linking up of the two agencies, the Hon'ble Minister mentioned that there was a proposal to constitute Taluk and District Advisory Councils, which will act as co-ordinating, though purely advisory, bodies.

AN integrated village life, co-operation and unity among the villagers for achieving common objectives, avoidance of factionism in the villages, training of the villagers in the democratic principles of administration, are the objectives which the scheme aims at achieving. The complaint has been very often heard that the real handicap to effective Panchayat administration is lack of financial resources and the scheme seeks to eliminate that complaint by vesting in the Panchayats the right to collect other local cesses and to spend the proceeds as it considers best for the benefit of the village.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Issue of Bread to Sick People

It has been represented to the Government that the present practice, viz., of sick people who want bread having to approach the Rationing Officer with a medical certificate who will then authorize the retailers to issue bread tickets on their ration cards, causes hardship to cardholders and even results in delays at times. It is therefore ordered that retail dealers may be directed to issue bread tickets to sick people who produce Medical Certificates by retaining the medical certificates with them. The Checking staff who periodically inspect the ration shops should check the medical certificates and issues made thereon.

The Rationing Officers may, however, continue to authorize the issue of bread to sick people who do not produce medical certificates and to habitual bread eaters.

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Ration to Industrial Canteens

In view of the difficult food position in this province and uncertainty of imports from overseas, the Government have decided to reduce the scale of ration to industrial canteens from 6 oz. to 4 oz. The composition of the ration shall be as follows:—

Canteens opened before 1st May 1946.	½ lb. of bread or 2 oz. of rice plus 2 oz. of maize or maize flour or wheat or wheat flour (maida) or barley.
Canteens opened after 1st May 1946 or to be opened in future.	½ lb. of bread or 4 oz. of maize or maize flour or wheat or wheat flour (maida) or barley.

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Issue of Wheat further restricted

Due to the low stock of wheat and wheat products and as there are no prospects of imports in the near future the issue of wheat and its products has to be further restricted. The composition of the quotas to the following establishments should be as shown below:—

Non-meals hotels—

Broken rice, if available, 25 per cent of the quota, one-fourth.

Maize and/or maize flour, 42⅔ per cent of the quota, five-twelfth.

Barley flour, 25 per cent of the quota, one-fourth.

Wheat and wheat products (excluding maida), 8⅓ per cent of the quota, one-twelfth.

If the existing stocks of wheat in any area cannot be spread over for three months with reference to the above scale, the Rationing Officers and Collector may still further reduce the quantity of wheat giving broken rice in lieu of wheat.

The issue of 25 per cent of the quota in maize and 10 per cent in the shape of barley flour is compulsory (compulsory in the sense that if maize and barley flour are not taken, other cereals should not be issued).

Biscuit manufacturers and confectioneries—

Wheat flour (maida), one-sixth of the quota.

Maize and/or barley flour, five-sixth of the quota.

The quota referred to above is 50 per cent of the quota allowed to these establishments prior to the date when maida was subsidized. The taking of maize and barley is not compulsory; but no wheat or maida should be issued in lieu of these cereals. If the existing stock position of maida after meeting the demand for bread is not sufficient to meet the demand with reference to the above scale, the Collectors and Rationing Officers may reduce it still further.

All Rationing Officers and Collectors are informed that on no account should the quota allowed to the biscuit manufacturers and confectioneries be increased nor should the composition fixed above, dated 23rd May 1947 be altered.

The above orders apply to both rural and statutorily rationed areas in the Province.

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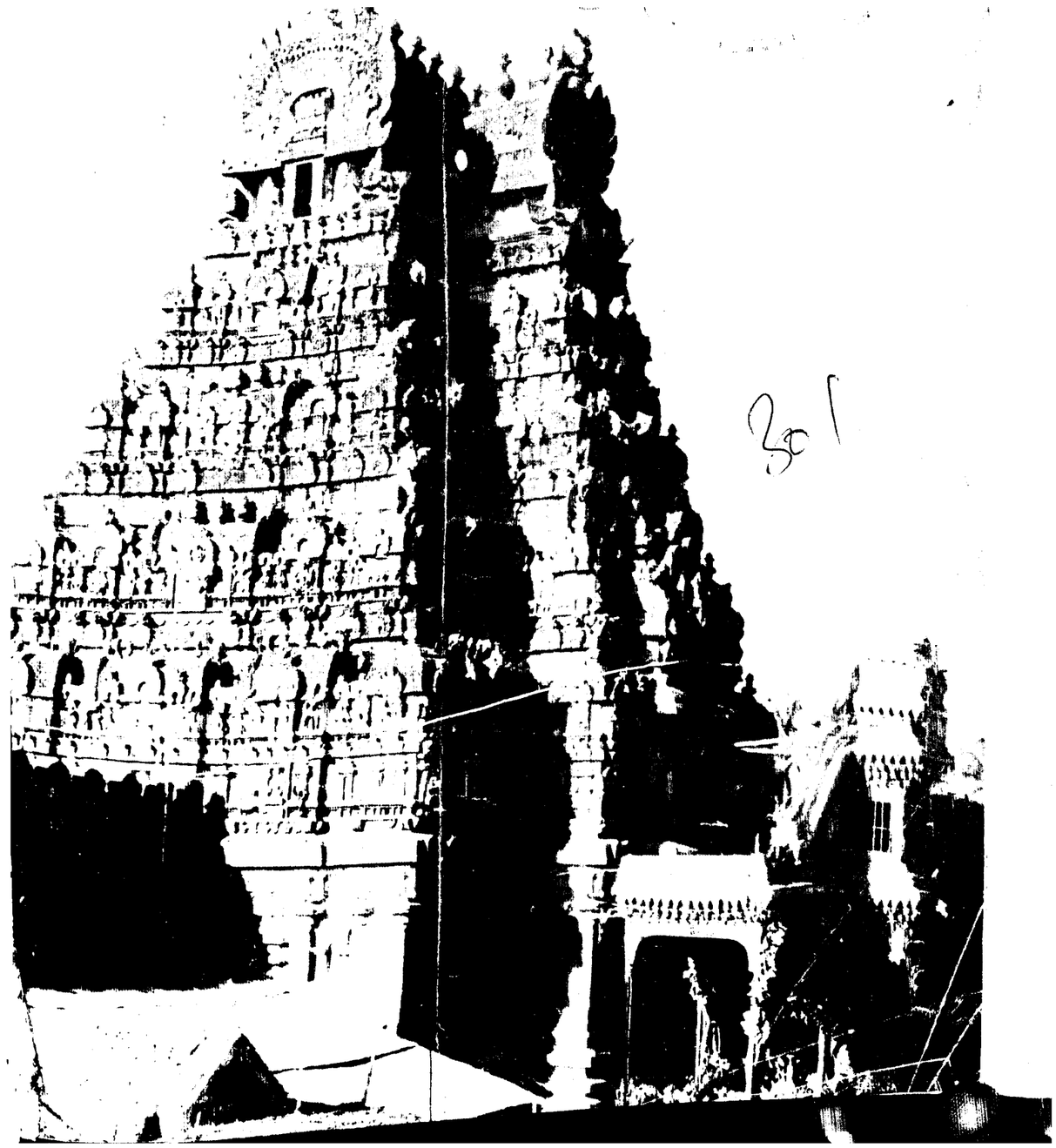
Nutrition Canteens Closed

In view of the unsatisfactory food situation the Government have considered the question of the continuance of the Nutrition Canteens run by the Y.M.C.A. in Madras City. These canteens supply food to all who pay and occasions must be frequent of persons resorting to these canteens who otherwise are also entitled to the regular food ration. Thus the canteens are an inducement to people to draw double rations, and in the face of a serious food situation, the possibilities for drawing double rations in this way have to be rigorously eliminated. The Government have therefore ordered that the Y.M.C.A. canteens at Loane Square, Salt Cotaurs, and the Corporation Fruit Market be closed with effect from 1st June 1947.

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Unoccupied Lands: Concessions extended

In view of the present food situation in the province, the Government have extended the period for which the existing concessions in respect of unoccupied lands, including lands reserved for public purposes under the Grow More Food Campaign will apply till the end of Fasli 1357. The concessions extended relate to cultivation of compounds of institutions, cultivation of backyards, cultivation of vacant village or town sites, cultivation of lands near the sea front, cultivation of tank-bed lands, exemption from water cess and assessment for the cultivation of sweet potatoes, waiver of penalties for technical infringements of irrigation rules, concessional water-rate except in regard to lands under the Kattalai High level channel in the Trichinopoly district, non-destruction of forfeited crops on encorachments, concession for special areas, like the Cauvery-Mettur Project area in Tanjore and Trichinopoly districts, land in compact blocks, wet cultivation of dry and Manavari land in Tanjore district, expansion of double crop, grant of lands outside estates for food cultivation, wet cultivation under the Rayapuram tank in Kudligi taluk, Bellary district, cultivation of blackgram on wet lands in Cuddapah district, lands newly cultivated wet under the channel excavated from the right bank of Pennar in Gangavaram and Vibrahampuram villages, assignment of land reserved for Malayalis in Salem district, cultivation of Ponam paddy and other food crops in Malabar district and Kumri cultivation in South Kanara district.



Permits for Milling

Representations have been received by the Government that in the case of non-statutorily rationed areas the present arrangement requiring the producers to obtain permits for milling of paddy from Taluk Supply Officers causes them much inconvenience. It has been suggested that the Presidents of Village Committees may be authorised to issue such permits. The Government presume that these complaints are due to the impression that landholders have to obtain a permit from the Taluk Supply Officer every time they want to mill paddy for personal consumption. The Government wish to make it clear that it is not necessary that producers should obtain a permit every time they desire to mill a portion of the stock with them. Under the existing instructions a standing permit valid for one year will be issued by the Taluk Supply Officer or Tahsildar to the producers for milling the quantity to which the producer will be eligible for personal consumption for a year. The ryot should take the permit to the mills whenever paddy is to be milled and the miller should note on the permit the quantity milled on each occasion. As the permit is to be obtained only once in a year the existing arrangements should cause no difficulties to the producers. The Government do not therefore consider it necessary to change those arrangements.

As regards the statutorily rationed areas similar instructions are being issued to the Rationing Officers concerned. According to these instructions, the landholder should take to the mill every time he wants to hull paddy the permit issued to him by the Tahsildar or the Rationing Officer under which he imported or retained the produce of his lands and the miller should note on the permit the quantity hulled on each occasion.

The Government have recently issued orders specifying the authority on production of which various classes of people can hull their paddy in statutorily and non-statutorily rationed areas. Details are reported below for the information of the public.

STATUTORY AREAS.

Class of persons.	*Nature of permit.*
1. Landholders who are ration cardholders.	Permit issued by the Tahsildar or the Rationing Officer under which they import or retain the produce of their lands.
2. Other cardholders who are given paddy ration.	Ration cards possessed by them.
3. Authorized wholesalers selected for distribution of rice for rationed areas, for rural areas and for deficit areas.	Authorization issued by the Rationing Officer under clause 3 of the Madras Rationing Order, 1945 and the licence issued by the Commercial Tax Officer under the Foodgrains Control Order.
4. Other classes of persons	Special permits issued by the Rationing Officer or Grain Purchase Officer for the purpose of hulling paddy.

NON-STATUTORY AREAS.

1. Producers or receivers of rent in kind who are not ration cardholders.	Permits issued by Tahsildars (including Deputy Tahsildars) or Taluk Supply Officers.
2. Ration cardholders	Ration cards possessed by them.
3. Authorized wholesalers selected for the distribution of rice in rural areas.	Authorization issued by the Tahsildars (including Deputy Tahsildars) or Taluk Supply Officers and licences issued by the Commercial Tax Officers under the Madras Foodgrains Control Order No. 11 of 1945.
4. Other classes of persons	Special permits issued by Tahsildars (including Deputy Tahsildars) or Taluk Supply Officers.

Price of Sugar

The Government have notified that District Collectors shall have power to fix the prices of bura and sugar candy within respective jurisdiction subject to the limits specified below :—

Bura—

Wholesale price per imperial maund—

	RS.	A.	P.
Minimum ..	24	0	0
Maximum ..	29	0	0

Retail price per viss—

	RS.	A.	P.
Minimum ..	0	15	0
Maximum ..	1	2	0

Sugarcandy—

Wholesale price per imperial maund—

Minimum ..	28	0	0
Maximum ..	32	0	0

Retail price per viss—

	RS.	A.	P.
Minimum ..	1	0	0
Maximum ..	1	4	0

No wholesale or retail dealer in bura or sugarcandy shall sell bura or sugarcandy at a price exceeding that notified by the District Collector from time to time. Every dealer shall exhibit prominently in his place of business a board showing the stock of bura or sugarcandy held by him and the price fixed thereof by the District Collector from time to time.

If any person contravenes any of the provisions of this order, then, without prejudice to any other punishment to which he may be liable, any court trying such contravention shall direct that any stocks of bura or sugarcandy together with the containers and coverings thereof in respect of which the court is satisfied that any such provision has been contravened, shall be forfeited to the Government unless, for special reasons to be recorded in writing, the court is of the opinion that such direction should not be made in respect of the whole or any part of such stocks.

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Against Smuggling of Pulses ✓

The Government have issued an order to prevent smuggling of pulses like blackgram, redgram, greengram, bengalgram, horsegram, or their products from Tinnevelly district to Travancore State. The order takes effect from the date of its publication in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. Transport of pulses like blackgram, redgram, greengram, bengalgram, horsegram or their products exceeding in quantity half an imperial maund from and through any of the villages of Tinnevelly district mentioned in the schedule, except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit issued by the Collector of Tinnevelly district or any person authorized by him on this behalf. The order does not however prohibit the transport of pulses within the limits of any such village. If any person contravenes the provisions of this order, then, without prejudice to any other punishment to which he may be liable, any court trying such contravention shall direct that any stock of pulses referred to in that clause together with the packings and coverings thereof in respect of which the court is satisfied that the provisions of the order have been contravened shall be forfeited to the Government.

Revenue

Stamp Revenue

Statistics of Stamp Revenue during 1945–46 show that the total receipts on account of stamps were Rs. 3,77,28,225 as against Rs. 3,41,07,115 during 1944–45. There is thus an increase of Rs. 36,21,110 or 10 per cent. Under Judicial stamps, the total receipts for 1945–46 were Rs. 1,10,27,259 as against Rs. 1,02,72,533 during 1944–45. The increase works out at 7 per cent and this is attributed to the increase in the number of suits filed in Civil Courts. The total receipts under non-judicial stamps were Rs. 2,67,00,966 as against Rs. 2,38,34,582 during 1944–45. The increase in this case is 12 per cent which is due to high prices on the sale of immovable properties. As regards Revenue adhesive stamps, a sum of Rs. 13,10,934 was realized during the year as against Rs. 12,03,541 during 1944–45. The increase works out at 8 per cent and it is due to the increase in cash transactions for trade purposes.

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Commercial tax assessment

Government have reviewed the Administration Report of the Commercial Taxes Department for 1945–46. The compilation of this report was held in abeyance from 1942–43 on account of the War and was revived only during the year under report. The total demand of the Madras General Sales Tax including arrears for 1944–45 was Rs. 6,50,04,472 of which a sum of Rs. 5,93,02,025 was collected leaving a balance of Rs. 57,02,447. The balance represents 8·77 per cent of the total demand as against 0·8 in 1942–43. The penal provisions of the Act were invoked in 2,336 cases. Arrears were collected by the Revenue Department under section 10 of the Act in 384 cases. In one case collection was made through a Civil Court. There was, generally, no difficulty in the matter of collection. The experience gained during the past six years both by the officers of the Commercial Tax Department and the merchant-public contributed to the smooth working of the Act. A Special Officer was appointed during the year to investigate the evasions under the Act. He was responsible for detecting many evasions and prompt action was taken to see that such evasions did not occur. Evasions were noticeable mostly on the part of commission agents licensed under section 8 of the Act and they were assessed for breach of the conditions of the licence.

Development

Imported Paper and Paper Quota

It has been noticed that certain publishers, printers and manufacturers of exercise books and other articles of stationery are using imported paper in addition to the quota of paper to which they are entitled under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1945. It is announced for general information that imported paper is intended to supplement the supplies of indigenous paper available for consumption by all types of consumers and is as much subject to the economy restrictions on consumption as indigenous paper. The use of imported paper outside the quota permissible under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1945, will therefore, be in contravention of the provisions of the order.

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Newsprint for Journals

Publishers of periodicals using newsprint are informed that under clause 3 (*a*) of the Newsprint Control Order, 1947, they are prohibited from using paper other than newsprint in conjunction with newsprint, without the written permission of the Government of India to do so. Publishers who have not obtained such permission should stop using papers other than newsprint for wrappers or other purposes. The fact that the papers are supplied out of the printers' quota will not absolve them of their responsibility to abide by the provisions of the Newsprint Control Order.

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Use of Newsprint

The attention of the public is invited to the Press Note, dated 8th March 1947 of this Government explaining the relaxations and concessions granted by the Government of India in respect of the use of newsprint for the publication of a newspaper or journal. As certain doubts have been expressed about the interpretation of the Government of India's Press Note, in regard to the use of white printing paper in the publication of journals after 31st March 1947, the Government of India have issued the following instructions :—

The journals which were in regular publication during the period immediately preceding 7th November 1942 and were being printed on paper other than newsprint, as also journals which have specially been allowed since that date to start publication on white printing paper, may continue to be published on that variety of paper after 31st March 1947. There are, however, some journals which have been in receipt of a newsprint quota, but which, on account of lack of newsprint supplies in the market, were permitted by the Controller of Newsprint to use white printing paper temporarily for a short while until newsprint became available again. Such journals are not allowed to use other kinds of paper any longer and they must confine their publication to newsprint only.

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Newspaper report corrected

The 'Indian Express' in its issue, dated 29th May 1947 published a news item under the caption 'Improved Irrigation Facilities,' in which the cost of the Ramapadasagar Irrigation Project was given as Rs. 60 crores and that of the Tungabhadra as Rs. 10 crores. The latter project was reported to be capable of irrigating about 2·3 million acres.

The Ramapadasagar project is estimated to cost Rs. 86 crores and not Rs. 60 crores while the Tungabhadra project is estimated to be capable of irrigating 2·94 lakhs of acres and not 2·3 million acres.

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Applications for Iron and Steel

The Government of Madras have appointed the Director of Industries and Commerce as the Provincial Co-ordinating Authority for Sundry Projects and the Chief Engineer (General, Buildings and Defence) as the Provincial Co-ordinating Authority in respect of the maintenance requirements of the Public Works Department, Municipalities, etc., for the purpose of determining priorities of applications for iron and steel for Government development projects. This has been done in pursuance of the Government of India's suggestion that if the Provincial Government's projects are to be programmed in accordance with the importance attached to them in the matter of supply of iron and steel, there should be a Provincial Co-ordinating Authority for Sundry Projects for co-ordinating and forwarding the applications to the Iron and Steel Controller. They have also stated that the normal maintenance requirements of Public Works

Department, Municipalities, etc., which have to be met from the quota for "Industrial maintenance and packing" should also be similarly co-ordinated. The following instructions are issued in this connexion :—

Applications for iron and steel should be made in triplicate to the Director of Industries and Commerce if they relate to Sundry Projects and to the Chief Engineer (General, Buildings and Defence) in respect of the normal maintenance requirements of the Public Works Department and Municipalities, etc., and for projects of an industrial nature such as any electrical installations, Government Workshops, Municipal Workshops, Gas Works, Water-works, etc. Applications for the normal maintenance requirements of the buildings and roads which are met by Provincial allotment shall be made to the Chief Engineer (General, Buildings and Defence). The Provincial Co-ordinating Authority shall consolidate and scrutinize all the applications received by them and arrange them in order of urgency. They should also fix the priority in each case and submit the applications in triplicate so as to reach the Government not later than the 10th of each month.

In fixing priority the following procedure shall be adopted, namely, applications from Government Departments should receive first preference, secondly those of Municipalities and Local Boards and lastly those of others not falling under the above categories.

Mr. H. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Industries, Government of Madras, has been nominated by the Governor-General in Council as a member of the governing body and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

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Occupants of Tungabhadra Project lands

Consequent upon the Tungabhadra project lands have to be acquired for the submergible area and this would necessitate the occupants of these lands changing their residences or places of business. Government have considered the case of these people and have decided to award compensation to them. Each family will be paid the actual railway fare or bus fare and mileage at the rate of one anna per mile for the distance to be covered by foot in addition to the cost of transporting personal effects. Full costs will be paid for the removal of heavy plants, such as groundnut factory or rice mill, and their installation in the new place. The cost of any structural alterations necessary for the new building in which the machinery is to be installed will also be borne by the Government. The compensation will be paid before the villagers are evacuated. The question of acquisition of houses will be taken up later.

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Industrial Tribunals

The Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, came into force on 1st April 1947. Under section 10 (1) (c) of the Act, industrial disputes can be referred only to Industrial Tribunals for adjudication. Section 7 of the Act lays down that the appropriate Government may constitute one or more Industrial Tribunals for adjudication of industrial disputes. The Provincial Government have now constituted four Industrial Tribunals, one at Madras for the adjudication of industrial disputes in the districts of Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot and North Arcot, another at Coimbatore for adjudication of the industrial disputes in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, Malabar, South Kanara and the Nilgiris, a third at Madura for the adjudication of industrial disputes in the districts of Madura, Tinnevelly, Ramnad, Trichinopoly and Tanjore, and a fourth at Bezwada for the adjudication of the industrial disputes in the districts of Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Anantapur, Kurnool and Bellary. The personnel of these tribunals will be Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya at Madras, Sri P. Markandeyulu at Bezwada, Sri C. R. Krishna Rao at Coimbatore and Sri Rao Bahadur T. A. Subbiah Pillai at Madura.

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Cotton Seeds

With a view to relieving the scarcity of cotton seeds in the Madras Province, the Government have accepted the suggestions of the Board of Revenue for the purpose subject to some conditions. The Board of Revenue suggested that an advance of five lakhs of rupees shall be placed in the personal deposit account of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, for the purchase of 2,000 tons of cotton seeds from Hyderabad and that the cotton-seeds so purchased may be distributed to the Collectors of the districts which are deficit in cotton seeds for being sold to local dealers, preferably co-operative societies, at cost price under the general directions of the Collectors and that in the event of local dealers being unwilling to pay the full price, sale below cost price will have to be considered and subsidy not exceeding Re. 1 per maund be paid.

In accepting these suggestions the Government have prescribed that with a view to minimise any loss to Government necessary precautions should be taken for the testing of seeds, for providing a storage and for arranging quick movement of wagons. The Civil Supplies Assistant Marketing Officer in Hyderabad (Division) should be authorized to purchase cotton seeds only at prices not exceeding Rs. 10 per maund. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies has also been asked to maintain separate detailed accounts for the transactions relating to this order as in the case of other State Trading Schemes.

Miscellaneous

Grant of Remissions

The Government have sanctioned as a special case the grant of dry remissions at the rates mentioned below for fasli 1356 in 40 villages in Uravakonda sub-taluk, Anantapur district, where owing to disease, the white cholam crop has failed as—

(i) in villages where the cholam crop did not give any yield, the remission is 100 per cent ;

(ii) in villages with an average crop outturn of two annas and less, it will be 75 per cent ; and

(iii) in villages with an average crop outturn of four annas and below but above two annas, the remission is 50 per cent.

The concessions on the scales mentioned apply also to the following categories of land provided the major portion of the field or the subdivision was cultivated with white cholam during fasli 1356 :—

(1) Ryotwari occupied dry ; (2) Government lands cultivated without permission, provided the occupation is unobjectionable ; (3) minor inams charged with fuel assessment or with a quit-rent equal to or more than the full assessment ; (4) lands assigned temporarily ; and (5) minor inam dry lands which pay favourable rates of quit-rent in respect of so much of quit-rent as is in excess of the assessment actually paid on similar ryotwari lands after allowing the concession.

* * * *

The Government have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 10,000 for the relief of distress caused by the fire accident on 15th May 1947 in Parvathipuram town, Parvathipuram taluk, Vizagapatam district.

* * * *

Mr. L. N. Rao of the Servants of India Society has been appointed as an additional member of the Aboriginal Tribes Welfare Enquiry Committee.

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Cost of Living Index

During the week ended 31st May 1947 the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras City remained stationary at 268.

The cost of living index number for working classes in Madras City for May 1947 was 269.

The index number for the food group fell by four points to 300 due to a fall in the prices of dhall, vegetables, salt and gingelly oil.

The index for the miscellaneous group rose by one point to 249 due to an increase in the price of betel nuts.

The group indices in respect of fuel and lighting, clothing and house rent remained stationary at 257, 304 and 154 respectively.

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Elections Colours Assigned

In the press communiques, dated 21st October 1946 and 13th December 1946, the Government specified the colours which should be assigned to the official candidates of the various parties in the province at the ensuing elections to District Boards and Municipal Councils. In the press communiques, dated 13th December 1946 and 12th February 1947 the authorities from whom the candidates standing on behalf of the Congress Party should produce individual certificates as their credentials were specified. In consultation with the other parties, Government have now decided that candidates standing on behalf of the following parties should produce the documents mentioned against them as the credentials in token of their being the official candidates of their respective parties.

Name of party.	*Document to be produced by official candidate.*
Muslim league..	Certificate signed by the Secretary, Madras Muslim League Provincial Parliamentary Board, No. 33, Errabalu Chetty Street, Georgetown, Madras.
Communist Party—	
(a) Malabar and South Kanara districts.	Certificate from the Secretary, Malabar District Committee of the Communist Party of India, Chalapuram, Calicut.
(b) Tamil districts.	Certificate signed by the Secretary, Tamil Nad Committee of the Communist Party of India, No. 1/6, Davidson Street, Georgetown, Madras, or by any one authorized on his behalf.
(c) Andhra districts.	Copy of the *Prajasakti* publishing the *name of the candidate* as the official candidate of the party.
Andhra Swarajya Party.	Certificate from the President, Andhra Swarajya Party, Goshti, Bezwada.
Nationalist Muslim Majlis.	Certificate from the President, Madras Provincial Nationalist Muslim Majlis, No. 4, Appu Mudali Street, Mylapore, Madras.
Hindu Mahasabha.	Certificate from Sri K. Sivanandi Thevar, General Secretary, Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, No. 7, Melapattamar Street, Madura, only in the case of candidates of Tamil Nad Provincial Hindu Mahasabha Party.

In the case of the candidates standing on behalf of the Radical Democratic Party and the Scheduled Castes Federation, the election officers will determine who the official candidates are and allot colours accordingly.

Developments on Food Front

The quantities of foodgrains imported into India from January 1 to May 24 are as follows :—

	TONS.
Wheat	281,600
Wheat flour	28,200
Rice	231,800
Maize	88,000
Millets	10,300
Barley	149,700
Milo	197,700
Oats	8,200

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Relief granted

The Government have sanctioned an allotment of Rs. 10,000 from the grant of the Indian People's Famine Trust for providing further relief to persons affected by the floods of November 1946 in Annasagaram and other villages in Dharmapuri taluk, Salem district.

The Collector is requested to see that there is no delay in the distribution of the relief from the amount sanctioned. It may be mentioned in this connexion that the Government have already sanctioned Rs. 5,000 in November 1946, from Provincial funds for famine relief in Annasagaram village.

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Rent Control Act

The Government have notified that the Madras Buildings Lease and Rent Control Act of 1946 shall apply to every area in the province of Madras for the time being within the limits of the non-municipal areas specified below :—

Chingleput.—1. Tambaram (East and West), 2. Irumbuliyur, 3. Solaiyur.

Chittoor.—1. Chandragiri, 2. Piler, 3. Kalikiri.

South Kanara.—1. Mulki, 2. Buntwal.

Malabar.—1. Parayancheri village, 2. Kottooli village, 3. Nedunjgottur, 4. Chirakkal amsom, 5. Kokkaniseri amsom, 6. Azhicode amsom, 7. Puzhathi amsom, 8. Cannanore Cantonment, 9. Kuthuparamba amsom, 10. Vemom amsom.

The Nilgiris.—1. Willington (Cantonment).

Vizagapatam.—1. Rajam, 2. Srungavarapukota, 3. Cheepurupalli, 4. Gajapathinagaram, 5. Penduru, 6. Brahmanatarla, 7. Santhabommali, 8. Ravivalasa, 9. Kurudu, 10. Nandigam, 11. Palasa, 12. Boruvanka, 13. Kusumpur, 14. Palasapuram, 15. Alludu, 16. Hiramandalam, 17. Thulugam,

18. Komarusariapalli, 19. Meliaputti, 20. Garlapadu, 21. Inapadu, 22. Idupuram, 23. Kavili, 24. Rajapuram, 25. Manikyapuram, 26. Chodavaram, Kobagam, 27. Lukulam, 28. Konda Kothapeta, 29. Amidalavalasa, 30. Gollalavalasa Santhalakshmipuram, 31. Jalumuru, 32. Kotabommali, 33. Korlakota Chinal valasa, 34. Palatalagam, 35. Purushottapuram, 36. Singupuram, 37. Salihundam, 38. Polaki, 39. Sanwada, 40. Thalla Samudram, 41. Vomaranalli, 42. Urlam, 43. Budathi, 44. Calingapatnam, 45. Jami. 46. Kottam.

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Offence under Poison Rules

Prior to September 1943, Government prohibited under Petroleum Rules the filling of mixture of petrol and Tetra-Thul lead in unmarked receptacles. Similarly under the Poison Rules, cans and pumps containing petrol with an ad-mixture of Tetra-ehtyl lead were required to be labelled to indicate the presence of Tetra-tehyl lead in the petrol and warn the user to avoid spillage and not to use petrol except as motor-fuel. In September 1943 under the Defence of India Rules the Government of India relaxed the restrictions imposed under the Petroleum Rules. This relaxation was also done by the Provincial Governments in December 1943. As the exemption given by the Government of India under the Defence of India Rules lapsed in March 1947 the Provincial Government have now withdrawn the relaxation.

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Statistical Abstract of Madras Province

The second issue of the Statistical Abstract for the Madras Province, compiled by the Statistical Branch of the Board of Revenue covers in the main the quinquennium from 1939–40 to 1943–44.

In this Province, there are Statistical Atlases, Gazetteers and the Administration Reports of Government Departments which contain statistics on various subjects. The Statistical Abstract brings in one volume all the essential and reliable statistical information which is necessary for planning, whether it is for administrators, industrialists or leaders in other departments of life. The present issue consists of 181 tables running to 275 pages, together with an index. The statistical tables cover such topics as area and population, provincial finances, strength of public services, population of municipalities, births, mortality according to diseases, medical institutions and public health, education, newspapers and books, courts, police, prisons, prices of all important commodities, cost of living index number, joint stock companies, co-operative societies, insurance, agriculture, area and production of crops, rainfall, livestock, veterinary, irrigation, forest, mines and minerals, industries, electricity, labour, motor vehicles, road communications, shipping, posts and telegraphs, telephones and broadcasting.

It is hoped that the Abstract will prove useful to the general public who may at present not be fully aware of what statistics are available and from where they can be obtained.

The publication which is available for sale with the Superintendent, Government Press, has been priced at Rs. 8 only, so that it may be within the reach of as many people as possible.

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Index Numbers of Import and Export Prices

Index numbers of Import and Export prices for the Province of Madras for April 1947, are as follows :—

(1) The index number of declared values of foreign imports declined by 23 points to 255.

(2) The index number of declared values of foreign exports advanced by 2 points to 277.

(3) The index number of declared values of coastwise imports advanced by 47 points to 348.

(4) The index number of declared values of coastwise exports advanced by 14 points to 342.

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Lady Students in Medical Colleges

The Government have considered the proposals of the Surgeon-General regarding the cancellation or otherwise of the free concessions to women students in this Province admitted to the Government Medical Colleges. They have decided that the concession of exemption from the payment of entire tuition fees allowed to women students who belong to the Muslim community or the backward classes and Harijans and the six studentsship allowed for deserving poor candidates not belonging to the above community and classes be continued for a further period of two years and the position reviewed then with reference to the number of applications received for admission and the number admitted during the years 1947–48, 1948–49. They have directed that the half-fee concession now allowed to women students of this Province not belonging to the Muslim community or the backward-classes and Harijans be discontinued. Women students who have already been admitted to the Government Medical Colleges will, however, continue to be eligible for the concession.

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Cost of Living Index

During the week ended 7th June 1947 the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras City rose by one point to 269 owing mainly to a rise in the prices of vegetables.

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Electricity Rationing

The Government understand that the recent appearance in the press of certain Electricity Restriction and Rationing Orders issued by the Government has created a certain amount of misunderstanding in the minds of the public that Government have imposed new restrictions in this field. The Government therefore wish to make it clear that these are not new orders, but mere reproductions of those originally issued under the Defence of India Rules, but reissued under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946, for their continued operation after 24th March 1947 on which date the old orders lapsed. The restrictions and rationing of electricity continue to operate in the same form as previously.

In the case of Madras City, electricity consumers may note that there is now no enhancement of quota for the summer months since such enhancement has been allowed for the whole year and the limit of penalty free consumption of electricity for domestic purposes has been raised to 100 units per mensem.

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Kodaikanal Bus Service

A number of representations having been received for and against the continuance of the monopoly of operating bus services on the Kodaikanal Grand Ghat Road enjoyed by the Kodaikanal Motor Union, the Government have examined the question and are convinced that it is neither safe nor desirable to allow a number of competitive motor vehicles on this road. Moreover the Government do not consider it necessary to allow any other operator to run additional buses on this road as the Government have under consideration the nationalization of bus transport on this road as early as possible. They also understand that the number of buses now on the road are enough to meet the demand, particularly as the Kodaikanal season is now drawing to a close and as Government buses will be put on the road before the commencement of the next season. It was also represented to the Government that the classification of accommodation in the buses on this road as first and second-class accommodation is unsatisfactory, as poor people are not able to pay for the higher classes of accommodation and are therefore deprived of the opportunity of travel even though accommodation may be available. The Government have directed that in all buses other than those running as taxi or express buses, there should be no classification of seats. The Government have also directed that the same general principles as have been outlined in connection with the Kodaikanal Motor Union should be applied to the town bus service at Kodaikanal. If, however, it is found that the Kodaikanal Motor Union does not provide sufficient and satisfactory services other bus operators may be allowed a chance of providing necessary facilities to the public.

As regards the lorry service Government are satisfied that the lorries run by the Kodaikanal Motor Union together with the two lorries belonging to the Sundram Transport, Limited, and two other lorries belonging to Sri Jagannatha Chettiyar and to another, for which permits have recently been issued, are enough and there is no need for any other additional lorries on this road. The Government have also directed that the two lorries belonging to the Sundram Transport, Limited, be restricted each to one trip up or one trip down a day, though the company may run either two lorries each doing one trip, or if they find it more economical and convenient to do so, they can run one lorry doing a round trip up and down a day. There is no restriction as regards pleasure cars run as taxis.

Administration Report of the Registration Department

The administration report of the Registration Department for the triennium ended 1946 gives interesting facts and figures.

The number of district charges increased during the triennium from 23 to 29 consequent on the formation of six new registration districts, viz., Anantapur, Cuddapah, Kistna, Negapatam, Erode and Palghat. The number of sub-registry offices decreased from 566 during the previous triennium to 560, but the strength of permanent sub-registrars rose from 611 to 615. The number of registrations, which steadily increased during the past two triennia and reached a peak figure in 1943, showed a steady decline in the present triennium. The total number of documents registered during the triennium was 4,618,210 as against 5,079,827 during the previous triennium involving a decrease of 9·08 per cent. The decrease is mainly attributed to (i) the cessation of war in the middle of the year 1945, (ii) stabilization and control of prices of foodstuffs and consumer goods, (iii) anti-inflation measures and nation-wide savings campaign and propaganda against hoarding, speculation in landed properties and black-marketing, (iv) the ryots having cleared their debts by sale of a portion of their properties at high prices, being unwilling to part with their remaining landed properties which yielded a good income and (v) the increase in stamp duty as well as the imposition of surcharge duty on certain transfers of property in the mufassal, viz., sales, gifts and mortgages with possession. The decrease in registrations was noticed in all districts except Madras, Ramnad, Calicut and Tellicherry. The aggregate value of registered documents, however, rose from Rs. 203·99 crores to Rs. 239·40 crores and the income from registration fees similarly rose from Rs. 123·02 lakhs to Rs. 170·06 lakhs. Among the several classes of documents relating to immovable property, sales and mortgages declined by 10·62 and 7·88 per cent respectively. Instruments of gifts increased slightly by 5·40 per cent. The number of searches made for encumbrances on properties fell from 283,692 to 191,959. The fall was due to the decrease in registration under sales and mortgages and to the fall in transactions by co-operative societies and land mortgage banks. The total fees foregone by the Registration Department during the triennium for work done on behalf of the co-operative societies was Rs. 3,72,156 as against Rs. 2,75,940 and for work done on behalf of land mortgage banks Rs. 2,90,139 as against Rs. 2,34,281 during the previous triennium.

The total income of the department for the triennium was Rs. 210·05 lakhs as against Rs. 157·10 lakhs in the previous triennium. The corresponding expenditure figures were Rs. 119·08 lakhs and Rs. 94·37 lakhs respectively. Measures were taken during the triennium to improve the financial condition of the department. The fees for registering a will or an authority to adopt were enhanced from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20. The fees payable by the municipalities for forwarding to them notices of transfer of titles of properties situated within their jurisdiction were enhanced by 50 per cent. The surcharge duty on transfers of properties, viz., sales, gifts and mortgages with possession within the Madras City was enhanced from 1½ to 2 per cent from 1st April 1944 and then from 2 to 3 per cent with effect from 1st January 1946 and from 3 to 5 per cent with effect from 1st December 1946. The Madras District Municipalities Act, 1920, and the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, were amended for the levy of duty on certain transfers of property, viz., sales, gifts and mortgages with possession situate in the municipal and local boards areas at the rate of 2 per cent with effect from 30th October 1945. This duty was further enhanced from 2 to 4 per cent with effect from 15th October 1946.

The Administration Report also refers to certain curious and noteworthy documents presented for registration. In one district, for example, an agreement was executed by an uncle in favour of his nephew agreeing to give his daughter in marriage to the latter for a consideration of Rs. 80. In another case, an agreement was entered into by a Hindu man and a Christian woman for getting married. Another instance is that a married woman, for herself and her minor daughter, gifted in favour of her husband the property once settled on her by him, fearing a spiritual curse as predicted by the family astrologer.

Working of Jails: Report for 1946

The number of central jails increased from ten to eleven during the year and district and special jails decreased from four to three, the reason for this variation being that the District Jail, Madura, was raised to the status of a central jail. The number of sub-jails was 291 excluding the Borstal School at Palamcottah in Tinnevelly district. The prison population under all categories at the commencement of the year was 18,406. Admissions during the year totalled 164,350 while the number of prisoners discharged was 163,742, leaving 19,014 at the end of year. The daily average number of the prison population which is composed of convicts, under-trials, civil prisoners and state and security prisoners decreased from 19,076·24 to 18,214·47.

There were 46,519 male convicts and 2,918 female convicts received during the year by direct committal as against 43,001 males and 2,999 females in the previous year. The number of direct committals increased during the year consequent on the introduction of 'prohibition' in eight districts. Nine hundred and eighty prisoners convicted under the Defence of India Rules were admitted to the central, district and special jails. Of the total number of 49,508 convict prisoners admitted during the year, 83·25 per cent were Hindus and Sikhs, 8·84 per cent Muslims, 4·07 per cent Christians, 0·42 per cent Buddhists and Jains and 3·42 per cent of all other classes. The corresponding figures during the previous year were 82·71, 9·32, 40·41 and 3·56 respectively. Admissions of prisoners between 16 to 18 years of age, 19 to 21 years of age and 22 to 30 years of age increased from 1,290 to 1,979, 3,343 to 5,012 and 19,054 to 21,129 respectively, while in the age groups of between 31 to 40, 41 to 60 and 60 and above, the number of admissions decreased from 12,789 to 12,660, 8,467 to 7,881 and 1,050 to 799 respectively. The number of admissions of those under 16 years of age increased from 7 to 44 during the year. The number of juveniles between the ages 14 and 15 and the number of adolescents between the ages of 16 and 20 increased from 33 to 48 and 2,972 to 4,562 respectively. The number of adolescents between 21 and 23 increased from 3,434 to 3,672. The percentage of literates is 14·71 per cent and that of illiterates 85·29 per cent as against 16·01 and 83·99 per cent respectively in the previous year.

The number of under-trial prisoners admitted during the year was 88,001 and the opening balance 3,598. Of these 86,435 were discharged leaving 5,164 at the end of the year. The daily average number increased from 4,254·82 to 4,386·15. The average period of detention in jails of the prisoners whose cases were pending before the Sessions Court decreased from 39·27 to 33·01 while that before Magistrates increased from 14·82 to 16·28 days. Three hundred and forty-two civil prisoners were admitted during the year and the total number of such prisoners, including those outstanding at the beginning of the year, was 410. Of these 351 were discharged leaving 59 at the close of the year. The daily average of civil prisoners decreased from 46·07 to 44·10. No state prisoner was detained in the jails during the year. There were seven security prisoners at the beginning and all of them were discharged during the year. As compared with the previous year the percentage of sentences of simple imprisonment increased from 19·66 to 28·44 while the percentage of those sentenced to rigorous imprisonment decreased from 80·33 to 71·54. Of the total number admitted, two hundred and thirty-six were sentenced to death and three hundred and thirty-five to transportation for life as against three hundred and sixty-three and two hundred and ninety-six respectively during the previous year. The total number of offences committed by convicts increased from seven hundred and nineteen to eight hundred and seventy during the year. No corporal punishment was awarded during the year.

Education

There was no change in the system of education imparted to convicts. The jails have good libraries and the prisoners are allowed to make free use of them. There were 12,211 books in the jail libraries at the commencement of the year. Lectures on religious and moral subjects were regularly given by the members of the teaching staff. One thousand one hundred and eleven lectures were delivered to the prisoners during the year. Of these 575 were delivered by Christians, 225 by Hindus and 312 by Muslims. Out of the 49,143 prisoners and inmates discharged during the year 2,999 were helped and in 1,017 cases probation officers were appointed. The Standing Advisory Board which met 41 times during the year reviewed 1,290 cases which became eligible for premature release.

Industries

Several industries are being run in the jails. Dairies are functioning at the jails at Rajahmundry, Vellore, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore and Salem. The total value of milk raised from the jail dairies and supplied to prisoners in hospitals and for conversion into buttermilk during the year amounted to Rs. 41,543-12-7. Paper-making industry was started in a few jails and brown paper for making covers is manufactured and the covers are supplied to other Government departments. Flat-file boards are also manufactured and supplied to the Superintendent of Stationery. Phenyle is manufactured in the Penitentiary at Madras for supply to jails in the province and the Medical Stores department. Experiments on the manufacture of ink are being made at the Central Jail, Coimbatore, and supply will be undertaken to the Government depatments shortly.

Finance

The total expenditure on jails during the year was Rs. 42,78,882 as against 43,70,531 in the previous year. The total value of the supplies made to public consuming departments by the jails during the year is estimated at Rs. 10,54,53 as against Rs. 6,44,744 in 1942.

Vital Statistics

Vital statistics have shown improvement during the year. The daily average number of sick fell from 183·52 to 176·43. There were 162 deaths among convicts, 13 among under-trials and 2 among civil lunatics as against 227, 25 and 1 respectively during the previous year.

Grow More Food Campaign

The jail population also contributed in a considerable measure to the Grow More Food Campaign. No effort was spared in the jails during the year to bring every available piece of land under cultivation for raising vegetables, cholam and other millets and as a result many of the jails were more or less self-supporting in the matter of vegetables. The lands in the Central Jail, Cannanore, which are unfit for vegetable growing are utilized for growing coconuts, cashewnuts and jack trees. Some wet lands from outside were obtained free of cost for growing vegetables during the summer months. Tapioca is grown abundantly in this jail.

Miscellaneous

The year also witnessed important administrative measures. The subsidiary jail manual was amended in order to permit the segregation of under-trial prisoners from those with previous convictions and to keep prisoners in the open air where suitable enclosures exist. 'B' class prisoners are now allowed the same privileges as 'A' class prisoners in respect of clothing and bedding. 'A' class prisoners are allowed the privileges of purchasing tooth-paste and tooth-brush at their own cost. 'A' class prisoners are also permitted to use their own razors subject to the discretion of the Superintendent and on condition that the razor should be kept with the jail authorities when not in use. Members of the Madras Legislative Assembly, Members of Legislative Council and Central Legislative Assembly have been appointed as special visitors to jails including sub-jails within their respective constituencies. A lady doctor has been deputed from the General Hospital, Madras, for the female section of the Penitentiary. The probation system has been provincialized and a Chief Probation Superintendent has been appointed.

Palamcottah Borstal School

The main features of the working of the Borstal School at Palamcottah in Tinnevelly district during the year 1946 are summarised below for general information. Incidentally this is the only Borstal School in the Province.

The strength of the school, during the year under review increased to 758 as against the available accommodation of 647. The strength at the end of the year was 750. There was thus over-crowding throughout the year. The daily average attendance was 673·96 as against 575·81 in the previous year. The system of education and industrial training was the same as in previous years. As usual, sports, classes in industrial and physical training, scout craft, first-aid and ambulance, religious and moral instruction and recreation formed an integral part of the training. Every inmate is given a sound elementary education for two hours a day in his mother-tongue. The chief handicrafts taught in the school are weaving, tailoring, carpentry, blacksmithy, masonry, book-binding, agriculture and band. Paper-making industry is another useful activity and flat-file cases to the Stationery department are supplied by the school. The boys are selected according to their aptitudes for the different trades. The ratio per cent of inmates employed on manufactures was 51·87 as against 48·3 in 1945. The gross outturn on manufactures during the year was Rs. 25,388–2–1 as against Rs. 18,710–6–8 in the previous year. The total production of vegetables in the school gardens was 139,474 lb. valued at Rs. 6,537 as against 122,094½ lb., valued at Rs. 5,739–4–0 in 1945. The total number of admissions to the hospital decreased from 127 to 91 and the daily average sick increased from 1·56 to 2·4 as compared with the previous year. The general health of the inmates was quite satisfactory. No death occurred during the year. The number of escapes from the school was two as in the previous year. One was recaptured during the year and the other is still at large.

Of 1,010 discharged during the five years 1942 to 1946 only 5 reverted to crime in 1946. The total expenditure in respect of the school increased from Rs. 1,50,169 to Rs. 1,63,369, while the cost per head decreased from Rs. 260–12–9 in 1945 to Rs. 242–6–5 in 1946 due to the increase in the daily average number of admissions of inmates as compared with the previous year.

B and C Mills Dispute

Madras Labour Union Declared Unlawful

The Madras Labour Union having become a hot-bed of power-politics, the Government have decided to declare it unlawful and to forfeit its funds to the Government. This decision was announced by the Government in a Communique issued on the 10th June.

The Madras Labour Union has, during the last one year, been responsible for two illegal strikes in the B. & C. Mills. On 8th June 1946, a strike was declared on a demand that certain Punjabi watchmen should be dismissed. After prolonged negotiations extending over 47 days, the strike ended, but was declared to have been illegal by an adjudicator. On the 17th February 1947, the Union sent a strike notice containing 21 major demands to the management. These demands were mainly a catalogue of general grievances. The Commissioner of Labour and the Government impressed on the Union leaders that as a Court of Enquiry was already seized of most of the issues raised by the Union and had even taken evidence on these issues with the co-operation of the Union leaders, the threatened strike would be illegal under the Trade Disputes Act. This had no effect on the Union leaders, who informed the Commissioner of Labour on March 4th that the strike notice would not be withdrawn. As the leaders were making much of some minor issues not referred to the sitting Court of Enquiry, the Government constituted a fresh court on 10th March 1947 to give an immediate decision on all the issues. The Labour Union leaders refused to recognize this court, would not participate in it and declined to accept Government's good offices to effect a settlement. Instead, they ordered a strike on 11th March 1947, the day after the Court of Enquiry was constituted and the Government had explained again that a strike would be illegal. Further discussions between the Government and the President of the Union and between the latter and management failed because the President insisted on the acceptance of all his demands without reference to adjudication or arbitration. As the Union President's conduct throughout was obstructive and defiant and as he was leading an illegal strike for a second time without showing the slightest interest in the fate of the workers, he was arrested and externed. The strike was then prohibited under section 10 (3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, but by then the Union leadership had been assumed by supporters of the externed President, who considered his return to authority as of greater consequence than a solution of the strike and the happiness of the workers.

After protracted discussions, the Government, the management and the acting President of the Union evolved certain terms for the settlement of the strike, but these terms were not accepted

by some of the Union leaders. One of these leaders Sri Kalyanasundara Mudaliar and representatives of the Madras Provincial Trade Union Congress had futher discussions with the Government on the 6th June and were given certain terms for settling the strike. Although Sri Kalyanasundaram Mudaliar promised to communicate the decision of the Executive Committee the next day, no reply has so far been received by the Government. But the negotiations exposed the existence of at least two major cliques in the Union, the Acting President leading one and advising the workers to go back, and the strike leader leading the other and insisting on the release of the externed President. The latter, however, has made his release impossible by continuing in his old conduct of persistent disregard of authority and reappearing in Madras in defiance of the externment order against him. The Union is thus torn by internal dissensions and is incapable of working on true trade union lines. It has become a hot-bed of power politics and shows no consideration for the workers, who are mostly ignorant of the real issues over which they were led into this strike. Complaints have also been received that the Union funds are being misused. Union representatives opposed to a settlement have been assiduously inciting igno rant men and women to violence and making inflammatory speeches. But the workers are suffering and have appealed to the Government for permission to return to work under proper protection. In these circumstances, the Government have decided after careful consideration to declare the Madras Labour Union an unlawful body and forfeit union funds to the Government. The irresponsible individuals who have opposed the Acting President's endeavours to secure an honourable settlement have been taken into custody.

The Government have also agreed that in view of the Acting President's appeal to the workers to resume work and the anxiety expressed by both workers and the management to respond to this appeal, the mills should be opened. Such workers as desire to return to duty may do so and will be given all possible protection. All attempts to create disorder inside or outside the mills will be severely dealt with.

The Government hope that the workers will realise that they have been misled for political purposes and resume work forthwith. The action the Government have taken against the Union and some of its leaders is a temporary phase in the history of this Union and has been forced on them by a revolutionary clique in its executive. It is earnestly hoped that all workers and the public would co-operative with Government in their effort to combat the anti-social activities of this clique so that the Union may be revived under democratic auspices and work for the welfare of the workers.

The Aiyanavaram Incident

The follow ing is the official version based on the report of the Commissioner of Police, of the incident at Aiyanavaram when Mr. S. C. C. Anthoni Pillai was arrested. :—

At about 7-15 p.m. on 31st May 1947, information having been received by the City Intelligence Section that Mr. Anthoni Pillai, who had been externed from the Province and Ranganathan were attending a rally of the B. & C. Mills strikers at Aiyanavaram, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law and Order organized a Police party and proceeded to the scene immediately to arrest Mr. Anthoni Pillai. The rally of the B. & C. Mills strikers was being held in open harvested fields with intersecting bunds. There were approximately two to three thousand strikers including volunteers and others. When the Police party arrived at the scene Mr. Anthoni Pillai was actually addressing the rally and Messrs. T. V. Kalyanasundra Mudaliar, S. Suryaprakasa Rao, Mrs. Anthoni Pillai and others were seen on or near the dais. The Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, accompanied by the other officers proceeded to the dais and informed Mr. Anthoni Pillai that he was under arrest and advised him to tell the workers to remain calm.

As Mr. Anthoni Pillai was being escorted back to the police lorry, the escorting police party was heavily stoned. A lathi charge was made to clear the crowd. The strikers dispersed in all directions but returned surrounding and stoning the police party. Another lathi charge was made to clear the workers but owing to the unfavourable conditions of terrain and light, this charge did not produce the desired effect and the police party had to fall back on the lorries as they sustained very heavy stoning. The attacks of the workers were directed in particular upon the lorry in which Mr. Anthoni Pillai had been secured. It was evident that the mob was determined to rescue him. The Deputy Commissioner of Police ordered a Sub-Inspector to fire with his revolver in order to clear the mob which was closing in rapidly on the lorry in a threatening fashion. Six rounds in all were fired, and this had the effect of dispersing the mob temporarily and the Deputy Commissioner of Police ordered the parties to move off with the prisoner. While they were doing so the lorry in which Mr. Anthoni Pillai was secured was again heavily stoned. About half a mile from the scene the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, reorganized the strength at his disposal and after sending Mr. Anthoni Pillai and the injured constables to Vyasarpady Police Station with a proper escort, himself returned to the scene with a party. He found the mob stoning the house of Mr. Manikkam Pillai, retired Inspector of Police, apparently as a reprisal for his sheltering two Intelligence Section Officers who were watching the meeting. The mob had also set fire to the thatched shed in the garden and to a motor car underneath the porchway of the house. The mob was chased away and fire in the motor car was put out.

Some of the B. & C. Mill strikers rallied outside Vyasarpady Police Station as Mr. Anthoni Pillai was being removed from that Station to Mylapore Police Station for safety. They attempted to create a disturbance and were dispersed by a lathi charge.

Approximately 30 police officers in all sustained stone injuries. It is reported that 15 strikers were injured in the lathi charge. Two workers were arrested for causing the disturbance outside Vysarpady Police Station. Vigorous patrols were maintained in the area throughout the night of May 31 and are continuing.

Workers create disturbance

With reference to demonstration made by the B. & C. Mill strikers on 1st June 1947 in the Moore Market and other places near the Central Railway Station, the following official account of the occurrence was released to the press :—

Information was received on the afternoon of 1st June 1947, that the strikers were planning a demonstration at the Waltax Theatre in the evening. Necessary extra *bandobast* was therefore made at the theatre and on Waltax Road. At about 6-30 p.m. about 50 of the strikers who had infiltrated into the Central Railway Station area were

reported to be creating a disturbance thereby pelting stones on the passing cars and pedestrians. The strikers quickly moved through the Moore Market into the People's Park. They caused damage to a sherbat stall and snatched some ready-made clothes from a shop outside the Moore Market. They also threw stones at a meeting of the Foundry workers which was being held in the People's Park under the presidency of Mr. Kannappar. Some furniture was broken and the meeting ended abruptly. Meanwhile a police party had arrived at the scene and the strikers dispersed pell-mell to different parts of the Park and disappeared. Police patrols in the area were maintained till conditions returned to normal.

As a sequel to the disturbance created by the strikers, the Commissioner of Police cancelled the permission given to the Madras Labour Union earlier to hold a meeting in Choolai on the evening of 1st June 1947 and it is proposed not to permit any meetings of the Madras Labour Union till the situation shows improvement.

The Sub-divisional Magistrate, Saidapet, has also issued an order under Section 144, Cr.P.C. prohibiting meetings in Sembiam Station limits on the border for a period of 14 days in view of the situation arising from the continuance of the B. & C. Mill strike.

Government's Steps

The following official account of the steps taken by the Madras Government in connexion with the B. and C. Mills' strike was issued on the 11th.

The Police took possession of the notified premises of the Madras Labour Union, consequent on the declaration of that body as unlawful under section 16 of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908. The Union has a number of sub-offices in Madras City in the Perambur Barracks and Vysarpady area. Officers of the City Police were deputed to visit these sub-offices during the early hours of 10th June and to inform any members found therein of the Government Order declaring the Union unlawful.

Government's orders detaining in their present residences Mr. T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliar and Mrs. S. C. C. Antoni Pillai were served on the parties in the early hours of 10th June, and suitable guards have been stationed near their residences to ensure that no breach of the Government order occurs. The following persons who have been responsible in different ways for the continuance of the illegal strike in the B. and C. Mills were arrested under section 2 (1) (*a*) of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1947. They are—

(1) Messrs G. Nagiah, (2) Palanivelu, (3) Chinnappan, (4) Balasubramanay Mudaliar, (5) Chokkalingam, (6) A. Doraiswami Nayudu, (7) Murugesa Naicker and (8) Ganesan.

Necessary steps are taken to effect the detention of other persons whose activities are similarly considered prejudicial to the public peace. As a precautionary measure against possible violent reactions from the more militant section of the B. and C. Mills strikers and their sympathisers, the Commissioner of Police promulgated an order under section 144, Criminal Procedure Code on 10th June. The Madras City Police reinforced by contingents from outside have been mobilized to meet eventualities. The situation has been so far quiet.

Government's orders freezing the funds of the Madras Labour Union in certain banks in the City were served on the concerned banks on the forenoon of 10th June.

Workers urged to return

The Management of the B. & C. Mills have informed the Government that while they are prepared to reinstate workers who resume work on or before 19th June 1947 without loss of privileges, they will accept workers after that date only on such fresh terms and conditions as they deem fit. They have also decided to recruit new labour in place of those not reporting for work by the 19th June. To prevent loss of privileges and jobs, workers are once again advised to return to duty by the 19th June. The Government regret that they will not be in a position to intercede with the management on behalf of workers who deliberately choose to forfeit their privilages and jobs.

Activities of the Fisheries Department

An increase in the number of fish-curing yards from 112 in 1944-45 to 115 in 1945-46, an improvement in demonstration and propaganda work in regard to fish-farming activities, and an increase in the number of fishery schools on the West Coast are some of the important features of the Administration Report of the Fisheries Department for 1945-46.

The report states that the year under review witnessed a considerable expansion of the Department's activities in many directions. The Centres of Deep-Sea fishing operations were increased from 28 to 46 during the year. The total quantity of fish caught in the departmental centres were 617,362 lb. of which 454,426 lb. were sharks. The sale proceeds of fish amounted to Rs. 45,535 and the quantity of Shark liver obtained was 53·514 lb. The total quantity of Crude Shark Liver Oil extracted in the fish-curing yards and in the oil extraction centres both in the East Coast and West Coast was 9,672 gallons as against 8,798 gallons in the previous year. The number of fish-curing yards also increased from 112 to 115 and the total quantity of fresh fish brought to the yard was 2,329,628 maunds. Fish manure industry also showed good results. The total quantity of fish-meal and fish-manure manufactured by private individuals on the West Coast amounted to 6,000 tons.

Side by side with the regular Departmental work demonstration and propaganda also were carried on. Rural fishery Demonstration Units opened 21 base farms and nurseries and helped to extend the fish farming activities in the inland waters by imparting necessary instructions to village officers, school teachers, ryots and fishermen. Under the socio-economic activities of the department, education takes the first place. On the West Coast there were 56 fishery schools with 9,922 pupils of which 5,694 were boys and 4,228 girls, as against 51 schools with 8,713 pupils in the previous year. On the East Coast there were 3 schools at the end of the year with 194 pupils. The Government sanctioned the supply of free mid-day meals to children attending fishery schools in the East and West Coast on all working days in the school year. They also sanctioned the supply of free mid-day meals to children of fishermen attending 33 coastal schools in Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts under the management of Christian missionaries.

There were 60 fishermen co-operative societies in the West Coast at the end of the year as against 59 in the previous year. For the development of Inland fisheries and for the greater exploitation of the sea fisheries the two Fishery Developments Boards under the chairmanship of Departmental officers continued to do useful work during the year.

The total revenue was Rs. 12·51 lakhs as against Rs. 10·70 lakhs in the previous year. The expenditure figures are 18·52 lakhs and 15·99 lakhs respectively.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending the 7th June

The President, Hotel Workers' Union, Calicut, reports that the hotel workers of Calicut, who struck work on 9th May 1947, resumed work on 28th May 1947 as a result of the compromise arrived at between the management and the Hotel Worker's Union, Calicut.

The Secretaries of the Thunoli Mills, Labour Union, Cannanore, have issued a notice of strike, dated 4th June 1947 to the management of the Thunoli Mills, Cannanore, intimating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for four months income as bonus, increase of basic wages, recognition of the Union, provision of provident fund, canteen, etc., are not conceded before 18th June 1947. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice and to await the result of the Court of Inquiry for timber and saw mills.

The Secretary, Calicut Textile Worker's Union, Calicut (Communist) reports that the Union has decided to call off the strike in the 25 handloom factories from 5th June 1947 consequent on the appointment of Court of Inquiry for the handloom industry in the Province.

The workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras who struck work on 11th March 1947 have not yet resumed work.

Under Section 11 (5) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, the Government of Madras have appointed Mr. S. Anantharamakrishnan, Managing Director, Messrs. Simpson and Co., Ltd., Madras as Assessor for the Court of Inquiry for Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops in the place of Mr. E. A. Watson who has resigned.

Sri P. R. K. Sarma, M.L.C., President, Madras Kerosene Oil Workers' Union issued a notice of strike to the managements of the Burma Oil Company, Standard Vacum Oil Company and Caltax (India) Ltd., Madras on 16th May 1947 intimating that the workers would go on strike after 14 days if their demands for bonus, festival holidays, house rent allowance, etc., are not conceded by the management. On the recommendation of the Commissioner of Labour, the Government have in G.O. Ms. No. 2342, dated 27th May 1947 referred the dispute for adjudication to the Industrial Tribunal. (Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya) already appointed for the dispute in Burmah Shell Company, Madras.

In their Order Ms. No. 2227, Development Department, dated 20th May 1947 the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and Managements of Cinema Theatres in Madras City to Sri Diwan Bahadur K. S. Ramaswamy Sastry (Industrial Tibunal) for adjudication.

In their Order Ms. No. 2303, Development Department, dated 26th May 1947, the Government of Madras have constituted a Planning Committee on industries to draw up long term and short term plans for industrialization in this Province.

In their Order Ms. No. 2304, Development Department, dated 26th May 1947, the Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal in the dispute between workers and the managements of the Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops in the Province regarding interim relief.

In their Order Ms. No. 2336, Development Department, dated 27th May 1947, the Government of Madras have constituted a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, consisting of Sri Rao Saheb K. A. Mukundan, Retired Deputy Collector as its sole member to go into the problem connected with the working conditions of labour in the timber and saw mills in the districts of Malabar South and Kanara.

In their Order Ms. No. 2354, Development Department, dated 28th May 1947, the Government of Madras have constituted a Court of Inquiry under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 consisting of Rao Bahadur Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu, as its sole member to go into the problems connected with the working conditions of Labour in the handloom industry in the Province.

In their Order Ms. No. 2363, Development Department, dated 29th May 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the East Asiatic Co., Ltd., Royapuram to an Industrial Tribunal consisting of Sri Diwan Bahadur V. Bashyam Ayyangar, Retired District Judge, for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have ordered that the Court of Inquiry constituted for the Motor Transport Services and workshops should conduct the inquiry relating to engineering firms and type-foundries also.

The workers of the Dhanalakshmi Mills, Ltd., Tiruppur who struck work on 2nd May 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of three workers for misbehaviour resumed work on 7th May 1947 unconditionally.

The workers of Sri Ramalinga Choodambika Mills, Ltd., Coimbatore, struck work on 16th May 1947 at 2-15 p.m. as a protest against the fining of three doffing boys and demanding increase in the strength of doffing boys in the spinning section and payment of absentees wages to the doffing boys when they are asked to do excess work. As the other departments of carding, roving and reeling are inter-connected, the work in those departments was also stopped. Consequently, the management declared a lookout on 16th May 1947 at 9 p.m. On the intervention of Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the workers resumed work on 22nd May 1947.

Twenty-seven workers (Moulders) employed in the Argus Engineering Works, Coimbatore, struck work on 19th May 1947 without notice, demanding redressal of certain grievances put forward by them. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the dispute was settled and the workers resumed work on 20th May 1947.

The Supervisory staff and clerks of the Jayalakshmi Mills, Singanallur, Coimbatore, struck work on 21st May 1947 as a protest against the misbehaviour of the workers towards the clerical and supervisory staff and threat of assault on the staff. They resumed work on 22nd May 1947.

In G.O. Ms. No. 2379, Development Department, dated 29th May 1947, the dispute between the workers and the management of Sri Palamalai Ranganathar Mills, Periyanayakanpalayam, has been referred to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri C. R. Krishna Rao, Retired District and Sessions Judge) for adjudication.

Sri B. S. Mallikarjuna Rao, B.A., B.L., M.L.A. (Labour), Vizagapatam, reports that the management of the Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry, have suddenly closed their mills. The reports of the Inspector of Factories, Rajahmundry, and the Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, are awaited.

The Inspector of Factories, Guntur, has reported that the India Metal Works, Kurnool, has been closed on 25th April 1947 as the Kurnool Town Municipality has refused to issue a licence to the factory.

The Proprietor of the Rajah Mills, Madura, has put up a notice that night shift will be stopped, and the day shift alone will be continued from 16th June 1947 that the workers necessary for the above shift alone in the order of seniority of their services in the mills will be retained for work and the services of the rest will be dispensed with after 15th June 1947 and that when the night shift is resumed, the workers so discharged will be given first preference for re-employment if they present themselves for enlistment within three days of notice of resumption of the night shift.

The Collector of Malabar reports that the workers of fifteen handloom factories in Calicut struck work on 12th May 1947.

The Commissioner of Labour has informed the Collector of Malabar about the Press Communique issued by Government stating that they have decided to appoint a Court of Inquiry to report on the conditions of labour and emoluments including bonus, in the handloom industry in the Province. The Collector of Malabar has been asked to advise the union officials of the action taken by Government and to instruct them to call off the strike.

The action committee of the Muslim Tobacco Labour Union, Palghat, have given a notice of strike to all the Tobacco Merchants on 17th May 1947 stating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for payment of wages, by the end of every month, fixation of the rate of loading a bundle of beedi at annas six and the rate for rebundling at annas twelve are not conceded. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice and to await the result of the Court of Inquiry.

In their Order Ms. No. 1951, Development Department, dated 3rd May 1947, the Government of Madras have accepted the Adjudicator's award in the dispute between the workers and the management of the India Ceramics, Limited, Nellore.

The Management of the Pulliccar Mills, Tiruchengode, Salem district, have closed down their mills from 7th May 1947 as some of their workmen refused to run the machines. The Labour Officer, Vellore, is trying to bring about a settlement.

In their Order Ms. No. 2224, Development Department, dated 19th May 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the boatmen and boat owners of Cuddalore Port to the District and Sessions Judge, South Arcot (Industrial Tribunal), for adjudication.

The Workers of the Deccan Sugar and Abkhari Company, Limited, Pugalur, Trichinopoly district, struck work on 16th May 1947 demanding the reinstatement of temporary seasonal workers discharged by the management. They resumed work on 19th May 1947.

The Workers, Union has issued a notice of strike to the management of the Deccan Sugar and Abkhari Company, Limited, Pugalur on 25th May 1947 intimating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for payment of three months, wages with allowance to workers who are retrenched, conversion of weekly payment into monthly payments, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded by the management. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Vellore, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the Union not to precipitate a strike.

In their Order Ms. No. 2327, Development Department, dated 27th May 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of Sri Krishna Jute Mills, Ellore, to an Industrial Tribunal consisting of the District and Sessions Judge, West Godavari, for adjudication. The Government have asked the management to re-entertain the dismissed workers pending adjudication.

Service, the key-note of Education

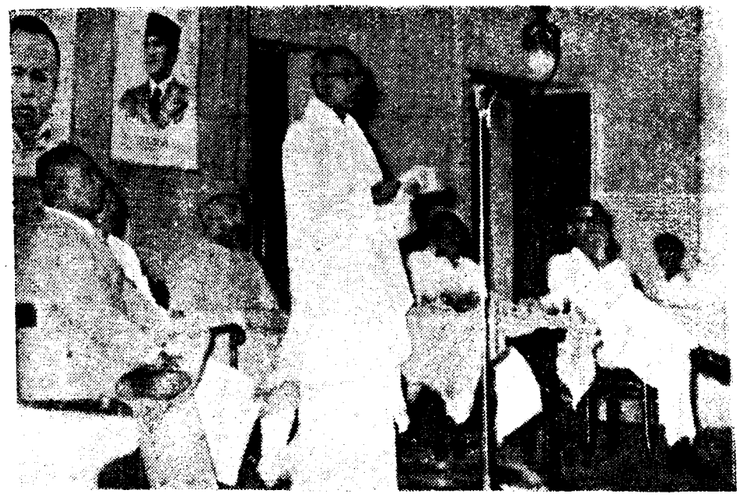
Premier opens Conference of International Students

[Opening the Conference of International Students' Service, the Hon'ble Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar, observed that the way to a new and better world lay through education based on faith, fear of God, love of man, and devotion to duty.]

The idea of education and service going together is nothing new in our country. Our fore-fathers in various Ashrams and forests and universities like Nalanda and Takshasila lived a life of dedication and service to humanity. They were not actuated by any motives of personal profit or aggrandizement, but were imbued with a spirit of service. The relationship between the Guru and the Sishya was not regulated by any idea of payment or any return in kind. The Guru took his life as a life of dedication and the Sishya also spent his life at the Gurukulam as a life of preparation for service. Of late our education has become commercialised and debased. Our education seems to be intended to produce a class of people who are intent only upon self-aggrandizement. It is not a spirit of service, that is inculcated among the present generation of students. The educated man thinks it his right to get the best in the World and behaves as though others are born in the World only to serve him. He has no respect for the elders or a faith in the ultimate good of the World. Education based on faith, fear of God and love of man, honesty and devotion to duty should be inculcated among our young people. It is lack of this spirit which applied in the scientific world has led to the creation of engines of destruction opening up very terrifying prospects for the future world. It gives me great pleasure to see that our young people have now tried to turn the tide of commercialism and self-aggrandizement in education and are trying to inculcate a spirit of service among our young men and women. It is only such service that can bridge the gulf between the educated and uneducated and the townsman and the villager.

A Warning

It is in that hope and faith that I welcome you to this gathering and wish God-speed to your work. But at



The Hon'ble Sri O.P. Ramaswamy Reddiar, the Premier of Madras, delivering the inaugural address at the South East Asia Conference of the International Student Service held at Madras on 9th June 1947. Sitting behind the Premier is Dr. Zakir Hussain who presided over the conference and on the left the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avanashtlingam Chettiar who welcomed the delegates.

the same time, I won't be doing my duty if I do not say that I am pained to see that you students are also divided like your leaders on questions of politics. This life of students is a life of dedication and preparation for the world. We in the East want a lot of technically trained people equipped to do research to rebuild our countries and raise them to their former glory. You must bestow your attention on equipping yourselves for the conditions of the world. That does not mean that you should take part in the day-to-day politics. I see that your conference has been convened by the Indian Students' Congress, the Students' Organization and the Muslim Students' Federation. What have students got to do with politics? What I say may not be quite pleasing to your ears, but I feel it my duty to warn you against taking sides in day-to-day political warfare. You must of course study the political situation in our country and the problems facing the country to equip yourself for serving the country to the best effect. It would be a happy day when the students can have only one organization which devotes itself only to the service of fellow human beings and are not divided on the basis of political principles.

Whatever we elders may be, it is up to you, the representatives of the younger generation to spread the message of love and peace and eschew hatred and create a better world. I understand that your aims are to bring help and succour to a war-torn world and bring the milk of human kindness to the sufferers from the aftermath of war. I can assure you that you will have the full sympathy and blessings of the whole humanity in the noble task. I pray to God that your endeavours should be crowned with all success.

But it seems as if we are in a worse position today than ever before; especially in this country with want of food and insufficient clothing and everything else not available to an extent necessary. We are going through a period the like of which has not been met for the last half a century and more. But yet there seems to be a golden ray; a ray which promises hope and cheer —God willing, we shall have complete independence within a few months.

The Task ahead

And now comes the great responsibility. Till now we have been abusing a foreign Government for all our ills; hereafter we have to thank ourselves for the good or the evil that may come to us.

Our problems are immense. The poverty of our people, want of food and shelter—these must be tackled at once. Wealth has been concentrated in a few hands and it is essential that there must be a more even distribution amidst the people. More than distribution, what we require is the creation of wealth. We must understand what really wealth is. Money is valuable because through it we can store the value of our labours. If by a national effort we can put in greater labour, then everyone of us will contribute towards greater wealth in this country. It is through labour and effort that we create things which are necessary for human existence. Whether it be in the field or in the factory, whether it be in the office or in the workshop, whether it be as a scholar or as a teacher it is human effort that is the sole creator of all wealth in this world. This basic understanding of wealth is something which everyone of us should appreciate and with this understanding must come a tremendous effort to put in the best labour we can in every walk of life. For only through incessant service can we permanently enlarge the scope of our wealth.

Advance or an Illusion?

Humanity has been struggling along for many millions of years. People always imagine that they are more civilized and advanced than those that went before them. Every successive generation thinks that they are more advanced in knowldge and have gone further in civilization than their forefathers. The present generation thinks that by the large advancements that science has made, we have reached the heights of civilization. But let us stop and think for a moment as to what is the culture and civilisation that we have reached. If speed of travel, mechanical contrivances, harnessing the powers of nature, enlarging instruments of destruction and chemical warfare mean progress and civilisation, we have certainly advanced in civilisation. But thoughtful men have begun to consider whether there has been any real advance in culture and civilisation. Have they made our men and women more happy and have they succeeded in giving our women and children greater security of life and has the common man been saved from poverty and misery? Considering from these aspects we must concede that our search after peace plenty and happiness for everybody has been like going after the willow the wisp which recedes at every step we advance.

Man's nature must change

It is true that we have advanced in knowledge and in science. It is true that humanity is more educated today than it ever was. It is true that today people have greater knowledge of external science than they ever possessed; but the question is to what purpose. Why has man in spite of this advancement in knowledge not really progressed in happiness and in joy? Why on the other hand in spite of this knowledge man has covered himself with barbarity and wetted his hands with the blood of millions. The reason is not far to seek. The answer is within himself. While his powers have increased he himself has not changed. He continues to be the same old man of millions of years ago subject to the same rage and same passions and subject to the same love for possessions and greed. The result of the enhancement of his powers has been ruthlessness in exploitation and destruction. And so if man is really to progress, it cannot be through atomic power or chemical warfare. It can only be by changing his own nature and by making man nobler than what he is today. These scientific instruments and knowledge are like the guns which a man can possess. In a good man's hands it becomes an object of protection; but in a bad man's hands it becomes an instrument of oppression and destruction. Even so unless man's nature changes into something higher, nobler, all these scientific researches and advancement will be so many instruments of oppression and destruction; and so if there is to be permanent peace and if there is to be real advancement of culture, civilisation and good life, we must concentrate our efforts to change the nature of man into something better and nobler and that I hope is one of the objects of this Conference and I wish you success in this noble objective.

Young men are pure, strong and full of noble impulses. If this old sordid world is to be refashioned into, one of hope, love and beauty, it can be done only through our students. They have ideals; they have strength of mind; they have intelligence as well as application and so it has been given to you to lay the foundations for a great and glorious future for this country and for this world.

Education Minister's Appeal to the Indian Youth

Addressing the delegates to the International Students Service Conference, the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinasilingam Chettiar, observed :—

Two world wars have come and gone but it has not raised very much the status of the common man. The slogans that were uttered during the war were mostly forgotten very soon after the war was over. Safety of hearth and home, freedom from the four fears, liquidation of poverty and the establishment of a state in which men and women will live in freedom and joy, those were the ideals to which humanity was looking to at the end of the war.



The Burmese delegates to the South East Asia Conference of the International Student Service (9th June 1947).

Front Row.—(From left to right) *Ko Ba Set, Ko Maung Maung Kyau, Ko Mya Tun, Than Than Nenai, Daw Khur Thein, Ko Than Mg (Leader), Ko Nyunt Wai (Burmese delegates).*
Back Row.—(From right to left) *Ko Nyunt Thein (Burmese delegate), Mololav Krasna (Czechoslovakia Guests) and two comrades.*

Price index numbers

The index numbers of rural prices for the month of May 1947 with the year ending 30th June 1936 as base or 100 were as follows for the several centres in the province.

District.	Rural centre.	Rural price index.	Variation when compared with the index for the previous month.
Vizagapatam	Adivivaram	389	A rise of 14 points.
	Thettangi	358	Stationary.
West Godavari	Alamuru	364	A fall of 2 points.
	Madavaram	413	A rise of one point.
Bellary	Puliyur	298	A fall of 8 points.
South Arcot	Agaram	310	A fall of 7 points.
	Thulayanatham	391	A fall of 8 points.
Trichinopoly	Eriodu	330	Stationary.
Madura	Cokilapuram	348	A fall of 3 points.
	Kinathukaduvu	319	A rise of 11 points.
Coimbatore	Koduvalli	403	A rise of 6 points.
Malabar	Guduvancheri	345	A rise of 2 points.
Chingleput	Kunnattur	322	Stationary.

Enhanced Scales of Pay for Teachers

Further Revision by the Government

In view of the feelings expressed among the teaching profession, Government have come forward to make a further revision of salaries amongst teachers employed in the elementary and secondary schools. Attempts have also been made to procure a minimum pay for trained teachers in elementary schools in aided management also. The Government have also come forward to guarantee the local board scales to teachers working in aided secondary schools. The pay of the Hindusthani Pandits as well as of Physical Training Instructors have also been revised. The matter of Pandits is under further consideration.

The Government have now done all that they can in the present financial circumstances. The Government appeal to the managements of both elementary and secondary schools to do their best to give fair conditions of pay and service to the teachers under their managements. The matter of revising the conditions of service of teachers under managements is under separate consideration of Government. The Government are anxious to do their best by the teachers. While Government appreciate their contribution towards education in the province, they would like to remind everybody concerned about the large strides that we have yet to take in this direction. This can be done only through the willing and earnest co-operation of the teachers, the parents and the public and the Government hope they will get their fullest co-operation.

Representations have been made to the Government that the revised scales of pay recently sanctioned for teachers are not adequate. The Government have reconsidered the question and pass the following orders; which will take effect from 1st January 1947, except to the extent specified under certain items below :—

(i) *Elementary schools under Local Bodies—*

(*a*) *Lower Elementary Grade teachers* should be granted an increase of Rs. 3 a month over the scale of Rs. 20—1—30 sanctioned in G.O. No. 975, Education, dated 10th May 1947, i.e., the scale will be Rs. 23—1—33.

(*b*) *Higher Elementary Grade teachers.*—Instead of the scale of Rs. 25—1—40 fixed in the Government Order cited above with a craft allowance of Rs. 5 attached to it, the scale will be Rs. 30—1—45 and no separate craft allowance will be given.

(*c*) *Secondary Grade teachers.*—These teachers are now eligible for a scale of Rs. 35—1½—65 with a craft allowance of Rs. 5 a month. The Government direct that the scale be refixed at Rs. 40—1½—55—2—75. No separate craft allowance will be paid to these teachers.

NOTE.—Such of the teachers in (') (c) above as are not, however, at present qualified in any of the prescribed crafts, will be required to acquire the qualification within a period of two years.

(ii) *Elementary schools under private managements and panchayat schools.*—In modification of the orders in paragraph 1 of G.O. No. 975, Education, dated 10th May 1947, the Government direct that the scales of teaching grants for teachers be revised as shown below :—

Class of teachers.	*Scale already fixed.*	*Scale now fixed.*
	RS.	RS.
Lower Elementary—		
Untrained ..	8	11
Trained ..	15	18
Higher elementary—		
Trained ..	20—½—25	25—½—30
Secondary grade—		
Trained ..	25—1—35	35—1—45
Collegiate grade—		
Trained ..	35	35—1—45

In view of the increased scales of grants now sanctioned, the Government have decided to insist on managements of schools allowing a minimum pay of Rs. 30 to a Higher Elementary grade trained teacher and Rs. 40 to a secondary grade trained teacher; in other words, managements should supplement the grants from their own resources to the extent necessary; this will be insisted on as from 1st July 1947, but the Director of Public Instruction is authorized to have an extension of time granted in suitable cases. The Director of Public Instruction is requested to submit necessary amendments to the rules relating to aid to elementary schools.

(iii) *Secondary schools under local bodies.*—(*a*) Secondary grade teachers are now allowed a time-scale of Rs. 40—1½—70 with a craft allowance of Rs. 5. These teachers will be allowed a scale of Rs. 45—2—85. No craft allowance will be paid to them in addition.

(*b*) The scale of Rs. 70—5—140 with a craft allowance of Rs. 5 for L.T. Assistants will be replaced by a scale of Rs. 75—5—1945 and the allowance will be abolished.

NOTE.—The classes of teachers mentioned in items (*a*) and (*b*) above should however acquire the qualification in any of prescribed crafts within a period of two years if they do not now possess that qualification.

(*c*) The scales of pay for the undermentioned classes of teachers will be revised as shown hereunder :—

Class of teachers.	*Scale already fixed.*	*Scale now fixed.*
	RS.	RS.
(i) *Physical training instructors and instructresses.*		
Grade I— S.S.L.C. holders with a higher grade certificate in physical education.	45—1½—75	50—2—70 —2½—95
Grade II— Completed S.S.L.C. with a Lower Grade certificate in physical education.	35—1—50	45—2—75
Grade III— Others.	30—1—50	40—1—60
(ii) *Hindustani teachers.*		
If secondary grade trained.	40—1½—70	50—2—90
Others ..	30—1—50	40—1½—70

(*d*) Under paragraph 7 of G.O. No. 975, Education, dated 10th May 1947, three classes of Pandits and Munshis can be employed in Secondary schools under local bodies. The question of regrouping the posts of Pandits and Munshis is under separate consideration. Pandits and Munshis in the lower category will be in charge of forms I to III of Secondary Schools while those in the higher category will be in charge of forms IV to VI. It may sometimes happen that a Pandit or a Munshi in a lower category may have to be assigned work in the higher forms. The question whether an additional remuneration should be given to these Pandits is under consideration. Orders will be issued in these points in due course.

(iv) *Secondary and training schools under private managements.*—In paragraph 8 of G.O. No. 975, Education, dated 10th May 1947 the Government have advised the managements to introduce the scales of pay fixed for teachers in secondary schools under local bodies. With a view to enable the managements to find the funds required for meeting the extra cost involved, the Government have decided to raise the basis of assessment of teaching grants from one half to two-third of the approved net cost. In view of this, the Government insist on all managements of aided schools to introduce at least the scales of pay fixed for teachers in schools under local bodies. These arrangements will take effect from 1st June 1947; for the period between 1st January 1947 and 31st May 1947, the instructions in G.O. No. 975, Education, dated 10th May 1947 will apply.

(v) *Government schools.*—Orders will issue separately in the Finance Department in regard to the revision of pay of physical training instructors, and Hindustani teachers based with reference to the revision approved in paragraph (iii) (*c*) above for similar classes of teachers in schools under local bodies. Orders will also issue in that department regarding the revision of the scales of pay taking into account the craft allowance of Rs. 5 admissible to teachers in Government schools.

It is expected that within two years they will learn one of the crafts prescribed by the Department.

Justice Done to Regional Languages

Achievements of Education Department in June, 1947

University education.—The Government have sanctioned the introduction of Tamil under part III of the B.A. course in the Government College, Kumbakonam, Telugu in the Government Arts College, Rajahmundry, Kannada in the Government Arts College, Anantapur, and Malayalam in the Government Victoria College, Palghat. Provision has also been made for instruction in "Methods of teaching in Telugu" in the Government Training College, Rajahmundry, and for "Music" in the Lady Willingdon Training College, Madras.

Secondary education.—Rule 33 of the Madras Educational Rules has been amended restricting the admission of boys in Secondary Schools for girls.

Stipends increased.—The Government have ordered that with effect from the School year 1947-48 the rates of stipends payable to students admitted to the course of training for Manual Training Instructors and Art Masters in the Teachers' College, Saidapet, be increased from Rs. 12 to Rs. 18 per mensem. The orders will be in force so long as the candidates undergoing Secondary grade training are paid stipends at the rate of Rs. 18 per mensem.

Basic education.—A meeting of the Advisory Board for Basic Education was held on 24th May 1947 at Fort St. George. The Board, among other matters considered the question of introducing Basic Education in the Schools in and around the belt area of the Basic Training Schools, Periyanayakanpalayam, and the question of opening more Basic Training Schools during the year 1947-48.

Miscellaneous.—The Government have amended rule 12 of the Madras Educational Rules so as to provide for the representation of Headmasters and members of the staff on the managing Committees of their schools.

Provision has also been made for the formation of a staff council.

Harijans Enter Thirupathi Temple

A Historic Occasion

Let custom learn to follow the time,
Or it may be left behind the Prime,
The current goes, and waits for none,
The pools remain in stagnation.

Sunday, 15th June 1947, is a historic day in the annals of Madras. It opened a new and bright chapter in the history of Hinduism. It gave the long-needed impetus to the stagnated spirit of Hinduism and revived its life-current. It opened, along with the steel doors of the Temple of Sri Venkateswar of Thirupati, the eyes of both the caste and non-caste Hindus to a realistic sense of justice. And it gave the Harijan community which has been for centuries the victim of ignorance and ill-treatment, slavery and serfdom, a status to live up to, a courage to defy dependency and a hope for the future.



Inside the temple 'Prakaram.'

The day dawned on the Tirumalai Hills. The procession of devotees started at six in the morning from the Devasthanam Choultry, which occupied

The Wilson Fish Farm, Ootacamund

An extensive, well laid out fish-farm for the culture of different varieties of indigenous and exotic fishes for supply to private fish-farmers, has been established at Ootacamund. It is almost the first thing that attracts the attention of the visitor reaching Ootacamund by road or rail. Situated close to the railway station and adjoining the Hobart Park, and within view of the heart of the town, this farm-garden serves as an evening resort to the public and a demonstration centre at the same time for popularising fish culture among them. To those who have seen the place two years ago, the sudden transformation of a dirty area into a productive beauty spot would be a pleasant surprise.

The Ootacamund lake, which supplies fresh fish to the town, is intensively stocked with quick growing fish from this farm for increasing its output. Small quantities of fresh fish are now also marketed at the farm every day.

The farm consists of a row of nursery ponds for growing fishlings and a set of adult and breeding ponds for the larger fish. The Mirror Carp, the Golden Carp and the Tench are the fish now cultured. Of these, the first variety is specially recommended for the cold upland waters on account of its taste, large size, hardy nature, high fecundity and quick growth.

The farm has been named after the late H. C. Wilson, who as Piscicultural Expert to the Government of Madras, did pioneer work in developing the inland fisheries of the province, particularly in the Nilgiris. It is in the charge of the Fishery Research Officer, Fishdale, Ootacamund, who would supply seed and give all possible help and advice to prospective fish farmers.



A view of the Fish Ponds.



Inauguration of the farm by Mr. A. Khaleeli, I.C.S.

Groundnut

Groundnut is one of the money crops of this province. Normally, about 3·74 million acres of land are cultivated with this crop each year. The total yield is estimated at about 13 lakhs of tons in a normal year. There are two varieties. The first is the main dry crop which will be harvested between October and November. The variety gives about 97 per cent of the total yield. The second variety is the irrigated summer crop which is harvested between June and July. It accounts for only three per cent of the total yield.

Groundnut is used in this province for many purposes:

The kernel is used for consumption as a supplementary food; its oil is used largely for cooking purposes; and its cake is used both as manure and as cattle feed. The annual consumption is about 9 lakhs of tons of kernel. About a lakh and a half tons of kernel is reserved for seed purposes. After meeting all the local requirements, a large quantity is being exported to other areas both in India and outside. Prior to 1942, the bulk of the groundnut crop used to be exported as kernels only. In 1943, the Madras Government imposed a ban under the Defence of India Rules on the export of both the kernel and of groundnut cake outside the Madras Presidency. The Government of India agreed to license the export of kernel to places outside India only to the extent that was actually surplus to the local milling capacity. As a result the crushing industry in the province received a great fillip. Between the years 1943 and 1946 the crushing capacity of the province increased by about 50 per cent. In all the districts of the Presidency, there are at present about 650 expellers, 1,000 rotaries and 200 power presses, not to speak of country chekkus. Each expeller would require about 1,500 tons of kernel if it is to work throughout the year at the rate of 25 days per month. About 8 to 9 lakhs of tons of kernel at least will be required to keep all the expellers and rotaries and power presses engaged throughout the year. If to this is added the seed requirements of 1½ lakhs of tons the net exportable surplus will amount to only about 2½ lakhs of tons of kernel. If any quantity in excess of this is allowed to be exported, it is likely to affect the crushing industry of the province. In the first week of March 1947, the Government of India removed the control over both the price and movements of kernel as well as oil. As a result, large quantities of kernel are being purchased by the merchants of Bengal and other Northern Indian provinces in our province. Consequently, many of the oil mills in the province have remained idle already.

More important than kernel or oil is the cake. In recent years, the demand for this cake has considerably increased both from the agriculturists and cattle owners. Paddy, sugarcane and other important food crops are believed to yield a much better outturn when fed with this cake. Since 1944, the Agricultural Department has been procuring groundnut cake from the mills and distributing it through departmental depots. In the beginning only 50 per cent of the total production by the power mills was taken over by the Department and the balance was allowed to be sold through licensed dealers. Since 1945–46, the department has begun to procure the entire quantity of groundnut cake produced by the power mills. The quantity of groundnut cake produced in the previous year was found to be not adequate to meet the entire demand. During the current year, there may be a considerable fall in the production of this cake as a result of the outside merchants buying large quantities of kernel in our presidency. Unless its production is stepped up it is likely to result in a reduction of the area cultivated with paddy and also in its yield, thereby prejudicing the Grow-More-Food Campaign and widening the gap between the production and requirements of rice in the province. If this state of affairs is to be remedied, the export of kernel outside the province should be strictly regulated. Steps should be taken to release for

(Continued on page 27)

World Plan to Tackle the Rice Problem

[The Rice Study Group, set up by the F.A.O. met recently at Trivandrum. Given below are extracts from the broadcasts (A.I.R. Madras) by the leaders of the delegations from the various countries.]



Mr. S. Y. Krishnaswami, O.B.E., I.C.S., Chairman, Rice Study Group.



Dr. W. M. Clyde, Leader, U.K. Delegation to the Rice Study Group.



Dr. T. H. Cheng, U.N.O.



Mr. Harold A. Vogel, Secretary General, F.A.O.

The Problem

Dr. W. H. Clyde, Leader U. K. Delegation.

The Rice Study Group, set up by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, is, as its title implies, a group of people whose object is to study the world Rice situation; to see clearly what the present situation is and what the prospects are. And we have come from all parts of the world to Trivandrum to study the major problems together.

We are in no doubt about the urgency of the needs of the many of the rice-eating peoples. In Malaya, for example the rice ration is only 4½ ozs. a day, compared with a pre-war consumption of from 16 to 18 ozs. per head daily. For the greater part of the second-half of last year, Malaya's rice ration was only 2½ ozs. Hong Kong for the past year has maintained a ration of only 5 ozs. Borneo and Sarwak, 2 ozs. now 4½ ozs. Ceylon, which before the war consumed nearly 13 ozs. per head daily, has not always been able to maintain even her present low ration of 4½ ozs. a day.

There can be no doubt, as I have said, about the urgency of the problems facing us. And our object is to help each other, to the utmost of our ability.

World Co-operation Necessary

Dr. Tien-Hsi Cheng, UNO Representative and Economic Affairs Officer, New York.

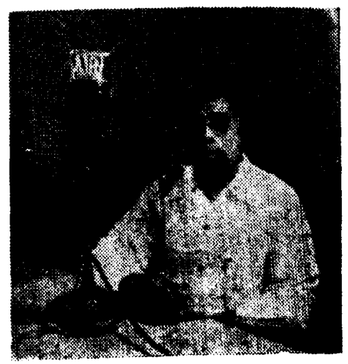
On the basis of the *World Food Survey* made by the Food and Agriculture Organization, half of the population of the world lives on a diet of less than 2,250 calories per day and a great majority of these people belong to the rice-consuming regions. Their diet not only lacks protective foods but even energy foods. In order to raise the standard of nutrition in the Orient, immediate steps should be taken to expand the production of rice, improve marketing and distribution and stimulate international trade.

Isolationism is a thing of the past. Any international problem, like that of rice, must be tackled by the concerted action of all nations concerned. The fact of my coming here is indicative of the interest and concern on the part of the United Nations with reference to the rice problem which plays such a vital part in the economic life of the people of Asia and the Far East. In the interest of peace and welfare of Asia and of the whole world, I earnestly hope that we shall soon find a logical solution to the rice problem.

The Work of the Committees

G. Parameswaran Pillai, Member representing Travancore and other Indian States.

The International Conference of the Rice Study Group which has met at



Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, Indian Delegation.



Harijans go in a procession to the temple

the heart of the town of Tirupathi, for the Hills. It included people of all castes and creeds, the majority being Harijans. At the head of the procession was Sri B. S. Murthy with a band of Harijan devotees chanting the name of Lord Venkateswara. In front of the procession were walking the mighty elephants dignified and decorated.

Among those who were in the forefront of the procession was the Hon'ble the Premier, Sri Omandur P. Ramaswamy Reddiar, walking solemnly with his usual smile.

Beside him were Sri Sivashanmugam Pillai, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Sri V. I. Muniswamy Pillai, Ex-Minister, Sri K. Venkataswamy Naidu, and a number of Harijan M.L.A.s and other prominent leaders from all over the province. The Hon'ble Sri V. Kurmayya joined the procession afterwards.

The Tirumalai Hill, where the Lord is enthroned and enshrined, is at the top of seven hills and is about 2,700 feet high above the sea level. We have to traverse a distance of about seven miles ascending all the seven hills some of which are so steep that one has to go up almost vertically.

It is stated that the hills were surveyed and the path was laid with stone steps and the domes were built along the path here and there for people to take rest in the 16th century under the instructions of Sri Krishna Devaraja. And as if to prove it, every stone that lies there talks to us in Telugu in Telugu letters.

By 12 noon, after a six-hour struggle (rather communion with nature) in the hills and exhausting themselves completely, the devotees reached the Temple. There, others who had reached the place earlier by buses and motor cars covering a round-about zig-zag road of about 14 miles, met us. Thousands of Harijans and people of other castes thronged at the Temple gates. Sri B. S. Murthy addressed the gathering thanking the public and the Premier for the great and noble act of throwing open the Temple, which commands the highest faith of the Hindus of the whole country, to the Harijans and praising Lord Venkateswara for taking into His embrace the oppressed and outcast, the forgotten and forlorn ones.

Then led by the Premier we entered the premier Temple and saw the Lord and worshipped Him, the God on the Hills, whom we can call the God of Gold, as the Temple and His image are swathed in gold and shine resplendently as only gold does.



Side of view of the Tirupathi temple

SOCIAL LIBERATION OF HARIJANS

Two Measures of Madras Government.

The Government of Madras have done away with the age-old disabilities of the Harijans through the enactment of (*i*) *The Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act*, 1947, and (*ii*) *The Madras Removal of Disabilities (Amendment) Act*, 1947.

Temple Entry Authorization Act

Under this Act any Harijan can enter any temple in the province intended as a place of public religious worship and worship as any other Hindu. If anybody puts obstruction in his way he will be liable to punishment with fine in the first instance and for the second or subsequent offences with fine or imprisonment or both.

Removal of Disabilities Act

The Act gives freedom for the unfettered movement of Harijans. They can go to and demand to be served at any place of public resort like Refreshment Rooms, Restaurants, Eating Houses, Boarding Houses, Entertainment or Amusement places and the like. If the owner of these places or anyone else refuses them admittance or obstructs their entry into to those places, he will be making himself liable to punishment with a fine up to Rs. 50 in the case of the first offence and for the second and subsequent offence with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine up to Rs. 1,000 or with both. The offences under this Act are cognizable, i.e., action will be taken by the Government themselves.

The Madras Government have recently placed on the Statute Book two important enactments which have the effect of placing the Harijans and the other excluded classes of Hindu Society on a footing of equality with other sections of the Hindus. One of these, viz., The Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act of 1947 came into effect on June 2, 1947. The second is the Civil Disabilities Removal Amendment Bill, which has been passed by both the Houses of the Madras Legislature and will come into effect very soon.

The various disabilities under which the Harijans suffer are admittedly a stain on India's fair name. Writers have described Harijans and those commonly denominated as "Untouchables" as the "submerged tenth." Though part and parcel of the Hindu community this considerable section of the population have, on the negative side, been denied some of the civic, religious and economic privileges enjoyed by other sections of the Hindus and on the positive side are subject to various disabilities, mainly social and economic.

It has been said that no nation whose womenfolk are backward is likely to thrive or make its mark in the present-day-world. On this analogy it must be agreed, too, that if considerable sections of a country's population are subject to disabilities with regard to the exercise of some of the elementary rights which their fellowmen enjoy it will be a serious impediment to the rapid and orderly progress of that country.

A caste ridden society in the modern world is a sociological anomaly. The caste system among Hindus based on a division of functions and occupations may have had its own merits in ancient times. But at no period could anyone justify the denial or forfeiture of the rights and privileges of a particular class or classes of people because they belong to a particular caste. Enlightened Indian opinion has always been in favour of the removal of social disabilities. Even in the first decade of this century the late Mr. Gopala Krishna Gokale said that by preserving untouchability, which is the highest form of social disability imposed on a particular section of the Indian community, Indians were making themselves untouchable to other nations. The Congress from its early days and especially after Gandhiji assumed its leadership has had, as one of the important items of its programme, the levelling up of the Harijans politically, economically and socially. As a result public opinion has in recent decades been completely roused in the matter and the ground cleared for legislation to put an end to the social and civil disabilities associated with untouchability.

The Madras Government have not been slow to read the signs of the times. The two measures of social legislation referred to above which they recently enacted are achievements whose significance and value cannot be underestimated.

The principal provisions of these two measures may be briefly summarized here. First as regards the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947 :

(1) It enables all persons belonging to the excluded classes to enter into a Hindu temple and offer worship therein in the same manner and to the same extent as all other sections of the Hindus ;

(2) such a right to enter temples will also include the right to bathe in or use the waters of any sacred tank, spring or water-course attached to the temple whether constituted within or outside the precincts thereof as well as a right of passage over any sacred place including a hill or hillock or a road, street, or pathway which is necessary for obtaining access to the temple ;

(3) It provides suitable penalties for those who hinder the operation of this law. Whoever prevents a person belonging to any of the excluded classes from exercising any right conferred by the Act or molests or obstructs any person in the exercise of any such right will be punished, in the case of the first offence, with a fine which may extend to Rs. 100 and in the case of the second or subsequent offence with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to Rs. 500, or with both.

Removal of Civil Disabilities.

The following are the main provisions of the second enactment, viz., the Removal of the Civil Disabilities Amendment Bill of 1947 :—

(1) It amends the "Removal of Civil Disabilities Act" of 1938 in order to make it more comprehensive and effective. It provides that no person who owns or is in charge of any "secular institution" shall impose or cause to be imposed any restriction on any person belonging to any community or class coming under "excluded classes." It also prevents any person from doing or omitting to do anything or from causing or suffering to be done or omit to be done anything which will result in discrimination against any person belonging to any such class.

"Secular institutions" are defined by the Act as inclusive of refreshment rooms, restaurants, cafes, coffee-houses, eating houses, boarding houses, lodging houses, hostels, hotels, or places where persons are provided with food, drink, shelter or sleeping accommodation. They also include places of public entertainment and amusement and premises where goods are sold, and any laundry, shaving saloon or any place where services are rendered to customers as well as places used for the burial, cremation or disposal otherwise of the dead ;

(2) For the infringement of this law, the penalty provided is fine which may extend to Rs. 50 in the case of the first offence and in the case of the second and subsequent offences, imprisonment which may extend to six months or fine which may extend to Rs. 1,000 or both. All offences under this Act are treated as cognizable.

The effect of this enactment is that it becomes an offence for anyone to prevent Harijans from entering into any public place or institution merely because they are Harijans, or prevent them from receiving in these places and institutions the same attention as members of other communities receive. Any attempt to prevent the entry of Harijans into the various public places mentioned above will render the person concerned liable to prosecution and punishment.

The two measures of legislation taken together constitute a momentous step in the removal of an age-long black-spot in the social structure of this province. They are of special significance at this juncture when India is on the threshold of independence and when a democratic form of Government for the country has become a certainty. Democracy needs for its successful working a society not disintegrated by differences on the score of caste, colour or creed, which impede its homogeneity and capacity for united action. History has taught us that only where a more or less uniform level of society exists democracy can work successfully. India should learn this lesson and regularize her uneven social structure so that democracy may have a successful run in this country. To this end the two measures of legislation referred to are designed to make a signal contribution.

But laws alone cannot remove the longstanding and traditionally held ideas in regard to social matters. The poet has rightly said that Kings or Laws can cure only very few ailments which human society is heir to. The co-operation of the people as a whole is all-important. If the objectives which these enactments are intended to achieve are to be achieved this co-operation must be forthcoming in an abundant measure. It is the patriotic duty of every one of us to accord such co-operation. He who does it with a full heart will be adding one more stone to the foundation that is being laid for democratic Government in this ancient land of OURS.

to unload the filled bags of rice which are then sewn up and despatched.

These methods have enabled the Australian rice industry to produce a high quality grain cheaply and with a minimum of effort. Sometimes yields of upto 4 tons are harvested from one acre of land, but valuable as this has been to the industry, perhaps its greatest advantage is its unique method of marketing.

Conscious of the need for co-operation and unity in the marketing of their crop, Australian rice growers formed a rice marketing Board which was given authority by the Government to acquire all rice produced. The Board handles the marketing of the crop on behalf of the growers and at the end of the season the total proceeds from the sales at home and for export are paid direct to the growers less only the charges of administration.

This system has worked excellently in Australia and has given growers the maximum return for their production and a stability to their industry which is the envy of producers in other countries.

The grower receives a cash advance immediately his crop is delivered to the Board and he knows that he is certain to receive the full price which his rice will bring in the market.

Australia is also unique in having the largest single rice farm in the world. In 1942 when the main rice exporting countries of Burma, Siam and Indo-China suffered a disruption of their production, Australia was the only exporter in the South East Asia and Pacific areas still able to carry on.

The need for rice was urgent and Australia expanded its acreage by 75 per cent in an all out effort to produce more rice for people in dire need whose source of supply had been cut off.

The boldest step in the plans for increased production was the opening up by the Australian Government of one single rice farm totalling 15,000 acres.

This one farm was laid down in virgin country with the aid of a veritable army of modern earth-mowing equipment which graded the land and threw contour banks in the same way as vast airfields were constructed almost overnight at strategic points during the war.

Rotation was introduced under which one-third of the area was constantly under crop. Without mechanical equipment this feat could never have been achieved, but using no less than 27 mechanical reaper-threshers, only 81 men were needed to harvest 8,000 tons of rice within a few short weeks.

Australia is unique in yet another aspect, in that not one single grain of rice has been consumed by the Australian public since 1942. Australia is therefore the only rice producing country in the world which exports the great bulk of her production.

The only rice which is kept in Australia is a small proportion needed to feed rice-eating people such as Indian seamen, and other Asiatics who may visit Australia from time to time in the course of trade and commerce.

This is a sacrifice which Australia has been more than willing to make in order to do her utmost to relieve the serious distress which rice shortages in Asia and the Pacific Islands have brought to the peoples in those territories.

Although Australia's total production is relatively small compared with the output of other countries, the contribution which Australia has made to the rice needs of deficit countries has played a much more significant part in food strategy than would normally be expected.

In 1943 when Ceylon suffered a food crisis, in the same year when General MacArthur liberated the Phillipines and later when Australian troops moved into the occupied islands of the Pacific, it was Australian rice that enabled the urgent food needs of these territories to be met when supply from no other source was available.

Report of the Group

The labours of the Rice Study Group reached a successful culmination with the adoption of the report of the group.

The report contains ten chapters (1) international co-operation ; (2) production trends and potentialities ; (3) conservation of available supplies ; (4) consumption and nutrition ; (5) improvements and expansion of production ; (6) improvements in domestic working ; (7) price policies ; (8) international trade in rice ; (9) research and extension ; and (10) exchange of information and supplements to the report.

Appendices contain valuable data on current rations including those in Japan Netherlands, Korea and deficit territories in South-East Asia, Sarawak, Hongkong, Malaya, Singapore, Ceylon, India, and forward estimates of requirements and supply of rice from south-east area and statistical data of immense value.



Mr. Kosiangyin, Leader, Chinese Delegation.

Production Trends

The Group has made a detailed survey of production trends and potentialities and assessed the possibilities of producing additional rice.

It is estimated that in 1950-51, Burma will have a surplus of 2·75 metric tons of rice and rice products, French Indo-China ·75, Siam, one million, while India will be deficit by 2·5 millions.

The Group holds that in the countries where critical labour shortages are in existence, the problem might be solved by partial or complete mechanization in relation to farm economies.

The countries represented on the Group were agreed upon the principle that the cultivator of the land must receive his rightful share of benefits from land, that countries should attempt to attain conditions whereunder holdings would be of economic size, and that alternate occupations must be provided to absorb surplus agricultural workers. Credit at low rates of interest, both short and long-term, should be provided in all rice producing countries in Asia to meet the bona fide needs of the cultivators.

The Group reviewed the subject of domestic marketing in South-East Asia and recommended specific suggestions in this regard. As a first step towards securing fair price to the producer it asks every country concerned to introduce and establish standard weights and measures and that each country should report its statistics of production and international trade in metric tons and hectares respectively for use in international statistics.

World Needs

World requirements of rice in 1952 will be in the neighbourhood of ten million tons as against exportable surplus of 6·7 million tons in 1954. The gap between supply and demand will exceed three million tons in seven years' time and international action should concentrate on wiping out this deficit.

On the question of the conversion of available supplies, the Conference recommended that with a view to saving as much rice as possible from storage depreciation and infestation, rice should be stored in the form of well-dried paddy and a large percentage of rice-supply should be parboiled since it keeps in good condition for long periods and that consumption of parboiled rice should be encouraged as it has distinct advantanges over lightly milled or hand-pounded rice.

Steps should also be taken to prevent losses in transportation and distribution and smuggling of short rice supplies.

Under the head 'Consumption and Nutrition' the conference recommended *inter alia* that the F.A.O. should call an urgent meeting of the nutritional experts who have specialised in rice to initiate studies to determine the comparative values of different types of rice and to recommend the most suitable method of conserving and enhancing the value of rice. The F.A.O. and member Governments should also study the effect that the dietary changes brought about by the scarcity of rice may have upon the future demand for rice.

Discussing the improvements and expansion of production, the Conference urged the Governments to concentrate on irrigation and drainage projects and recommended to the international Emergency Food Council that further allocations of nitrogenous fertilisers intended for rice production in South-East Asia should consist of sulphate of ammonia in preference to other forms of chemical nitrogen.

After discussing the subject of international price agreement the conference agreed that it was highly desirable to achieve stability in international rice prices as soon as possible.

Turning to the question of international trade in rice, the Conference holds that rice will continue to be in acute short supply for a number of years and, therefore, the continuation of a system of international allocation will be necessary. Principles on which rice allocations are made at the present are regarded as satisfactory.

(*Continued from page* 22)

export outside the province only the net exportable surplus of the kernel.

The price of oilcake is rigidly controlled in the Madras Presidency. The control rate is Rs. 85 per ton in the milling centres of the northern districts. In the other provinces its price is not controlled. In Bengal, e.g., the price of groundnut cake is nearly Rs. 200 per ton. It is for this reason that the Calcutta merchants buy our kernel at a considerably higher rate than what is offered by our own merchants. They prefer buying our kernel instead of buying our oil although our oil is available at a cheaper rate. It is apprehended that for the coming year's paddy crop sufficient quantity of oilcake may not be available unless the export of kernel outside the province is prevented except to the extent of the net exportable surplus.



During his recent visit to Vellore Jail, a convict warder requested the Hon'ble Minister for Prisons to set him free. In the picture the warder is apologising for his former misconduct

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the second fortnight of May

Weather conditions and crop prospects.—Rainfall during the fortnight was light to moderate. Water-supply for agricultural purposes was generally sufficient.

II. *Market conditions and trend of prices.*—There was no perceptible change in the prices of cereals. The prices of pulses (grams and dhalls) were generally on the rise. There was an increase of as much as 28·6 per cent in the price of redgram dhal, which was mainly due to paucity of imports. There were also slight increases, in the prices of blackgram dhal and bengalgram. The position regarding the prices of oils, oilseeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change—Copra, coconut oil and groundnut oil cake.

Rise—Groundnut (shelled) (2·2 per cent), gingelly seed (0·4 per cent), gingelly oil (1·1 per cent), groundnut oil (2·8 per cent) and gingelly oil cake (2·9 per cent).

Fall—Cotton seed (0·6 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of foodgrains procured in the districts and those received from sources outside the Province.

(*a*) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 15th May* 1947—

		TONS.
Paddy.	54,814	Together equivalen. to 58,498 tons in terms of rice.
Rice ..	17,839	
Millets.	5,928	

(*b*) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 31st May* 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	2,838
Millets	295
Wheat	Nil.
Wheat products ..	
Pulses—	
Blackgram	1,116
Redgram	204
Greengram	843
Bengalgram	2,221
Total Pulses ..	4,384

(*c*) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 31st May* 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	8,500
Millets	1,200
Wheat and wheat pro-	Nil.

Trivandrum, has already made great progress in its preliminary work of settling the programme and setting out the main topics, on which recommendations have to be made and data collected for presentation to the main conference.

Three main committees have been set up for this purpose—

Committee (I) deals with all questions connected with expansion of production.

Committee (II) deals with marketing, development of storage facilities, transportation, marketing intelligence including crop forecasting and estimating.

Committee (III) deals with wider international marketing and distribution of rice.

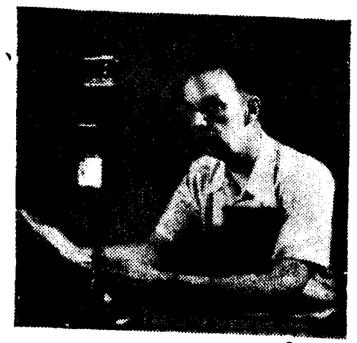
The recommendations of the Study Group will be forwarded to the Director General of the F.A.O. and will be considered later by the Main Conference.

Rice Distribution

Harry G. Clowes, F.A.O. Secretary. Rice Committee, of the I.E.F.C.

As you all know, many of the troubles in Asia to-day can be traced to the shortage of rice, the staple food of the Orient's millions of people. This year, according to the recent announcement of 1947 allocations rice-consuming areas are receiving less than one-third of the amount of rice that was shipped to them before the war. With the political disturbances in French Indo-China practically eliminating rice exports from that formerly important exporter, the outlook now is darker than ever.

Wage structure and the costs of services and commodities throughout the Far East are upset and inflated



Mr. Harry G. Clowes, Technical Secretary Food and Agriculture organization

to-day because of the average person in Asia cannot get sufficient rice to live on. Thus the rice famine virtually affects the life of every man, woman and child in Asia.

Before the war, normal rice exports came to about 7·0 million tons annually. During 1947, they will approximate 2·0 million tons. Meanwhile, during the war years, the population of India alone, according to estimates by official bodies, increased from 389 millions in 1941 to 427 millions in 1946. Populations of other Asiatic countries also have increased accordingly. Even with these extra mouths to feed, the acreage of rice has not increased in Asia largely because of neglect caused by other demands of the war.

With facts like these, before them, the Committee on Rice of the International Emergency Food Council, was convened in Washington about a month ago to recommend an allocation for the calendar year 1947.

After considerable discussion, the recommended allocation was mutually agreed. Under this recommendation India was allocated 485·0 thousand metric tons of rice.

The procedure followed by the committee on rice is not similar to the division of cereals other than rice, such as maize, rye, etc. The I.E.F.C. cereals committee does not recommend allocations but rather a quarterly shipping schedule, the quantities allotted to each country being determined by the actual quantity available for shipping from the four major cereal exporters: Australia, Argentine, Canada and the United States.

Other commodity committees of I.E.F.C. are also functioning effectively in their fields. Many problems of distribution are faced by the committees on fertilizer, the committee on facts and oils, the committee on sugar, etc. It is only by the full co-operation of each member nation that effective distribution of vital food stuffs can be obtained. The I.E.F.C. is an emergency organization set up to deal with the present disaster. Let us hope that the Emergency will soon cease and the people of Asia will be able to find enough food to sustain themselves. That will mean continued maximum production of food by each nation. It must be done.

Agriculture in Indonesia

J. Vander Ploeg, Leader, Netherlands Delegation.

Indonesia is an outstanding agrarian country. Roughly spoken, about 75



Mr. J. Vander Ploeg Netherlands (Leader)

per cent of the population is engaged directly or indirectly in agriculture. Java, notwithstanding its rather small geographical area, must be considered as the main island. On this island which is not yet twice as large as Ceylon about 50 millions of people are living. This is the most densely populated agrarian country in the world, as it has a population-density of 940 per square mile.

The main reason is that Java has a very fertile soil, whilst the conditions of the rivers are favourable for irrigation, so that the land is very suitable for rice growing. So in ancient times when people from foreign countries like India came over to settle down in Indonesia, Java had a great perference comparing with other islands.

Now on account of the dense population in Java the acreage per farmer is very small, being only a little bit more than 2 acres per farmer. In accordance with that the family income of the average Javanese farmer is rather low; the government has tried to improve the standards of living of the farmers by application of more modern methods of agriculture, like the use of high-producing varieties, improvement of irrigation, use of fertilisers and green manure use of better farm implements, etc. All these methods have given very good results.

In many regions of the outer provinces conditions are better than on Java. Many people want to emigrate from Java to the other islands of Indonesia. This movement is sponsored by the Government. Another method for improving the situation on Java is the introduction of industries in the island in order to withdraw surplus labour from the rural regions. This way for the solution of the population-problem is also used by the Government.

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Felix D. Maramba, Leader, Phillipine Delegation.

Now I may give you a short description of the main crops grown in Indonesia. The most important crop is rice. In Javac rice is mostly grown on irrigated fields. About 90 per cent of the rice fields in Java are irrigated. On the other islands rice growing on non-irrigated fields the so-called upland rice is more predominant. In many thinly populated areas of these islands the land is not permanent in use; after 2 or 3 crops the fields are abandoned for a period of let us say 6 or more years and other fields are cleared and brought into cultivation.

Other important foodcrops in Indonesia are maize, tapioca, sweet potatoes, soyabeans and groundnuts.

Just before the war, the food situation in Indonesia was fairly good and imports of food stuffs from other countries were not necessary. As a result of the Japanese occupation, the production of foodstuffs and all other agricultural commodities has suffered a great deal. In order to obtain an adequate diet, import of foreign rice is needed at the present moment.

Besides foodcrops, Indonesia produces a great number of cash crops, e.g., rubber, sugar, copra, coffee, tea and tobacco. Part of these cash crops are produced by the Indonesian small farmers, part by estates. Rubber, the main cash crop at the present moment, is produced for one half by the small farmers, for the other half by estates. Copra is entirely produced by small farmers, sugar mostly by estates.

Rice Production in China

Talk by Siug Ko, M.S., Ph.D., Leader, Chinese Delegation.

The growing of rice in China can be traced back as early as 2800 B.C. To-day, China is recognized as the largest producer of rice in the world. She produces about 35 per cent of the world's rice crop which is compared with 27 per cent by India.

In Central and South-eastern part of China, to grow rice is a common practice; every farmer has his little rice-plot; almost every school child is familiar with the picture of rice culture. The entire family of the Chinese farmer helps to sow, irrigate, transplant, weed, harvest and thresh the rice.

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In China, the rice harvest is the time of community celebration and religious ceremonies. The rice is often a medium of exchange in payment of taxes and wages. A wooden pump is used to lift the water from the streams and water reservoirs to the rice fields. In certain areas where electricity is available, pumps operated by electric motors are being used for irrigation purposes. Modern farm implements and soyabean and rape seed trackers are extensively used by the farmers to feed the growing crops. The use of artificial fertilizers is not so common in rice farms. Weeds are the troublesome pest of rice field, the only effective method in controlling is by picking out, by hand or hoe. The rice is cut by hand with sickle, and the grain is removed from the stalk on a threshing barrel. It is then dried under sunlight for several days and cleaned by the fanning blower. Finally the rice is handled either in bulk or in bag to the warehouse for storage.

Immediately after the harvest of rice, the stubble land is then ploughed for the planting of winter-crop. The farmers in certain section usually grow two rice crops in a year instead of one cropping. Furthermore, one may be interested to know that rice can also harvest two crops from one planting if sufficient water is flooded in the field after the first harvest. It is the so-called regenerated rice or "ratoon rice."

The final product of rice-mill is called white rice. It is washed in cold water to remove the fine dust when it is ready to cook. The rinsed rice is then immersed in three parts of water and cooked in an iron pot until it is boiled. A part of the boiler water is then discarded and the half-cooked rice is steamed to a state of tenderness. The resulting rice is served on a bowl and eaten with chop-sticks.

Production Methods in Australia

W. F. Prehn, Australian Delegate.

One of the most interesting aspects of the rice growing industry in Australia is the apparently contradictory fact that while it is one of the youngest in the world it is at the same time, probably the most efficient found in any country.

First of all the whole of the operations associated with the planting and harvesting of the crop are carried out mechanically. Large modern machines drawn by tractors move over the rice fields with a speed and efficiency reminescent of the methods used in the huge wheat growing areas of Canada, United States America and Australia.

Multiple ploughs turning 10 furrows at a time make short work of cultivation. When the land is ready combine seed drills 15 feet wide which mechanically deposit the seed and the fertilizer beneath the surface of the soil and cover it over again, sow large areas with perfect precision.

Controlled irrigation allows the farmer to flood the land after sowing and then immediately drain it.

When the rice is about 6 inches high, the land is flooded again and the water held at a depth of about 10 inches until the rice matures.

When ready for harvest, the land is again drained and the mechanized harvester is brought in.

This wonderful machine reaps the crop, threshes and winnows it and then loads the rice into bags, all in one operation as it moves over the rice field.

Drawn by a tractor the operation is continuous except for short stops



W. F. Prehn, Delegate (Australia).

Madras may not adopt Central Pay Code

Finance Minister Explains Implications

Mr. B. Gopal Reddi, Minister for Finance, in the course of a talk with pressmen on the 7th of June stated that the Madras Government were not likely to implement the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission either in respect of salaries or dearness allowance.

The Minister pointed out that the Cabinet Sub-Committee which went into the question of revision of salaries of the Madras Government servants had clearly stated as follows in their report: "We have attempted to bring our recommendations into line with the recommendations that are likely to be made by the Central Pay Commission. But on the question of fixation of salaries for the servants of the Government we feel that we must be guided primarily by the conditions existing in this Province and by the financial resources of this Government rather than by any recommendations which the Central Pay Commission is likey to make regarding the Central Government servants. We are of opinion therefore that the salaries should now be revised to the cost of living conditions and that there should not be any further revision after the Central Pay Commission's recommendations are known. For any further upward revision will be beyond the financial resources of this Province."

Mr. Gopal Reddi further stated that the recommendations of the Cabinet Sub-Committee were given effect to only from January 1947 and so soon after that a *de-novo* revision of the salaries was very unlikely. "After all, we must allow some time to settle before attempting any further revision" said Mr. Reddi.

Further, the Central Government had not consulted the Provincial Government when appointing the Central Pay Commission nor did the Commission hold any consultations with them while making their recommendations. Therefore, it was not obligatory on the part of the Provincial Government to adopt the scales recommended by the Central Pay Commission.

Payment of Dearness Allowance

Discussing the financial implications in the event of accepting the recommendations of the Central Pay Commission in respect of the enhancement of dearness allowance, the Finance Minister stated they were now spending nearly Rs. 30,26,328 per month towards the payment of dearness allowance to their servants and if they were to implement the recommendations of the Pay Commission in this respect, it would amount to nearly Rs. 46,78,450 per month, thus incurring an extra expenditure of nearly Rs. 1,38,21,624 per year. In addition to this they were spending as much as Rs. 163 lakhs annually towards the payment of dearness allowance to local bodies and aided schools and if that payment also were to be brought in line with the level suggested in the Pay Commission's Report, it would involve an additional expenditure of another Rs. 90 lakhs.

"If the recommendations of the Pay Commission are adopted in this Province for paying dearness allowance to Government servants as well as to servants in the employ of the local bodies and the aided schools it would increase the expenditure by about Rs. 288 lakhs per year." The Minister hinted that there was no possibility of their being in a position to afford so much additional expenditure.

There are about 295 officers in the employ of the Madras Government who are drawing a salary ranging between Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 2,000.

Category of Government Servants

"There are 78,600 Government servants drawing a salary up to Rs. 40; 21,400 drawing a salary between Rs. 40 and 50; 25,000 between Rs. 50 and 100; 15,000 drawing a salary between Rs. 100 and 150; 6,000 drawing a salary between Rs. 150 and 200; 4,000 drawing a salary between Rs. 200 and 250; 1,000 drawing a salary between Rs. 250 and Rs. 300 and about 400 drawing a salary between Rs. 300 and 400."

The Minister said that it would not be "profitable" for the Madras Government to pay dearness allowance to its servants drawing salaries up to Rs. 400 per month at the rate recommended by the Pay Commission.

It would be "slightly advantageous" for them (Government) if the Pay Commission scale of payment of dearness allowance was accepted in respect of officers drawing a salary of more than Rs. 400. "There are 350 servants under the employ of the Madras Government who draw a monthly salary ranging between Rs. 400 and 500 and who are now being paid dearness allowance at rates ranging between Rs. 70 and 88 and if the Pay Commission's recommendations are accepted, the dearness allowance in the case of these officers will be only Rs. 70. In the same way there are 600 officers drawing a salary between Rs. 500 and 750 who are being paid at rates ranging from Rs. 88 to Rs. 130. If the Pay Commission level is adopted, their dearness allowance will be reduced to Rs. 85 per month. Between the scales of Rs. 750 and Rs. 1,000, there are 257 Madras Government servants and the rates of dearness allowance paid to this category of officers varies from Rs. 130 to Rs. 175. The Pay Commission had recommended only Rs. 100 as dearness allowance to this category of officers.

When asked whether there was no possibility of increasing the rate of dearness allowance, if not to the level suggested in the Pay Commission's Report, at least to some extent, the Finance Minister said that dearness allowance had always been calculated on a percentage basis with reference to the salary received. And if this method of calculation was adopted, they would find the rates of dearness allowance, now paid to their officers, comparing favourably with the rates recommended by the Pay Commission.

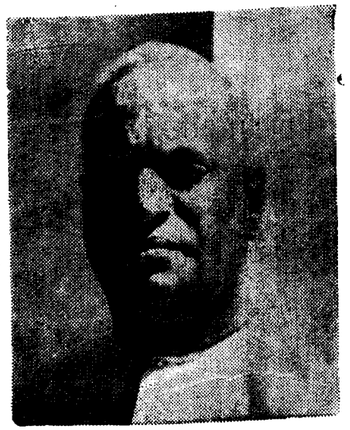
Under such circumstances the Minister said it was very unlikely that the Madras Government would implement the recommendations of Pay Commission in respect of payment of dearness allowance to its servants.

Adoption of Scales of Pay

As for adopting the scales of pay recommended by the Pay Commission, the Finance Minister said their scales of pay had always been lower than that of the Central Government in the same way as the scales of pay of the local bodies were lower than those adopted by the Provincial Governments. Further, the Central Government were not having posts of the type of Sub-Inspector, Tahsildar, etc., which were numerous in the case of Provincial Governments. Excepting for the slight similarity between the officials in their respective Secretariats, there was very little in common with the servants of the Central and Provincial Governments.

Mr. V. V. Giri succeeds Mr. M. S. Aney

Government of India have appointed Mr. V. V. Giri as their Representative in Ceylon in succession to Mr. M. S. Aney.



Mr. V. V. Giri, Barrister-at-Law, M.L.A. (Madras) was till recently Minister for Labour and Industries in the Government of Madras. Mr. Giri is a well known personality in the public life of India. He has been a trade union leader for many years, was General Secretary and President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, and also has been twice President of the All-India Trade Union Congress. He was the Indian Workers' delegate to the International Labour Conference at Geneva in 1926. He was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly for several years till he resigned in 1936 in order to contest a seat in the Madras Legislature. He was elected and became Minister for Labour, Industries and Co-operation in the Madras Ministry during 1937–39. He was again Minister in the Madras Government in 1946 and held that office until he resigned a few weeks ago.

Firka Development to be Accelerated

The attention of the Government has been drawn to a report published in "The Indian Express", dated 5th June 1947, stating that "the question of dropping the Firka Development Scheme introduced by the Prakasam ministry is said to be under contemplation by the Madras Government." The Government wish to state that there is absolutely no basis for this report. As the public are aware, 2 members of the Legislature have recently been deputed by the Government to tour the concerned firkas and report on the work done so far and suggest ways and means of accelerating the pace of the Firka Development scheme. In the circumstances, the question of "dropping" the scheme does not arise.

It is also not true to say the Madras Government have allotted a sum of Rs. 60,000 for the scheme. Provision has been made in the current year's budget for a sum of Rs. 4,80,000 for the staff employed in connexion with the scheme, and further, a lump sum provision of Rs. 84·22 lakhs has been made in the Budget for the execution of schemes that are to be formulated in this connexion.

Additional Secretary to be in charge

In connexion with the intensive rural reconstruction work in selected firkas, the Government have decided that the Additional Secretary to Government in the Public (Planning and Development) Department should be in charge of this work. This decision has been taken as a sequel to the abolition of the post of Development Commissioner, who was previously in charge. The Assistant Secretary to Government who is in charge of rural reconstruction work will undertake journeys to the district headquarters and firka centres selected for rural reconstruction work for discussing the co-ordinated plans for the development of the selected areas formulated by the Collectors with the District Officers and others concerned before final orders are passed by the Government. The Government desire to make it known that they attach great importance to these discussions and they desire that the Assistant Secretary should be provided with every facility by the Collectors and their subordinates during his tours. Arising from the above arrangement, Government have directed that all correspondence regarding rural reconstruction work in the selected firkas and centres, should hereafter be addressed to the Additional Secretary to Government, Public (Planning and Development) Department.

M.L.A.s deputed to inspect

The Government have deputed Sri M. Bapineedu, M.L.A. and Sri N. S. Varadachari, M.L.A., to enquire into the present state of affairs in the various firkas and centres selected for intensive rural reconstruction of Khadi and uplift work with a view to ascertain the lines on which the work may be pursued in this regard in these firkas and centres in future.

In view of the abolition of the 30 posts of Firka Cottage Industries Officers, the work which used to be done by these officers will be entrusted to the firka development officer, wherever necessary.

Mill Cloth Imports from Pondicherry

Several applications for permits to import sound cloth from Pondicherry (French) into this Province are being received by the Provincial Textile Commissioner. It is hereby announced for the information of all concerned that no permits are necessary from the Provincial Textile Commissioner for the purpose, but when cloth is brought into this Province, it should be surrendered by the importer to the Collector of the District concerned, and should not be diverted for processing or distributed, except under and in accordance with the orders of the Collector.

2. Pending further instructions, the importers of cloth from Pondicherry should sell the cloth imported, direct to the retailers nominated by the Collector, at a price not exceeding that calculated below:—

(i) In the case of unprocessed cloth:

at (*a*) Ex-mill price stamped on the cloth

plus (*b*) 10 per cent of (*a*)

(This includes 3,500 tons towards replacement of supplies to be made to Defence Services).

Stock and supply position in the Province.—Rice.—The stock of rice in the Province on 29th May 1947 was 240,289 tons as against 242,348 tons on 15th May 1947. The improvement in the procurement of rice, which has been noticeable since the Producers-Cum-Consumers Co-op rative Societies were replaced by millers in the circar, continues, as will be seen from the following figures :—

Procurement in fortnight ending—	TONS.
15th April 1947 ..	60,682
30th April 1947 ..	50,309
15th May 1947 ..	58,498
29th May 1947 ..	70,554

The stock position of rice in many districts continues to be unsatisfactory. The stock position is now worst in Coimbatore district where the rural areas continue to be on an 8 oz. ration and which has a stock sufficient for only about a week. The stock position has improved slightly in Malabar which by the end of the month had a stock of nearly 19,000 tons of rice, i.e., sufficient for about three weeks. Priority in movement has been given to Malabar so that the district may be able to build up adequate stocks before the monsoon and with a view to raising the rice ration to 10 oz. from 8th June 1947, in those areas where it is still 8 oz. There was a noticeable improvement particularly towards the end of the fortnight in the movement of supplies from the Northern surplus areas.

Millets.—During the fortnight the second ship load of 1,200 tons of American milo was received at Madras. The third shipload against the 8,000 tons May allotment is expected early in June. 294 tons of ragi was also received from Orissa and further quantities of ragi and cholam are shortly expected. 4,338 tons of millets were procured in the second fortnight of May as compared with 4,092 tons in the first fortnight. The stock of millets increased from 21,683 tons on the 15th to 23,203 tons on 29th. The stock position has improved substantially in Guntur, Nellore and the Nilgiris, but has become rather worse in Coimbatore.

Maize.—Stocks fell from 4,697 tons to 3,531 tons during the fortnight. Exports for Central Provinces have been stopped. The off-take of maize continues to be maintained at a satisfactory level and it is anticipated that the entire stocks which are now several months old will be disposed of by the end of July.

Wheat.—Stocks of wheat decreased from 4,042 tons to 3,371 tons. No imports of wheat are expected before August. By carrying out a number of small inter-district transfers it is hoped that all districts will have supplies for the habitual consumers at least for another month. But it is feared that most districts will have consumed their entire stocks by the end of July.

Wheat products.—Wheat flour stocks dropped from 1,774 tons on 15th May 1947 to 1,378 tons on 29th May 1947. The off-take was 712 tons in April but should decrease consequent upon the reduction in the size of the bread ration and the reduced issues to vermicelli manufacturers, confectioneries and non-meals hotels. Unless further supplies are received shortly, it is feared that bread rationing will begin to break down in a number of districts in July.

Barley.—Stocks decreased from 751 tons to 669 tons. The rate of disposal continues to be satisfactory.

Pulses.—During the fortnight the s.s. Pentakota, carrying 960 tons of Sind gram and products arrived in Cochin. 1,159 tons of Bengalgram and products were also received by rail from Bikaner. Substantial quantities of blackgram were received by rail from Akalkot and Hyderabad. The s.s. Shazada, carrying 383 tons of Bengalgram and the s.s. Jalamany carrying 1,803 tons of Bengalgram are expected at Madras and Cochin respectively during the first fortnight of June. The import of the 1946–47 Rabi Plan Bangalgram quotas from Punjab, Sind, Bahawalpur and Rajput states have not yet commenced to move. The stocks of pulses in the district is generally satisfactory apart from shortages of redgram in several districts.

Rationing.—On account of the general shortage of cereals in the Province the overall ration to an adult per day has been reduced from 12 oz. to 10 oz. from 25th May 1947. The unit value of the scale of ration has consequently fallen from 6 oz. to 5 oz. The rice content of the ration in the rural areas of Malabar and Coimbatore districts has however been kept at 8 oz. in view of the low stock position in those districts.

Consequent on the reduction of the unit value of the scale of ration, the unit value of bread and the scale and composition of the quota to establishments, landholders, etc., have undergone the following alterations.

Bread.—Unit value has been fixed at 6 oz. of bread prepared out of 4½ oz. of maida. (The Collectors have been instructed to refix the price of bread with reference to the reduction in the quantity of maida used).

Quota to meals hotels (Catering Establishments)—*Scale.*—5 oz. per meal per person.

Composition.—Rice 4 oz. per meal or 80 per cent of the total quota.

Maize and/or barley.—1 oz. per meal or 20 per cent of the total quota.

Quota to vermicelli factories.—No maida issued till fresh stocks arrive.

Quota to industrial canteens.—Scale—5 oz. per meal.

Composition—For a canteen opened and working before the end of April 1946. -2 oz. of rice plus 3 oz. of maize, maize flour, wheat, wheat flour and or 4 oz. or ¼ lb. bread.

For a canteen opened and working after April 1946 *or to be opened hereafter.*—5 oz. of maize, maize flour, wheat and/or wheat flour or 6 oz. bread.

Extra ration to heavy manual labourers.—Scale.—4 oz. per adult per day.

Composition.—Maize, maize flour and/or barley flour.

Extra ration for midday meal centres—Scale.—Continues to be 4 oz. per child per day. Restrictions on the issue of wheat and wheat products have since been made applicable to these centres also.

Ration to landholders—Scale.—Actual cultivators to retain or import at 1 lb. per adult per day, and non-cultivators at 10 oz. per adult per day.

Quota to biscuit manufacturers and confectioneries—Scale.—Continues to be 50 per cent of the quota allowed prior to the date of when maida was subsidized.

Composition.—Fixed at one-sixth part as maida and the rest (i.e. five-sixth) as maize and/or barley flour.

Quota to non-meals hotels—Composition.—refixed as follows :—

Broken rice (if available)—one-fourth of the quota.

Maize and maize flour—five-twelfths of the quota.

Barley flour—one-fourth of the quota.

Wheat and wheat products (excluding maida)—3 and one-twelfth of the quota.

The taking of 25 per cent quota as maize and 10 per cent as barley flour continues to be compulsory.

Subsidiary foodstuffs—Sugar.—The Government have authorized the Collectors of the districts to fix the wholesale and retail prices of sugar within certain specified limits.

Jaggery.—The Government have removed the ban on the export of

(Continued on next page)

Prospectus of the Institute of Leather Technology, Washermanpet, Madras

The Institute of Leather Technology is situated in Kathivakkam High Road, Washermanpet, Madras. It is provided with a laboratory and a Tannery equipped with a variety of power driven tanning machinery.

Object.—The purpose of the Institute is to provide sound training in the Principles and Practices of Modern Leather Manufacture. Provision has been made for tuition not only in the tanning of leather but in all the allied branches of Leather Technology including the manufacture of leather goods.

Course of instruction.—The institute provides for the following three courses at present, i.e., in July 1947 :—

(*a*) A Diploma Course in Leather Technology.

(*b*) A Certificate Course in Leather Goods Manufacture.

(*c*) Artisan Course in Leather Tanning and Leather Goods Manufacture.

Diploma Course in Leather Technology.—This course is of three years duration. This has to be followed up by apprenticeship for one year in a tannery approved by the Director of Industries and Commerce.

Admission shall be made to students who have passed the S.S.L.C. examination or any other equivalent examination with Chemistry as optional subject. Preference will be given to those who are connected with the leather industry. The subjects to be taught are :—

(*a*) Chemistry (Theory and Practical).

(*b*) Introductory Leather Manufacture.

(*c*) Leather Trades Engineering.

(*d*) Elementary Book-keeping.

(*e*) Principles and Processes of Leather Manufacture.

(*f*) Leather Dyeing and Finishing.

(*g*) Analytical Chemistry of Leather Manufacture.

(*h*) *Any one of the following special subjects :—

(i) Leather Goods Manufacture.

(ii) Curing and Preservation of Hides and Skins.

(iii) Tanning Extract Manufacture.

(iv) Manufacturing of Glue from fleshings.

* This is to be taken in the third year.

Certificate Course in Leather Goods Manufacture.—This course is of three years duration.

Admissions shall be made to students who have passed III Form. Preference will be given to those connected with the leather goods manufacturing or the leather industry.

Training shall be given in the manufacture of leather goods ranging from watch straps to suit cases. Instruction will be given by lectures, demonstrations and practical work.

Session.—The session is divided into two terms.

(i) From the 2nd of July to the 13th December.

(ii) From 3rd January to 30th April.

There will be a vacation for two months, May and June.

Fees.—Diploma Course—Rs. 24 per session.

Certificate Course—Rs. 12 per session.

Caution money.—A sum of Rs. 20 is to be deposited every year by students of the Diploma course in Leather Technology and Rs. 10 by those of the Certificate Course in Leather Goods Manufacture as Caution money against loss or damage or breakages of tools and apparatus given to them for work. The money will be refunded to them at the completion of the course—deducting dues against loss and breakages.

After the apprenticeship, a stipend to the value of Rs. 30 per mensem will be awarded to the students in each class of the Diploma Course in Leather Technology.

Three scholarships of the value of Rs. 20 per mensem will be awarded to the students in each year of the Certificate Course in Leather Goods Manufacture.

Those who apply for the scholarship should produce a "Poverty Certificate" from an official of his district not below the rank of an Assistant Tahsildar, within a month from the date of joining the institute.

Artisan course

This course is of two years duration.

The course will start on the 2nd July 1947. Harijan boys (of the Shoemakers' community) of not less than 14 years of age will be admitted. There will be vacation for two months (May and June). Instruction will be imparted in the vernaculars (Tamil and Telugu). On the successful completion of the course, each student will be given a certificate by the Department.

No restrictions are placed as to the educational qualifications except that he should be able to read and write the vernaculars to follow the course of instruction given. Each student will be paid a stipend of Rs. 25 per month. Arrangements, if required, will be made for the admission of the students as paying boarders in the Slater Hostel, Madras, run by the Department of Labour. Each student will be eligible for Casual Leave for a period of 15 days during the session and a month's leave on medical certificate with pay.

Twelve students will be admitted every year.

Nutrition survey in selected firkas

In G.O. Ms. No. 757, Food, dated 10th September 1946 the Government selected one firka in each district of the presidency except Madras for intensive rural reconstruction work so that the firka when developed might serve as a model for the other firkas in the district to follow. The Nutrition Officer, Food Department has suggested that if a sample diet survey is undertaken in each such firka it would be helpful in collecting basic information about the dietary habits of the people in the firkas and that the information would be useful for the development of the firka on food front. The Government have given a careful consideration to the suggestion and have decided that to start with, a sample survey should be taken up in one firka and the results properly assessed before similar investigation in all the other selected firkas throughout the Province is systematically attempted. Accordingly the sample survey will first be carried out in Vellakoil firka in the Coimbatore District by the Nutrition Officer, Food Department.

(Continued from page previous)

palmyrah jaggery from the Tinnevelly district to other districts in the Province.

Chillies.—The Government have removed the restrictions on the export of chillies and products thereof outside the Province.

Salt.—There was scarcity of salt in Ootacamund town which was due to the non-arrival in time of stocks from Tuticorin for want of waggons. The Collector of the Nilgiris has addressed the Railway authorities for the immediate provision of wagon facilities.

Miscellaneous commodities.—Supply of firewood was reported to be inadequate in the towns of Tutioorin, Coimbatore, and Bezwada and in parts of Guntur and Ramnad districts.

Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Nellore, Vizagapatam, the Nilgiris and Cuddapah.

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MADRAS INFORMATION



plus (*c*) Sales tax on (*a*) and (*b*) ; and

(ii) in the case of processed cloth (imported as such) which does bear markings of prices—

at (*a*) purchase price at Pondicherry.

plus (*b*) the actual transport charges paid, to the importer's place in British India

plus (*c*) 3 per cent of (*a*) plus (*b*)

plus (*d*) Sales tax on (*a*) plus (*b*) plus (*c*).

3. The retail dealers should sell the cloth brought under paragraph 2 above to consumers—

(i) In the case of unprocessed cloth, referred to in paragraph 2 (1) above :

at (*a*) Ex-mill price,

plus (*b*) 20 per cent of (*a*).

plus (*c*) sales tax on (*a*) plus (*b*); and

(ii) In the case of processed cloth (imported as such) which does not bear markings of price, referred to in paragraph 2 (ii) above :

at (*a*) the retail dealer's purchase price, as under paragraph 2 (ii) above,

plus (*b*) 6 per cent of (*a*),

plus (*c*) sales tax on (*a*) plus (*b*).

Intensive Khadi Development Work in full swing in all Centres

The Madras Government's scheme for the intensive development of Khadi in seven selected centres was inaugurated at Erragondapalem on 21st November 1946. By the end of January 1947, the scheme had been put into effect in the other six areas also. Thus at present intensive development of Khadi is being vigorously pursued in the following centres :—

I. *Tamilnad*—(1) Vellakoil, (2) Avanashi and (3) Puliyankurichi.

II. *Andhra Area*—(4) Kotauratla, (5) Guruvareddipalem, (6) Erragondapalem.

III. *Kerala* cum *Karnataka*—(7) Payyanur cum Nileswar.

To facilitate the collection of the yarn spun and the distribution of cotton and cloth, several sub-centres have been opened in each centre. Altogether 38 such sub-centres have been opened so far. It is expected that by March 1948, another 11 sub-centres will be added.

A Centre Khadi Committee has been constituted for each centre by the Government. The Centre Khadi Officers have so far convened one or two meetings of the Committees. In two centres Village Khadi Committees have also been formed. In others proposals for Village Committees are either being examined or formulated.

Supply of Charkas and Implements

Fourteen thousand cubic feet of seasoned timber which is sufficient for 14,000 charkas have been issued by the Forest department to be sawn into charka size. The sawn timber will soon be delivered at the various centres. Messrs. Strathie Co-operative Engineering Workshops, Limited, Madras, will supply the iron parts required for charkas. The possibilities of the manufacture of speed wheels for charkas by suitable private agencies or in the Government Industrial Wrokshops are being explored. Arrangements are also being made by the Forest department for supplying sawn pieces of timber required for carding bows, slivering sets and other spinning implements to the centres concerned.

Trainining of Khadi Workers

One of the vital parts of the Khadi Scheme is the training of Khadi workers. For giving such training the All-India Spinners' Association has opened schools in the following places at the cost of the Government :—

(*a*) Special Accelerated course in handspinning for three months :—

(i) Tamilnad area—Chidambaram and Peraiyur.

(ii) Andhra area—Masulipatam, Tuni, Tadpatri and Madanapalle.

(iii) Kerala *cum* Karnataka—Payyanur.

The training of the first batch of trainees in all the above schools except those at Peraiyur and Madanapalle has already been finished. The last two schools are still running and will close on 8th July 1947 and 11th July 1947 respectively. Two more schools, one at Veerapandi, near Tirupur and another Gandhinagar, Tirupur (for women only) will be opened on 2nd July 1947 and 2nd October 1947 respectively. The second session of the other training schools will also commence shortly.

(*b*) Khadi Pravesika Course (one year course in Khadi Craft and Science), Tirupur and Masulipatam.

Seventeen candidates are undergoing training in the Masulipatam School from 10th March 1947 while three candidates are undergoing training in the school at Tirupur from 7th February 1947.

(*c*) Munavi Karyakartha Course (special weaving course for one year)—Tiruppur and Masulipatam.

Arrangements for starting the school at Tirupur are not yet complete. Five candidates are undergoing training in the school at Masulipatam from 20th March 1947.

Turnover of Work

The following figures give an idea of the amount of work turned out in the seven centres up to 15th May 1947. 121,409 lb. of cotton have been purchased and 25,150 lb. distributed to the spinners. Fifty-eight thousand two hundred and fifty-two pounds of yarn (including 24,220 lb. taken over from the All-India Spinners' Association and 34 032 lb produced at the centres have been purchased and out of this 48,353 lb. distributed among weavers. Exclusive of the 2,254 yards of cotton taken over from the All-India Spinners' Association the weavers produced 113,007 yards out of which 27,375 yards have been sold to consumers. The quantity of cloth produced out of yarn spun by self-spinners for which subsidy was paid comes to 9,287 yards. Implements worth Rs. 1,163-8-9 have been sold to the people while the value of implements held in stock is Rs. 2,988-1-3. The total receipts on all accounts in the seven centres since the inception of the scheme are Rs 1,03,412 and the total expenditure Rs. 3,48,9:0.

The concurrent audit of the centres and sub-centres will be taken up shortly by the Chief Auditor, State Trading Schemes.

General Remarks

Spinning is very popular among the rural classes in these seven selected areas. From the progress achieved so far it looks as if the ideal of securing at least one spinner per house may not be difficult to attain. Nevertheless it is a fact that more intense propaganda is required for the switching over of a sufficient number of looms from mill yarn weaving to the production of Khaddar. Another difficult problem is the disposal of the finished cloth. But with wholehearted co-operation from the public and more especially from the members of the Centre and Village Committees this is not an insoluble problem.

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Editorial

WORKING OF PROHIBITION SCHEME

PROHIBITION has been in vogue in eight districts in the province for nine months now. The latest review of the working of the scheme, which is for the month of April, has some notable features to record. Among these must be included the decrease in the number of cases of illicit distillation, the steps taken by the Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam to remove toddy shops on the border to three miles inside the State, the steady progress of ameliorative work, the progressively beneficial work turned out by the Gramasanghams and Taluk and District Associations, and the progress of the thrift movement among ex-addicts.

Greater Efforts Needed

THE significance of the improvement in some of the directions referred to must be considered in the proper perspective in order to arrive at a correct conclusion regarding the success or otherwise of the prohibition scheme. Those who deride the scheme as a "socio-political experiment' draw support for their derision from the argument that liquor drinking being the traditional and longpractised habit of a large number of people, cannot be wholly exterminated and they do not regard it as a vice against which a regular fight has to be waged. If what is regarded as a vice by common consent is a longstanding one and a large number of people are addicted to it for centuries, it does not mean that efforts to eradicate it must be abandoned or should not be made at all. On the other hand it only points to the need for more strenuous, systamatic and sustained endeavours to achieve the desired result. And the very fact that it is an evil which has stuck roots renders its eradication a particularly strenuous task. It may be that what is being done in that direction is not adequate to meet the demands of the situation and that greater and more zealous work by everyone, official as well as non-official, is indicated, if better or more spectacular results are to be achieved. That is only all the more reason why everyone should give his goodwill and co-operation ungrudgingly and adequately, and why the spirit of self-improvement should be systematically inculcated into the people who had been the victims of the drink evil.

No Cause for Discouragement

THE results that have been achieved in the prohibition districts during the last nine months do not give room for disheartenment or discouragement. These months of prohibition enforcement have also revealed that there are certain powerful forces and impediments in the way which must be removed and certain requirements which will have to be fulfilled. For example, it has been stated that some influential persons in the urban areas in the prohibition districts like Coimbatore are displaying immense ingenuity in pursuance of their boot-legging activities and are circumventing prohibition regulations for procurement of liquor. While even educated and influential persons, who ought to know better, are allegedly resorting to underhand methods for the satisfaction of a craving, one cannot probably be overcensorious of the lapses of the ordinary people or plead them as serious arguments against the prohibition policy. It is of course essential that the offenders must be shown no quarter. The cases of illicit distillation reported from the prohibition districts are to be deplored, but they do not justify the conclusion that prohibition as a policy is a failure. On the other hand the progress of the thrift movement and the increasing proneness on the part of the ex-addicts to participate actively in the measures for amelioration devised by the Government show that money which was being previously wasted in purchasing health-destroying liquor is now being expended in more health-giving and healthy ways. The ameliorative and thrift campaign has to strike deeper roots in order that the reform of the ex-addicts may be complete and full.

Public Co-operation Essential

SPEEDIER and more beneficial response to the ameliorative efforts will be possible with the greater and more purposeful co-operation of the educated and enlightened sections of the population. The gramasanghams and taluk associations have a special responsibility in this respect and members must regard their association with these bodies as a matter of trust and should discharge their duties in a spirit of service.

THE point was made by a newspaper in the course of an editorial on the prohibition review for April that the ameliorative and recreational measures sponsored by the Government do not merit special commendation, as they should have been taken by the Government earlier and throughout the province. It may be accepted that these measures could have been taken earlier, as part of a general village uplift movement. But that they are being undertaken by the Government in the prohibition districts shows that in those districts their need is felt in a greater and more urgent measure in order to provide effective counter-attraction to a debilitating addiction.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Control over the price of copra

The Government have removed with effect from the 28th June the control over the prices of copra and coconut oil and also the ban on the movement of coconuts, copra and coconut oil from Madras Province to any place in India. No permits will therefore be necessary for such movements hereafter.

The ban on the export of coconuts and its products to places outside India, however, continues.

****

Cost of Living Index

The following table shows the cost of living index numbers for low-paid employees at the different mufassal centres in the Province of Madras for the month of May 1947 :—

Vizagapatam	272·6
Ellore	339·0
Bellary	277·7
Cuddalore	280·3
Trichinopoly	290·2
Madura	285·7
Coimbatore	305·1
Calicut	325·7

****

No New Bakeries

As the stock position of maida has further deteriorated, it has been ordered that until further orders applications from ex-servicemen for starting new bakeries should not be entertained even if the applicants were bakers before they entered the army, and that no maida or sugar should be allotted to start new bakeries for the manufacture of bread, biscuits, cakes, buns, etc.

Classification of Paddy

It has been represented to the Government that the classification of all varieties of short term paddy should be raised from third sort to second sort and that such a measure would induce producers to expand the cultivation of the short term paddy crop which will come to harvest before October and will thus help to tide over the difficult food situation. They have accepted this suggestion and have accordingly issued orders directing that all varieties of short term paddy which are now classified as third sort shall be paid for at second sort rates till the end of November 1947. The prices that will be paid after November 1947 will depend upon the price policy to be followed during the next crop year 1947–48, an announcement about which will be made in due course.

The Government trust producers to take full advantage of this concession by cultivating the maximum extent of land possible with short term paddy crop immediately so that they can get the better prices for the produce before the end of November 1947.

****

Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Societies

The Government are anxious to prevent the liquidation of the producers'-*cum*-consumers' co-operative societies. They desire that the large sums raised as share capital for the producers'-*cum*-consumers' co-operative societies in the Circar districts should be conserved for the co-operative movement and that measures should be devised for putting the societies to the best use possible. In their Press Note, dated 23rd April 1947, the Government announced their intention of appointing a special agency to examine the future of the producers'-*cum*-consumers' societies in the four Circar districts. To give effect to this intention, the Government have appointed a committee with Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, M.L.A. (Central), as the Chairman and the following gentlemen as members :—

(1) Sri A. Govindacharyalu, M.L.C., Ellore, West Godavari district.

(2) Sri K. Brahmananda Reddy, M.L.A., Narasaraopet, Guntur district.

(3) Sri N. Satyanarayana of Alamuru, East Godavari district.

(4) Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, M.L.A., Bezwada, Kistna district.

(5) Sri D. S. Sastri, Agent, Central Bank of India, Madras.

(6) N. S. Arunachalam, Esq., O.B.E., I.C.S., Registrar of Co-operative Societies (Official Member).

The Government have been desirous of securing the assistance of Sri T. Prakasam as one of the members of the Committee. But they have had no reply from him though an invitation was issued on 6th June 1947. As there has been some delay already in the matter, the Government are issuing orders appointing the Committee. But they hope that Mr. T. Prakasam will join the Committee and give it the benefit of his experience.

The Government have sanctioned the opening of branches of the Indian Women's Civic Corps at Bellary, Ootacamund and Coonoor. Necessary staff for these branches has also been sanctioned.

Rationing and Distribution of Mill Cloth

The introduction of the full rationing scheme in mufassal districts is in progress. Cloth ration cards have been distributed in a fairly large number of municipalities, towns and villages with a population of 10,000 and above.

One of the immediate results of the introduction of the rationing scheme has been the accumulation of unattractive varieties of cloth with retail dealers. It has been noticed that consumers are inclined to postpone their purchases in anticipation of supplies of finer varieties of cloth reaching the retailers later on in the year. Proposals for avoiding these undesirable effects are under the consideration of the Government.

The accumulation of stocks with the retailers is leading to other complications in the procurement and distribution of mill cloth. Retailers having stocks in their hands are reluctant to purchase further quotas allotted to them from importing dealers, who in their turn are not able to realize the cost of the goods imported by them to help them in making investments for purchasing their quotas from the Bombay Surplus Area. Special steps have been taken to clear up consignments which have accumulated in a few districts of the Province.

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A Newspaper Report corrected

With reference to the report in '*The Indian Express*' dated 17th June 1947, stating that "the Madras Government are considering the constitution of a committee to go into the question of decontrolling yarn and cloth," the Government wish to say that they have no such proposal under consideration. The Government wish that the '*Indian Express*' had verified the authenticity of the report before giving publicity to the same.

****

Effective Rationing of Mill Cloth

With a view to preventing frauds in the working of the schemes of Mill Cloth Rationing, the Government prescribed a number of precautions in their Order, dated 17th April 1947. One of these was that no cloth should be sold to a customer without production of his firewood ration card or food ration card. In case he did not possess either of these he had to produce a certificate to that effect from a competent authority named by the Collector. Supply of cloth against ration cards containing corrections or overwritings or erasures was also prohibited as another precautionary measure. If a card-holder found that his ration card contained erasures or over-writings or corrections he had to return it to the Assistant Textile Commissioner of the district for its replacement by a properly drawn up card.

It has since been brought to the notice of the Government that many of the cards issued in Madras City and Malabar district contained corrections or erasures or over-writings, so much so that a strict enforcement of this precaution would necessitate employment of additional staff and a considerable volume of scriptory work. The Government have, therefore, amended their instruction and direct that if the cloth ration card contains corrections or over-writings or erasures, the dealer to whom the card is presented should insist on the card-holder producing his food ration card or the alternative certificate and he should verify whether the particulars regarding the strength of the card-holders family given in the food ration card or in the certificate tally with those in the cloth ration card and whether the cloth ration card has been worked out correctly on the basis of 5 yards per adult and two yards per child.

****

Quarterly Cloth Ration

Government have received representations that there has been a stagnation of coarse and short-length varieties of mill-cloth on account of the consumers postponing their purchases in the hope of getting finer varieties later. In order to obviate a situation like this in future the Government have directed the introduction of a system of quarterly rations. Under this modified procedure a consumer will have to draw not less than one-fourth of his annual ration during the first quarter on pain of forfeiting it. Thus, while a consumer can draw his full annual ration or anything less than that during the first quarter of the ration year, he must necessarily draw at least one-fourth of his annual ration during the first quarter, as otherwise it would lapse. During the second quarter, he will have to draw the balance of cloth due to him subject to a maximum of three-fourths of his annual ration, the balance, if any, over and above the three-fourths limit being treated as lapsed. In the third and fourth quarters of the ration year, he will have the right to draw only half and quarter respectively of his annual ration.

Government have also decided to exclude certain varieties of mill-cloth from the rationing scheme. They are—

1. Redier and Savana Mill cloth from Pondicherry Mills.
2. Khaki and Green drill—B. & C. Mills, Madras. Khaki and Green drill—Bombay area.
3. Khaki twill and matty—B. & C. Mills and Bombay area.
4. Towels—Turkish Bath—B. & C. Mills, Madras (other towels not exceeding 63″×27″).

The suggestion has also been examined by the Government to exclude from the rationing scheme all varieties of mill cloth remaining unsold for a period of two months from the date of receipt by retail dealers. The Provincial Textile Commissioner has already issued instructions on this matter to the effect that slow-selling varieties which remain unsold for over two months should be examined by the Textile Control Officer and may, on his recommendations, be permitted to be sold to ready-made garment makers by the Inspecting Assistant Textile Commissioners. Government now permit the selling of these items of cloth outside the ration on condition that this concession will be confined only to coarse and medium varieties of unbleached and coloured cloth having a width of 40 inches and less.

Statistics of cloth and yarn—April 1947

(I) *Mill cloth*—

(i) Local mill production—2,130 bales.

(ii) Receipts from Bombay surplus area—9,118¾ bales.

(iii) Imports of mill cloth from outside Madras Province but inside South Deficit Zone—1,480 bales.

(iv) Cloth made available for distribution by the mills in the South Zone—3,244 bales.

(v) Cloth imported from other countries into the Province—15 bales.

(II) *Handloom cloth*—

Local production in the Province—18,995 bales.

(III) *Yarn*—

(i) Local yarn production (excluding quantity consumed by weaving sections of the Mills)—29,947 bales.

(ii) Imports from outside the Province—1,088 bales.

Development

Radio Sets in Board Schools

The Government have approved the proposal that following the procedure adopted in the case of Panchayat Boards where rural broadcasting sets are permitted to be operated only for two hours in the evenings, the period of working of the battery-operated radio sets in the District Board and Municipal schools installed and maintained by the Provincial Broadcasting Department should be restricted to two hours a day.

The Government have also agreed that, wherever the school authorities are prepared to work the sets in the evening for two hours during the rural listening hour, in addition to the working of the sets for receiving educational programmes, the total period of working of the sets in a day may be limited to three hours. They direct that the extra expenditure by way of additional staff and equipment that may be necessary for replacing the batteries earlier than the scheduled period and for maintaining the mains sets which work for three hours in a day should be met by the Government.

If local bodies are not willing to come into the maintenance scheme of the Provincial Broadcasting Department, they may be allowed to make their own arrangements for the installation of the sets which they can get in the open market.

****

Provincial Housing Committee

It is well known that there has been shortage of housing accommodation in urban and semi-urban areas in this province. The intensity of the problem has been getting more and more acute and Government in their order, dated 4th June 1947, have appointed a Committee to examine the question. It would help the Committee if members of the general public furnish information regarding the problem based on their experience and knowledge and offer their suggestions classified under proper heads. A copy of the questionnaire for furnishing replies will be furnished on application to the Secretary to the Provincial Housing Committee, Fort. St. George, Madras. The Committee hopes that there will be a ready response from the general public in this direction.

Applications of Ex-Servicemen

The Government of India observe that ex-service personnel and their dependants address petitions to Units and regimental centres on matters with which these centres are not concerned. Examples are applications for ration permits, requests for interference in legal cases and requests for financial assistance in defraying marriage expenses. Naturally, these petitions have to be directed to the proper quarters and this involves not only unnecessary scriptory work but considerable delay in the parties getting redress. It has, therefore, been ruled that, in future, all petitions should be addressed to the local district or State Soldiers', Sailors', and Airmen's Board and the Board will pass on the petitions to the proper quarters.

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Harijan Uplift Advisory Committees

The Government have directed that the District Advisory Committees for the amelioration of the conditions of the communities eligible for help by the Labour Department should be known henceforth as District Harijan Uplift Advisory Committees. These Committees will consist of not more than 6 non-official members each with the respective Collector as the Chairman. The term of office of the non-official members will be three years.

The following persons have been nominated as members of the District Harijan Uplift Advisory Committees for Salem, Malabar, Kistna and South Arcot districts. They will hold office for a period of three years from 20th June 1947.

Salem—
1. Sri P. Kandaswami Pillai, M.L.A.
2. Sri M. P. Periaswamy, M.L.A.
3. ,, V. Vanchinatha Ayyar.
4. ,, Narayana Rao.
5. ,, P. Marimuthu.
6. ,, S. Chinnayya.

Malabar—
1. Sri K. Raghavan, M.L.A.
2. ,, A. Karunakara Menon.
3. ,, Swami Anandathirth.
4. ,, K. Sankaran.
5. ,, C. K. Govindan Nair, M.L.A.
6. Sri P. Govindan Nair, M.L.A.

Kistna—
1. Sri S. Venkayya.
2. ,, D. Prasada Rao.
3. ,, S. Venkataramayya.
4. ,, S. Venkataratnam.
5. ,, D. Sanjiva Rao.
6. ,, Guntur Raju.

South Arcot—
1. Sri Swami A. S. Sahajananda, M.L.A.
2. Sri K. Kulasekhara Das, M.L.A.
3. ,, S. Chidambara Ayyar, M.L.A.
4. Mrs. Jagadambal Ammal.
5. Sri M. Pavadai.
6. ,, V. C. Subramania Pillai.

Orders regarding the reconstitution of the District Advisory Committees for the remaining districts will issue separately.

****

Dispute in Hoe and Company

There was a dispute between the workers and management of Messrs. Hoe & Co., Madras and Trichinopoly and as the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the matter was referred for adjudication. After enquiry the adjudicator has submitted his report and the following are his recommendations :—

1. The strike was legal as notice of it was given. The dismissal of a large body of 235 workers is hardly justifiable and the employment of new hands was uncalled for. The management should reinstate all the workers who apply to them for reinstatement to the position in which they were before the strike began, that is, no one should be deprived of the right for gratuity if he has earned it and no one should be deprived of his right to have leave if he has earned it.

2. All workers whether probationers or apprentices should be paid Rs. 18 per mensem.

3. A bonus of one-fourth of the basic wages earned by the workers during the year 1946 is adequate for the year 1946–47.

4. The new terms of service are not enforceable in the case of those who were already employed before the introduction of the new terms.

5. The Provident Fund Rules should be revised by mutual discussions between the Hoe & Co. Employees Association and the management and representative of the workers should be included in the Board of Trustees.

6. The workers should quit the present premises as soon as the management gives another room for locating the office of the Co-operative Society.

7. The removal of Krishnaswami was on proper grounds. If P. S.V. Varadachari gives an undertaking that he will not be irregular in future and promises not to be absent except on leave, he may be taken back into service, provided his previous conduct has been clean.

8. Gratuity need not be paid to Deivasigamony, Ramachandran and Govindan Naidu. Kothandapani Naidu should be paid the salary for the month of May 1945. He should be paid also the 'Gratuity' if he has already earned it.

The Government accept the recommendations of the adjudicator.

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Working of the Factories Act

The Administration Report on the Factories Act during 1945 shows that there were 3,217 factories at the end of the year as against 2,889 at the end of 1944. Judging from the number of factories that have submitted returns, there was also a corresponding increase in the number of operatives. Three additional Assistant Inspectors of Factories were employed during the year and the number of inspections increased from 5,211 in 1944 to 6,931 in 1945. The Assistant Inspectress of Factories, Coimbatore, made 218 inspections during the year and gave advice wherever possible to women workers regarding maternity and kindred matters. There was a general improvement in welfare work during the period. The health of the workers was generally good. Respirators and face-masks were supplied to persons who were employed in dust-laden rooms. There was also an expansion of facilities in regard to housing accommodation, schools, co-operative societies and stores, canteens, bonus, savings schemes, medical relief and recreation clubs. In some cases houses were given free of rent. In one case the children of workers were given one free meal a day. Some factories distributed food-grains at concessional rates or fair prices. One of the factories put up a radio for the entertainment of the workers. During the year, several employers granted financial assistance to co-operative stores to enable them to sell things cheaply to workers. The Madura Mills, Ltd., Ambasamudram, contributed Rs. 10,000 to the co-operative stores while the Madura Mills, Madura, paid a monthly subsidy of Rs. 3,750 as well as a lump sum of Rs. 16,000 to the co-operative stores. The Madura Mills, Ltd., Tuticorin, similarly contributed Rs. 9,000 to the co-operative stores. The East India Distilleries and Sugar Factories, Ltd., Nellikuppam, advanced Rs. 95,000 free of interest to the co-operative store for the purchase of provisions. A sum of Rs. 12,000 was given by Madura Mills, Ltd., Ambasamudram, towards the educational facilities of the workers' children. There has been a rise in the average ages of all classes of workers in all the places. The number of strikes during the period was 45 as against 31 in 1944. Eighteen cases of fire occurred but there was no loss of life. Damage to property has been estimated at over five lakhs of rupees but this was mostly covered by insurance. There was also an increase in the number of accidents, the figures being 5,526 in 1945 as against 5,135 in 1944. Of these, 50 were fatal as against 37 in 1944. Many of these accidents were due to the employment of unskilled workers.

Under maternity benefits 2,184 claims were made during the year as against 2,190 in 1944. The total amount of benefit paid was Rs. 47,836 as against Rs. 51,757 in 1944. One hundred and seventy-nine persons were prosecuted during the year for violations of the Factory Act and this figure is more than double that of the previous year. The number of establishments employing children was 371 at the end of the year. In cases where children under 12 years of age were found employed employers were warned to observe the provisions of the Children's Act strictly.

Revenue

Village Headman Reinstated

Sri N. Dakshinamurthy Vanniar who had resigned the post of village headman of Raramudrakottai village, Papanasam taluk, Tanjore district, owing to political reasons, has been reinstated to his old post and the existing incumbent removed there from.

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Relief Granted

Government have sanctioned Rs. 10,000 towards relief of those affected by fire at Rajahmundry in April 1947. This is in addition to the Rs. 10,000 sanctioned already. In this connection proposals are under consideration for construction of houses on a co-operative basis for those who have been rendered homeless.

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Alienation of Communal Lands

A number of representations were received by the Government alleging that landholders of estates were resorting to large-scale alienation and assignment of communal and forest lands. The Government were also informed that some landholders claimed communal lands as their private lands and assigned those lands and also their private lands with a view to make as much money as possible before any legislation was enacted by the Government in regard to estates. In order to prevent immediately the indiscriminate alienation of those lands an Ordinance called the Madras Communal; Forest and Private lands (Prohibition of Alienation) Ordinance, 1947, has been promulgated.

Agriculturists' Relief Act

The number of cases under the Agriculturists' Relief Act disposed of by civil courts in the Province for the quarter ending 31st March 1947 is 429. For the period between 22nd March 1938 (when the Act came into force) and 31st March 1947 (covering a period of 109 months) the number of cases disposed of is 207,097.

The amount involved in applications disposed of under sections 8, 9, 13, 18 (1), 19 and 19-A of the Act for the quarter ending 31st March 1947 is Rs. 2,82,695. The amount involved in such applications for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st March 1947 stands at Rs. 9,74,51,629.

The amount scaled down by the courts on applications of indebted agriculturists for the quarter ending 31st March 1947 is Rs. 1,51,198. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st March 1947, the amount scaled down stands at Rs. 4,67,89,712.

The amount of reduction by scaling down of debts for the quarter ending 31st March 1947 is Rs. 1,31,497. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st March 1947 the amount of reduction by scaling down debts is Rs. 5,06,61,917.

The number of cases pending at the close of the quarter ending 31st March 1947 and that for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 31st March 1947 is 346.

The figures given above do not include the number of cases voluntarily settled by parties without recourse to courts.

Revenue Minister Answers Critics

The following statement has been issued by Sri Kala Venkatrao, Minister for Land Revenue :—

I have seen the statement of Sri T. Prakasam issued from Tirupati on 23rd June 1947 regarding the rent in zamindari lands. He has followed it up with a speech at the Nilakkottai Political Conference and said that the present Ministry fell a victim to the machinations of the zamindars, while he himself successfully resisted them and that the present policy of the Government is pernicious to the interests of the ryots.

Answering the former statement first I am sorry to state that he has not correctly estimated the proposal which is being considered by the Government. The proposal is to introduce a Bill for the abolition of the zamindaris straight-away and the Bill is almost ready. A period of at least four to five years may be necessary to complete the survey and settlement operations in the estates and arrive at a final rate of land revenue that has to be collected from the ryots by the Government. Therefore it will be preposterous to ask the zamindari ryots who are already rackrented to wait all this period without getting any benefit from the change-over of the management of the estates from the zamindars to the Government. Hence it is proposed to give a sort of interim relief to the ryots in zamindari areas by reducing their rentals to the level of the land revenue now collected in nearby ryotwari villages, while simultaneously the abolition will take place and consequential action will be taken. This will help the ryots to a good extent. Soon after the estates are taken over there will be only one sort of land tenure throughout the Province namely, ryotwari tenure. What should be the system of land taxation throughout the Presidency and what should be the rates at which taxes are to be levied would have to be dealt with at that stage. That would be the time to consider whether such rates should be based on 1802 rates or 1810 rates or those at some other date. This will also mean that the present ryotwari system needs immediate revision, being out of date and unfair to the poor.

But let me also state that simple reduction of rates would not suffice, and the more important thing is to change the incidence of the levy itself. It is a known thing that the present day land revenue system is a regressive



one. That is, a person owning one acre of land pays, say, at the rate of Rs. 8 per acre, while a person who owns 1,000 acres also pays at the rate of Rs. 8 per acre. The marginal value of Rs. 8 for a man owning one acre is far more than the Rs. 8,000 which the other person owning 1,000 acres has to pay out of his income on his holding of land. Therefore what is really needed is not a simple reduction of the rate of levy (let it be 1802 or 1810) but also a recast of the system itself by replacing the regressive tax by a progressive tax. That is, while the one acre man will pay the tax at the rate of, say, Rs. 4 per acre, the 1,000 acre man will have to pay at the rate of, say, Rs. 12 per acre. This reform can be achieved as soon as a single system of land tenure will come to exist soon after the estates go.

In this connexion we have also to think of alternate systems of tax-levy like a purchase tax, etc. All these things are being considered by the Government. So Sri Prakasam's harping that he would have reduced rents to the 1802 level and would have cancelled all settlement enhancements in ryotwari lands after 1810 will not satisfy any criteria of modern taxation systems. We would aim at a more revolutionary conception and a new set-up which will aid the smaller man.

Even on the question of the time factor Sri Prakasam cannot accuse the present Ministry. What he wanted to do and did not do while he was Revenue Minister for nearly thirty months and as Premier for eleven months, the present Government are trying to achieve within six months. I will not be unfair to Sri Prakasam as he is unfair to me but would say that I am trying to build up on such foundations as he laid earlier and if the structure is a modern one and will be owned by the poor man, Sri Prakasam need not get worried.

For Sri Prakasam to say that the rent reduction is only to aid the zamindars as regards compensation, is to say something that is preposterous. What I have said above will disabuse any fair mind. For him to go further and say what he said at Nilakkottai is to exceed the limits of a gentleman's difference of opinion. Time alone will prove as to who resisted the zamindars, who reduced to nought the alleged machinations if any, and whether the present land policy of the Government will be pernicious to the ryot or will be a boon and panacea to him. I can only say that the "time" taken to achieve the objective will not be a long one but will be a short one and I do not believe in saying "I would have done so if . . ." but in saying "by the will of the people, I am able to do this much."

Appointment of Honorary Medical Officers

In December 1942, the Government ordered that appointment of Honorary Medical Officers in Government Medical institutions should be reserved for Doctors with Military service to their credit and that the appointments made in the meantime should not be for a period of five years as usual but for a *period not exceeding five years*. It was also laid down that if and when suitable medical officers with Military service become available they should replace honorary Medical Officers who had no Military service to their credit.

The Government had since decided in March 1947, to allocate 66-2/3 per cent of all reserved vacancies to candidates with war service and the remaining 33-1/3 per cent to others. This decision has now been made applicable to honorary appointments also. War service candidates, will however, be eligible to apply for vacancies allotted for the members of the public but they will not be given any special preference by reason of their military service and will be judged by their other qualifications.

Work of the Rice Study Group at Trivandrum

By SIR S. V. RAMAMURTHI

It is a matter of satisfaction to the Indian Delegation that the proposal for the formation of a Rice Board in South-East Asia has had the benefit of examination by the Member Nations of the Rice Study Group. An agenda for the Rice Conference which is to be called after the FAO Conference at Geneva in August has been approved by the Rice Study Group.

Looking at the recommendations made in committees on the improvement of rice production which is a crucial problem for the economic development of South-East Asia, one finds that there is little that is new in regard to the methods proposed. We are all aware of the need to improve irrigation, provide good seed and chemical as well as organic manure, introduce mechanized methods of cultivation, eradicate pests and arrange the spread of new knowledge by demonstration and propaganda. That which the nations together can do is to accelerate the finding of new methods by concerted and comparative studies and even more to accelerate action by co-ordinated effort. The basic need then is to find a new mechanism. It is for this prupose that the Indian Delegation has proposed the formation of a Rice Board in South-East Asia. Such a Board is needed, too, for common organization and action in regard to stocks, prices and international distribution. Even more than a new mechanism, there is need for a new will. South East Asia is the part of Asia which has been most subject to European imperialism. Colonialism has left behind not only economic poverty but also a degradation of spirit. This spiritual degradation has sapped the will to improve and live well. The basic remedy for poor production in South East Asia is freedom. There is no justification, political, economic or moral why U.S.A. and U.K. should interpose themselves between producers and consumers of rice in South East Asia. There is need for U.S.A. and U.K. to quit rice in South East Asia.

The discussions by the Study Group have shown a range of opinion varying from that expressed by Burma to that held by India. On the former view, there is no need for a radical remedy; a little extension of the mechanism and the activity of the FAO is all that is needed. On the latter view, more pointed and energetic action is necessary if South East Asia is to rise above the low economic level of her life, where the people, after a century or two of European tutelage, have remained poor and become even poorer in spite of all the scientific advances by which the western world has enormously raised its level of living. I have no doubt that this range of opinion will be considerably narrowed down and a view approximating to that of India will be reached when all the rice producing countries of South East Asia who have not been invited by the FAO as members of the Rice Study Group attend the Rice Conference and are represented through popular Governments and speak through their own nationals.

Sir John Boyd-Orr, the Director-General of FAO, has stated that unless a world food plan is made and executed, a third world-war is bound to come. An attempt to form an international Wheat Council which can execute a world wheat plan has recently failed in London. The chances of success of a world rice plan are, I fully believe, brighter, because of the rice position under which rice is produced and consumed, in the main, in a concentrated area of similar economic and social conditions and its problems lend themselves to being dealt with on all fronts by a single body.

I venture to hope therefore, that the Governments of the European and American nations present here will, when they receive the reports of their representatives, not seek to deny us the formation of the Rice Board for which I have been pleading—and demanding—in Washington and Trivandrum. I have also every hope that our views will receive sympathetic appreciation from Sir John Boyd-Orr, who has the capacity for combining the real and ideal, which Britain at her best has been known to achieve.

Statistics of Paddy Cultivation

Yield in 1946–47 below normal

The average area under paddy in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944–45 represents 13·3 per cent of the total area under paddy in India.

The area sown with paddy in 1946–47 is estimated at 10,573,000 acres as against 9,952,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year and the finally recorded area of 10,202,580 acres in 1945–46. The present estimate shows an increase of 3·6 per cent over the final area in the previous year.

1,576,000 acres have been reported as sown since the last forecast was issued in December 1946, made up of 121,000 acres in the Circars, 99,000 acres in the Deccan, 388,000 acres in the Carnatic, 409,000 acres in the Central districts, 537,000 acres in the South and 22,000 acres in the West Coast and Hills. The area sown in December 1946 and January 1947 was more than that sown in the corresponding period of the previous year by 692,000 acres or by nearly 78 per cent.

The area under second-crop paddy is expected to be normal or slightly above the normal in most districts of the Province due to the availability of water in irrigation sources as a result of heavy rains received towards the end of the north-east monsoon period.

As compared with the final area of last year, an increase in area is estimated in all the districts of the Province except East Godavari, West Godavari, Tanjore, Malabar and South Kanara, where the area is slightly less than that of last year.

The harvest of the main crop of paddy is in progress. The yield per acre is expected to be below the normal in all the districts of the Province, due partly to insufficient rain and water-supply in the early stages and partly to heavy rains and continuous wet weather in November and December 1946. The crop is also reported to have been affected

(Continued on page 25)

Miscellaneous

Provincial Quota of Petrol

A report apparently emanating from New Delhi recently appeared in the local press in which it was stated that there has been an increase of 10 per cent in the Provincial quota of petrol. The Government of India have informed the Provincial Rationing Officer that there is no truth in this report and have added that the special additional allotment of one lakh gallons sanctioned in April 1947 for the last quarter will not be repeated in the current quarter. The petrol quota of this Province for the current quarter has not thus been altered although the number of vehicles has increased steadily. The purchase of surplus Army vehicles has contributed to a great extent to this increase. The immediate effect has therefore been to accentuate the already acute petrol situation and the Provincial Rationing Officer has had to effect a minimum reduction of 10 per cent in the rations granted till now.

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Amendment to Motor Vehicles Rules

The Government propose to amend the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules 1940 so as to exempt temporarily public service and goods vehicles fitted with left-hand steering control and obtained through the Disposals Organization of the Central Government, from the requirements of the rule swhich prescribe that no public service or goods vehicle shall be driven otherwise than from the right-hand side of the vehicle. It is now proposed to grant the exemption only up to 1st January 1948. The position will, however, be reviewed, and the period of exemption extended, provided that experience has not proved that the use of such left-hand drive vehicles is seriously detrimental to public safety.

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No Enquiry into M.S.P. Activities.

The Government understand that reports are being sedulously spread in Malabar district by Communists, especially through the newspaper '*Deshabhimani*' of Calicut, that the Government contemplate ordering a public enquiry into alleged excesses of the M.S.P. in the district. The Government wish to make it clear that the reports are completely unfounded, that there is nothing before the Government which warrants such enquiry and that they have no intention of ordering one.

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Hours for interview with Ministers

The hours for interviews of non-official visitors with the Hon'ble Minister (Home) at office on working days laid down in the Public Department Press Note No. 125, dated 14th May 1947, viz., "Between 12 noon and 1 p.m." have been changed to between 3 p.m. and 4-30 p.m." with effect from the 28th June 1947. Interviews with the Hon'ble Minister (Home) during other hours should be by previous engagement in writing. If there is no previous engagement but the purpose of the visit is really urgent and important and the visitor cannot wait till the normal hour for interview, the Reception Officer at the Secretariat will as usual arrange the interview.

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National Savings

The subscriptions from all over the province towards National Savings Certificates for the period 1st April to 31st May 1947 amount to Rs. 25,85,245. The figure for the period up to 7th June 1947 is Rs. 27,00,065. Tanjore has shot up to the first place with Rs. 7,97,455. Madras comes next with Rs. 3,48,690 and South Kanara follows with Rs. 2,70,730. The lowest amount of subscription is from Nellore and the figure is Rs. 9,060.

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Subsidy to Midwives

In November 1944, the Government enhanced the subsidy to second-class midwives working in subsidized rural dispensaries from Rs. 200 to 240 per annum. They have since increased this subsidy further to Rs. 300 per annum with effect from 1st January 1947.

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College Fees Enhanced

Government have ordered the enhancement of the fees of the students of Medical Colleges by 20 per cent with effect from the caademic year 1947-48. The enhanced rates apply also to students who are already on the rolls of the colleges including women students other than those belonging to the Muslim Community, Backward Classes and Harijans. Out of the income accruing from this enhancement 20 per cent will be devoted to the grant of half-fee concessions to deserving poor students including women.

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Private Imports of Semolina

Recently the Government of India decided that private imports of semolina from overseas may be allowed if the applications for such imports were recommended by the concerned Governments and a proper import licence was obtained by the applicant from the Chief Controller of Imports. In pursuance of this decision the Madras Government have hitherto been recommending to the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi, applications for issue of licences to import semolina (Ravai) or other wheat products into the Madras Province from overseas, whether the applicants had a licence under the Foodgrains Control Order to trade in the commodities or not. They have now decided to recommend applications only from those who possess licences under the Madras Foodgrains Control Order to deal in wheat products. This decision will take effect from 1st August 1947. Wheat products imported up to 31st July 1947 by non-licensees will be allowed to be disposed of outside the ration provided such holders of stocks intimate to the Controller of Civil Supplies the quantity actually imported and obtain from him temporary licences for the disposal of the stocks on hand. They will be subjected to all the rules to which an ordinary licensee under the Foodgrains Control Order is subject. They cannot dispose of the quantities imported in wholesale except to a licensee under the Foodgrains Control Order or to consumers direct (including establishments) subject to the rules and conditions imposed by the Foodgrains Control Order and the licence issued under it. Temporary licences will be issued only up to 31st July 1947 and will not be issued thereafter. Non-licenced merchants or others who import stocks thereafter will do so at their own risk.

Licensed merchants who import the wheat products can dispose of them outside the ration subject to the rules and conditions imposed by the Foodgrains Control Order and the licence issued under it.

Working of Certified Schools

The Government have reviewed the working of the Madras Children's Act of 1920 and the administration of certified schools in the province for 1946.

The total number of Government and private certified schools in the province remains the same, viz., 4 and 3 respectively, as in the previous year. There were 3,011 pupils (2,764 boys and 247 girls) at the commencement of the year in all the certified schools. Admissions during the year totalled 1,171 and the number of discharges during the year was 1,397 leaving a balance at the close of the year of 2,785 pupils (2,553 were boys and 232 girls). The daily average number of pupils has decreased from 2,959·51 to 2,847·98 during the year. Of the 805 pupils admitted by direct committal, 222 were ordered to be detained for a period not exceeding 2 years, 220 for over two years and not exceeding three years, 179 for above 3 years and not exceeding four years, 90 above 4 years and not exceeding 5 years, 91 above 5 years and not exceeding 10 years and 3 above 10 years as against 251, 286, 224, 247 and 118 respectively in the previous year.

As regards the age of pupils 270 were under 12 years of age, 369 between 12 and 14, 198 between 14 and 15, and 28 between 15 and 16 as against 485, 374, 141 and 131 respectively in the previous year. In point of literacy, 239 out of the 805 were literates and 566 were illiterates as against 216 and 915 in the previous year. Eight hundred and ninety pupils were discharged during the year and of these 235 were literates and 645 were illiterates on admission. But the illiterates were made literates before they were discharged. Of those admitted during the year, 757 were first offenders, 31 had one previous conviction, 13 were destitutes and 4 uncontrollables. Fifty-six pupils escaped from the custody of the schools as against 36 in the previous year. One hundred and one offences were reported as against 153 in the previous year. There was no change in the system of educational and industrial training during the year. Among the various industrial subjects on which instruction was imparted in the certified schools, carpentry, weaving, tailoring, blacksmithy, metal work, masonry and band are worth mentioning. A systematic programme of physical education besides band-drill has been followed. The boys played hockey, cricket, football, volley ball, ring tennis, badminton, Chedugudu and khokho, etc. The boys were also trained in gymnastics and wrestling as well. Training in ambulance, First-aid and scouting continued to be given to the pupils.

Of the ameliorative measures introduced during the year, the scheme of allowing boys to remain in open dormitories in the certified schools for a period of one year deserves mention. The installation and maintenance of Radio sets in the certified schools at Chingleput and Bellary were also sanctioned during the year.

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Control of Malaria

In the recent past, Government tried an experiment in the direction of controlling Malaria in the Cuddapah district and it has yielded remarkable results. The incidence of Malaria was very high in the Cuddapah Municipal area. This was traced to Bugga Vanka which forms practically the western boundary of the town and commands a catchment area of 160 square miles. The water in the Vanka does not flow with sufficient velocity with the result that it collects in pools offering a fertile breeding ground for mosquitoes. Consequently Malaria broke out in a virulent form in Cuddapah town in November 1943 and continued to be a menace to the public health of the place. As an anti-Malarial measure, therefore, it was suggested that the Bugga Vanka should be canalised. The experiment of canalization was put through and has resulted in a marked reduction in the incidence of Malaria in that locality.

The morbidity due to Malaria before canalization, that is during 1944, was 41,740 while during and after canalization the figure was 7,489. Similarly, the number of deaths due to Malaria during 1944 was 188 while the corresponding figure in 1946 was 10. During 1944 there were only 806 births while the number of births in 1946 was 1,071. The splenic index in 1944, in the wards on the bank of Bugga Vanka, was 60 per cent while it was only 12 per cent on the average in 1946. These statistics show that in addition to the temporary preventive measures adopted in the Cuddapah Municipality the canalization of Bugga Vanka has contributed to a steep reduction in the incidence of malarial fever in that area.

It may be mentioned here that Malaria is one of the major public health problems in this province. It considerably de-vitalizes the population and has been to a large extent responsible for the slow economic development. Government have, therefore, been tackling this scourge on a planned and comprehensive basis. There are four regional organizations functioning under the Public Health Department charged with the special responsibility of combating this disease. Local remedies are also resorted to where these are likely to prove successful.

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Admission to Professional Colleges

The Government have passed orders on the question of according admission to naturalized British subjects to the medical and engineering colleges in this Presidency. Only applications from such of those naturalized subjects, as have applied for naturalization certificates through the Madras Government, will be considered. A total ten-year-period of residence in the province is necessary for the candidates. The district in which the candidate or his parent resided at the time of applying for admission to the college will be taken as the district to which the candidate belongs for purposes of the rule regarding linguistic representation. Candidates will not be required to produce nativity certificates but will have to furnish proofs in support of the other requirements expected of them. Such proofs should be attested by a Magistrate or by a Gazetted Officer.

At present candidates applying for admission to agricultural and certain professional colleges are required to produce the originals of their University and other certificates as well as testimonials. But it has been shown that difficulty arises when admission is sought in more than one college and if these college authorities demand the simultaneous production of certificates in original. The Government therefore, considered the situation and relaxed the conditions in the case of medical colleges.

Now this relaxation is extended to apply to agricultural Colleges also. In future it will be enough if certified copies of the certificates are produced by the applicants in the first instance. Such copies have to be certified as true by a Government Officer not below the rank of a Gazetted Officer or a Magistrate. Authorities competent to select candidates for the colleges, will, however, reserve the right to call for the originals at any time in the event of any doubt before the actual selection has been made. Originals of the certificates should invariably, be produced, after admission, for verification and for record in the Agricultural department.

Prohibition in Full Swing

Report for the month of April

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot during April 1947 is published for information :—

I. Enforcement.

Cases detected.—The total number of cases detected in the eight districts during the months of January to April 1947 were as follows :—

January 1947.	1,763
February 1947.	1,541
March 1947 ..	2,352
April 1947 ..	2,059

There was a decrease in the total number of cases detected, in all the districts except Bellary and Coimbatore during the month of April 1947.

Illicit distillation.—Out of the 2,059 cases detected, 1,302 (about 63 per cent) related to illicit distillation and kindred offences. The total number of illicit distillation cases decreased from 925 to 822. The decrease was apparently due to the rounding up of several gangs of illicit distillers in the previous month.

Illicit tapping.—Seventy-nine cases of tapping sweet-juice without licence were detected in the month, of which 59 related to Coimbatore.

Smuggling of liquor from border States.—Smuggling of liquor from Banganapalle, Mysore and Hyderabad States continued during the month. H.E.H. the Nizam's Government have taken steps to shift all abkari shops beyond three miles from the Madras border, from 6th October 1947. The District Prohibition Officer, Anantapur has been instructed to take immediate steps to see that the smuggling of Banganapalle arrack into Tadpatri town is stopped.

Assistance by non-officials.—The work done by Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in connection with the detection of crimes continued to be poor.

General.—The preventive work has, on the whole, been satisfactory.

II. Ameliorative work.

Substitutes for drink.—Except Chittoor, all other districts report that there was an increase in the number of tea and coffee shops, and that there was a perceptible increase in their business.

Rural recreation.—During the month under review, there has been an all-round improvement in the work done by the Rural Recreation Officers. The number of villages visited by them increased from 456 in March to 735 in April. Though there has been a fall in the number of Taluk tournaments, the number of firka tournaments held increased from 26 to 44 which tends to indicate that the rural folk are taking greater interest in sports.

The Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, witnessed a display of games and other interesting items of entertainment given by the Gramasanghams at Sholinghur and Sumaithangi in North Arcot district. He also attended a firka tournament at Tondamathur in Coimbatore district and a display of rural games at Konganapuram in Salem district.

Bhajanas, Kathaprasangams and Kalakshepams.—This form of amusement continued to be popular among the villagers.

Cinemas.—Four new cinema houses were started, two in Salem and two in Anantapur district. Four new theatres are reported to be under construction in North Arcot district.

Dramas.—Dramatic performances were also held in the several Prohibition districts during the month.

Rural uplift.—Five thousand three hundred and thirty-three Gramasanghams, 278 Firka Associations and 29 Taluk Associations have been organized, and they actively engaged themselves during the month under review in varied activities beneficial to the villagers, such as construction of roads, public latrines, school buildings, cleaning of streets, etc. The work done by some of the gramasanghams in the different districts is detailed below :—

Salem district.—One village uplift sangham completed a road work and eight sanghams repaired eight village communications. One sangham raised public donations and constructed a school building. Two gramasanghams collected funds locally and put up public latrines in their villages. Nine village uplift sanghams opened night schools for adults. Eight sanghams introduced bee-keeping. A number of village sanghams arranged for the cleaning of their streets.

Anantapur district.—One sangham arranged to collect Rs. 100 to clean two wells on the river-bed used by Kuruvas and Harijans.

Bellary district.—The Kuduthani Gramasangham has arranged to provide a playground and put up a library and reading room. One village development committee has made arrangements for the construction of a road to connect its village with Siruguppa and one sangham has taken steps to construct public latrines and to convert one step-well into a draw well.

Coimbatore district.—Four gramasanghams arranged for sinking new wells and repairing old ones. Ten sanghams have arranged to clean the streets and lanes of their villages. One sangham repaired the main road of the village at a cost of Rs. 100. Two others repaired the village roads by collecting necessary funds locally. Night schools were conducted by six sanghams in seven villages. The Kottampatti sangham collected Rs. 500 for training dramatic troupes. One sangham has collected Rs. 700 for constructing a school building. The Periyapuliyur sangham has completed the construction of a school building at a cost of Rs. 1,000. Ten sanghams enrolled additional members for the co-operatives working in their area.

Kurnool district.—Four gramasanghams have arranged to construct public latrines. Three other sanghams have taken up the construction of approach roads to their respective villages from the main roads. One Uplift sangham has resolved to construct a draw well and a public latrine and has arranged to remove manure pits outside the village.

North Arcot district.—One gramasangham has arranged for protected water-supply to the villagers. Street lighting was undertaken by one sangham. One village sangham has collected Rs. 2,000 for the construction of a school building while another sangham collected Rs. 500 and put up a thatched shed to the village school.

Promotion of thrift.—The amount saved as a result of the thrift campaign up to the end of April 1947, was Rs. 68,555 as against Rs. 54,243 up to the end of March 1947.

House building societies.—Thirty-five quarry workers of Sholinghur, all of whom are ex-addicts, joined and subscribed each Rs. 100 and formed a

(*Continued on page* 13)

Public Health Problems of the Province

Deliberations of Medical Conference

The following is the official account of the Conference convened by the Hon'ble Sri A.B. Shetty, Minister for Public Health, which met on the 27th, 28th and 30th of June at the Legislative Council Chamber and discussed various problems concerning the Medical and Public Health Department.

The following persons were present at the Conference :—

Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, LL.D., LL.D., D.S.C., F.R.C.O.G., Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras; The Surgeon General with the Government of Madras; The Director of Public Health; The Director, King Institute, Guindy; The Principal, Madras Medical College; The Principal, Stanley Medical College; The Principal, Andhra Medical College, Vizagapatam; The Superintendent, Government General Hospital, Madras; The Superintendent, King George Hospital, Vizagapatam; The Superintendent, Government Stanley Hospital, Madras; Dr. P. V. Cherian, M.B.E., F.R.C.S. (Edin), etc., Dr. G. R. Dinker Rau, M.D., Dr. T. Satagopan, M.D., Dr. M. R. Guruswamy Mudaliar, M.D., Sri A. V. Raman, Editor, Peoples' Health; The Assistant Directress of Public Health, Maternity and Child Welfare; The Professor of Hygiene, Madras Medical College; Dr. Rao Bahadur T. S. Tiramurti, President, Indian Medical Association, South Indian Branch; Dr. M. V. Krishna Rao, President, Indian Medical Association, Andhra Provincial Branch, Elloro; Captain S. Thambiah, M.R.C.S., President, Madras Medical Association; Dr. D. V. Venkappa, Provincial Secretary of the All-India Medical Licentiates' Association; Dr. K. C. Nambiyar, Secretary, Honorary Medical Officers' Association, and Joint Secretary, Education and Public Health Department (Secretary).

First day

Dr. Rajan could not be present owing to indisposition, but sent a message wishing the Conference success.

The Hon'ble Minister, inaugurating the Conference, thanked the distinguished invitees for placing their time and experience at the service of the Government. Continuing he said that Madras which has a reputation for being progressive should take particular note of the vast developments that have taken place in the world at large in the field of curative and preventive medicine and move with the times. He also mentioned that some of the items put down for discussion at the Conference had been covered by the Bhore Committee Report, which is being carefully studied by the Public Health Department in consultation with the Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health.

At the very outset it was decided that the Conference would only lay down the general outlines of policy, i.e., the fundamental principles to be followed in the various matters, and leave the details to be formulated by two sub-committees, one dealing with all subjects connected with medical education and the other with all subjects connected with Medical and Public Health services.

The agenda before the Conference covered 36 items, beginning with recruitment to the Provincial Medical Service.

Recruitment to Provincial Medical Service.—After prolonged discussion the Conference recommended that in future all paid Medical Officers should be considered whole-time servants and they should be allowed no private practice. To implement this recommendation, it was suggested, the scales of pay in Medical Service should be revised so as to bring them in line with the best paid provincial service in other fields. Pending such revision of scales the existing incumbents are to enjoy the present privileges, and after revision they are to have the option either to accept the new scales or to have the existing scales and the existing privileges. Now entrants are of course to be placed in the new scales.

Recruitment to the teaching cadre.—It was agreed that a special teaching cadre should be formed for the Medical Colleges. The back-bone of the teaching cadre should be a skeleton of paid men. All professors or heads of the departments are to be full-time men. They should be assisted by a reasonable proportion of honorary hands in the clinical subjects. The need for increasing the ratio of teachers to students was emphatically urged by all.

Honorary staff.—The Conference recommended that the existing system of utilizing the services of Honorary men at the District Headquarters hospitals and Taluk Headquarters hospitals should be continued and extended under suitable conditions to be prescribed by the appropriate sub-committee.

Foreign training.—The Conference recommended that the Government should encourage sending qualified men abroad, not so much for the purpose of enabling them to go 'degree-hunting' as for enabling them to visit the various institutions and study the latest developments in other countries. It was also suggested that professors should be deputed to visit periodically other countries and see for themselves how things were being done elsewhere in the world and to get the 'brains dusted.' In selecting candidates to be sent for foreign training preferably persons between 30 and 40, i.e., men who have had some experience and who have some years of service before them should be selected and the claims of honorary men should be considered.

Another measure recommended by the Conference was that in the teaching hospitals a Dean should be appointed to co-ordinate the administrative work of the hospital and the attached college and that no professional or teaching duties should devolve on the Dean. It was also urged that a department of dietetics should be set up in teaching centres, special courses in dietetics instituted for the benefit of the nursing sisters and trained dieticians employed in large hospitals.

Miscellaneous.—The question of providing adequate staff for the teaching hospitals, regulating hours of work in the hospitals and Colleges, establishment of separate hospitals for chronic and convalescent cases, starting of special departments in the hospitals, re-orientation of medical studies in the light of the Bhore Committee Report and post-graduate medical education, were referred by the Conference to the respective sub-committees to be constituted.

Second day

When the Conference resumed its sitting the next day, 13 more items on the agenda were disposed of.

A message of good wishes from the Hon'ble the Premier was read at the

Conference in the course of which the Hon'ble the Premier said that the aim of the Conference should be to bring the benefits of modern science to the cottage of the humblest at the cheapest cost.

Refresher Courses for Doctors.—It was recommended that refresher courses of different duration lasting from 1 to 2 weeks and from 2 weeks to about 6 weeks or more should be instituted wherever possible. Short courses, it was suggested, would be particularly welcomed by busy practitioners, and such courses should be organized not only in the teaching Hospitals but also at suitable District Headquarters Hospitals. If possible, specialists in the various branches of medical science should be sent to the District Headquarters Hospitals on a short visit of about 7 to 10 days to conduct refresher courses. Their expenses in this connection, it was suggested, should be met by the Government. The details of the refresher courses scheme are to be worked out by the sub-committee.

Dental Education.—The Conference recommended that in the light of the Bhore Committee Report the establishment of a Dental College at Madras should be given top priority. Since qualified men to staff the College are not easily available, men should be recruited on a contract basis for a period of, say, five years.

Provision of adequate number of Nurses.—It was strongly urged that the number of nurses should be increased and that the number of beds per nurse should be reduced. To attract suitable candidates to the nursing profession the terms of their service and the conditions of work and lodging and boarding should be improved. It was agreed that male nurses would be useful for certain types of work and certain institutions like the Mental Hospital, the Jail Hospital, etc. The question of giving efficient training to the nurses was referred by the Conference to the sub-committee.

Health Visitors, Midwives and Dais.—The Conference was emphatically of the opinion that the Province needed many more midwives and health visitors, but was not in favour of continuing the system of dais. The system of training dais was at best only an emergency measure resorted to at a time when sufficient number of women were not coming forward for training as midwives. Now that there is no such dearth of candidates for training as midwives, there is no need for dais. It was also suggested that the term 'midwife' should be substituted by the word 'maternity nurse'.

Hospital Social Workers.—The need for developing the social side of medicine was agreed to by the Conference but since the Provincial Government have already deputed an officer overseas to study social medicine, it was decided that this question might be deferred pending the return of this officer.

Research.—The Conference agreed that research in medicine and public health was highly desirable and necessary, but that before any scheme could be usefully launched to encourage research the Professors and other members of the staff in the teaching hospitals should have enough leisure and funds at their disposal to devote to research and the advancement of the science. It was decided to refer this question to the sub-committee.

Medical Libraries.—The need for good libraries for the use of students and Professors as well as for the use of general practitioners was emphasized. In the course of the discussion it was pointed out that a good librarian is the *Sine-Qua-Non* of any good library. Not only should the teaching hospitals be provided with good libraries but also the District Headquarters Hospitals, and these libraries should be open to the general practitioners as well.

Miscellaneous.—It was decided that the question of pharmaceutical education, public health engineering, manufacture and standardization of drugs, medicines and other hospital requirements, should be referred to the relevant sub-committees.

Third day

On the third day of its sitting the Conference concluded its deliberations.

Selection of Medical Students.—The question whether admission to the medical colleges should be decided on the basis of examination marks, or what other tests and considerations should be applied, was, after considerable discussion, referred by the Conference to the sub-committee.

Supply of trained medical personnel.—While it was agreed that more doctors were necessary to cope with the requirements of the province, the general sense of the Conference was against instituting a shorter course of training to increase the production of doctors of the type of Russian "feldsher" for the rural areas. It was pointed out that rural areas, no less than the urban areas, required fully-trained and qualified doctors. However, the Conference suggested that it would be useful to give elementary medical training to Sanitary Inspectors and thus enable them to render first-aid and preliminary advice.

Planned Medical Relief.—In view of the fact that at present certain areas have a large number of medical institutions while other areas have only few such institutions, the Conference recommended that a systematic survey of each district should be made in order to find out the requirements of each locality. There should be a more reasonable distribution of medical institutions. Perhaps the best method of approach would be to divide the province into five zones or so, and make each zone more or less self-sufficient in the sense that the most up-to-date treatment would be available in each zone. Motor ambulance transport for serious cases should be available at the different hospitals in each zone. Hospitals might be divided into three grades A, B and C. There should be at least one or two 'A' grade hospitals in each zone where all facilities should be available for surgical, medical and obstetric work and for specialities. It was also suggested that the personnel of the medical department should be available for public health work in the remoter areas and the Assistant Surgeons to be newly recruited should be given three months' course in public health. The details about planned medical relief, the improvement of District headquarters Hospitals and the co-ordination of medical and public health work were referred to the sub-committee.

Pharmacology.—The Conference recommended that the department of Pharmacology should be enlarged and scope should be given for the investigation of Indian drugs and plants. The creation of a research section in this department was also recommended.

School of Hygiene.—The Conference recommended that the establishment of a School of Hygiene should be given top priority and that it would be desirable to establish the school in the premises of the Madras Medical College. It condemned in very strong terms the location of the present department of Hygiene and insisted that the present building should be demolished and a new one constructed as soon as possible.

Private nursing homes.—While the Conference agreed to the necessity of controlling and registering private maternity and nursing homes, it sounded a word of caution with regard to the manner in which such controls were to be exercised. It was pointed out that Government's desire to control private nursing homes with a view to making them come up to the prescribed standard should not be allowed to interfere with the growth and development of private institutions. A draft bill on the subject that has been drawn up by the Director of Public Health was also referred to the committee.

Birth control.—The Conference recommended that the Government should not take any initiative in the matter of disseminating knowledge about birth control methods, though if any patient required such knowledge to safeguard her health, it might be given by the medical officer.

Medical buildings.—The Conference recommended that when new buildings are constructed for hospitals, etc., they should not be constructed to last more than 25 or 30 years. By that time, new designs might come in and new developments might take place.

Sub-Committees

The following members were nominated to the two Sub-Committees :—

Medical Education Sub-Committee.—Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, the Surgeon-General, Dr. P. V. Cherian, Dr. Kini, Dr. Bhaskara Menon and Dr. Satagopan.

Public Health and Medical Services Sub-Committee.—Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, the Surgeon-General, the Director of Public Health, Dr. Tirumurti, Dr. Pandit and Mr. A. V. Raman.

The Joint Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, will be the Secretary to both the Sub-Committees.

The Hon'ble the Minister at the conclusion of the discussion thanked the distinguished invitees for the most valuable help they had rendered and hoped that the two Sub-Committees would finish their work in a month's time.

Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Dr. Krishna Rao and Mr. A. V. Raman expressed their gratitude to the Hon'ble the Minister for giving the medical profession an opportunity—the first time in the history of Madras Government—to have a say in medical and public health matters.

Railway Earnings

M. & S. M. Railway

On 15th May 1947, three additional passenger trains were introduced each way on the broad gauge between Madras and Jalarpet, Renigunta and Gooty and Walajah Road and Ranipet. The Railway is now running on both the broad gauge and metre gauge 95 per cent of its pre-war passenger service.

The approximate earnings for April 1947 compare as under with those of April 1946 :—

	1946. RS.	1947. RS.
Coaching traffic.	77,32,000	83,38,000
Goods ..	67,77,000	65,29,000
Miscellaneous.	2,58,000	2,42,000
Total ..	1,47,67,000	1,51,09,000

The approximate volume of passenger and goods traffic carried during April 1946 and 1947 are as follows :—

	1946.	1947.
Number of passengers (all classes).	6,206,000	6,505,000
Goods traffic (in tons).	652,000	627,000

South Indian Railway

There has been a slight increase in the train services during May 1947.

The train miles run in May 1947 as compared with those of May 1946 are shown below :—

Public train	*May* 1946. MILES.	*May* 1947. MILES.
Coaching ..	688,792	837,413
Goods	253,864	255,310
Total ..	942,656	1,092,723

The increase is due to the introduction of additional train services.

Details of traffic both passenger and goods, carried during the month of May 1947 as compared with the previous month and the corresponding month of last year are given below :—

	May 1946.	*May* 1947.	*April* 1947.
Coaching traffic.			
Number of passengers.	10,082,343	13,068,010	11,440,699
Earnings.	Rs. 74,64,707	82,38,963	72,24,721
Goods traffic.			
Weight in tons.	528,391	540,446	5 0,758
Earnings.	Rs. 44,76,574	43,63,964	42,23,738

The increase in passenger earnings is mainly due to the marriage season, introduction of additional trains and increase in fares. The decrease in goods earnings, even though there is an increase of tonnage, is due to the greater movement of low rated traffic carried over short distances.

Prohibition in Full Swing

(*Continued from page* 10)

society for house-building. Two more such societies have been formed in Salem. Another society of the kind was initiated for the weavers of Tiruchengode. Other rural housing schemes by weaving co-operative societies are also under consideration in the prohibition districts.

Weavers' societies.—As the number of ex-addicts is large among weavers, the ameliorative staff pay particular attention to them. During April 1947, several weavers' societies were formed on a co-operative basis one in Konakondala in Anantapur district, another in Adoni in Bellary district and three more in Salem district.

Co-operative jaggery manufacturing societies.—In the four districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor where co-operative societies for the manufacture of jaggery have been formed, 159,265 maunds of jaggery, valued at Rs. 11,40,099, were produced.

General.—The reports from the Collectors record a general improvement in the social and economic life of the ex-addicts and their families. They are said to be leading a happier life with fewer domestic quarrels. Street brawls have almost ceased. A general improvement in their standard of living is noticed.

India's Iron and Steel Industry

The iron and steel industry is one of the ancient industries of the country. In 1830, an attempt was made to manufacture pig iron and steel by modern methods. In a sense, the modern period in the history of the industry begins with the establishment of the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited, at Sakchi in 1907. Pig iron was produced by the Company in 1911 and steel in 1913.

As a result of the war of 1914–18, imports of iron and steel into India declined considerably—from 1,018,000 tons in 1913–14 to 181,000 tons in 1918–19. The Tatas made the fullest use of this opportunity, with the result that the production of pig iron increased from 162,282 tons in 1914 to 232,268 tons in 1919 and of finished steel from 19,130 tons in 1912–13 to 123,890 tons in 1918–19. After the war, however, imports again shot up to 427,000 tons in 1919–20 and to 712,000 tons in 1920–21. In the face of severe foreign competition, the Company had no alternative but to approach Government for protection in 1922. Protection was first granted to the iron and steel industry in 1924 and has continued ever since, subject to revision from time to time.

The Indian Tariff Board has considered that the iron and steel industry is no longer in need of protection and has recommended that the existing protective duties should be replaced by revenue duties. It has further recommended that an assurance should be given to the iron and steel industry that it would be free to approach Government with a request for a tariff enquiry at any time. Government have accepted these recommendations of the Board.

Progress under protection

In spite of several difficulties and handicaps, internal and external, the industry made remarkable progress under the aegis of protection. In 1927–28, the Tata Company's share of the Indian market was 30 per cent but rose to 72 per cent in 1932–33. The works costs were considerably reduced; plant was modernised and its efficiency raised and the actual output maintained at a high proportion of 75 per cent of the total capacity of the works. A number of subsidiary industries such as engineering, tin plate, etc. sprang up as a result of the development of the main industry and together with it gave employment to about 150,000 people.

Pre-war production

At the outbreak of World War II, India was maikng about 1,750,000 tons of pig iron, of which about 60 per cent was used for making steel, the remainder being exported or used in iron foundries in India. The exports went chiefly to Japan, U.K., U.S.A., Burma, Ceylon, Java and Africa.

The finished steel made in India amounted to 750,000 tons per annum on an average. It consisted of structurals, bars, rods, plates, sheets, corrugated sheets, rails, railway fittings, tin-plates, wires, steel castings, nails, nuts and bolts, etc. At the Ordnance Factory guns, shells and armaments fittings were made.

Pre-war consumption of Steel

In addition to the average production of 750,000 tons of finished steel in India, there were imports varying from 200,000 to 300,000 tons a year. Thus, the total steel available was about one million tons per annum. Its distribution by consumers was roughly as follows :—

	TONS.
Railway	200,000
Port Trust, roads and rivers.	25,000
Packing	60,000
Textile, tea and other industries.	50,000
Structural fabricators ..	80,000
Roofing of KACHCHA buildings.	100,000
Buildings (including Government).	343,000
Miscellaneous including small industries).	142,000
Total ..	1,000,000

Thus, about 60 per cent of the total steel production was being taken over by Government.

India's place in the World as Producer of Steel

Although steel production has made rapid strides, India's place among producing countries of the world is extremely low as is evident from the following comparative figures of output of steel ingots and castings of the various countries in 1939 : —

Country.	NET TONS.
U.S.A.	52,798,000
Germany	29,617,000
U.S.S.R.	20,719,000
U.K.	15,119;000
Japan	7,055,000
Belgium	3,429,000
India	750,000

In pre-war world production of pig iron was 102 and of steel 136 million tons per annum, whilst that of India was only about 1¾ million tons and 750,000 tons, respectively.

Development during World War II

When war broke out, there was a heavy demand for steel for military purposes. Imports of steel declined, but its production increased because, apart from the replacements of plant and the introduction of various efficiency methods by the old producers like the Tatas, several new producers, including the steel Corporation of Bengal, had come into production. Production of finished steel (excluding semis) was as under :—

	TONS.
1938–39	726,000
1940–41	925,000
1942–43	907,000
1943–44	978,000
1944–45	923,000

The output and imports of steel (including semis but excluding ingots, blooms, billets and slabs) were as below :—

In thousands of tons.

	1938–39	1940–41	1942–43	1943–44	1944–45
Production	932	1,245	1,253	1,353	1,268
Imports	252	172	48	26	50
Available supply	1,184	1,417	1,301	1,379	1,318

The production of pig iron also increased from about 1,750,000 tons in 1938 to about 2,000,000 tons in 1943, while its exports, which amounted annually to 500,000 to 600,000 tons in the years 1938–39 to 1941–42, dropped to 240,000 tons in 1942–43. Most of the pig iron produced in the country was thus converted into steel in the country itself. The increase

in the various items of finished steel was as below :—

Items.	*Pre-war.* TONS.	1944. TONS.
Structurals	150,000	225,000
Bars and rods ..	150,000	222,000
Plates	70,000	82,000
Sheets—black and corrugated.	150,000	183,000
Rails and fish plates.	120,000	149,000
Railway fittings ..	28,000	..
Tinplate	50,000	80,000
Wire	10,000	17,000
Castings	5,000	7,000
Nails	10,000	14,000
Nuts and bolts ..	5,000	29,000
Ordnance	2,000	30,000

New Lines of Production

A very encouraging feature of the expansion, however, was that it covered several new lines of production. Tatas, for instance, started producing acid steel and special steels, notably armour plate, armour-piercing steel and a special steel for the electrodes employed in the welding of armour plate. The plant for manufacturing wheels, tyres and axles was brought into operation on November 1941. Stainless steel for surgical instruments was made for the first time during the war. Considerable progress was also made in stimulating and developing the machine tool industry.

Heavy Military Demand

During the war years, nearly 85 per cent of the available steel in India was earmarked for direct military purposes and the railways and only about 15 per cent went to meet civil demands.

Present Position

The present production capacity of steel is about 1,264,000 tons as below :—

	TONS.
Tatas	850,000
SCOB	350,000
Mysore	40,000
Ishapore	24,000
Total ..	1,264,000

The actual production is, however, much less, due mainly to lack of coal, transport difficulties and labour troubles. In 1945–46, the output of finished steel was only about 900,000 tons and it is not expected greatly to exceed this figure in 1946–47. The present demand for finished steel, however, is estimated at over 1 million tons per annum.

Outlook for 1947

In 1947, it has been decided to allocate an assumed production of 900,000 tons and imports of 150,000 tons as follows :—

	TONS.
Railways	300,000
Industrial maintenance and packing.	150,000
Steel processing industries.	210,000
Government Development Schemes.	80,000
Industrial Development Schemes.	50,000
Exports	10,000
Provinces (small consumers).	250,000
Total ..	1,050,000

Future Demand and Panel's Suggestions to meet it

The Iron and Steel (Major) Panel have come to the conclusion that the future demand of steel would amount to two million tons per annum made up as follows :—

	TONS.
Normal requirements (pre-war).	1,000,000
Agricultural Department ..	455,000
Railway Board (over and above 200,000 tons normal requirements).	300,000
Hydel and other electric schemes.	60,000
Roads	10,000
Provinces	200,000
Total ..	2,025,000

The productive capacity at the end of three to four years is, however, expected to be about 157,000 tons per annum as below :—

	TONS.
Present combined capacity.	1,264,000
Expected increased in capacity at the end of 3 to 4 years.	306,000
Total capacity at the end of 3 to 4 years.	1,570,000

In order to meet the increased demand, the Iron and Steel Panel have recommended the installation of a new plant with a capacity of 500,000 tons per annum rising ultimately to one million tons and, if circumstances warrant it, another plant of the same capacity. The total target of production recommended by the Panel at the end of the first post-war quinquennium is 2½ to 3 million tons.

Questionnaire of the Industrial Planning Committee

A Sub-Committee appointed by the Industrial Planning Committee, which has been set up by the Government of Madras to investigate various problems connected with the planned industrialization of the province, has issued a questionnaire to the public to elicit the views of all those who are interested in the subject. The questions have been so framed as to focus attention on matters on which the Committee considers it essential to assess public opinion. The Sub-Committee desires it to be known that the Industrial Planning Committee is not concerned with cottage industries. As the Committee has to submit its final report within three months, all answers to questions may be sent to Mr. A. S. Naik, I.C.S., Under Secretary to the Government in the Development Department, who is also the Secretary of the Committee, not later than July 20, 1947.

The following is the text of the questionnaire :—

(1) What industries, in your opinion, should be started immediately so as to facilitate the rapid industrialization of this Province? What are the facilities which are available for the starting of such industries?

(2) Have you considered the prospects of new industries which could be started and could successfully function in your district? If you have, please send a note on the nature of such industries and classify them into (i) those that can be started and can begin to operate in less than three years and (ii) those the operation of which will take more than three years.

Awakening among Harijans

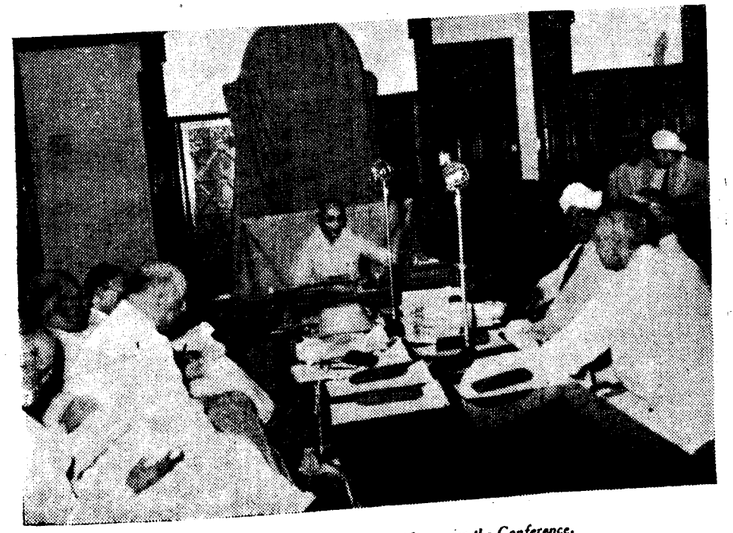


The Harijan Uplift Minister, Hon'ble Sri V. Kurmayya, recently opened for Harijans the Sri Kanyakaparameswari temple at Gudivada



The Hon'ble Sri Daniel Thomas, Minister of Prohibition, inaugurating the 15th Andhra Provincial Adi-Andhra Conference at Gudivada. The Conference was held on 23rd June 1947

Medical and Public Health Conference



The Hon'ble Sri A. B. Shetty presiding over the Conference.



A side view of the Conference

Please refer to the facilities which your district offers for the starting of such industries, such as raw materials, capital, skilled and unskilled labour, power, markets, etc. In the list of new industries that can be started, specify those which may require less than Rupees five lakhs and those which may require more than Rupees five lakhs as capital.

(3) If you are already interested in the management of any existing industry, please say whether you experience any difficulties in the successful working thereof or in expanding it and how, in your opinion, the Government could help you to overcome them.

(4) If you have obtained permission to start a new industry, please say when you expect it to begin functioning and, if you are experiencing delay, the reasons therefor.

(5) What are the mineral resources available in your district? Are they being exploited? If not, give reasons for the failure to exploit them.

(6) What industries, in your opinion, should be completely nationalized? What criteria would you suggest for nationalization of industries? What industries, do you think, should receive State aid and what should be left wholly to private enterprise? Do you favour any sort of Governmental control over all industries irrespective of the fact whether they are State-aided or not.

(7) Besides giving financial aid, in what other ways can the State accelerate the growth of industries? Can you mention specific industries which stand in need of such help and the nature of the help required?

(8) Are you satisfied with the working of the State Aid to Industries Act? Do you suggest any amendments to it? Or, would you prefer the financing of industries to be left to a Finance Corporation? What powers and functions would you suggest for such a Finance Corporation?

(9) Would you advise some system of licensing the starting of industries to ensure proper regional distribution and also to prevent the establishment of bogus enterprises?

(10) Do you favour the constitution of Permanent Regional Industries Boards to be controlled by a Central Board to advise the Government in planning regulation and establishment of industries? Would you have such Boards composed entirely of non-officials or officials or partly of both?

(11) Would you recommend the imposition of a limitation on the dividend which should be paid to investors in joint-stock industrial enterprises?

(12) Do you recommend the sharing of profits, after payment of a limited dividend and after provision for reserves, between capital, management, executive and labour? If so, in what proportions? Please give reasons for your answer.

(13) Do you favour the establishment of Work Councils in all industries, in which representatives of Labour and Executive can take part along with the Management in discussing questions of common interest?

(14) Are you in favour of continuing the present system of Managing Agency, which permits institutional management without requiring personal qualifications?

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 15th June 1947

The Government of Madras have published a Gazette Extraordinary on 9th June 1947 declaring the Madras Labour Union (of workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras) to be unlawful under section 16 of the Indian Criminal Law Amendment Act, 1908 (XIV of 1908). The management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, opened the mills on 12th June 1947. The management have given time till 19th June 1947 for resumption of work. Sri T. V. Kalyanasundara Mudaliyar, strike leader of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mill workers, and Mrs. Anthoni Pillai, wife of the externed President, Madras Labour Union, are under house arrest.

The Government have issued a communiqué advising the workers to resume work and to await the result of the Court of Enquiry.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. Vummudi Ramayya Chetti and Guruswami Chetti to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge) for adjudication.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the managements of the Standard Vacuum Oil Company, Madras, and Caltex (India), Limited, Madras, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge) for adjudication.

The tannery workers of Messrs. Inam & Co., Tiruvottiyur, numbering about 200 struck work on 3rd June 1947 without notice. They resumed work after a few days when the management agreed to reinstate 14 discharged workers.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the managements of the City Motor Service, Limited, Presidency Transport, Limited, and Abraham Bus Transport, Limited, Poonamallee, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, retired District and Sessions Judge) for adjudication.

The Government have sanctioned the constitution of Industrial Tribunals at Madras, Coimbatore, Madura and Bezwada each with a retired District Judge as its sole member.

On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the President, Coimbatore District Coffee and Tea Supply Workers' Union, Piliankulam, has withdrawn the notice of strike issued by him on 1st May 1947 of the United Coffee Supply Company, Coimbatore.

The workers of the Kumaran Mills, Pudupalayam, Coimbatore, struck work without notice on 31st May 1947, demanding increase of wages of the slubbing tenters and reinstatement of dismissed worker. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the workers resumed work on 2nd June 1947.

The workers of the reeling department of the Pioneer Mills, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, staged a sit-down strike on 4th June 1947 as a protest against the recruitment of 4 new women workers in the department in preference to senior workers. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, intervened and brought about a settlement. The workers resumed work on 5th June 1947.

The workers of the P.S.G. & Sons Charity and Industrial Institute, Peelamedu, Coimbatore, struck work on 12th June 1947 demanding annual increments, provision of co-operative stores and canteens, stoppage of cut in allowance, etc. On the advice of the Commissioner of Labour the workers have agreed to call off the strike on 17th June 1947.

The workers of Sri Ramalinga Choodambika Mills, Limited, Tiruppur, Coimbatore district, staged a stay-in-strike on 9th June 1947 at 3-30 p.m. as a protest against the maistry's evidence in favour of non-union workers. As the workers would not come to terms, the management declared a lock-out on 11th June 1947 at 5 p.m. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, is trying to bring about a settlement.

The Government have prohibited the continuance of the strike in Sri Palamalai Ranganathar Mills as the dispute was referred for adjudication in G.O. Ms. No. 2379, Development, dated 29th May 1947.

The East Godavari Motor Workers' Union, Cocanada, has issued a strike notice, dated 3rd June 1947, to the Managing Director of Sri Ramadas Motor Transport, Limited, Cocanada, intimating that the workers will go on strike on 21st June 1947 if the interim relief to motor workers fixed by the adjudicator is not raised to Rs. 25. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the District Magistrate, East Godavari, and the Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, to advise the workers not to precipitate a strike but to await the final report of the Court of Enquiry.

The Dhanalakshmi Cigar Factory, Virudhunagar, was closed on 3rd June 1947 as the workers refused to make a special type of small cigar at the same rate at which ordinary small cigars were being made. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Madura, the dispute was amicably settled and the factory was reopened on 5th June 1947.

The District Magistrate, Malabar, reports that 275 beedi workers of Ponnani struck work on 26th May 1947 demanding increase of wages and two months' wages as bonus. The Labour Officer, Calicut, and the District Magistrate, Malabar, are trying to bring about a settlement. The report of the Court of Enquiry is expected to be published soon.

The President, West Coast Electric Workers' Union, Chalapuram, has issued a notice of strike, dated 4th June 1947, to Messrs. Chandrie and Co., Madras, intimating that the electric workers of the Company at Calicut, Tellicherry and Cannanore will go on strike from 20th June 1947 if their demands for bonus of 6 months' wages and allowances, stoppage of victimization, etc., are not conceded by the management before 20th June 1947. The Commissioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice as the demand for bonus has been recommended to Government for inclusion in the adjudication proceedings now in progress and to look into the complaint of victimization.

The Secretaries of the Thanoli Mills Labour Union, Cannanore, have issued a notice of strike, dated 4th June 1947, to the management of the Thanoli Mills, Cannanore, intimating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for 4 months' income as bonus, increase of basic wages, recognition of the Union, provision of provident fund, canteen, etc., are not conceded before 18th June 1947. The Commisssioner of Labour has instructed the Labour Officer, Calicut, to advise the Union to withdraw the strike notice and to await the result of the Court of Enquiry for Timber and Saw Mills.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the West Coast Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, Calicut, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri N. D. Krishna Rao, District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar) for adjudication.

The stay-in-strike of the assistant welders of the Scindia Shipyard which commenced on 4th June 1947 ended on 7th June 1947 on the intervention of the Labour Officer, Vizagapatam.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Chittivalsah Jute Mills Co., Ltd., Chittivalsah.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Vizagapatam Sugar and Refinery, Ltd., Anakapalle.

Labour Conditions in Beedi and Tanning Industries

Court of Enquiry Presents its Findings

The following is a summary of the report of the Court of Enquiry into Labour Conditions in Beedi, Cigar, Snuff, Tobacco Curing and Tanning Industries.

Beedi Industry

Madras Province is one of the largest beedi-producing regions in India; the daily output of beedies in the Province is in the order of 3,536 crores. The per capita consumption of beedies in the Province worked out at 202 even in 1941. The industry gives employment to over 90,000 people in the Province of whom approximately 26,600 are women. A vast army of children, nearly 38·6 per cent of the number of adult male workers, are employed in assisting beedi workers.

Apart from abnormal causes of unemployment, the workers are not able to get even 20 days of work per month throughout the year. There is a reserve of unemployed, hanging about the premises of their employers seeking work. Beedi workers get "too old at forty" and their future is a problem of grave import. Welfare activities concerning beedi industry must have a wide scope to include these prematurely old and dereliet beedi workers.

The system of paying advances is prevalent everywhere but is of lesser importance at the centres in the West Coast.

Wages are not uniform at all the centres of beedi manufacture. Differences in wages also exist with regard to "sada" and "jadi" beedies. Women are employed in Tinnevelly district for rolling beedies but the majority of women in other districts cut leaves and put ring labels and are paid low wages. Working conditions are extremely unsatisfactory.

Issues.

1. Working hours must be regulated and a maximum of eight hours a day

Conditions of Labour in Textile Mills

The following is a summary of the report of the Court of Enquiry to enquire into the conditions of labour in the textile mills in Madras :—

In July 1946, the Government appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as a Court of Enquiry to enquire into the conditions of Labour in the textile mills of the Province. As the final report of the Court of Enquiry was likely to be delayed in view of the elaborate enquiries which the Court had to undertake, the Government considered that the question of interim relief should be referred for adjudication and accordingly referred that issue to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya for adjudication. He submitted his report in December 1946 and the award was enforced on the parties. The Industrial Disputes Act came into force on 1st April 1947. In April 1947, the Government considered that the recommendations of the Court of Enquiry should be enforced on the parties but as this could not be done unless the dispute was referred for adjudication, the Government constituted an Industrial Tribunal consisting of Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, for adjudication of the various issues in the dispute between the workers and management of all the textile mills in the Province. After enquiry the tribunal has submitted its award. The following are the recommendations in the award :—

(1) *Wages.*—(*a*) The minimum wages for a worker in any textile mill in the Province should be Rs. 26 for a month of 26 days, i.e., one rupee per day.

(*b*) Dearness allowance should be paid at three annas per point on the cost of living index in the case of the mills in Coimbatore district, Madura, Tuticorin, Vikramasingapuram and Madras. In the case of other mills the rate of dearness allowance may be two and half annas per point. The cost of living index figure should be the same as fixed by the Government for Madras City. When payment is made in a month the cost of living index figure for the previous month should be the criterion for determining dearness allowance.

(*c*) The tribunal has made special recommendations in the case of small weaving and spinning mills with 6,000 spindles and less.

(*d*) The rates of wages for all classes of workers should be settled with Rs. 26 as the minimum wage, with reference to the nature of the work, the responsibility involved in it and the strain or work-load. For this purpose a Wage Board and a Standardisation Committee should be set up. If a minimum wage is fixed by legislation and if that minimum wage is higher than the wage allowed by this report the whole structure of wages will have to be revised.

(*e*) When the wages are revised a part of the wages above Rs. 26 may be made dependent on production.

(*f*) Attendance may be made less irregular by the payment of a sort of attendance bonus or an extra payment for regular attendance.

(*g*) Women workers should be paid the same wages as men in all textile mills, and if for waste picking a woman has to be employed, she must be paid Rs. 26 the minimum wage.

(2) *Prohibition of the employment of boys and girls.*—The Government may prohibit the employment of boys and girls below 17 years of age by legislation. Boys and adolescents should be paid the minimum wage of Rs. 26 per mensem with dearness allowance applicable to the area.

(3) *Leave.*—The leave of 10 days for adult workers or of fourteen days for child workers provided by section 49-B (1) of the Factories Act should be continuous. In addition, the workers should be allowed festival holidays for seven days in the year and absence for a period of seven days in a year shall be treated as leave on loss of pay and shall not entail discharge or dismissal. The tribunal has left to the discretion of the trade unions to address the Government for raising the statutory leave of ten days to fifteen by legislation.

(4) *Multiple shifts.*—Ordinarily there should not be more than two straight shifts of eight hours each. The night shift workers should be paid 1¼ of the wages paid to day workers.

(5) *Bonus.*—Bonus should be linked to the dividend declared, that is, the same percentage as dividend declared should be made available to the workers for payment as bonus. All workers who are in service on the date of declaration of dividend shall be entitled to bonus but no one who was absent for more than sixty days in the year (excluding leave and holidays) shall be entitled to bonus. Distribution of bonus will be pro rata that is rateable to the length of service in the year. Payment of bonus ought not to depend upon matters such as good conduct, production, etc.

(6) *Provident fund.*—Provident fund must be introduced by all mills of more than five years standing. The rate of contribution should not be less than one rupee per mensem by the worker and one rupee by the management. Interest may be calculated and added at the end of every half year or the year. Payment of the amount should not depend upon either good conduct of the worker or the discretion of the employer. It is left to the discretion of the Government to insist on a contribution of six and one-fourth per cent. The Commissioner of Labour should frame rules for the maintenance of provident fund. The opening of a gratuity fund is also recommended.

(7) *Dismissal and discharge of workers.*—No worker can be dismissed or discharged without proper enquiry, without giving notice to the worker concerned of the charge framed against him, and without getting the explanation of the worker in writing.

(8) *Staff.*—No clerk should be started on a pay of less than Rs. 30 per mensem and in the manager's office the pay of the clerks should not be less than Rs. 35 per mensem. The grades and scales of pay should be so arranged that after a service of 20 years every one should reach at least Rs. 85. After crossing an efficiency bar, the members of the staff should be allowed to reach Rs. 120 per mensem. These recommendations should not affect the existing scales of pay in the B & C Mills, the Madura Mills at Madura, Vikramasingapuram and Tuticorin and the mills at Mettur, Salem and Trichinopoly. Standing orders should be framed for the members of the staff, providing for leave of 28 days after one year's service, for contributing to the provident fund at 6¼ per cent, and for payment of gratuity to those who have served for five years at half of a month's salary for each year of service.

(9) The interim relief recommended by the adjudicator should be paid by all mills from 1st October 1946 except those which were exempted. The reliefs given in this award and all other recommendations in the award shall be given effect to from 1st April 1947.

(10) All workers shall, after one year's service, get the privileges of permanency.

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(11) The total emoluments of any worker in any mill should not be reduced from what it was on 1st April 1947.

(12) In the case of piece rate workers, the interim relief awarded should be merged with the basic wage. The piece rates may be revised completely so as to avoid confusion. The wage board may pay particular attention to the revision of piece rates.

(13) Women Welfare Officers should be appointed in every mill where there are more than 300 women workers.

(14) Workers' committees should be formed without any delay.

2. The Tribunal has also made the following recommendations :—

(1) Setting up of a machinery for determining the cost of living index.

(2) There should be badils or substitutes at all times to take the place of absentees. For this purpose the Mills may keep a leave reserve of ten per cent of the workers and they may work on charkas when they have no work.

(3) When anybody is permitted to start a mill, the licence may be subject to the condition that provision is made for houses to workers.

(4) If there are about ten thousand workers in any place the mill or mills should maintain a decent hospital.

(5) The Government may compel mills which have built large reserves to provide schools and hospitals attached to them. The textile mills should provide for the technical education of the workers and their children.

(6) The Co-operative department may use their good offices to make the co-operative societies attached to the mills educative institutions in the art of co-operation.

(7) When a bonus of five months' wages was paid to the workers at Coimbatore, one month's wages or some part of it is reported to have been taken away from the workers for the purpose of labour propaganda or labour unions. An enquiry should be made and if the report is found to be true, the Union or Unions should be directed to pay back the amount on pain of disaffiliation.

(8) None of the Inspectors of Factories in this Province possesses textile engineering qualifications. At least two of the Inspectors must possess these qualifications. Two or three Inspectors may be deputed in turns to study the Bedeaux system of testing fatigue for a period of about six months.

(9) Reorganization of the Labour department in the B. & C. Mills and a change of attitude on the part of the Madras Labour Union will do a good deal in promoting peace in Madras. The mills in other centres also may appoint Labour Officers. The South India Mill Owners' Association may appoint one Labour Officer for Coimbatore, one for Singanallur, one for Peelamedu and another for Udumalpet and Tirupur. To save time, the Government may appoint such officers in the first instance and gradually make it compulsory for each mill or group of mills to employ a labour Welfare officer. The Labour Officer proposed for Coimbatore may serve as a sort of Labour Exchange to find employment for the [illegible] of men and women who were removed from service from November 1946 so that all of them may be absorbed into one or other of the mills. The Labour Officer should find employment in other mills for workers who are rightly dismissed.

(10) There had been a number of dismissals in the Kaleeswara Mills, Coimbatore, numbering about 300. Their cases should be enquired into and an endeavour made to get the men work in that mill or some other mill. 69687

(11) Every endeavour should be made to supply a larger quantity of yarn to the weaving mills, by increasing the spindles wherever provision has already been made.

(12) To facilitate the mixing of cotton, the Controllers appointed by the Government may be asked to attend to the mixing of cotton and to see that the yarn is of standard strength.

(13) To relieve unemployment when machinery is replaced, charkas may be purchased by the mills and kept in some suitable place so that the workers may be asked to spin on the charkas at the same rates of wages paid to them.

(14) In the case of unreasonable strikes, if the Government on the report of an officer or a Board of Conciliation or of an Industrial Tribunal arrive at the conclusion that there was no justification for the strike and if the workers do not go to work within fifteen days or a month, then the employer should be allowed to recruit fresh labour.

(15) The sections of the Act relating to strikes and lock-outs may be amended so that the management may not refuse to take back any worker when he returns to work.

3. The Government generally agree with the recommendations of the Industrial Tribunal.

(*Continued from page 9*)

by the [illegible] pests in parts of the districts of [illegible], Chittoor, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore and South Kanara.

The seasonal factor for the Province as a whole works out to 90 per cent of the normal as against 82 per cent in the season and crop report of the previous year. On this basis, the total yield is estimated at 4,827,000 tons of cleaned rice as against 3,827,000 tons estimated in the final forecast of the previous year, representing an increase of 26·1 per cent.

The controlled wholesale price of paddy II sort per imperial maund of 82-2/7 lb. in surplus centres on 8th February 1947 was Rs. 5–14–0 in Trichinopoly, Rs. 5–12–8 in Cocanada, Rajahmundry, Ellore, Bezwada, Masulipatam, Guntur, and Nellore and Rs. 5–11–5 in Cuddalore, Kumbakonam and Negapatam. The average wholesale price of paddy II sort per imperial maund of 82-2/7 lb. on the same date for non-surplus centres was Rs. 7–3–0 in Virudunagar, Rs. 6–9–0 in Mangalore, Rs. 6–8–0 in Madura and Rs. 6–3–0 in Tinnevelly.

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(*Continued from page 23*)

must be made to contribute their share to this fund. In all important centres of these industries, the local boards should grant sites for the construction of workers' tenements and provide light, water and educational facilities. Towards the construction of schools, houses, etc., the employers must be required to contribute a certain percentage of expenditure that would be incurred.

Provident Fund

A compulsory scheme of Provident Fund should be instituted in all the five industries. The workers should pay at the rate of one anna per rupee of their monthly earnings and the employers should pay an equal amount.

The tanning industry is concentrated in Ellore-Bezwada region, North Arcot district, the environs of Madras City, Erode-Coimbatore region and Trichinopoly-Dindigul region. There are about 12 different main processes, apart from incidental ones, which are grouped into four grades and paid different rates of wages, according to the nature of work. Wages are piece-rated and "pieces" vary with centres as well as tanneries and vary in the case of cow-hides, buff-hides and skins. Differential rates in dearness allowance, the practice of gang-work in certain centres the custom of paying attendance allowance in some tanneries, the presence of time-rated women workers and adolescents, and the need for doing minor and subsidiary processes paid on piece-rate basis—all these contribute to make the wages system in the tanneries extremely complex and baffling.

As the tanneries have been brought under the operation of the Factories Act as early as February 1942, it may suffice to point out that, with regard to the improvement of the working conditions, ventilation and sanitation, the need for a rigorous enforcement of all the provisions of the Act is urgent. However a few points merit special observation—

(1) Regarding the working hours, the tanneries should be kept open only for eight hours. By fixing the hours of work when tanneries may be kept open, a ceiling is put to the hours of work; the present day evil of overwork in seasons of peak production will be avoided.

(2) The Madras Maternity Benefit Act must be strictly enforced in all the tanneries employing women. Employment of women, casually instead of on monthly salary basis with benefits as well as additional amenities due to them by virtue of their sex, must be prevented.

(3) Weekly holidays must be granted.

(4) Compensation for accidents must be paid according to the provisions of the Act. All the tanneries should be brought under the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act by notifying this industry in the schedule to the Act.

(5) The employers should supply rubber shoes and rubber gloves to all the workers in the lime yard and sullar work and rubber apron sheets to all workers, performing defleshing, deliming and scudding operations.

(6) Special bath-rooms should be provided in every tannery for workers; gingelly oil or groundnut oil for lime workers and soaps for all the workers must be freely supplied.

(7) Water for drinking, cooking, washing and bathing must be supplied to workers within their colonies (residential area), without being forced to go, as at present, to the tannery wells for taking water. Under no circumstances, the facilities provided for water-supply should be curtailed or stopped.

(8) Registered Workers' Unions must be recognised by the employers and two representatives of the Union must enjoy the right to represent to the management the grievances of the workers.

(9) The workers must be granted 10 days casual leave with pay every year.

It will be good for both industry and the workers if tanners voluntarily observe the following conditions for the provision of regular employment.

(1) To provide every day at least one unit of work in default thereof to the wages for one unit every day to each permanent worker; these sums must not be debited to the workers' account nor recovered from them at any later date.

(2) To give not less than 560 units of work or pay the wages for 560 units of work to each of their workers in every calendar year.

In order to minimise absenteeism, a system of bonus payment based on attendance as shown hereunder is necessary:—

Bonus Scheme

Number of working days attended in half year and amount of bonus in terms of average monthly earnings by the workers—

140 days and more—$\frac{3}{4}$.
135 to 139 days—$\frac{1}{2}$.
130 to 134 days—$\frac{1}{4}$.
Less than 130 days—Nil.

The bonus according to the above scheme shall be paid at the end of every half year.

Although in a few tanneries, there is some degree of specialization among workers, some of them doing only tana work, others unhairing and yet others fleshing, it is generally found that the workers are transferred from one section to another according to the volume of work available. Smoothening and straightening of the leather in its final stages of tanning call for hard manual labour and generally the new-comers are assigned this job. Defleshing is a skilled work and wrong handling of the knife will irretrievably spoil the leather. Work in the lime-yard is injurious to health. Although these little differences are found, the various types of work need not on that scope be paid differential rates. If the tana work is hard manual labour, liming is injurious and defleshing is expert labour. Again the fact that there exists only a distinction without difference is clearly proved by the custom of the tanners in giving any kind of work according to the requirements of the day. In view of the above considerations, the wages of male workers shall be fixed at 9 annas for every unit done in a day in all the tanneries in the province. No distinction shall exist between the wages paid for the first and subsequent units done in a day.

In such factories as Chrome Leather Company and Gordon Woodroffe Leather Manufacturing Company, Limited, whenever time wages are paid, the wages obtaining in January 1947 shall be raised by 12½ per cent.

The adolescent workers shall be paid Rs. 15 per mensem. The wages paid for turning the skins or hides in the lime pits, etc., shall be As. 1–6 per unit of work. The women workers shall be paid Rs. 15 per mensem or As. 14 per day if casually employed.

All the workers—men, women and adolescents—shall be paid a minimum dearness allowance of Rs. 16 per mensem. This rate of dearness allowance is the lowest rate allowed by the Government and it shall be altered with any alterations made by the Government.

Wherever a higher rate of dearness allowance is being paid at the present time, it shall be continued without any alteration unless there is any change in the rate of dearness allowance paid by the Government.

General Recommendations

(1) The Employment of Children Act, at least after the Non-Power Factory Bill is passed, must be strictly enforced.

(2) The Payment of Wages Act must be applied to all the five industries and advance of wages, if permitted at all, should be limited to an amount equivalent to the wages earned by the employed person during the preceding two calendar months or if the worker has not been employed for that period, twice the wages he is likely to earn during the subsequent calendar month.

(3) The Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1936, should be applied to all the five industries.

(4) The Workmen's Compensation Act must be forthwith applied to all the five industries.

(5) In every establishment, a register in the prescribed form should be maintained showing the names of the workers, their hours of work and the nature of their respective appointments. The wage-roll must be kept separately from the attendance register and for all wages of Rs. 20 or more stamped receipts must be obtained.

(6) Every establishment must prominently display a copy of its standing orders, terms of employment, procedure for disciplinary action and the framing of charges, fine list, if any, and particulars regarding the amount in the fine fund.

(7) Every employer should supply all the appliances and instruments along with raw materials to every worker; for example, in the beedi industry, the trays in which tobacco and beedies are kept, scissors, thread, etc.

(8) In order to improve the health and safety of the workers, the workers must be provided with clean mats to squat on in the beedi, cigar, snuff and tobacco-grading industries and with rubber chappals, gloves, and apron-sheets in the tanning industry.

Industrial Home Work

Regulation on industrial home work in the beedi industry: The only effective method of eliminating sweating is to fix the wages and enforce strictly their payment. For this purpose, every manufacturer, commission agent or middleman should be required to keep a register containing the name and address of every female worker employed. The rate of wages for making 1,000 beedies must be affixed permanently in the waiting room or the rooms where the raw materials are delivered to workers and the finished beedis are received.

When a woman worker receives work to be done at home, a coupon or a book with a counterfoil attached should be issued at the same time to that person, stating the nature and quantity of the work, the date on which it is given out, the rate of wages applicable to the given work. At the time of delivering the finished beedis, an entry should be made on the coupon or in the book, stating the date of delivery, the amount of the remuneration earned by the worker and the various deductions made and also the net amount paid or to be paid to the worker. The particulars entered on the coupon should be copied exactly on the counterfoil and the wages register, which must be kept for not less than a year by the manufacturer and placed by him at the disposal of the inspector at any time.

Industrial home work shall be confined to women workers only.

Minimum Wages

Differential Minima.—Although a minimum wage-rate for the entire province has been fixed for each of the five industries in question, differences in wages will exist from region to region. Differential wages have been awarded to adolescents or 'young persons' and women in the tanning industry. But no distinction has been made between men and women workers in the beedi industry because the wages paid are piece-rates.

Wages for Apprentices

The worship of the principle of equality should not, however, blind the law-maker to the real differences in productivity existing among workers, especially between the master-craftsman and the apprentice. The nature of work in the five industries is not absolutely unskilled but semi-skilled. Experience counts not only in the quantity but also in the quality of the work done.

In the case of inexperienced workers and apprentices just learning the trade, a period of three to six months must be fixed in all the five industries during which wage-rates lower than those for experienced workers may be paid. This is necessary to prevent the employment of workers at lower rates after they have gained adequate experience. In this period so fixed, the rate of wage paid to the inexperienced should not fall below half of the minimum wage of an adult worker.

Industrial Peace-Trade Boards

The Court recommends the constitution of a Trade Board for every trade and in every district; it must consist of two representatives of employers and two of the workers and must be presided over by a Government nominee who must be a neutral person. The Chairman who is a disinterested member can hold the balance even between the workers and the employers. All matters relating to working conditions, wages, welfare activities and interpretation of existing agreements and contracts may be referred to this Trade Board by the workers' or employers' representatives. After a careful examination of all the aspects of the disputed points, the Board shall, by a majority vote, give a decision which must be made final and binding on all the parties to the industrial dispute. From the time a dispute is referred to, up to the time the award is given, by the Board, the *status quo* in the trade must be maintained. This kind of machinery is urgently required and the Court recommends its constitution at an early date. A word may be added regarding the need for the co-ordination of the work of the various District Trade Boards. At the outset it may be admitted that a considerable measure of uniformity will be achieved by the enactment of the Madras Non-Power Factories Bill and the enforcement of the minimum wages awarded in this report. Most of the points raised in the District Trade Board will be of only local significance. As regards matters calling for uniformity, the Minister concerned and the Commissioner of Labour can frame rules to suit the needs from time to time. To illustrate, for the provision of regular employment in these industries to avoid labour unrest, the Government may well frame necessary measures that may be applied throughout the province. The establishment of these Trade Boards will in no way deprive the Government of their right to appoint Adjudicators or Arbitration Tribunals. Until these industries develop their organizations a Trade Board vested with powers to give final and binding decisions is a desideratum.

Seasonal Industries

The seasonal factories must be made responsible for the maintenance in minimum comfort of their workers in the off-season. Labour employed in this industry must be made regular and non-migratory, stabilization of employment conditions are as urgent as, if not more than, improvement of wage-rates, not only in tobacco grading but also in the other four industries.

Social Insurance

For the present, early measures must be taken to provide housing, education and medical facilities on a liberal scale to workers in the five industries; schemes for these purposes must be financed from funds contributed equally by the employers and the Government. The workers' wages are too low at present to enable them to make any contribution of their own. However, eventually they

(*Continued on page 25*)

Industrial Tribunal's Recommendations

The Industrial Tribunal constituted for the adjudication of the various issues in the disputes between the workers and managements of the textile mills in the Province has made the following recommendations in respect of the individual mills mentioned below :—

Mettur Industries—

1. The Workers' Union shall be recognized.

2. A general demand for reinstatement of all dismissed workers cannot be considered. Individual demands from workers shall be enquired into and disposed of. All dismissals should be preceded by a proper enquiry.

3. The first instalment of bonus paid in January 1946 should be included in the bonus of five months' wages agreed to by the workers and the management.

4. Promotions should be made both on account of seniority and efficiency.

5. Wages need not be paid for the stoppage of work in February 1946.

6. Contract labour should, as far as possible, be avoided.

7. A hospital of moderate size should be constructed and also a maternity ward with two beds for the present. A woman Labour Welfare Officer should be appointed.

8. Wages need not be paid for the period of lock-out in June 1946 as the workers were responsible for it.

9. Wages must be paid to piece-rate workers during festival holidays.

10. No wages need be paid for the period of the strike from 15th February to 2nd May 1947.

Kothandaram Spinning Mill—

1. Interim relief should be paid with effect from 1st October 1946.

2. Workers are not entitled to any pay for the period of strike from 22nd March to 7th May 1947.

3. The workers are entitled to the minimum wage of Rs. 26 per mensem from 1st April 1947 and dearness allowance at not less than two and a half annas on the basis of the Madras Cost of Living index.

Commonwealth Trust Company, Limited, Cannanore—

1. Bonus is payable to all employees who were in service on 30th September 1946 irrespective of the length of service, and should be paid pro-rata according to the length of service.

2. No wages need be paid for the period of strike.

Raja Mills—

The interim relief and other recommendations so far as the Rajah Mills are concerned will come into force only from 4th May 1947 when the strike ended.

Kothandaram Weaving Mill—

Three months' wages should be paid as bonus for the year 1946.

Madura Mills Company, Limited, Vikramasingapuram—

1. The method of recruiting new hands must be left to the management or to the labour exchange when one is established.

2. The management cannot be compelled to pay the newly recognized labour unions any amount towards the labour welfare fund.

3. The management should introduce provident fund and the contribution should be 6¼ per cent.

4. The management of the canteens may be taken over by the management of the mills.

Madura Mills Company, Limited, Tuticorin—

The recommendations in respect of the mill at Vikramasingapuram are applicable to this mill also. The workers are not entitled for wages for the period of strike.

Ramachandra Spinning Mill—

Wages and dearness allowance should be paid on the rates recommended for all the other textile mills after the expiry of one year from the date of the District Judge's award.

Suryanarayana Spinning Mills—

The mill is exempted from all other recommendations except the payment of minimum wage.

Thirumagal Mills, Gudiyattam—

1. The union should be recognized within a period of three months provided the relations between the management and the union improve.

2. A small dispensary with a Sub-Assistant Surgeon, in addition to the compounder now employed, should be provided.

3. The dismissal of Muniswami and Krishnaswami was quite proper and they are not fit for re-employment.

Mahalakshmi Mills, Pasumalai—

1. Periaswami may be taken back if he tenders an apology within a month. If he does not tender an apology the management may hold an enquiry and pass orders. The dismissal of Mokkaswamy, Manikkam, Ponnian Gounder and Virumandy was proper.

2. Wages need not be paid for the period of strike from 28th January to 13th March 1947.

3. The period of strike should be treated as leave without allowances, i.e., it shall not entail loss of any privileges with regard to leave or gratuity earned by the workers up to the date of strike. The bonus to which they are entitled shall not be affected by their absence during the period of strike.

4. Interim relief should be paid from 1st October 1946.

The Government agree with the recommendations of the Industrial Tribunal.

Schemes for the Development of the Co-operative Movement

In pursuance of the resolutions on the recommendations of the All-India Planning Committee on Co-operation passed by the Seventh All-India Co-operative Conference and the Fifteenth Co-operative Registrar's Conference held at Madras last month, the Madras Government have now under their active consideration several schemes for re-organizing the Co-operative Department and developing the co-operative movement in this province. Such proposals involve the provision of a liberal measure of state-aid. Government consider that co-operation as a democratic method of relieving economic distress and of providing economic needs, credit and otherwise, deserves their hearty and wholehearted support.

Audit and Administration.

It has long been felt that the staff for Audit and Administration should be separated. The Vijayaraghavachariar Committee on Co-operation in 1940 and the fifteenth Registrars' Conference were of opinion that this should be done. Government are actively considering a comprehensive proposal to separate audit from general administration. The proposal would be to have a completely separate audit staff independent from the administrative charge but both working under the Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

Rural Banks.

There are to-day about 11,000 agricultural co-operative credit societies with unlimited liability. While unlimited liability has been popular and the societies are working quite efficiently in some portions of the Province, in others, the societies have not thrived and are practically doing no business. Some of the reasons for this failure are small areas of operation, lack of paid staff, reluctance on the part of well-to-do people to join societies on unlimited liability and above all insufficient credit facilities. In order to remedy these, it is suggested that Rural Banks be formed with areas of jurisdiction covering 4 or 5 villages, which will be organized on a limited liability basis and will extend to villages all the types of credit facilities which are now being given by urban banks to people who live in towns. It is hoped that such institutions will lend not only on immovable property and pro-notes but also on gold and produce. They will inculcate among villagers the habit of putting their money into current account and drawing money by cheques. They will have much larger and more suitable buildings than the small unlimited liability village credit societies. They will probably attract deposits at low rates of interest, thereby ensuring cheap loans to their constituents. Rural Banks with a much larger turnover than the present village credit societies will generally be able to employ well-trained wholetime staff. Government have instructed the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to start such banks in certain selected areas. Where trained non-official candidates are not available for the staff of the Banks, the Government are considering the question of appointing suitable departmental officers for the time being as Secretaries, etc.

Cattle Breeding and Milk Supply.

In order to promote the cattle wealth of the province, Government feel that Co-operative Milk Supply unions and selected societies should be encouraged through their members to improve the breed of their cattle and for this purpose a scheme for the supply of breeding bulls to such societies is under the consideration of Government. The supply of these bulls to Colonization Co-operative Societies is also under their consideration. The Government are sanctioning interest-free loans to members of Milk Supply Unions for the purchase of milch animals. During the year 1947-48, the Government have placed a sum of Rs. 4·30 lakhs at the disposal of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for this purpose.

A three-year plan for the development of urban milk supply drawn up by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies has been recommended by Government to the Government of India. The scheme provides for wide expansion of Co-operative Milk Supply Organizations with adequate provision for technical, administrative and supervising staff.

There is a proposal to organize a Milk Supply Union at Ambur in the North Arcot district with six Feeder Societies around the town to provide employment to ex-tappers. It is proposed to sanction a subsidy at the rate of Rs. 10,0 per mensem to each of the six Feeder Societies for a period of six months and to sanction the free services of a Co-operative Senior Inspector to attend to the work of the union for a period of six months. Such provision of work for ex-tappers, if successful, can be extended to other prohobition areas also and will help to relieve not only unemployment but milk shortage also.

Cottage Industries.

Government are considering the constitution of Cottage Industries Committees on the lines of the Regional Promotional Agencies recommended by the Co-operative Planning Committee and supported by the Conference of the Registrars of Co-operative Societies. Such Committees are intended to direct the planning, organization and development of co-operative societies for cottage industries. They will administer funds given to them by well-established co-operative institutions and Government, employ instructors, assist in securing raw materials and in marketing the finished goods. Such cottage industries as are now carried on a large scale (e.g., leather goods manufacture, coir goods manufacture, basket-making and mat-weaving, manufacture of pile carpet and woollen blankets, metalware manufacture, blacksmithy, carpentry, hand-spinning and weaving and ceramics) will be patronized by this Committee by setting up co-operative organizations in suitable centres. It is expected that about 100 new co-operative societies for cottage industries can be started every year helped by Government with suitable equipment and maintenance grants. Government will render further help by providing facilities for procuring raw materials like bamboos for basket-making and Kora grass for mat-making. The subject of re-allocation of work relating to Cottage Industries between the Co-operative and Industries departments is actively under their consideration.

Weavers' Co-operative Societies.

In December last, Government enunciated their policy of bringing in all the cotton handlooms in the Province into the co-operative fold on the lines indicated by the Provincial Yarn Advisory Committee, which recommended the organization of new Weavers' Co-operative Societies and the expansion of the existing ones. A special staff was also sanctioned for the purpose with the result that by the end of May 1947, the number of Weavers' Co-operative Societies rose from 344 to 673 and the number of looms under their control rose from 42,399 to 83,967. Government are also considering whether it will not be admissible to deny supplies of yarn to weavers who do not join Weavers' Co-operative Societies before a prescribed date. It is expected that such a course will eliminate the blackmarketing of yarn by master-weavers and yarn dealers and preserve for the actual weavers not only more yarn but also the fruits of their labour. This proposal to induce weavers to join co-operative societies is in accordance with the recommendation of the Co-operative Planning Committee which was endorsed by the Fifteenth Conference of Registrars, viz., that unless some manner of insistence is introduced in certain kinds of activities, it is likely that what is generally admitted to be essential for economic progress will not be attained. According to the present orders, a weaver who joins a Weavers' Co-operative Society gets 20 per cent more yarn than he would get if he was not in a co-operative society. This must naturally be a strong motive force for weavers to join co-operative societies, provided that weavers are really anxious to turn the yarn into cloth and hand it over to the society for sale.

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of June

Procurement.

The following statements show the quantities of foodgrains locally procured in the districts and those received from sources outside the province :—

(*a*) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 31st May 1947* —

	TONS.	
Paddy.	68,980	Together equivalent of 76,183 tons in terms of rice.
Rice ..	27,343	
Millets.	5,490	

(*b*) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 15th June 1947* —

	TONS.	
Rice ..	2,559	(This includes 364 tons of broken rice imported from Sind and counted against the overseas allotment.)
Millets.	172	
Wheat and wheat products.	Nil.	

Pulses—

	TONS.
Blackgram.	518
Redgram.	20
Greengram.	688
Bengalgram.	1,946
Total ..	3,172

(c) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th June 1947*—

	TONS.
Rice ..	Nil.
Millets.	1,300
Wheat and wheat products.	Nil.

Stock and supply—Principal foodgrains.

Rice.—Procurement during the fortnight ending 12th June 1947 was only 60,347 tons which is about 10,000 tons less than procurement in the previous fortnight, but is rather above the level of procurement throughout April and the early part of May. The fall in procurement has been mainly in the Circars. Towards the end of the fortnight, railway movement from the Circars became difficult but the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities has intervened, and it is hoped that there will be some improvement. The stock of rice on 12th June 1947 was 243,761 tons as against 240,289 tons on 29th May 1947 but unless procurement improves stocks will fall by the end of the next fortnight and will be at a very dangerous low level. The rice stock position continues to be worst in Coimbatore and Malabar districts. Rice stocks have improved slightly in Coimbatore, but that district still has less than two weeks' supplies. Malabar now has over 19,000 tons in stock, i.e., under three weeks' supplies. In addition to the allotments from the Circars, special quotas amounting to 9,000 tons of rice have been allotted to Malabar from various districts. Provided the quotas of 8,000 tons of rice and 3,000 tons of broken rice from Sind materialize, and provided good progress is made in despatches from the surplus districts, Malabar should get through to its harvest in September without any breakdown in rationing. The prospects in the province as a whole are however less satisfactory and it is feared that unless procurement can be substantially improved or unless unexpected additional quotas are received from outside the province, a crisis will occur in August.

Millets.—The stock of millets continues to increase, being 24,896 tons on 12th June 1947 as compared with 23,203 tons on 29th May 1947. The province thus has about two months' supplies. Shipments of 4,400 tons of American milo from Colombo is held up owing to the dock strike in that port. The June allotment of 8,000 tons of American milo is expected but there is no definite news regarding its arrival. The allotment of 3,000 tons of Australian sorghum meal will not be received until mid-July at the earliest. An additional 703 tons of jowar has been allotted from Orissa, and it is hoped to move the bulk of the small quotas of millets from Orissa by the end of July. Coimbatore, which has about two weeks' stocks of millets in hand, has lower stocks than any other district.

Maize.—The stock of maize has fallen to 3,006 tons on 12th June 1947 which represents about 1½ months' supplies. Quotas of rather less than 1,000 tons of maize have been offered for supply from Mysore and will be accepted provided the quality is satisfactory. The off-take of maize is still considerably greater in Coimbatore than in other districts.

Wheat and wheat products.—The stocks of wheat and wheat products on 12th June 1947 were 3,094 tons and 1,278 tons respectively. Although small inter-district transfers are being carried out, it is feared that some districts will run out of flour by the middle of July. Although the Regional Food Commissioner has asked the Government of India to supply 1,000 tons of flour to this province as soon as possible, no imports of wheat and wheat products are expected until August.

Pulses.—Imports of Bengalgram continue at a satisfactory rate. Out of the 55,000 tons in 1946–47 Rabi Plan quota, only a balance of about 5,000 tons remain to be imported. The 1947–48 Rabi Plan Bengalgram quotas from Punjab and Sind have begun to move. Small quantities of redgram, blackgram and greengram were received during the fortnight. A quota of 4,000 tons has now been allotted from United Provinces to this province. This will temporarily relieve the unsatisfactory redgram stock position which exists throughout the province. The stock position of the other major pulses is generally satisfactory.

Rationing.

The instructions regarding the issue of wheat and wheat products to habitual consumers and those who require them on medical grounds, have since been made applicable to inmates of jails also.

Subsidiary Foodstuffs.

Sugar.—Quotas to all districts (except Madras) have been increased by 25 per cent and those to Railways by 10 per cent with effect from 1st June 1947. A revised Zonal Scheme for the distribution of sugar during the current year has also been issued.

Salt.—Supply in Nellore was reported to be inadequate.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Firewood was reported to be inadequate in parts of Guntur and Ramnad districts and in Bezwada and Coimbatore towns.

Scarcity of matches was reported from the districts of Kurnool, Cuddapah, Nellore, Vizagapatam, West Godavari and the Nilgiris.

How do we stand for Foodgrains in Madras?

(By the Commissioner of Civil Supplies)

I think perhaps that the best way of showing you how we stand for foodgrains for the next five months, is to set out the position in the form of a 'Balance Sheet' or 'Statement of Accounts,' the sort of document which many of you receive from your bankers every month—and then explain the figures to you.

Here then is my Balance Sheet for *Rice*:

	TONS.
Stock on 1st June 1947 ..	241,216
Expected imports from 1st June to 31st October 1947	50,000
Expected procurement from 1st June to 31st October 1947 ..	699,300
Debit balance	109,484
Total ..	1,100,000
Expected consumption from 1st June to 31st October 1947 ..	850,000
Buffer stock required on 31st October 1947 ..	250,000
Total ..	1,100,000

Figures explained

The *stock figure* is a definitely known figure consolidated from the figures given by the Collectors of all districts, but it is important to realize that it is not a stock held all in one place which we can draw upon and from which we can send out supplies to any district which may be short. It is the aggregate of the stocks held in 24 different districts. In one district, there may be one week's stock, in another two weeks' and in the third perhaps three weeks' or a month's stock. It is our 'working capital' and it is because it is so small as compared with last year when the stock on 1st June 1946 was 442,000 tons, that it is so difficult this year to supply the heavily deficit districts such as Malabar, Coimbatore and Madras city. Malabar, for instance, requires 29,000 tons a month to satisfy its requirements, Coimbatore 11,000 tons and Madras City 12,000 tons. Obviously it is not possible to take away, say, one week's stock from a district which only has two weeks' stock, or two weeks' stock from a district which has only three weeks' stock, and it is therefore only possible to feed these heavily deficit districts by procuring and exporting to them from the heavily surplus districts—the four Circar districts, Tanjore, and to a less extent, Nellore and South Arcot.

The *import figure* of 50,000 tons is the balance still to be received under the Government of India's basic plan for the Kharif Year, November 1946 to October 1947. It is not quite certain that the whole of this amount will be received before 31st October 1947, but we do know that we cannot expect to receive anything over and above that amount. It is therefore a maximum. Most of this quantity of 50,000 tons will come into Vizagapatam district—an otherwise deficit district—from Orissa.

The *procurement figure* of 699,300 tons is 80 per cent of the balance of the target figure not yet procured. Our target figure for the whole year was 1,787,600 tons. Up to the end of May 913,479 tons had been procured. The balance to be procured is therefore 874,121 tons. Eighty per cent of 874,121 is 699,300. Judging by the present rate of procurement and in consideration of the fact that the months of August, September and October are always difficult months to procure, because the main crop has been harvested many months before, it is improbable that we shall procure more than 80 per cent of the balance of the target figure. It will in fact be very difficult to reach even that figure.

The *consumption figure* is based on the maintenance of a 10 oz. ration from June to October and our experience of the amount consumed during those months in the two previous years.

The *buffer stock* of 250,000 tons is the minimum required to maintain rationing during the months of November and December, since the main crop is not ready for procurement until the following January and February. Like the stock figure on 1st June 1947 it represents, not a stock held all in one place, but the aggregate of the stocks held in 24 different districts.

These figures show a *debit balance* or *deficit* of 109,484 tons. They also indicate that our present stock being so low, procurement in the very difficult months of August, September and October must keep pace with the requirements each month or rationing will break down somewhere about the middle of August.

How to bridge the gap?

How then can this deficit be made up? How can the gap of over one lakh of tons between requirements and supply be bridged? The bridging of the gap must be tackled from both ends—by reducing consumption at one end and by intensifying procurement at the other. At the one end there must be a much more rigorous enforcement of the rationing regulations. Some producers who have enough for their requirements for the next few months are hoarding their stocks and drawing rice from the ration shops; some people on a visit to a town get temporary ration cards for a month or two but stay only for a day or two, and their relations draw extra rations on these cards; others make additions to their families (on ration cards) without going through the usual formalities necessary to produce children. All these acts are anti-social and in the present circumstances of acute shortage, criminal. A thorough check is being made of all ration cards by the rationing authorities. But it is unlikely, however thoroughly the check is made, that by this means the consumption figure can be reduced by more than a few thousand tons. The only other way to reduce consumption is to reduce the rice ration to 8 oz. This drastic measure I personally consider, should be the last resort. It means condemning many million of non-producer rice eaters to a semi-starvation diet, since this year we have no wheat or, what was called last year, 'unfamiliar foodgrains,' to make up the diet to 10 or 12 oz. And it is to be observed that even a reduction to 8 oz. would not bridge the *whole* gap.

What then can be done at the other end of the gap? Owing to the all-India food position there is no hope of increasing the import figure. Everything therefore depends on intensifying procurement.

The inference to be drawn from the production figures of last year and this year is that there should be no great difficulty in procuring 100 per cent of the target figure. Last year, this province produced 4,241,000 tons of rice and we procured a little over 13 lakhs of tons. This year our estimated figure of production is 4,795,000 tons and it should not therefore be impossible or even difficult to procure out of this 1,787,000 tons. There are

instead of selling the yarn in the black-market.

Co-operative Housing.

With a view to relieve the shortage of housing accommodation, the Government have launched a province-wide Co-operative Housing Scheme. A Co-operative House Construction Society has already been registered in the City. It is proposed to start similar societies in all urban areas where there is a shortage of housing accommodation With this object, the Government have directed the constitution of local committees in each municipality and major panchayat area where there is a shortage of housing accommodation to report on the availability of sites for starting Co-operative Housing Schemes. It is proposed to start a colony of 100 houses in each urban area. A Provincial Housing Committee has been constituted to consider the numerous problems confronting the provision of housing to relieve the shortage both in urban and rural areas. The Government have under their active consideration the following :—

(i) Reduction of the lending rate in Government loans to building societies from 4 to 3½ per cent ;

(ii) ways and means of speeding up land acquisition proceedings ;

(iii) the desirability of controlling values of building sites ;

(iv) the provision of adequate quantities of timber, iron, steel, cement and bricks on a priority basis for the schemes ; and

(v) the special concessions needed for poorer classes including labour, Government servants, etc.

Co-operative Marketing.

In order to promote the co-operative marketing of agricultural produce, the Government are considering a five-year plan to start a net work of marketing societies in the province. Such a plan, if put into execution, should be greatly beneficial to the agriculturist. Should the Government of India decide to fix maximum and minimum prices of agricultural produce in accordance with the recommendations of an All-India Committee and also to start a trading Corporation for this purpose, such a marketing organization can very well be the agent of this corporation in this province.

Land Mortgage Banks.

There has been an insistent demand from the public to reduce the lending rate. The last series of debentures was floated at 2¾ per cent. Government have permitted the Central Land Mortgage Bank to reduce the margin between the debenture rate and the ultimate borrowing rate from 3 per cent to 2¼ per cent. There has been a steadily increasing demand for land mortgage loans and the loans for permanent improvement of lands is persistently on the rise. The Central Land Mortgage Bank, pending a review of all conditions, has fixed the lending rate to the ultimate borrower at 5¼ per cent. If conditions in the money market improve, it will be possible to reduce the rate to 5 per cent. The present lending rate is easily the lowest in the whole of India. The Government are continuing to meet 50 per cent of the cost of Co-operative Sub-Registrars deputed for Land Mortgage Banks' work.

Miscellaneous.

The public are aware of the valuable service rendered by co-operative stores during the war and thereafter in schemes for food procurment and distribution in the province. With the gradual removal of controls and State regulations, these societies may have to face competition from normal trade channels and one of the measures suggested for the stabilization of the storel societies is the formation of a Provincia Co-operative Wholesale Trading Society. The District Co-operative Wholesale Stores do not have proper facilities for the purchase of agricultural commodities like grams, pulses and consumer goods, etc., which are imported either from other provinces or States or from abroad. As it will be uneconomical for each District Co-operative Central Stores to send its representative and make its purchases, it has been suggested that a provincial agency may be formed at Madras and that it may pcol the indents of all District Co-operative Central Stores and bigger primaries and arrange for bulk purchases. All the District Co-operative Stores, the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society and a few of the bigger primary stores will be the members of the provincial society. It is proposed to start the society at a very early date. When it begins to function, it will greatly facilitate the working of District Co-operative Central Stores and generally promote the consumers' co-operative movement in the province. It will function more or less as a Co-operative Whoesale Stores for the Madras Province.

The Government have sanctioned a temporary loan of Rs. 2 crores bearing interest at 2¾ per cent to the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank for disbursement as loans to the District Co-operative Central Banks for financing procurement operations undertaken by co-operative institutions. The loan is repayable before 30th September 1947.

The Government have sanctioned special staff for the organization of jaggery manufacturing societies for the benefit of ex-toddy tappers thrown out of employment in Prohibition districts.

Sound Education the *Sine Qua Non* of Democracy

Education Minister's appeal to youth to tackle illiteracy

[*Inaugurating the second meeting of the Provincial Advisory Board of Education, the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiyar, Minister for Education, stressed the need to re-orientate our educational system. The following are extracts from the opening speech.*]

"We are living in momentous times. Democracy is being ushered into this country and the revolutionary changes that we have to make in our political institutions to meet the coming situation are immense. But these alone will not succeed in laying permanent foundations for our future. Unless they are followed up by the generality of the people, with understanding and sympathy, the great institutions that we may set up to-day may crumble down tomorrow. Therefore, it is higly essential that our educational system should also keep pace with the times and reorganize itself to fulfil its new function.

Adult Education

"As a first step, a scheme for adult education should be chalked out. Adult education can be of various kinds and through various methods. It may extend from mere literacy to the highest education and it is necessary that we should organize ourselves in all these aspects as soon as possible so that the common man and woman will have the background and ability to make judgments on momentous issues. The Library Movement has been one of the greatest agencies of adult education and it is for that reason that the Government have come forward with proposal of a draft Library Bill. The library should become the centre of all enlightened activity. It should not be merely a place where books are stocked and given to those who care for them. It must be a place of lively interest where the common man may go in for guidance whenever he is in difficulty and where study classes must be held not only in books on Ethics or Literature but also in the various sciences which are so useful to man to-day and the knowledge of which is so essential to us in our everyday life. It is the intention of the Government that a net-work of libraries should be established throughout the Province with central libraries in each district town and a big library in the city. It is also contemplated that these libraries will be able to store some of the most valuable books and lend them in turn to the taluk and other libraries. Through this method, the Government hope that thousands of young men and women, who have not had college education, will be able to equip themselves in a high degree in those subjects in which they are interested.

Health of School Children

"The health of the school children has been a matter of anxious interest for all educationists. Ill-health has been a source of colossal wastage of human material. To prevent this wastage or at least to minimuze it a scheme for medical inspection of schools has been framed. The School Medical Service may not be started throughout the Province all at once ; it is the intention of the Government to start it in every district in certain areas and gradually extend it throughout the districts.

Elementary Education

"The problems of elementary education are immense. There are two aspects of this problem, one is extensive and the other is intensive. It has been stipulated that there are about 7 million school-going children in the Province. Of these, nearly half the number has been provided accommodation in schools. We still have got the tremendous task of providing accommodation for the rest. It is interesting to see how much money we had been spending in 1939–40 on elementary education and how much money we are spending in 1947–48. The total number of schools in 1939–40 was 40,796 with 2,997,498 children. In the following years, many of the uneconomic schools were eliminated and in the year 1945–46 there were 35,929 schools with 3,244,261 children. In 1945–46, compulsion was introduced in selected villages in each district and this was followed up in 1946–47 and 1947–48 with the result that roughly 500,000 more children have been brought into school. The number of children for whom increased accommodation has been given in 1947–48 is roughly 16 per cent more than in 1939–40. But when you compare the expenditure between 1939–40, we find a colossal difference. The expenditure by Government in 1939–40 for elementary education was 173 lakhs, but the expenditure in 1947–48 is expected to be 413 lakhs, i.e., an increase of nearly 140 per cent. This is in addition to the increase of expenditure on elementary education by local bodies from 65 lakhs to 138 lakhs in the same period. This is accounted for by the increased salaries as well as dearness allowances that have been given to the teachers in elementary schools. From this account of expenditure, we can have an idea as to what will be the immense amount that will be necessary to provide to bring about compulsory elementary education throughout the Province.

"It is the intention of the Government that a system of full, free and compulsory elementary education should be provided in the Province within a reasonable period, i.e., about 10 years. If we are going to depend upon raising funds by taxation alone, it may well-nigh seem to be an impossible task, but fortunately what we want is not money but service. If our young men and graduates can come forward to give one year of their service, then, extension of education will become more easily possible. I hope before long it will be possible for Government to put before the people a sound scheme for compulsory elementary education (of course of the basic type) within the shortest possible time.

"Many committees on education and many educationists have reported that our elementary schools are not running as well as they should. In equipment and building, in the qualification of the teachers and the quality and output of the work, in all these items, we are said to be lacking. It is absolutely necessary that our school should work with maximum efficiency ; for, after all, every child will become efficient only in so far as he learns the habit of doing things efficiently while he is a child at school or at home. Inefficient education is a national calamity. By education, I mean, not only the three R's but that attitude of mind which gives strength to the individual and zest to do things well. This, apart from other things, is the most salient aspect of any education.

Secondary School and Colleges

"One other matter I would like to put before you before closing and this relates to schools and colleges. The number of pupils seeking admission in our schools and colleges is becoming more numerous everyday. The number of secondary schools in the year 1939–40 was 661 with 245,084 students. The number of secondary schools in the year 1945–46 was 855 with 404,938 students. In 1946–47, the department has given recognition to 142 secondary schools and in the current year, recognition has been given for the opening of 87 secondary schools and for the opening of fresh divisions in existing schools. In the colleges also, this problem has to be faced. In 1942–43, the number of seats available for admission in the Madras University was 5,640. This has gradually increased in the following years and due to the opening of a fourth batch in the science classes, the Madras University alone was able to permit the admission of 10,175 students in 1946–47. In the current year, they have examined the question and have sanctioned the admission of students. With the growing numbers, the personal touch that is so very essential in every educational institution has suffered, and so here also we have problems not only of expansion but also of intensifying the proper spirit that must exist in our schools and colleges. It is essential in our educational institutions that there must be a broad spirit of tolerance and sympathy for all communities and creeds. This can be best done by admitting representatives of all the communities in the institutions as well as in their staff."

In conclusion, the Hon'ble the Minister solicited the advice and guidance of the members of the board in tackling the various educational problems that face the Province.

however several reasons why procurement has been more difficult this year than last year—(1) Last year the producer was squeezed to the maximum extent and had very little carry-over left with him. Naturally he is reluctant to be left in the same position this year, especially before he knows what the coming monsoon will be like. (2) Bonuses were given twice last year—in June and July and again in September and November. The producer is naturally inclined to withhold his stocks in the hopes that Government will give him a similar bonus at the end of this year. (3) The procurable surplus, which should be larger than last year, if our production figure is anything like correct, is to be found mainly not in the heavily surplus delta areas but in a large number of small holdings, especially under tanks where, though the aggregate may be large, the individual surplus is small and difficult to procure. (4) The constitution of Village Committees, of Producer-*cum*-Consumer Co-operative Societies in the Circars and of some inefficient co-operative societies in some other districts threw the procurement machinery of last year out of gear. It has not been easy to get it into working order again.

The above reasons resulted in poor procurement during the most favourable procurement months of March, April and May and, as a result, I am afraid that much of the surplus is not now available for procurement. Buyers had plenty of money to spend and the ryots therefore found no difficulty in selling their paddy and rice at attractive black-market prices before the procuring agents there got hold of it. But even so, there should still be sufficient procurable surplus to enable us to reach the target figure. An intensive procurement drive is being made in order to get this surplus, but it will not succeed unless all law-abiding citizens co-operate. Everything depends on it. If it succeeds we should just get through on a 10 oz. ration. If it fails, rationing will break down in the middle of August. If the target figure for procurement is reached, a far more attractive balance sheet can be presented to the public as below :—

	TONS.
Stock on 1st June 1947 ..	241,216
Expected imports from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	50,000
Expected procurement from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	874,121
Total ..	1,165,337
Expected consumption from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	850,000
Buffer stock required on 31st October 1947.	250,000
Credit Balance	65,337
Total ..	1,165,337

Surely it is the duty of every one to see that the procurement drive of the next few months does *not* fail.

Millets

It is more difficult to give an accurate balance sheet for millets than it is for rice, because figures of procurement of millets are difficult to predict and because we have no very definite figures of probable imports during the next five months. What can be said for certain is that the millet crop in the Province is not nearly so good as it was expected to be earlier in the year owing mainly to the heavy rains in December last year, and that though there should be no great difficulty in feeding the regular millet-eaters and mixed-diet-eaters on a 10 oz. ration for the next five months there is not likely to be anything left over to supplement the diet of the rice-eater.

A tentative balance sheet for millets is given below :—

	TONS.
Stock on 1st June 1947 ..	24,000
Expected imports from 1st June to 31st October 1947	33,200
Expected procurement from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	30,000
Debit balance	2,800
Total ..	90,000
Expected consumption from 1st June to 31st October 1947.	80,000
Buffer stock required on 31st October 1947.	10,000
Total ..	90,000

It should not be difficult to wipe out this small deficit of 2,800 tons, as shown by these figures, by better procurement during the next five months. The estimated procurement figure from 1st June to 31st October 1947 has been fixed very low and it should be possible to increase it, but millet procurement is always difficult because the millet grower is generally a poor man who wants, and in most cases has, to keep all he grows for his own consumption.

Stock of Wheat

The stock of *wheat* in the province on 5th June 1947 was only 3,225 tons. The issue of wheat has had to be limited to habitual wheat-eaters, and, if it is so limited, the normal consumption is about 1,500 tons a month. Our present stocks therefore will last for only about 2 months.

The stock of *wheat flour* or *maida* on 5th June 1947 was only 1,314 tons. By restricting its issue to persons who are normal consumers of wheat products and bread, by reducing supplies of maida to confectionaries, vermicelli manufacturers and hotels to the absolute minimum, it has been possible to reduce the consumption to about 700 tons a month. Our present stock of maida will therefore not last for more than another 1½ months.

These figures are given to show that it is quite impossible to make up the rice or millet eater's diet with any wheat as it was found possible to do last year.

The position as set out above shows that, unless the producer delivers to the Government 100 per cent of his surplus paddy and millets and unless the procurement drive which is now being undertaken is a success, there will be a very serious shortage of foodgrains in the Province in a very short time and rationing on a 10 oz. ration basis will break down somewhere about the middle of August. It is the plain duty of every one to do all in his power to prevent this happening by co-operating whole-heartedly with the efforts which are being made by the staff of the Civil Supplies Department both to tighten up rationing and to intensify procurement. The Officers of the Civil Supplies Department are doing a difficult and unpopular job. There is hardly one of them who would not prefer to be doing some other kind of work. There may be a few black-sheep but as a whole I am perfectly certain that they are doing a very unpopular job honestly and courageously. They deserve the support of the public. If they do not get it, their efforts must fail and something like starvation stares us in the face.

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Editorial

Nationalization of Bus Transport

THE Madras Government's five-year plan for nationalization of motor bus transport in the province, which has been recently announced, is a well thought out one and combines the demands of public convenience and advantage with the need for efficient management of a public utility concern. Some important characteristics of the plan may be drawn attention to here. Firstly, motor transport services throughout the province would be taken over by the Government within a period of five years and it is proposed that the programme should commence from October 1, 1947, with the bus transport services in Madras city and extend in rapid stages to the mufassal areas. Secondly, so far as the management of the state-owned transport services is concerned, while the Provincial Government will have an effective voice therein by subscribing 51 per cent of the share capital, the railways, which have a vital interest in the country's inland transport, the local bodies and the private operators, which have been engaged in transport services so far, are also proposed to be accorded their due share. Thus the railways will be allotted 15 per cent of the shares, local bodies 20 per cent, and private operators 14 per cent. The profits accruing from the business will be utilized for such purposes as the Provincial Government may decide after the distribution of a dividend which will not exceed 6½ per cent. The Provincial Government, being the principal shareholder in the concern, and being the principal party sponsoring the scheme, will take up any shares allotted to the other parties which may not have been taken up by them. The administration of the services will be entrusted not to a regular Government Department but to a statutory Transport Board, which will be a semi-autonomous body, while in each district the administration will be vested in a single officer, the District Transport Officer.

Programme of Nationalization

THE procedure to be followed in achieving nationalization and the time-table laid down for the purpose indicate that the Government have tried to make the whole process as little painful to the interests that will be affected and as equitable as possible. It is the private operator who will be principally affected by the policy of nationalization in the sense that it involves his elimination, and it is intended to spread the sacrifice that he is called upon to make by so arranging the programme of assumption of control that it will not be discriminatory against operators in a particular area or against a particular set or category of operators. After considering various schemes suggested in this connexion, the Government have approved the proposal that "20 per cent of the permits should be taken over in each of the bigger districts in the first year and that in the second year another 20 per cent in these districts as well as 40 per cent in the remaining districts should be taken over. The process will be continued year after year until all the services are taken over." To ensure further against unfair treatment of the existing operators, it has been decided that "care should be taken to see that the permits taken over are, as far as possible, those which have expired or are about to expire and relate to a compact area, that preferably the town services, where they exist, should be selected first, that if they do not provide the required quota, the routes proceeding to the adjoining places should be taken over to make up the 20 per cent."

MAIN FEATURES

(1) Press Notes
(2) Labour situation
(3) Food front
(4) Nationalization of Motor Transport
(5) Co-operation
(6) Congress Ministries at Work

Compensation

THE principle of payment of compensation to those operators whose routes would be taken over by the Transport Board but whose permit periods remain unexpired at the time of taking over has also been accepted. In the case of permanent permits that are valid at the time the Government acquire the transport service in a district, it has been decided that compensation may be paid with reference to the unexpired period of the permits at progressively reduced rates ranging from Rs. 1,000 if the period is not less than 24 months, to Rs. 200 where the unexpired period is less than 6 months. No compensation will be payable for temporary permits, time-expired permits or permits for spare buses.

Efficient Transport Service

NATIONALIZATION of transport services is now a widely accepted principle everywhere and is an essential and integral part of the policy of bringing all important public utilities under public ownership and control. Motor transport is an important item in the category of public utilities which therefore lends itself to such control. All public control postulates that it is exercised under effective safeguards for the public interests and that it provides a better, more efficient and, wherever possible, cheaper service to the people than private ownership can or may be willing to do. The Madras Government's scheme, as formulated and announced, satisfies all these basic and fundamental considerations and is, therefore, a sound one. The fact that the management is to be entrusted to a Statutory Transport Board eliminates the possibility of any kind of political or other kinds of pressure interfering with efficiency. Untrammelled by the profit-making motive, the controlling authority need not have any other interest except that of providing an efficient service. It may be hoped that as the result of the policy accepted by the Government, the province will have at the end of the five-year period a motor transport service covering the whole province, solving the transport and communication headaches that afflict our village and town populations and ensuring a cheap and efficient transport system.

Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies

THE question of the future of the Producer-cum-Consumer Co-operative Societies scheme has given rise to a good deal of speculation and has been the cause of a considerable amount of misunderstanding too. Suspension of the licences for foodgrains procurement originally entrusted to these societies has evidently induced an apprehension that the societies are going to be unfairly treated or are going to be permitted to languish even if they are not formally liquidated. It has, however, been made clear and emphasized more than once that it is never the intention of the Government to liquidate the societies but that on the other hand they are anxious to devise ways and means by which the machinery provided by the societies could be utilized to promote the interests of the rural population and to ensure that the shareholders who had invested money therein do not suffer.

THE non-official Committee appointed by the Government to investigate this matter has issued a questionnaire, and the answers received and the information collected thereby should be extremely helpful in assessing and determining the future of the societies. It should be an appropriate question for consideration why these bodies should not be dovetailed into the framework of the regular co-operative movement and converted into agencies for the betterment of the villages in the numerous directions in which such betterment is practicable and essential. That the societies can be transformed into such agencies as multiple-purpose co-operative societies and should contribute to the infusion of new life into the co-operative organization was probably one of the intentions with which they were inaugurated. The Sir T. Vijiaraghava Achariar Committee on Co-operation has explained the advantages of multiple-purpose societies and pointed out that the main effort should be to re-organize the existing societies and constitute new ones in such a way that a single organization would serve as far as possible all the needs of the villager. Subject to the condition of efficient supervision being provided by the Government and paid secretaries are appointed, they can serve an extremely useful purpose by educating the villagers on the principles of co-operation, by enabling them to enjoy the benefits of co-operative activity and by promoting rural welfare on all fronts.

IF a satisfactory and suitable scheme can be evolved by which this objective can be achieved and by which the share capital collected for these societies can be turned to maximum public advantage it will yet be in the interests of everyone concerned, and the community at large will benefit. The Enquiry Committee has a responsible and difficult task to perform; but it may be expected to perform it with impartiality and expeditiousness, keeping in view the background of the formation of the societies and other factors involved in the matter. The societies, with their nearly one crore and a quarter of capital, may yet be made to serve as foundations on which a strong co-operative structure can be built in this province and thus serve as instruments for the promotion of rural reconstruction along right lines. To the extent that they have the popular backing they can be the best media for the spread of co-operative education among the public.

'Stand-Still' Ordinance for Zamindari Areas

PENDING the enactment of legislation for the abolition of the zamindari system and for safeguarding and guaranteeing the rights of the tenants in zamindari estates, the Madras Government have promulgated an Ordinance to meet the emergent situation created by the growing tendency on the part of some of the zamindars in the province to alienate what are known as home-farm lands and communal forests. The Ordinance is intended to check this process, which betokens firstly, an anxiety on the part of the zamindars to circumvent and defeat in advance the purpose and objective of the legislation contemplated by the Government to abolish the permanent settlement system, and secondly, involves the deprivation of the tenants, who may have been cultivating these lands and who depend on them solely for a livelihood, of their means of livelihood. A somewhat dangerous and undelectable situation has arisen in parts of Madras as a consequence of these mutually conflicting movements. It has thrust to the forefront a principle of vital and far-reaching social and economic significance besides engendering a serious and complicated problem so far as law and order are concerned in some districts. The activities of some of the landlords in the direction of selling their home-farm lands has brought into existence a counter-movement among the peasants and cultivators, who indulge in the aggressive tactics of forcibly occupying these lands for cultivation and squatting on them and resisting the zamindars' efforts to evict them. Justification for the "squatting" is sought in the attitude of the zamindars, who are represented as persons trying to make hay while the sun shone, that is to say, of converting as much of land into cash in anticipation of the abolition of zamindaris.

THE Ordinance is an interim measure and will serve the limited but important purpose of stopping further unauthorized and panicky alienations in the interval between its promulgation and the time when the legislation for zamindari abolition will be placed on the Statute Book. It provides against the sale, mortgage, conversion into ryoti land, lease, assignment or alienation in any other form by the zamindar, of any communal or forest land in his estate. It, however, gives the option to the zamindar to lease out land which is private to any tenant for a period not exceeding two years. The penalties provided for contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance are imprisonment, which may extend to two years, or fine, or both. No prosecution can be instituted under the Ordinance without the previous sanction of the District Collector.

THE promulgation of the Ordinance must be considered against the background of the aggravating movement in the zamindari areas to dispose of the private lands and other communal lands as mentioned already. The cumulative danger cannot be disregarded of these alienations assuming the aspect of anti-social acts, in the sense that the zamindar, in alienating his private land, may also be depriving the tenant, who has been in occupation of the land and who has been cultivating it, of his occupation. The dispossession of a number of tenants accentuates the number of those who have to be classified as landless agriculturists and brings into existence a social and economic problem of progressively serious proportions besides creating, as pointed out already, a law and order problem. In a tug of war between zamindars and tenants the Government cannot remain helpless or disinterested spectators, while disorder and the threat to peace is gathering momentum.

THE root causes of the trouble have, of course, to be tackled, and it is for this that the Government have been and are anxious to bring forward the zamindari abolition legislation. The Bill in this connexion is getting ready, the fundamental objective thereof being the abolition of the zamindari system, the conversion of zamindari tenure into ryotwari tenure and the reduction in the rates of land tax in ryotwari and the quandom zamindari areas. What is urgently necessary, however, is to prohibit certain activities on the part of the zamindars, which are calculated to encourage and provide justification for counter-activities on the part of the tenants. So long as the existing system has legal sanction behind it, it is the State's function to guarantee and ensure protection for it and not to permit a particular section of the community to abuse those rights or another section to disregard them and to take the law in its own hands.

THE Madras Revenue Minister has explained in a statement the need at this juncture for invoking the special powers of His Excellency the Governor, and he struck a note of warning to the zamindars as well as to the tenants and others which must be taken to heart by them. The Ordinance does not have a retrospective effect, but if the movement to circumvent the provisions of the Ordinance persists or if it does not achieve its declared objective, the legislation to be introduced will be so framed as to cover retrospectively all cases of such disregard.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Collection of Swamp Salt in Vedaranyam

Under the existing conditions of the Gandhi-Irwin Pact, the collection of swamp salt is permitted in the Vedaranyam area under certain limitations. One of them is the restriction of the period of collection to two periods of one week each during a year. (In practice the 2 periods are allowed to run together). Another condition is that, in this period, as soon as the quota fixed for each village on a population basis is scrapped, further collection of swamp salt should be stopped forthwith. For the year 1947, the District Collector of Tanjore had fixed the period from 1st July 1947 to 14th July 1947 for the collection of swamp salt from the swamp adjoining the Vedaranyam area in this province. The Government have received numerous representations that the restrictions referred to above should be relaxed this year in view of the prevailing scarcity of salt in certain areas in this province and also the short production that is feared in case weather conditions prove to be unfavourable. The Government of India were, therefore, moved in the matter and they have since agreed to extend the period for the collection of swamp salt in the Vedaranyam area by 15 days from 15th July 1947 and to permit the removal of salt during this period by headloads to any distance and in any quantity irrespective of any village quotas that may have been fixed.

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Ration for Marriage Feasts

The Government of Madras in the Food Department have issued the following order in supresession of the order, dated 7th August 1946 :—

No person shall provide food or cause or allow food to be provided at any marriage party on the marriage day for more than two principal meals or for more than fifty persons at each such meal. In reckoning the fifty persons referred to above, the bride, the bridegroom, the relations of either and the guests shall be included. The term "food" does not, however, include drinks or parched gram or nuts or fruits or biscuit and cakes made of non-cereals. In regard to the provision of food at marriage parties on days other than the marriage day, the provisions of the Government Order, dated 17th December 1946, shall continue to apply.

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Movement of Foodgrains

Government have promulgated the Madras Wheat, Rice, Blackgram, Sugar Preparation (Movement Control) Order whereby export of these articles outside the province has been prohibited except under and in accordance with a permit issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or any one duly authorized by him. The Order, however, gives exemption in certain specified cases. For example, *bona fide* travellers are at liberty to carry these articles for their personal consumption for a stipulated period. Charitable organizations like hospitals and Red Cross can also export these articles without a permit. Vessels containing these articles and plying in a coastal run to any place in India outside the province are also exempt from the operation of this Order. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies is also competent to grant exemption in individual cases subject to such conditions as he may deem fit to impose. Applications for permits under the order have to be sent in writing in the prescribed form. Contravention of the provisions of the Order will result in the confiscation of the articles sought to be exported besides rendering the offender liable to any other punishment as the Court may impose.

On similar lines, Government have also promulgated the Madras Foodgrains (Movement Control) Order which concerns the export of paddy, rice, wheat, cholam, kambu, korra, ragi, bengalgram, horsegram, redgram, greengram, blackgram, barley, maize and rye. The export of these articles outside the province has also been regulated by permits issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or anyone authorized by him. The procedure in respect of and punishment for violation of this order are analagous to those of the Madras Wheat, Rice, Black-gram and Sugar Preparations (Movement Control) Order.

Transport of Rice for Personal Use

The Government have relaxed the rules regulating the transport of rice for personal consumption from any place in any one of the surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Nellore, South Arcot, Tanjore and Trichinopoly to any other place within the Province of Madras and from the districts of North Arcot and Chingleput to the Madras City in the following manner :—

Landholders can in future import either paddy or rice according to their convenience. The transport may be made in two half-yearly instalments instead of in four quarterly instalments as hitherto. The quantity of rice to be transported in each half year should, however, be limited to the quantity which the applicant and his family including servants are eligible to receive as rations for six months or 24 maunds rice in 12 bags, whichever is less. If import is made in the shape of paddy, the quantity should be limited to 1½ times the quantity of rice by weight required as rations for the applicant and his family including his servants for six months or 36 maunds whichever is less.

Pending amendments to the notification, Collectors have been asked to give effect to the above orders forthwith.

A person who imports rice from his lands for personal consumption should intimate to the concerned Rationing Officer or such officer as the Collector may nominate, the date of arrival of the consignment within ten days of its arrival.

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20 oz. of Millet to be Issued

The Government recently reduced the scale of ration to rice-eaters from 10 oz. to 8 oz. with effect from 13th July 1947 and directed that potatoes should be issued in the statutory rationed areas and groundnuts in the rural rationed areas to make up for the reduced ration. During the recent visit of the Hon'ble Minister for Food to Delhi, the Government understood that sufficient quantities of millets would be made available to this province by the Government of India in the coming months. The Government have therefore decided with effect from 20th July

1947 to issue 2 oz. of millets to rice-eaters besides 8 oz. of rice, both in the statutory and in the rural rationed areas. Instructions to this effect are being issued to the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies). If sufficient stocks of millets are not available in any district to issue millets from 20th July 1947 the additional rations will be issued as soon as enough stocks of millets are sent to each rationed area. The Government have decided to give up the distribution of groundnuts in view of this development. Mixed diet-eaters will continue to get 3 oz. of rice and 7 oz. of millets and millet-eaters 1 oz. of rice and 9 oz. of millets. They will be given 12 oz. of millets if they buy millets only.

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Cloth Ration for Students

For the benefit of students and others who have come to stay in towns and cities in recent months after the introduction of the cloth rationing scheme, and who have not drawn their cloth rations for the year anywhere and desire to draw it at the place where they are now staying, the following information is published :—

Applications for new Cloth Ration Cards should be made to the Collector of the district in a form which can be had from the Collector.

Claims will not be considered unless a permanent Food Ration Card standing in the name of the applicant is produced.

Applications of persons staying in hotels, boarding houses, hospitals, hostels, etc., and taking meals in what are called 'establishments' under the Food Rationing Rules, and consequently having no Food Ration Cards, should be supported by a certificate from the head of the 'establishment' in a prescribed form. The form of the certificate can be had from the Collector of the district.

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Cut in Firewood Ration Continues

In the Press Note issued on 10th June 1947 the Government announced a 25 per cent cut in the normal scale of firewood ration in the City of Madras for a period of one month from the third quarter of June 1947. As the supply position of firewood in the City still continues to be unsatisfactory, the Government have decided to continue the cut for another month commencing from the third quarter of July 1947.

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Special Rations During Ramzan

Instructions have been issued to all Collectors and Rationing Officers, to issue as in previous years special rations on a limited scale to mosques during Ramzan for making kanjee for distribution to those Muslims who come to mosques for prayers and have to break their fasts there. This will be issued in the shape of broken rice only and in whole rice when brokens are not available. The rations will be issued only to the Trustee or the persons in charge of the mosques and if the quantity allowed is regarded as insufficient by them it is open to them to arrange for contributions of rice by individual Muslims from day to day, to supplement the quantity so allowed, which should be the minimum necessary to provide kanji for the usual estimated congregation.

In Madras City a small firewood ration will also be allowed.

Development

Wynaad Colonization

In G.O. No. 5024, Development, dated 21st December 1945, Government approved a scheme for colonization involving the development of lands to the extent of 28·329 acres in Wynaad taluk, Malabar district. An Administrative Officer was appointed to be in charge of the scheme for co-ordinating the work of the various departments concerned in the scheme. It is mainly intended for the settlement of ex-service men and the entire cultivable area is to be developed, so that the production of essential articles of food could be increased.

The Public Works department has started preliminary work on formation of roads and the construction of quarters for the staff employed in the scheme, including huts for labourers. The Ad-hoc Committee had recommended the construction of semi-permanent buildings, but the Government have now ordered that permanent buildings at minimum cost might be put up, evidently because the permanent buildings are being prepared.

An investigation of the water-supply arrangements for the colony sites and for the lay-out of the colony sites which are mostly situated in hilly country has been taken up, and when the surveys are completed the lay-out will be finalized in consultation with the Director of Town-Planning.

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Araku Valley Scheme

A scheme for the colonization and development of the lands in Araku Valley in Vizagapatam Agency was approved in G.O. No. 3373, Development, dated 3rd August 1944, and is being carried out under the administrative control of the Agent to the Governor, Vizagapatam. The idea in developing the valley is to eradicate Malaria in the locality and to bring the lands there under cultivation so that the production of essential food-stuffs, etc., could be increased. Owing to its elevation, the land is suited for the cultivation of potatoes and vegetable crops, for which a ready market will be found in the Vizagapatam and Southern districts. The valley being almost entirely undeveloped gives scope for the planning of a model colony on up-to-date lines. The permanent plan envisages the building of quarters for the staff attached to the Medical, Agricultural, Revenue and Public Health Departments, and of a Hospital, anti-malarial Laboratory, Offices for Agricultural and other Officers, store rooms for grains, implements, etc.

As a preliminary, roads and bridges have to be laid and temporary quarters built for the staff who are to build the buildings required for the colony. These temporary buildings have been built. The estimate for roads has been submitted to Government. The estimate for the Isolation ward attached to the hospital has been sanctioned. The Government are expected to pass orders on the main scheme shortly.

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Admission to Agricultural Colleges

Correspondence is published in the Press regarding the selection of candidates for the two Agricultural Colleges in the province. The two colleges have 96 seats each and of the total number of 192 seats 183 seats were filled up by candidates belonging to the province. The remaining 9 seats were given to five candidates from Orissa and four candidates from Cochin and Coorg. The candidates selected from this province are made up of 48 Brahmans, 105 Non-Brahman Hindus, 14 Muslims, 16

Christians and 1 Harijan. All the Christian, Muslim and Harijan candidates, who were found fit, have been selected. In this connexion, it was pointed out in the press that more latitude was shown to students belonging to towns as compared to those hailing from the villages.

The Government wish to point out that generally preference in the matter of admission is given to candidates belonging to the agricultural class. There is a column in the application form for admission to agricultural colleges where information is sought to be elicited regarding the landed properties held by a candidate's family. Due regard was paid to the information furnished in this column when candidates were selected. Strictly speaking, the line of demarcation between urban and rural candidates is not immutable and there are practical difficulties in discovering *bona fide* candidates who are sons of ryots and who are really interested in agriculture. However, all normal precautions were taken to see that only such of those who had an agricultural tradition behind them and who were really interested in Agriculture were given admission.

As regards the Veterinary College, there is provision for 100 students in the college. Ninety belonging to the Province have been chosen in the recent selection and 10 from outside. Tamil Nad got 42 seats, Andhra districts 33, Malabar 8, South Kanara 3, Madras 1 and the balance of three seats were given to War Service candidates. Originally Malabar had only 6 seats, and War Service candidates were alloted 9. But only 3 ex-service men turned up, and the remaining six seats were re-allotted, 2 f r Andhra, 2 for Tamil and 2 for Malabar areas. The 90 candidates selected from this Province are made up of 27 Brahmans, 47 Non-Brahman Hindus, one Anglo-Indian, 11 Christians, 5 Muslims and 1 Harijan. There was a dearth of candidates from the Harijan Community.

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Provincial Firka Development Officer

Government have recently created the post of the Provincial Firka Development Officer and have appointed Sri G. Venkatachalapathy to the post. His chief functions will be to execute the schemes for village reconstruction in the firkas and centres selected for intensive rural reconstruction work. He will also be the Secretary of the Provincial Firka Development Advisory Board proposed to be cons ituted by the Government shortly. The post of Assistant Development Commissioner, Southern Range, is vacant, Mr. Vinayagam having resigned. The Provincial Firka Development Officer will also attend to the duties attached to that post.

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Essentiality Certificates

The Government have decided to transfer the powers of the Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, to sign essentiality certificates in respect of applications for pipes for the categories mentioned below, to the Joint Secretary, Development Department. At present such applications are certified by the Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, as to the essentiality of the demands and forwarded to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, for issue of permits. The categories referred to are :—

(1) for the manufacture of tube-well strainers and sinking of tube-wells ;

(2) Boiler tubes ;

(3) Municipalities, district and local boards ;

(4) Communications and buildings;

(5) Public utility concerns ; and,

(6) Industries, Firms and others not included in any of the above categories.

Applications for pipes for domestic demands are certified by Collectors up to 200 feet for any one demand.

The Government of India have decided that from 1st July 1947, steel pipe tubes and fittings for certain categories specified in the prescribed application form inclusive of those mentioned above will be released in this Province against permits to be issued by the Provincial Steel Control on approved stockists. A quota of 74,000 feet of pipes and tubes with corresponding fittings has been allotted to the Province for the third quarter of 1947, to be supplied by the Madras Circle Pipe Dealers' Association. The Government have directed that the Provincial Steel Controller, i.e., the Director of Industries and Commerce, shall in future issue permits for pipes for categories referred to on receipt of applications in the prescribed form duly certified by the advisory authority as to the essentiality of the demands. Applications for boiler tubes will, however, be continued to be sent to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, as at present.

The Heads of Departments and the Special Officers of the District Boards, Commissioners of Municipalities and Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, shall hereafter submit applications for pipes required by them for the categories mentioned above to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development, through the administrative departments of the Secretariat concerned, who will scrutinise and forward the applications to Government with their remarks. Applications after being certified will be sent to the Director of Industries and Commerce or the Iron and Steel Controller as the case may be for issue of permits.

The Collectors are requested to forward all applications certified by them for domestic demands direct to the Director of Industries and Commerce. They are also requested to see that only extremely essential cases are thus sent, limiting the demands to the bare minimum in each case.

Applications for pipes for non-Government public utility concerns and industries, firms and others not mentioned in any of the categories referred to above shall be submitted to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development. They will be sent to the Director of Industries and Commerce or the Iron and Steel Controller as the case may be for issue of permits after being certified.

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Communal Clash in Nellore

According to a report received by the Government, there was a minor communal clash in Nellore on the 2nd July night, in which one person was stabbed, as is suspected, for gain. There was another stabbing incident on the afternoon of 3rd July. Reserve police have been mobilized and the situation is returning to normal.

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Producers-cum-Consumers Societies.

The public are aware that the Producers-*cum*-Consumers Co-operative Societies were brought into existence primarily with the object of giving impetus to the procurement of all surplus paddy available in the four circars districts, with the ultimate intention of retaining them as a permanent feature and of converting them into useful multi-purpose co-operative institutions. But the Government had regretfully to suspend the procuring agency given to these societies and restore the work to the previous procuring agencies in the four districts for the reasons explained in the Press Note, dated 23rd April 1947. In the same Press Note, the Government expressed their desire to put the societies to the best use possible with the large share capital collected by them and indicated their decision to appoint a special agency to examine the question. The Government have now appointed a Committee to consider the question as to how these societies can be reorganised and rehabilitated so as to make them useful to the community and to fit them into the co-operative organizations now functioning. A Special Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies has already been appointed for the collection of the necessary information, which may be required by the Committee.

It has, however, come to the notice of Government that there is some apprehension in the minds of some of the shareholders of these societies, that they would be liquidated. The Government, therefore, desire to make it clear once again that it is not their intention to liquidate the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies and that it has always been their intention to reform and reorganise these societies and that it is for this purpose that they have appointed a Committee. Government request the members of these societies not to be carried away by rumours or propaganda to the contrary and take precipitate action such as withdrawal or voluntary liquidation but await the recommendation of the Committee.

Education

Madura Municipal Teachers' Strike

The Government would like the public to have a proper appreciation of the history of the Madura Municipal teachers' strike. At a time when the Government had given earnest consideration to the demands of teachers and even in the middle of the year had taken the extraordinary step of revising the scales again, the Madura Municipal teachers alone thought it fit to give notice of strike to the Government. The other Provincial and District Teachers' Associations considered the matter and were withdrawing their strike notices and the Madura Municipal Council teachers alone persisted in going through the strike. Their original demands were two. (1) That they must be paid on Government scales, and (2) that the city rent allowance must also be given to them.

The Government wanted to take a very sympathetic view of the matter and passed orders in regard to the first and are considering the second. The Premier also when he met them at Madura promised to consider their demands very sympathetically. In spite of this, the teachers were not satisfied but continued to make further demands. The Commissioner and the Special Officer of the Municipality asked for explanation from the teachers individually and the Secretary of the Association wrote a letter to the Commissioner, which if accepted would mean the negation of all discipline. No Government worth the name can allow its servants to say that they are not prepared to give an explanation for anything that they do. If any Government is to run in this country it must be built on discipline. Especially at a time like this when transfer of power is being contemplated, what is wanted is discipline. When the Commissioner asked for explanation from the striking teachers, it was not the intention of Government to humiliate any of the teachers but only to observe the rules.

The Government do not want anybody to go into sack cloth and ashes but they must insist upon certain forms of discipline being observed. Even now the Government do not think it is too late. If the teachers would come forward to give an explanation, the Government have no doubt that the Commissioner will consider their cases sympathetically.

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Extension to Andhra Medical Colleges

The Government have approved schemes of improvement and extensions to the Andhra Medical College and the King George Hospital at Vizagapatam. The Surgeon-General has been requested to obtain and submit urgently detailed plans and estimates for schemes which have not already been sanctioned. He has been asked not to incur any expenditure on schemes not already sanctioned for execution until detailed plans and estimates have been approved by the Government and the Legislature has allotted funds.

The question whether an infectious disease hospital to provide for 48 beds at an estimated cost of Rs. 9,21,500 is required for the purpose of teaching the students of the Andhra Medical College is also to be examined in detail.

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Minimum Pay for Lower Elementary Trained Teachers

The Government have decided that Lower Elementary Grade trained teachers should be given a minimum salary of Rs. 20 a month.

In a Government Order, dated 5th June 1947, the Government ordered that managements of Elementary schools should supplement the grants assessed from Provincial funds on behalf of Higher Elementary and Secondary Grade trained teachers so as to enable the teachers to receive a minimum pay of Rs. 30 and 40 a month respectively. They now consider that Lower Elementary Grade trained teachers also should be given a minimum salary of Rs. 20 a month, i.e., the management should supplement the grant paid from Provincial funds by at least Rs. 2 a month. These orders will take effect from 1st July 1947.

The Director of Public Instruction is authorized to grant extension of time in suitable cases.

Revenue

Concessions Granted

The Government have sanctioned the proposal of the Collector, Kurnool, for the grant of a remission for fasli 1356, at the rate of 75 per cent in the three villages of Gundarevula, Kondapuram and Palukudoddi, in Kurnool taluk, where owing to adverse seasonal conditions the average outturn of the crop is below 4 annas and above 2 annas. The concession on the scale mentioned above will also apply to unobjectionable cases of *sivayijama* cultivation, minor inam lands charged with quit-rent or *jodi* equal to or more than the full assessment on lands assigned temporarily.

The Government have also sanctioned the following concessions in respect of minor inam lands :—

If the favourable quit-rent or jodi payable on a minor inam land is less than or equal to what, after the grant of remission, is payable on a similar

(*Continued on page* 9)

Miscellaneous

Cost of Living Index

During the week ended 5th July 1947, the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras City rose by one point to 270 owing mainly to an increase in the price of coconut oil.

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Harijan Uplift Committees

District Advisory Committees are now functioning in connexion with the amelioration of communities eligible for help by the Labour department. In future these committees will be known as district Harijan Uplift Advisory Committees. They will consist of not more than six non-official members and the Collector of the district will be the chairman. The term of office of the non-official members will be three years. In this connexion, Government have also nominated the non-official personnel of the Committees in Salem, Malabar, Kistna and South Arcot.

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Madras Presidency Administration Report

The Madras Presidency Administration Report for 1944–45 was published in two parts under the titles 'Madras in 1945' and 'Madras Administration Report, 1944–45,' the former containing in a readable form a general summary of the more important features of the year 1945 in the various departments of the Government. In order to make the information contained in it available to persons who do not know English, it has been translated into Tamil and Telugu and issued in booklet form by the Superintendent, Government Press, Madras.

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Interim Relief to Transport Workers

In February 1947, the Government constituted a Court of Enquiry to go into all the problems connected with the working conditions of labour in Motor Transport Services, Motor Transport Workshops, etc., in the Province. As the final report of the Court was likely to be delayed in view of the elaborate enquiries which the Court had to undertake, the Government referred the question of interim relief for adjudication. After enquiry, the adjudicator recommended certain scales of relief and his recommendations were accepted by the Government and enforced on the parties. Government have received complaints that the managements of many motor services and motor transport workshops have not paid the interim relief recommended by the adjudicator. The Government make it clear to the parties concerned that, if the adjudicator's award is not given effect to immediately, action will be taken against the defaulters for failure to implement the award of the adjudicator.

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Quinine Rationed

A quantity of 72,722 boxes of quinine-de-hydrochloride ampules were rationed for distribution in the Madras province for 1946–47. Out of this quantity only 29,235 boxes were distributed during 1946–47 and there was a balance of 43,487 on 31st March 1947. The Government have decided that this stock should be rationed as below :—

Government Local Fund and Municipal medical institutions—15,000 boxes.

Private medical practitioners—7, 000 boxes.

Private hospitals and dispensaries —3,000 boxes.

Employers of plantation labour—4,000 boxes.

Members of the general public—14,000 boxes.

And 487 boxes to be in reserve with the Government.

There will be no district-war rationing of ampules during the current year.

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Information Bureau for Ex-servicemen

The Government have decided to abolish the Information Bureaux and the Sub-Information Bureaux established at the headquarters of each district and of each taluk respectively in eleven heavily recruited districts and in particular taluks of the other districts in which there are numerous ex-service men and women. This staff was sanctioned in February 1946 for contacting ex-servicemen and supplying information to them with regard to their employment, conditions of service, etc.

The Director of Resettlement and Employment pointed out the inadequacy of the Bureaux for this work on account of the limited staff sanctioned for them and suggested their reorganization, as it was not possible for the regular staff in the taluks to attend to the extra-duty of contacting ex-servicemen. In the meantime the Government re-organized the Branch Employment Offices into the District Employment Offices, by which each district except Nilgiris has an employment office functioning from 1st January 1947 with Special Assistants to Collectors regularly touring in the taluks for contacting ex-servicemen. In addition to this the Government of India have already appointed a Regional Public Relations Officer and nine Assistant Public Relations Officers for the purpose of popularizing the employment of demobilized personnel in private employment and for canvassing private employers. There are also three Assistant Directors of Employment, who contact employers and ex-servicemen during their tours and supply such information to the demobilized persons as may be useful to them for resettlement.

In these circumstances the Government considered that there was no necessity for the Information Bureaux and sub-Information Bureaux.

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Aboriginal Tribes.

The Government of Madras have passed orders dissolving the Committee set up in November 1946 to investigate into the conditions of the Aboriginal Tribes in the province of Madras. The Secretary of the Committee has been requested to submit a report on the work done so far from the available data. He has also been requested to intimate the minimum staff required for the preparation of the report and to disband the surplus staff immediately.

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Cost of Living Index

The cost of living index number for working classes in Madras City for June 1947 was 269.

The index for the food group fell by one point to 299 due mainly to a fall in the price of dhall.

The group indices in respect of fuel and lighting, clothing, house-rent and miscellaneous remained unchanged at 257, 304, 154 and 249 respectively.

National Savings

Subscriptions received from all over the province towards National Savings Certificates for the period from 1st April 1947 to 14th June 1947 is Rs. 28,11,190. The figure for the period ended with 21st June 1947 is Rs. 30,28,455. Tanjore tops the list with Rs. 8,06,115. Madras comes next with Rs. 4,25,490 and South Kanara follows with Rs. 2,89,250. The contribution from Nellore is the lowest, the amount being Rs. 12,195.

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Cost of Living Index in Mufassal

The following table shows the cost of living index numbers for low-paid employees at the different mufassal centres in the Province of Madras for the month of June 1947 :—

Vizagapatam	..	277·4
Ellore ..	..	340·3
Bellary ..	..	291·8
Cuddalore ..	..	285·1
Trichinopoly	..	295·0
Madura ..	..	288·2
Coimbatore	..	289·0
Calicut ..	..	349·2

Public Order Act: Advisory Council

The Government of Madras have constituted an Advisory Council, under Section 3 (3) of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1947, consisting of the following members :—

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice M. Shahabud-din, I.C.S.—Chairman.

Sri K. Raja Iyer, B.A., B.L., Advocate-General—Member.

Sri T. R. Venkatrama Sastri, C.I.E.—Member.

The Advisory Council is requested to submit its report on the various cases of persons detained under the Act after considering the materials placed before it and after calling for such further information from the Government or from the persons concerned as it may deem necessary.

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Term of Municipal Councillors Extended

In March 1947, the Government ordered that the term of office of the Councillors and Aldermen of the Corporation of Madras should be extended up to the 31st day of July 1947. As it is not likely that elections to the Council of the Corporation can be completed before 1st November 1947, the Government have now decided to extend the term of office of the Councillors and Aldermen of the Corporation up to 1st November 1947.

(*Continued from page 7*)

ryotwari land no remission will be admissible. In other cases, so much of the quit-rent or jodi will be remitted as to ensure that what is collected is the same, after the grant of remission, as is liable to be collected on similar ryotwari land.

In the case of minor inam wet lands, the full quit-rent or jodi will be remitted, provided the lands have been left waste or the crops on them have been totally lost on account of the deficiency of water-supply. The grant of the remission will be subject to the conditions applicable to such remission on ryotwari lands.

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Sirsi, Karkala, Sagar, Vengurla, Kasaragod, Tumkur
Malwan, Kanhangad, Mysore, Ratnagiri, Payyanur
Bangalore City, Belgaum, Taliparamba, Shimoga
Nipani, Cannanore, Davangere, Dharwar
Bellary, Arsikere, Hubli, Hospet, Chikmagalur, Byadgi, Adoni
Gadag, Cuddapah, Bijapur, Proddatur, Bagalkot, Secunderabad
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RESOURCES EXCEED Rs. 4,25,00,000

T. A. PAI, B. Com. (Bom.),
A.I.I.B., F.R.E.S. (Lond.),
General Manager.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 30th June

The Government of Madras have sanctioned the appointment of two Labour Officers for a period of one year from the date of employment for plantations in Salem and Madura districts and for Malabar and Nilgiris districts.

The Government of Madras have accepted the recommendations of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. Hoe and Company, Madras and Trichinopoly.

The management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, opened the mills on 12th June 1947 and gave time till 19th June 1947 for the workers to join duty. About 11,700 workers resumed work up to 19th June 1947. The mill is now working with its normal strength.

The Government of Madras have accepted the views of the Adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of Sri Palamalai Ranganathar Mills, Periyanaickenpalayam, Coimbatore (referred for adjudication in G.O. Ms. No. 1429, Development Department, dated 31st March 1947). The Coimbatore District Textile Workers Union, Singanallur, has withdrawn the claim for wages for the period of closure of the factory from 20th November 1946 to 12th January 1947 for repairs to machinery.

The workers of Sri Palamalai Ranganathar Mills, Periyanaickenpalayam, Coimbatore, who struck work on 22nd April 1947 resumed work on 23rd June 1947. The dispute has been referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication.

The management of Sri Ramalinga Choodambikai Mills, Tiruppur, have lifted the lockout on 21st June 1947 which was declared on 11th June 1947. The reeling section was opened on 21st June 1947 and the other sections of the mill were opened on 23rd June 1947.

The manager of Sri Ramachandra Spinning and Weaving Mills, Pandalapaka, has notified that the mills will be closed from 1st July 1947 as they are not in a position to run the mills under present conditions of high wages, etc.

The Proprietor of Angu Vilas Scented Tobacco and Cigar Factory, Dindigul, reports that 75 per cent of his workers struck work on 25th June 1947 on his warning them that he would close the factory if they persisted in their go-slow tactics. The Labour Officer, Madura, has been instructed to advise the workers to resume work and to await the orders of Government on the recommendations of the Court of Enquiry.

About 600 teachers including 200 women belonging to 68 municipal elementary schools in Madura town struck work on 25th June 1947, demanding a minimum salary of Rs. 35 with house allowance and revision of scales. The reports of the Municipal Commissioner and the Labour Officer, Madura, are awaited.

The management of the Rajah Mills, Madura, have reconsidered their decision to close the night shift in the Mills from 16th June 1947, and have decided to continue the night shift.

The Government of Madras have turned down the demand of the workers of the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, for three months' bonus.

The Government of Madras have referred the question of payment of bonus and victimization of workers of the West Coast Electric Supply Corporation, Calicut, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri N. D. Krishna Rao, District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar) for adjudication in addition to the other issues on which he is adjudicating as per orders issued on 6th March 1947.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of St. Vincent's Industrials, Calicut, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri N. D. Krishna Rao, District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar) for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke, Malabar district, to the Industrial Tribunal at Coimbatore (Sri C. R. Krishan Rao, retired District and Sessions Judge) for adjudication.

The workers of the Thunoli Mills, Cannanore, struck work on 18th June 1947. The Commissioner of Labour during his visit to Cannanore advised the workers to resume work pending the result of the courts of inquiry for oil mills and handloom industry in the Province. The workers resumed work on 26th June 1947.

About 700 boat workers of Tuticorin struck on 23rd June 1947 at 9 a.m. without notice, demanding full payment of detention charges, 50 per cent of the earnings after deducting Cochin income-tax and regular monthly payments. The Revenue Divisional Officer, Tuticorin, is trying to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute.

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of Nellimarla Jute Mills Company, Limited, Nellimarla, Vizagapatam district.

About 700 workers of the Hindustan Construction Company, Vizagapatam, struck work on 16th June 1947 as a protest against the transfer of certain union officials to Bombay, and demanding higher wages, dearness allowance, etc.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Hindustan Construction Company to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri P. Markandeyulu, Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Madras) for adjudication.

The General Secretary of the Scindia Shipyard Labour Union has given a notice of strike to the management of the Scindia Shipyard, Gandhigram, Vizagapatam, making 31 demands.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Vizagapatam, to an Industrial Tribunal (Sri P. Markandeyulu, Principal Judge, City Civil Court, Madras) for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have referred the question of the closure of the Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry, to an Industrial Tribunal (the District and Sessions Judge, East Godavari) for adjudication. The Government have also prohibited the continuance of the lockout in the factory.

Fourth All-India Cotton Forecast, 1946–47

A telegram received from the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, places the fourth all-India forecast of the area under cotton for 1946–47 and yield respectively at 14,608,000 acres and 3,515,000 bales, indicating an increase of 1 per cent and 3 per cent as compared with the corresponding revised forecast of last year.

Rice Ration Revised

As the procurement of paddy and rice has declined week by week and as there is no likelihood of any appreciable allotment of rice to this Province from the Government of India, it has become necessary to further reduce the scale of rations to rice-eaters. It is therefore ordered that the following scale and composition should be followed on and from 13th July 1947 :—

I. In all areas in the Province except Malabar—

Rice eaters—Up to 8 oz. of rice.

Millet eaters—Up to 12 oz. of millets or maize, etc., or up to 1 oz. of rice *plus* 9 oz. of millets or maize, etc.

Mixed diet eaters—Up to 12 oz. of millets or maize, etc., or up to 3 oz. of rice *plus* 7 oz. of millets or maize, etc.

II. Malabar—

Up to 7 azhaks of rice (7·91 oz.).

NOTE.—Total ration per adult per day not to exceed the following :—

i. If taken entirely in rice 8 oz.

ii. If taken entirely in millets 12 oz.

iii. If taken in rice and millets 10 oz.

2. Habitual wheat and bread-eaters and people requiring bread on medical grounds should be allowed 8 oz. of whole wheat or wheat flour or 12 oz. of baker's bread per adult per day.

3. *Classification of cardholders.*—With the reduction in the rice content of the ration to millet and mixed diet eaters, there may be a tendency for the cardholders to change their classification into rice-eaters. The attention of the Rationing Officers and Collectors is drawn to Board's Reference No. 1592 K1/45, dated 8th February 1946, and they are requested to see that the instructions therein to mark the ration cards of millets and mixed diet-eaters in red ink are strictly adhered to. On no account should the existing classification of the cardholders into rice-eaters, mixed diet and millets eaters be changed except in the following cases :—

(i) A rice-eater desiring to become a mixed or millet-eater.

(ii) A mixed diet-eater desiring to become a millet-eater.

The Collectors and Rationing Officers are informed that foreign maize is not a millet and that millet and mixed diet-eaters should not be compelled to purchase maize.

4. *Supplemental foodstuffs.*—Arrangements are being made to make available potatoes in all the ration shops in the statutorily rationed areas and groundnuts in the ration shops in the rural rationed areas. The cardholders may buy these commodities to make good the reduction in their rations. No limit need be placed on the quantity of these commodities which cardholders may buy.

5. *Landholders.*—As at present actual cultivators should continue to be permitted to retain or import 1 lb. per adult per day and non-cultivating landholders 10 oz. per adult per day.

6. *Meals hotels (catering establishments).*—The scale and composition of the rations allowed per meal per day is 4 oz. of rice. No maize or barley flour should be issued.

7. *Non-meal hotels.*—The scale and composition of the quota to these establishments shall continue to be as follows :—

Brokens if available—25 per cent or 1/4th of quota.

Maize and/or maize flour—41⅔ per cent or 5/12th of quota.

Barley flour—25 per cent or 1/4th of quota.

Wheat and wheat products (excluding maida)—8⅓ per cent or 1/12th of quota.

The taking of maize and barley flour is not compulsory.

8. *Industrial canteens.*—There is no change in the composition of the quota to these canteens which is as follows :—

Canteens opened before 1st May 1946—6 oz. of bread or 2 oz. of rice plus 2 oz. of maize, maize flour, wheat, wheat flour and/or barley flour.

Canteens opened after 1st May 1946 or to be opened hereafter—6 oz. of bread or 4 oz. of maize, maize flour, wheat, wheat flour and/or barley flour.

9. *Heavy manual labourers.*—The supplementary rations to heavy manual labourers shall continue to be 4 oz. per adult per day in the shape of maize, maize flour and/or barley flour.

10. *Extra rations for mid-day meal centres.*—The scale shall continue to be 4 oz. per child per day and shall be in the shape of rice, wheat, wheat products, maize, maize flour and/or millets in any proportion chosen by the authorities conducting the meal centres; but the issue of wheat and its products should be confined only to habitual eaters of wheat and its products or to those who require these cereals on medical grounds.

11. *Conversion tables.*—According to paragraph 1 above, the scale of ration varies with reference to each category of cardholders, viz., rice eaters (8 oz. of rice), mixed diet eaters (10 oz. of rice and millets) and mixed diet eaters (12 oz. of millets). As this is likely to lead to confusion, especially to the retail distribution, different conversion table for rice eaters, mixed diet eaters and millet eaters should be prepared. The Rationing Officers should work out conversion tables from 1 to 100 units and submit them to their District Rationing Officers for checking the correctness of the tables.

12. The above orders come into force on and from Sunday the 13th July 1947 and apply to both rural and statutorily rationed areas of the Province. The rural ration shops need not however keep potatoes for sale, but they will be required to keep groundnut instead.

On the Indian Food Front

The following quantities of foodgrains arrived in India from overseas during the week ended June 17 :—

	TONS.
Wheat (including flour).	16,400
Rice	4,300
Maize	7,500
Millets	600
Milo	8,800

The total arrivals of foodgrains from abroad since January 1, 1947 are as follows :—

	TONS.
Wheat	315,200
Flour	32,300
Rice	259,400
Maize	97,500
Millets	12,300
Barley	149,500
Milo	234,500
Oats	8,002

The Correct Method of Cooking Rice

Popular prejudice in favour of highly milled rice has persisted by a misleading association of ideas—whiteness and cleanliness. Actually undermilled rice is more nutritious than milled rice.

Parboiled rice has a higher nutritive value than raw milled rice because by parboiling some of the vitamins and other nutritive substances contained in the germ and the pericarp diffuse through the grains and cannot be removed by subsequent milling.

The usual practice of washing rice thoroughly before cooking results in a considerable loss of minerals and vitamins especially of the 'B' group. Rice of poor commercial quality naturally tends to be given more washing than rice of good quality, and the loss of mineral matter and 'B' vitamins from such rice may be very considerable. A single light washing of rice is therefore recommended instead of the usual two or even three washings that are at present given.

The extent of the loss in the food value of rice depends mostly on the number of washings and whether the cooking water is used or not. If rice is washed 3 times and cooked with liberal amounts of water about 75 per cent of iron and 50 per cent phosphorus, vitamin B and other vitamins of the B group originally present may be lost. It is the first washing which causes most of the loss and more vitamins pass into the washing water than into the water used in cooking.

Since the effect of washing of rice before cooking drastically reduces vitamins B (the beri-beri preventing vitamin) improvement in cleanliness in bazaars and shops where rice is exposed for sale would reduce the necessity for vigorous and repeated washing.

The ideal method of cooking rice is to use just enough water which would get fully absorbed in the rice. The correct amount of water will necessarily depend on the method of heating and the cooking quality of any particular variety of rice. Some kinds of rice will require less quantity of water than the others so as to get the proper consistency of cooked rice. If water is insufficient the rice will not be cooked properly while more water than what is necessary would result in excess water being left over. In cooking, therefore, the least possible amount of water should be used and if any excess water remains it should not be thrown away. This is often done in the households, with the result that valuable minerals and vitamins are lost. Any excess water left should be used in the preparation of vegetables, dhalls and other edibles like puddings. It may be pointed out that the time for cooking dhalls is reduced if the rice water is used instead of ordinary water.

Even though domestic steam cookers are being used in some households, it has not been generally realized even by educated householders that steam cooking of rice conserves practically the whole amount of edible matter. The easy method of educating people in this process would be to induce hotels and large boarding establishments to adopt steam cooking of rice. Steam cookers can be improvised at a cheap price.

The experiment of steam cooking is being carried out at the Square Meal Canteen in the Bombay Secretariat in order to ascertain whether steam cooking can save cereals in the long run and whether it is possible to introduce it efficiently with a little extra cost and with the aid of the cooking vessels generally in use in the catering establishments.

The present time, when supplies of cereals to hotels and establishments are controlled, is most opportune for initiating such measures. They, however, must mainly depend for being generally adopted, upon wide and persistent propaganda and publicity.

Summary

(a) Parboiled rice should be consumed in preference to raw rice.

(b) Rice should be given a single light washing with water before cooking.

(c) Either all the water used in cooking be absorbed by the rice or the excess water should be utilized in preparing other dishes like dhall, vegetable curries, etc.

(d) Steam cooking may be done wherever possible.

(e) The reforms may be introduced first in Government controlled institutions and large establishments like hotels, canteens, etc.

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Cattle Health

There was a fall in mortality from contagious diseases among animals in the Province during the month of May 1947 as compared to April 1947. The total number of outbreaks reported and deaths recorded were 333 and 1,604, respectively, as against 308 and 1,873 in the previous month.

Rinderpest.—There was a considerable fall in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 27 outbreaks and 117 deaths as against 31 outbreaks and 131 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Vizagapatam and Godavari West.

Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.—There was a considerable fall in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to April 1947. The figures being 100 outbreaks and 468 deaths as against 114 outbreaks and 703 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Kistna, Nellore, Tanjore, Madura and Malabar.

Black-quarter.—There was a considerable rise in the incidence of and mortality from the disease during the month as compared to the previous month the figures being 174 outbreaks and 937 deaths as against 131 outbreaks and 563 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Vizagapatam, Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Chingleput, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Madura.

Anthrax.—Sixteen outbreaks with 81 deaths were reported during the months as against 16 outbreaks with 122 deaths in the previous month.

Foot and mouth.—Sixteen outbreaks with one death was reported during the month as against 16 outbreaks without any mortality in the previous month.

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the Second Fortnight of June 1947

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in parts of West Godavari, Nellore, Chittoor and Coimbatore districts and of dry crops in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, Coimbatore and Ramnad. The outturn was generally fair.

Market Conditions and Trend of Prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of cereals and pulses. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil-seeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows:

No change.—Gingelly oilcake and groundnut oilcake.

Rise.—Groundnut (shelled) (2·0 per cent); gingelly seed (2·3 per cent); copra (6·7 per cent); coconut oil (4·2 per cent); groundnut oil (2·9 per cent); and cotton seed (2·6 per cent).

Fall.—Gingelly oil (0·7 per cent).

Procurement

The following statements show the quantities of foodgrains locally procured in the districts and those received from sources outside the Province:—

(a) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 15th June 1947*—

	TONS.	
Paddy ..	49,292	Together equivalent to 59,037 tons on terms of rice.
Rice ..	24,608	
Millets ..	6,994	

(b) *Receipts from other provinces and states during the fortnight ending 30th June 1947*—

	TONS.
Rice	1,403
Millets	..
Wheat and wheat products.	..
Pulses—	
Blackgram	15
Redgram	285
Greengram	100
Bengalgram ..	2,530
Total ..	2,930

(c) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 30th June 1947*—Nil.

Stock and Supply.

Rice.—Procurement has been falling rapidly, being only 51,254 tons during the fortnight ending 26th June 1947 which is about 9,000 tons less than the procurement in the previous fortnight (i.e., fortnight ending 12th June 1947) which itself was about 10,000 tons less than that in the preceding fortnight (i.e., fortnight ending 29th May 1947). The stock on 26th June 1947 was 224,467 tons as against 243,761 tons on 12th June 1947. The position is not likely to improve till the next harvest in September at the earliest. Meanwhile some of the districts like Madura and South Kanara, which for the last few months have been depending on locally procured stocks, are finding it difficult to maintain themselves solely on local resources and are seeking assistance from outside. The position in almost all the deficit districts continues to be unsatisfactory. The situation in Malabar and Coimbatore continues to be critical. At present there is no likelihood of appreciable imports arriving from outside the Province. In the circumstances a dangerous deterioration in the overall stock position is inevitable and to save the situation for the time being the overall ration throughout the province is being cut to 8 oz., from the middle of July 1947. Even so, it will be very difficult to avoid a breakdown of rationing in August unless supplies are received in time from outside sources.

Millets.—The stock of millets has fallen slightly from 24,896 tons to 23,045 tons on 3rd July 1947. This represents about two months supplies. The "Norway Victory" carrying 8,400 tons of American Milo is expected in Madras on July 3, and the "Andulusia" carrying 8,000 tons of American Milo is expected at Cochin in the second week of July. The greatest shortage of millets exists in Coimbatore and Vizagapatam. Generally, the stock position of millets may be regarded as satisfactory.

Maize.—The stocks of maize have fallen from 3,006 tons to 2,436 tons on 26th June 1947. The Mysore Government have now informed Madras that they cannot spare the quota of 1,000 tons previously promised. The offtake of maize is about 2,400 tons a month so that the present stocks should last for rather more than a month. No further imports of maize are expected in the near future.

Wheat.—Wheat stocks have gone down to 2,645 tons at the end of the fortnight. Arrangements are being made to import the newly allotted quota of 1,000 tons of wheat from Sind. Since the monthly off-take of wheat, even under the present system of restricted issues, is about 1,400 tons a month, the supply from Sind will not relieve the shortage in the province.

Wheat Products.—The wheat products stock position is unsatisfactory. The stock on 26th June 1947 was only 1,024 tons and no imports are expected. Shortage of wheat flour is reported from a number of towns including the City and even the stocks available are of poor quality.

Pulses.—The S.S. "Palamcottah" and the S.S. "Ferozabad" carrying a total of 1,599 tons of Bengalgram and products from Karachi arrived at Cochin during the fortnight. Further shipments are expected during the first fortnight of July. The Bengalgram quotas under the 1947–48 Rabi Plan have been reduced from 33,000 tons to 17,000 tons. The stock position of Bengalgram is good at the moment but unless further quotas are allotted, the supply position cannot be regarded as satisfactory. The redgram position continues to be unsatisfactory and arrangements to import the new quota of 4,000 tons from United Province as quickly as possible are being made. The greengram and Bengalgram stock position are generally satisfactory.

Rationing

Consequent on the fall in the overall stock position of foodgrains in the Province, the scale of rations to industrial canteens has been reduced from 6 oz. to 4 oz.

In view of the deteriorating stock position of maida, instructions have been issued to the Rationing Officers not to entertain applications for the opening of new bakeries even if they are received from ex-army men who were bakers before they joined the army.

Subsidiary Foodgrains

The control over the prices and movement of coconuts, copra and coconut oil was removed during the fortnight under review.

Miscellaneous Commodities.

Firewood was reported to be inadequate in Guntur, Coimbatore and Bezwada towns and in parts of Ramnad district.

Short supply of matches was reported from the districts of Nellore, Cuddapah and West Godavari.

Scheme for Nationalization of Motor Transport

It is a widely accepted principle now-a-days that public utilities should not be left to private enterprise but should be in the hands of the Government. Motor Transport is a public utility and as early as December 1944, the General Committee on Post-War Reconstruction recommended to the Government that public transport should be State-owned and State-managed. The recommendation received the earnest consideration of the Government last year and it was decided in December 1946 that in the best interests of the community at large the motor transport service in Madras Province should be nationalized. For suggesting the ways and means to give effect to this decision, the Government appointed a Sub-Committee of the Cabinet under the Chairmanship of the Minister for Transport with certain other Ministers as members. Before the Committee could complete its work, there was a change of Ministry, necessitating the reconstitution of the Committee. In April 1947, a new Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister with the Minister for Transport and two other Ministers as members. The Committee considered the matter in all its aspects and drew up a scheme for the nationalization of Motor Transport. The main recommendations of the Committee have now been accepted by the Government and these are explained below.

2. In the first place it is necessary to emphasize that the primary object of nationalization is to provide an efficient and cheap transport service for the travelling public and to utilize the profits for the benefit of the community as a whole. It has therefore been decided that the Provincial Government should be the dominant partner in any scheme of nationalization. The railways will necessarily continue to be the backbone of the land transport system and for a healthy development of motor transport service, co-ordination between it and the railways should be established and wasteful competition avoided. To secure such co-ordination Government desire that the railways should be invited to participate in the scheme. As local bodies are interested in the welfare of the people, it has been decided that they should also be associated with the Government and the railways in the scheme. As regards private operators, although it has been suggested that existing operators will not participate unless they are given a major share, the Government, while not conceding this claim, wish to give some voice to them in the running of the new transport system. After considering the matter carefully the Government have decided on the following shares :—

	Percentage of the capital expenditure.
Provincial Government.	51
Local Bodies ..	20
Railways	15
Private operators ..	14

The shares of the operators will not be transferable but will be sold only to the Provincial Government or according to instructions which might be issued by them in this regard. If any money remains after payment of such dividend as may be fixed, not exceeding 6¼ per cent, to the financing parties, the Provincial Government will be free to utilize it in such a manner as they think fit. If the parties concerned do not take up shares up to the proportion mentioned above, the balance will be taken up by the Provincial Government.

3. As the day-to-day administration of a service of a commercial nature should be free from the rules and regulations to which the running of a Government Department is ordinarily subject, it has been decided that a Statutory Transport Board should be set up. The exact composition of this Board is still under consideration. It has further been decided that the day-to-day administration in each district should be vested in a single officer, viz., the District Transport Officer.

4. As regards the initiation of the scheme, the Government have after due consideration, decided that the passenger bus services in the Province should be nationalized first and later on, the lorry services. The consideration of the question whether taxi services should also be nationalized was deferred.

5. In pursuance of the plan set out above it has been decided that a beginning should be made with the passenger transport services in Madras City and that these should be taken over by 1st October 1947 or as soon after as possible. In respect of the mufassal areas (excepting the ghat routes) Government have under consideration the possibility of commencing their programme of nationalization from next year and complete it in a period of five years. As regards the ghat routes, the Government may take over the bus services from Madura to Kodaikanal and from Coimbatore to Ootacamund as early as possible. With reference to the ghat route services, Government are considering the question of taking over in addition the City Bus Services in Coimbatore and Madura so as to make them economic units. With reference to the method to be adopted for the gradual nationalization of transport in the mufassal, several alternatives were considered. One obvious course is to take over the bus service in the first year in a few districts adjoining Madras City, to extend the scheme in the second year to a further group of districts adjoining them, and so on, until all the districts are covered in a period of five years. Such extension of the scheme from one group of districts to another will make for administrative convenience but will result in an unequal treatment of existing operators in that some operators will continue to run their business while others will be completely ousted from the field. It is of course recognized that, in a matter of this kind, it is inevitable to displace some operators sooner than others, but it is felt that the scheme might be worked out as equitably as possible. It has therefore been decided that only 20 per cent of total number of permits should be taken over in each of the bigger districts in the first year and that in the second year another 20 per cent in these districts as well as 40 per cent in the remaining districts should be taken over. This process will be continued year after year until all the services are taken over. It has also been decided that care should be taken to see that the permits taken over, are as far as possible those which have expired or are about to expire and relate to a compact area, that, preferably the Town Services, where they exist, should be selected first, that if they do not provide the required quota, the routes proceeding to the adjoining places should be taken over to make up the 20 per cent. As regards displaced operators it has been decided that they might be allowed to run in areas not taken over by the Government as far as possible.

6. The nationalization of transport services in the manner mentioned above, may necessitate the cancellation of some of the permits current at the time of introduction of nationalization. After giving the matter the consideration it deserves, the Government have decided that no compensation should be paid for the past period for which a permit has been held. In the case of permanent permits that are valid at the time the Government acquire the transport service in a district, it has been decided that compensation may be paid on the Bombay Government's scale with reference to the unexpired period of validity of the permits, viz.,—

Rupees 1,000 for each permit when the permit had at the time of termination an unexpired validity of not less than 24 months ;

Rupees 700 for each permit when the unexpired validity is not less than twelve months but less than 24 months ;

Rupees 400 for each permit when the unexpired validity is not less than six months but less than twelve months ;

Rupees 200 for each permit when the unexpired validity is less than six months.

The time-expired permits, permits for spare buses, and temporary permits will not be eligible for compensation.

7. The existing operators may not find use for their vehicles, premises and equipment when Government take over the transport services and the Government also will need them for running the service. The normal life of a vehicle is five years and, as contemplated in Bombay scheme, only vehicles which are not more than four years old and which are otherwise fit for further service will be purchased.

In order to determine which of the assets would be worthy of purchase and to fix the exact amount to be paid for them, the Government will appoint a Committee in each district with a technical expert thereon. The operators should intimate to this Committee within a prescribed time full particulars of the assets which they are ready to hand over and it would be open to them to sell or not to sell at the price fixed by the Committee.



The Premier speaking at the opening ceremony of the Madras Corporation Children's Orphanage at Rayapuram, on 9th July, 1947.

Volume of Railway Traffic

I. **South Indian Railway.**—There has been a slight increase in the train services during June 1947.

The train miles run in June 1947 as compared with those of June 1946 are shown below :—

Public Train Miles.	*June* 1946.	*June* 1947.
Coaching	670,352	817,315
Goods	260,998	261,849
Total ..	931,350	1,079,164

The increase is due to introduction of additional trains.

Details of traffic and earnings both passenger and goods carried during the month of June 1947 as compared with the previous month and the corresponding month of last year are given below :—

Coaching Traffic.	*June* 1946.	*June* 1947.	*May* 1947.
Number of passengers ..	10,001,802	13,532,312	13,068,010
Earnings in Rupees	61,59,133	78,99,187	82,38,963
Goods Traffic.			
Weight in tons	515,453	485,809	540,446
Earnings in Rupees	46,34,317	44,73,521	43,63,964

The increase in passenger earnings is due to the marriage season, introduction of additional trains and increase in fares. The decrease in goods earnings is due to the lesser movement of rice and paddy, grain and pulses, oil-seeds, petrol, kerosene, cement and military goods.

II. **M. & S. M. Railway.**—The approximate earnings for May 1947 compared as under with those of May 1946.

	1946. Rs.	1947. Rs.
Coaching Traffic	86,75,000	88,54,000
Goods Traffic	73,34,000	67,07,000
Miscellaneous	2,29,000	2,12,000
Total ..	1,62,38,000	1,57,73,000

The approximate volume of passenger and goods traffic during May 1946 and 1947 are as follows :—

	1946.	1947.
Number of passengers (all classes) ..	6,331,000	6,047,000
Goods traffic (in tons)	603,000	533,000

Threefold Increase in Quinine Planned

New Factory Proposed at Anamalais

With a view to increasing the production of quinine, the necessity for which was very keenly felt especially during the war period, Government early in 1943 decided on the construction of a factory at Anamalais amidst the cinchona plantations. A special Public Works Department Division was formed for the investigation and preparation of plans and estimates. These were got ready urgently and in December 1943, Government sanctioned the construction of the factory at an estimated cost of over Rs. 20 lakhs. The Director, Cinchona, was requested to arrange for the execution of the work with the help of this department. A special division has been formed for the purpose and is functioning. The scheme comprises the construction of an up-to-date factory for the manufacture of quinine. The layout has been so arranged that the raw bark is received in the bark sheds, passes through the disintegrator, the mixing and digester sheds, thence into the crude and refined units, then into the drying and despatching shed, and finally into the tablet machine by which time the finished article is produced ready for being put on the market, in the form of quinine tablets. In addition to the factory, quarters are being provided for the estate labourers, clerks, typists, store-keeper, foreman, fitters, engine drivers, factory overseers, assistant chemist and manufacturing chemist. An up-to-date hospital with the necessary staff has been provided.

Several sub-works in the scheme have been done and at present most of the buildings required for the factory are in the completion stages. Quarters for all the staff attached to the factory have been built except for the labourers, overseers, assistant chemist and manufacturing chemist. Work on the quarters for the staff attached to the hospital is just starting. It is estimated that when this scheme is completed, the production of quinine will be increased from 40,000 lb. to 120,000 lb. a year.

Post-War Schemes for Water-supply and Drainage

The expansion of protected water-supply and drainage to all municipalities and for all places having a population of 10,000 and over has been included by the Government in their post-war reconstruction and development scheme. The full plan of this scheme is to be carried out within a period of 20 years. It extends over the whole province. It covers 82 municipalities and 167 rural units including schemes now in operation. The first five-year period of the plan is intended to provide for—

(*a*) the completion of 30 water-supply schemes and 7 drainage schemes under execution ;

(*b*) the execution of 3 water-supply and 3 drainage schemes sanctioned by Government ;

(*c*) the execution of 11 water-supply schemes and 3 drainage schemes for which plans and estimates are ready and for which sanction is awaited ; and

(*d*) the execution of 16 water-supply schemes and 6 drainage schemes which are in different stages of investigation and design.

Based on the above plan it was programmed to complete in the first year of the first five-year plan 27 water-supply and 3 drainage schemes. But this programme could not be adhered to for lack of staff and materials. Also the estimates for some of the schemes (which were prepared long ago) needed revision consequent on the increase in the price of materials and the need in some cases to meet the requirements of the Bhore Committee Report. The schemes could not, therefore, be aken up immediately for execution. Appreciable progress was therefore not possible in the first year, viz., 1946-47, of the first five-year plan. It is expected that better progress may be made in the second year of the first five-year plan as it is hoped that the procurement of materials and staff may become easier.

Questionnaire of the Harijan Welfare Committee

The Government have recently constituted a Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee with the Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development as Chairman. The Committee has been requested to—

(*a*) formulate a 5-year plan for Harijan Welfare in all directions such as providing free house-sites, fresh water wells, sanitation, education, etc., and to draw up an immediate scheme for the utilization of the sum of one crore of rupees set apart for Harijan Welfare work ;

(*b*) to put forward suggestions regarding improvements to the Harijan Welfare work undertaken by the Labour Department ;

(*c*) to enquire into and report on the progress of the enforcement of the legislative measures in this field, and

(*d*) to examine the possibility of extending the work of the Labour Department in regard to Harijans, to other backward communities.

The Committee met for the first time on the 10th July and decided to invite public opinion on the matter for arriving at conclusions and submitting their report to Government. All persons and institutions interested in this work are therefore requested to send their views to the Secretary, Harijan Welfare Committee, Secretariat, Fort St. George, Madras, before the end of this month.

A sub-committee will also be touring the Province and visiting important centres to collect first-hand information on all these matters. The tour programme of this Sub-Committee will be published in the newspapers and those willing to give evidence or make representations will kindly intimate to the Secretary so that they may be duly informed of the time and place of the Committee's visit to their area.

The following is the questionnaire issued by the Committee :—

Questionnaire

I. *Five-year plan*—

1. What are the items of work that you would suggest in addition to those mentioned in paragraph 1 (*a*) above ?

2. What is the order of importance that you would give them ?

3. Would you like intensified work in selected areas, or would you like the scheme to be as wide and comprehensive as possible ?

4. Would you like the Government to take up these schemes by bearing the entire cost themselves, or would you like it to be on the grant-in-aid basis so that more persons can be benefited ?

5. Have you any practical suggestions to make regarding (1) colonization of landless Harijan labourers and (2) assignment of lands to them ?

6. What would you suggest to relieve the present large-scale indebtedness among the Harijans ?

7. What is the present position of the subsidiary industries once prevalent amongst the Harijans and what would you suggest to revive and improve the same ?

8. How are the present living conditions and habitations of the Harijans and the medical help available, and what are your suggestions for improving the same ?

9. What is the present state of unemployment amongst Harijans and what measures would you suggest to reduce the same ?

10. What would you suggest for raising the present standard of living of the Harijans ?

11. Any special disability which may require the immediate attention of Government.

II. *Improving the present work of the Labour Department*—

What is your opinion of the following. Suggest any modifications or improvements :—

(*a*) Whether the present set up of the Labour Department is adequate for the purpose, if not what would you suggest ?

(*b*) The schools run by the Labour Department.

(*c*) The hostels run by the Labour Department.

(*d*) The subsidized hostels, their present working, accommodation, and living conditions.

(*e*) The scholarships, boarding grants, non-recurring grants, etc., given by the department.

III. *The effect of the recent legislative measures on the abolition of untouchability*—

1. Do you think the present measures are enough for this purpose or do you want anything more ?

2. Have they been able to achieve their intended purpose ? If not why not ? What would you suggest to remedy them ?

3. Are these measures properly enforced ? If not how would you like them to be enforced ?

4. What other measures or details would you suggest for the complete eradication of untouchability ?

IV.—

1. What other communities would you like to include for similar help to be extended to them in view of their backwardness and what is the nature of help you would suggest ?

2. Would you like both these kinds of work to be done by one agency or separate agencies ?

The Tellicherry Women Fishing Net Makers' Co-operative Society, Malabar

The Fisheries Department had in view, for a long time, the question of introducing the making of fishing nets as a subsidiary occupation for the Fishermen through the media of co-operative societies. The main obstacle in the way, however, has been the dearth of suitable men to work a society, if one was formed.

A society for developing cottage industry like net-making among fishermen requires persons who, not only have the capacity for managing the society, but also have sympathy for the backward members of the community. With the co-operation of Rev. M. F. Barboza, S.J., the Vicar of the Roman Catholic Church in Chalil, the Tellicherry Women Fishing Net Makers' Society was started on 16th January 1943. The Vicar was elected as the first ex-officio president and he continues as such to this day.

The society began with 20 members on the rolls. It steadily gained in strength and popularity. On 31st December 1946 there were 105 members with a share capital of Rs. 737. The paid-up share capital of members is

Children of the members of the women fishing net makers' co-operative society



not inconsiderable when it is remembered that the members are all poor fisher-women who devote only their spare hours for net making. The share capital is paid by them out of the wages earned in small instalments.

The yarn required for net-making is purchased by the society. It is given to the members and they are allowed to take it to their homes for making nets. The finished products are given to the society and the members are paid wages for the nets prepared by them. In the beginning, the society used to pay the local rate of half anna for every piece of net (Kadam vala) made, but now it pays Re. 0-2-3 for each piece and Re. 0-6-0 for every skein of yarn twisted. Generally, the members are able to turn out 29 to 39 pieces of Kadam vala for every two skeins of thread and are paid Rs. 4-15-6 wages for 30 pieces. This includes also the twisting charges. If a woman utilizes her spare hours properly in this cottage industry she is able to earn about 5 annas a day. Members are also given bonus from profits after the close of the year on the basis of the wages earned by them.

The members of the society generally prepare three kinds of nets, Kadam vala, Aila Chala vala and Telum vala. There is good demand for all these varieties, the largest demand being for Kadam vala. The total number of Kadam vala manufactured upto 30th June 1944 was 1,605, in the second year 1,705, and in the third year (upto 30th June 1946) 4,893; thus making up a total of 8,203. The society also prepared 71 Aila Chala vala and 621 pieces of Telum vala during the period.

The society is now well known for its nets throughout Malabar. Fishermen from all parts of the district go to the society to purchase the nets required by them. The prices charged are reasonable and the quality is high. The Fisheries department also has been patronizing the society whenever possible. The deep-sea fishing section alone has purchased nets to the value of about Rs. 1,000 from the society. The Director of Fisheries, Bengal, paid a visit to the society and was pleased to see its nets. Immediately on his return to Calcutta, he placed an order for 990 (Kadam vala) nets. The fisherfolk of Bengal were well satisfied with the quality of the nets supplied and the prices charged.

The society has certainly helped and afforded opportunity to many a fisherwoman to earn a few annas a day by making nets during her spare hours. Even such of the persons who have the time and the mind to manufacture nets are not in a position to do it because of the scarcity of yarn and the control exercised in its distribution. But the society being a co-operative institution, its yarn requirements are made available by the Textile Controller. The society has been serving not only the women by giving them subsidiary occupation, but also the men who go to sea to fish by making available to them good nets, which it is so difficult to procure now. The development of the society has been mainly due to the interest taken in it by its ex-officio president, Fr. Barboza. This cottage industry has been very useful to the women folk in providing work to them and enabling them to supplement the income to the family from fishing.

Hand-Made Paper Industry

Government's Efforts to Develop the Industry

The Government of Madras have been eager to develop the hand-made paper industry since the official year 1934-35. Demonstration parties were first sent throughout the Province to popularise the industry and they succeeded in their object of creating interest in the public with the result that many small concerns have sprung up. Later, efforts were made to introduce some modern labour-saving devices and implements.

In 1943 the Government decided upon a programme to develop this industry on a large scale. The appointment of a Special Officer for the hand-made paper industry and a Paper Specialist for the development of the paper and board industries in the Province, provided facilities to the public to receive technical advice in the matter of developing this industry. Besides the demonstration parties, the Government started model factories at Bezwada in the Kistna district, Gazulapalli in the Kurnool district and Bugga in the Cuddapah district. Being equipped with machinery, the Bezwada unit could declare this industry an economic success. Workers have been trained in this and other units in the new methods of lifting paper and manufacturing special quality papers which resemble machine-made papers in many respects. At Gazulapalli, much research and investigation was conducted on the utilization of various raw materials indigenous to the locality for the manufacture of different varieties of paper.

The industry was also introduced into nearly nine central jails with a view to give manual training to the convicts and to utilize their labour. Each of these jail units was engaged in the manufacture of a particular variety of paper,—rag papers, office files, envelopes, etc.

Further, the Government gave unhesitatingly all the assistance needed by private concerns, particularly those started under the co-operative system. Two units manufacturing hand-made paper on a co-operative basis at Vizagapatam and Chicacole were provided with water squeezing presses and paper-polishing calenders, which are some of the machinery essential to this industry. Messrs. A. & F. Harveys started one unit at Virudunagar attached to their ginning plant and manufactured rag papers of quality from hosiery cuttings. Messrs. Mettur Paper Industries, Limited, concentrated their attention on the manufacture of all kinds of rag papers.

During this period various problems had to be faced, particularly in the alteration of the methods of manufacturing rag papers into the modern.

The main problem was the raw material. In olden days, only waste papers were used as raw material. But paper that is manufactured out of this material can never be strong. All other materials were tried; and it was discovered at last that the only raw material that would make this industry permanent is rags in different forms, hosiery cuttings, cast-off garments, tailor-cuttings of single colour, etc.

The next important problem was that of the Vat, the tank from which paper is lifted. Suitable alterations were made for obtaining uniform sheets of papers. Various other matters like the procuring of proper paper-lifting frames, arrangements for embossing water marks in the frames, giving double shake to the wet sheet under formation, the couching of papers properly on couching tables, forming the "Post", the introduction of heavy screw-presses for squeezing out the maximum quantity of water from the wet sheets, the peeling off of wet

sheets from the napkins for the maximum shrinkage in papers, the reversing and exchanging of the surfaces of wet sheets pressing till they attain natural polish, the slow drying of papers in the shade, the maturing of papers in cool and dark corners for obtaining an even surface, and finally the polishing of papers by a hand-operated calendar, were tackled to some extent by the officers of the Department of Industries and Commerce.

The dawning of the post-war period is to witness still further development in this industry. The Hand-made Paper Industry has to stand on its own legs and not on grounds of acute shortage of paper or on patriotic motives. For this reason, the Government intend to start one model Hand-made Paper Mill in Madras with first-class implements to manufacture at least one quarter ton of high-class hand-made paper per day. The Post-war Reconstruction Scheme No. 114 envisages such a unit. It is the earnest endeavour of the Government to try and stabilie the various units by means of—

(1) Pressure digesters,
(2) specially designed tanks with perforated bottoms for washing,
(3) beaters,
(4) vats with agitators,
(5) heavy-screw presses or even hydraulic presses, and
(6) pealing wet sheets of paper from napkings.

The Government have also foreseen the possible developments in the industry and have arranged for a short-term course in paper manufacture for school teachers so that this industry might be taught in schools as a prevocational subject. The syllabus prescribed for the course comprises all the aspects of the paper and the printing trades. The manufacture of boards of different kinds is also included in the course. This course is designed to teach everyone who can read and write in one's own mother tongue, the rudiments of paper-making, so that one could develop the particular line of the industry which offers interest and prospects. An examination is conducted in theory and practical at the end of the course and certificates are awarded to all the successful candidates.

There is a great future for this industry if it is conducted under proper guidance. The industry is included in the syllabus of cottage industries for demobilized soldiers. Arrangements are also being made to develop these cottage industries including the hand-made paper industry among the villagers by propaganda vans, films, etc.

There is yet a lot to be done for developing this industry and allied products like paper textile cones, paper garments, paper discs for loud-speakers and paper mache products which are all made from cellulose or paper pulp.

Minister's Visit to Paper Factory

The Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao, Minister for Revenue, visited the Esvee Board Factory at Kodambakkam on Sunday the 15th of July. The Paper Specialist to the Government of Madras showed him round.

Amjikarai has for long had a name for its hand-made paper, and with the assistance of the Department of Industries, it is hoped that the factory will develop into a large-scale production centre.

Activities of the Provincial Broadcasting Department

The development of broadcasting in this Province had engaged the attention of the Madras Government from 1933. The Provincial Broadcasting Department came into existence in May 1938. In pursuance of the policy of rural uplift, the Madras Government, the pioneer in this enterprise, sanctioned the installation and maintenance of 103 receiver sets in the various districts of the Presidency at the cost of the Government supplemented by such voluntary contributions as were forthcoming.

To implement the Government's policy of rural broadcasting, arrangements were made for the appointment of staff, the supply of sets suited to the conditions of the Province and the selection of villages for installation of sets. Installation was taken up first in 1938 in districts where prohibition had been introduced or was proposed to be introduced. The people of the villages evinced much interest and enthusiasm over the amenity of this kind provided to them for the first time, so much so, many other panchayat boards volunteered to join the Government scheme by paying the recurring and non-recurring charges towards the installation and maintenance of rural receivers.

With the outbreak of war in 1939, there was a great demand for war news and so the Government offered to install and maintain 300 community sets in villages at a concessional rate of half the cost of installation and maintenance charges, as a measure to assist people in the interior villages to obtain latest information. The scheme was extended on account of demand for greater number of sets to a target figure of 500 receivers. In spite of the difficulty to procure sets and spare parts during the war, the department managed to obtain sets and installed them as fast as possible in as many number of centres as possible.

While the installation of 500 receiver scheme was in progress, the Government of India offered to Madras Government lease-lend American receivers free of cost, but on payment of out-of-pocket expenses covering the freight and handling charges, etc. Under this scheme, 568 sets were obtained from the Government of India in 1944 and these were suitably modified and got ready in the workshop of the Provincial Broadcasting Department for installation in the villages.

The number of radio receivers, etc., now working in villages, municipalities and other places is as follows:—

(i) Number of receivers in villages.	616
(ii) Number of receivers in Municipalities.	184
(iii) Number of receivers with Private Bodies and Government institutions.	74
(iv) Number of receivers in District Boards.	5

Wire Broadcast Systems installed by the Department are in operation in two municipal towns and in one sanatorium (to serve the patients distributed in various wards) in the Presidency and two more such wire

broadcast systems are pending installation in two other municipal towns.

The department has established 46 Radio Service Stations in the province. One Radio Supervisor is in charge of each Service Station and he is provided with the necessary test meters, tools, battery charging plant, etc., to attend to the repairs and charging of batteries of village radio sets put in his charge. Each Supervisor attends to about 15 to 25 radio sets depending upon their distance from his service station. In case of battery sets of the villages, the Supervisor sends through a battery peon a charged battery once in 15 or 21 days depending upon the type of set, and gets back the discharged battery from the village which was working the set till then. He charges this discharged battery once again and sends it to the village in due time thus keeping the set working two hours per day without fail.

The villagers listen to either Madras Short Wave Station or Trichinopoly Medium Wave Station depending upon whether they require Telugu or Tamil rural programmes. The sets are worked for two hours every evening.

In case any set stops working, the custodian of the receiver sends intimation to the Radio Supervisor who is in charge of the set, who proceeds to the village immediately and attends to the set. In case the set requires major repairs, the Supervisor installs a standby set at the centre, to provide service to the villagers till their original set is restored after repairs.

The province is divided into five circles and each circle is put in charge of an Assistant Radio Engineer. They supervise the work of Radio Supervisors, attend to any complaints or requirements of villagers with regard to working of the sets and conduct major repairs to radio receivers received from field Supervisors. The Assistant Radio Engineer periodically inspects the radio centres, contacts the villagers directly to know about their requirements and intimates the Radio Engineer at Madras every month of the reception conditions in the districts, the progress of work in maintaining the sets, and the reaction of the villagers to the programmes broadcast during the previous month and their requirements. Each Assistant Radio Engineer is provided with a laboratory well equipped with modern tools and testing instruments for servicing the sets efficiently and quickly.

The Radio Engineer to the Government of Madras is in charge of the entire work of the department and has a Central workshop and laboratory at Madras where initial testing, modification and assembling of equipment is made before it is sent to field for installation in villages, municipalities, district boards or other bodies. A central store of all radio components and spare parts necessary for repairing sets in the field is maintained by Radio Engineer and spares are supplied from this store quickly to field Radio Supervisors and Assistant Radio Engineers on their indents for supervising the sets.

With the help of the close organization of field and supervisory staff, laboratory and workshop facilities, this department has been maintaining more than 800 community sets distributed throughout the province, some of the centres being 20 to 50 miles from the nearest railway station or a good road and some in the interior of agency tracts which are reached after two or three days of journey from the headquarters of the Supervisor. Madras is the only province in this country to organize such public service of rural broadcasting through community sets on such a large scale.

The department has also been undertaking the supervision and maintenance of the wireless equipment of the Malabar Special Police and that of the Madras City Police. This department has also taken up the maintenance of the public address system of the Madras Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

A complete set of public address equipment is maintained by the department for use in public functions addressed by His Excellency the Governor or the Honourable Ministers. This department renders service to all the sister department of this Government who are interested in the installation and maintenance of wireless equipment, by way of expert technical advice and repairs and servicing to their equipment.

The department conducts in its Central Laboratory at Madras, standard tests on radio receivers and components as per R.M.A. specifications, if any, radio business houses or industrial concerns require their components or sets to be tested for this purpose, charging a small fee for it. This assistance to Radio Industry in this province has been possible on account of the well-equipped laboratory and workshop of this department.

Research Section

There is a research section attached to the laboratory and workshop of the Radio Engineer at Madras.

(i) *Provincial Research Schemes.*—Government of Madras through the Department of Industries and Commerce have sanctioned three studentships for research scholars that work in this laboratory. The Government have also sanctioned grants-in-aid for conducting research in these laboratories in addition to these scholarships.

Development and research work is being carried out on the problems of making loudspeakers, test-meters and meter units, community receivers, etc. These research schemes include the investigation on the scope of obtaining suitable materials available in this country and that are necessary to be imported from outside to produce these on industrial scale.

(ii) *C.S.I.R. (Government of India) Schemes.*—Under the grants provided by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Government of India, two Research Assistants with the workshop assistants are also working on two different problems (1) lead-acid batteries and (2) electrolytic condensers of interest to this department and to the radio industry in this country.

All the above schemes are conducted under the guidance of the Radio Engineer in the laboratory and workshop of this department. These schemes are organized and worked to provide necessary trained hands for radio industry and also to obtain results for starting industries for the production of certain radio components in demand in large quantities in this country.

These research schemes include the investigation on the scope of obtaining suitable materials available in this country and that are necessary to be imported from outside to produce these on industrial scale. The Research scholars who work in these schemes get trained in laboratory and workshop well and in carrying out work on independent problems. They form the basis of technical personnel necessary for starting any radio or electronic industry in this province.

Maintenance Scheme of the Department

All the 900 sets installed by the department have only been installed in villages and municipalities who had requested for them on their own initiative and on demand by the local public. The various municipalities and panchayat boards have provided the necessary funds for the initial cost of the sets and subsequent maintenance of them by the department.

The maintenance charges to be paid by local bodies are fixed by Government in such a manner that all the panchayat boards with reasonable income may afford to have a community set installed in the villages. The charges meet only part of the expenses incurred by this department to render this service, but still they are kept low to make this amenity available to as large a number of villages as possible.

The following rates are charged towards the cost of the radio set, installation charges and initial licence fee :—

	Lease Lend Radio Sets.	
	Mains.	*Battery.*
	RS.	RS.
(1) Panchayat board	142	300
(2) Private bodies.	300	300
(3) Municipalities ..	290	290

The following rates are charged towards the maintenance of the sets :

(1) *Panchayat Boards*—Rs. 90 per annum per set which includes cost of replacement, spare parts, batteries, etc.

(2) *Municipalities*—Rs. 120 per year (irrespective of the number of sets installed) only for serving, and the cost of replacement parts are to be met by the municipality.

(3) *Private Bodies*—Rs. 240 per annum per battery set and Rs. 330 per year for a mains set—these charges include cost of replacement parts also.

The above maintenance fees are exclusive of the annual licence fee.

According to the existing arrangements, both Madras and Trichinopoly Stations of the All-India Radio are broadcasting special rural programmes in Telugu and Tamil respectively in the evenings which include talks on rural subjects, market rates, folk songs, etc. The planning of the programmes is solely in the hands of the A.I.R. authorities. However, they co-ordinate with this department in so selecting the programmes as to suit the rural listeners, as per the technical and programme reports collected from the field staff of this department and supplied to the All-India Raio Engineer every month.

As there are not sufficient number of transmitters, rural programmes are broadcast at present only in two of the major languages, Tamil and Telugu.

The department has maintenance staff distributed throughout the province and as such even the remotest village is able to get this benefit of hearing the radio, which they cannot arrange to have by themselves as most of the rural areas are non-electrified and backward in all respects. The special advantage which the rural centres gain in the Government maintenance scheme is that they are charged on average only a third of what is actually incurred by the department to maintain their sets. Lastly, the department is giving a trouble-free and prompt service to the local bodies towards the maintenance of the sets, attending to the repairs, etc., promptly, so that the rural listeners are not deprived of this amenity even for a short period.

The aim of the department is to install in almost every village a radio receiver at as low a cost as possible and to provide the rural listeners with adequate broadcast programmes in all languages of the province.

You have in the above sketch a comprehensive view of this young department devoted to rendering a new type of service to the public and especially to those gentle folk who form 90 per cent of the population of this province, who live in remote villages and who have not the advantage of literacy to learn and understand by their efforts the latest developments that are taking place in the human history throughout the world. They have only the spoken word as their means of transaction with the neighbour either for business or recreation or normal necessities of life. It is this major part of our brothers and sisters that this department is devoted to serve by bringing to their knowledge anything that an up-to-date and literate city man can know at any time taking advantage of his city environments which are denied to the villager.

Now that you are acquainted with this department from next issue onwards, we will be giving information of what this department is doing and in return we shall be too glad to receive any suggestions from the readers to enable this department to serve the public better.

Statistics of Cotton Mills Production

Statement showing the statistics of production in cotton spinning and weaving mills in the Madras Province during the month of March 1946.

		Quantity.
		LB.
1. Cotton twist and yarn—		
Counts	1 to 10	336,762
Do.	11 to 20	7,008,154
Do.	21 to 30	4,882,643
Do.	31 to 40	3,170,230
Do. ..	Above 40	1,414,229
	Total ..	17,221,261

	Quantity.		
	LB.	YARDS.	DOZEN.
2. Cotton piece goods—			
Grey and bleached piecegoods.	1,211,147	5,036,607	..
Coloured piecegoods ..	1,397,534	4,306,054	..
Grey and coloured (other than piecegoods).	126,399	..	18,045
Hosiery	157,141	..	28,207
Miscellaneous	36,818	..	..
Cotton mixed with silk ..	..	..	..
Total ..	2,929,039	9,342,661	46,252

Statistics of Imports and Exports

I

Statement showing the Imports and Exports of principal commodities by rail into and from Madras Province during the months of April, May, June, July and August 1944.

(These figures are the latest available.)

Commodities.	IMPORTS. *April* 1944. TONS.	*May* 1944. TONS.	*June* 1944. TONS.	*July* 1944. TONS.	*August* 1944. TONS.
	(1) (2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Paddy	244	311	160	..	..
2. Rice	2,371	3,482	1,621	1,869	1,303
3. Wheat	..	..	..	..	20
4. Wheat flour	5	21	2	22	1,469
5. Grams	18,849	11,562	10,342	9,102	6,081
6. Jowar and Bajra	123	129	1,398	6,828	9,620
7. Castor seed	1,100	402	344	115	114
8. Cotton seed	685	1,944	4,483	5,381	4,135
9. Groundnut seed	3,632	4,541	2,863	6,013	4,045
10. Lin seed	..	..	1	..	..
11. Rape and Mustard seed	93	74	256	574	829
12. Til or gingelly	1,185	1,221	962	2,325	2,466
13. Oil cakes	2,653	2,091	3,247	3,889	3,040
14. Coconut oil	..	1	1	..	..
15. Groundnut oil	28	7	87	..	13
16. Vegetable oils excluding Groundnut and Coconut oil	281	181	98	111	277
17. Ghee	..	..	..	..	..
18. Salt	2,590	7,480	2,714	92	28
19. Sugar	591	2,018	2,734	3,971	4,682
20. Gur, Rab and Molasses	24	..	..	35	162
21. Coffee	173	122	189	180	304
22. Tea	60	103	63	62	40
23. Tobacco, raw	139	168	178	230	167
24. Hemp	428	567	966	213	56
25. Hides, raw	953	704	528	450	444
26. Skins, raw	458	589	689	716	568
27. Hides and Skins tanned or dressed	293	319	229	328	347
28. Cotton twist and yarn in lb.	1,502,290	1,948,937	844,334	1,090,779	1,330,166
29. Cotton Piecegoods in yards	13,339,476	13,177,100	19,248,240	18,982,911	15,309,190

Commodities.	EXPORTS. *April* 1944. TONS.	*May* 1944. TONS.	*June* 1944. TONS.	*July* 1944. TONS.	*August* 1944. TONS.
	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. Paddy	..	..	..	8	..
2. Rice	18	460	1,169	231	189
3. Wheat	80	788	782	1,098	2,568
4. Wheat flour	13	4	43	96	3,376
5. Grams	144	106	..	110	282
6. Jowar and Bajra	110	..	..	..	..
7. Castor seed	..	20	5	28	9
8. Cotton seed	97	193	1	11	36
9. Groundnut seed	2,178	3,519	6,140	6,582	9,194
10. Lin seed	..	3	..	4	..
11. Rape and Mustard seed	19	154	260	296	22
12. Til or gingelly	..	42	..	81	..
13. Oil cakes	1	..	..	54	956
14. Coconut oil	2,527	2,473	2,817	2,766	1,478
15. Groundnut oil	3,602	4,395	3,732	3,857	3,932
16. Vegetable oils excluding Groundnut and Coconut oil	67	154	102	297	44
17. Ghee	42	10	4	..	6
18. Salt	3,443	5,298	3,443	4,748	3,550
19. Sugar	1	1	2	1	1
20. Gur, Rab and Molasses	1,288	1,125	2,443	3,836	2,058
21. Coffee	57	14	207	16	56
22. Tea	747	557	512	579	410
23. Tobacco, raw	2,269	1,667	1,395	2,006	1,774
24. Hemp	73	19	9	14	46
25. Hides, raw	184	135	240	111	147
26. Skins, raw	218	166	43	86	98
27. Hides and Skins, tanned or dressed	30	72	247	748	350
28. Cotton twist and yarn in lb.	2,821,824	2,866,916	2,682,020	3,371,657	3,032,640
29. Cotton Piecegoods in yards	8,066,214	6,495,061	7,160,085	9,594,218	8,679,384

Book Review

"CONGRESS MINISTRIES AT WORK".—Congress Economic and Political Studies Series No. 2—By K. Mitra, Secretary, Economic and Political Research Department, All-India Congress Committee, Swaraj Bhavan, Allahabad—Price Rs. 2—Pages 110.

A year is over since the Congress assumed Office in eight out of the eleven provinces of India in April 1946. "Congress Ministries at Work" attempts a review of the activities of the Congress Ministries during the first year of their Office. This review is based on the authoritative reports furnished by the Publicity Departments of the various Congress Governments.

A careful perusal of the pages of this brochure will convince any unprejudiced reader that within the very short period of twelve months the Congress Governments have turned out a record volume of useful work. It must be realized that one year is too short a period to bring about a millennium in any field of social life. The period becomes altogether inadequate if we consider it in the background of the abnormal and hectic times we have been living in. Though the War is over, the stench and the smoke of the war still fill the air, and all the evil legacies of the war still sit tight like "The old Man of the Sea" on India's neck. In the new international set-up the problems of reconstruction have become exceedingly intricate and global in character and do not always admit of an easy or unilateral solution. Anyway reconstruction implies planning, and planning requires thought and discussion. All this means a lot of time. The year that has closed has, therefore, necessarily been a year of planning. The ground is thoroughly prepared for future action. Considerable time has been devoted to find ways and means, draft and introduce legislations, and set up the machinery to implement them.

Even in the work of planning, the Ministries have not been left in peace. There was always the ever-threatening problem of food and clothing which in happier times used to look after themselves, but which in the present context have consumed a disproportionate amount of the time and energy of the Ministers and the resources of the State. Moreover, the efforts of the Ministries have been hampered by communal strifes and the persistence of a heightened type of corruption—an aftermath of war, scarcity and inflation. However, with all these handicaps, the achievements of the Congress Ministries, as enumerated in the book under review, are impressive indeed. Immediately on assuming office the Ministries restored civil liberties and tried successfully to remove the barriers which impeded the free flow of normal political life. The Ministries have eased the Food situation by a successful drive for procurement

II

Statement showing the Imports and Exports of principal commodities by sea into and from Madras Province during the month of February 1947.

Commodities.	IMPORTS. *Denominations.*	*Foreign.*	*Coastwise.*	*Total.*
1. Paddy	Tons.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
2. Rice	"	Nil.	1,851	1,851
3. Wheat	"	22,698	..	22,698
4. Wheat flour	"	6,130	..	6,130
5. Grams	"	..	2,883	2,883
6. Jowar and Bajra	"	..	..	..
7. Castor seed	"	..	..	..
8. Cotton seed	"	..	96	96
9. Groundnut seed	"	..	8	8
10. Linseed	"	..	..	..
11. Rape and Mustard	"	..	..	..
12. Til or gingelly	"	..	53	53
13. Oil cakes	"	..	..	..
14. Coconut oil	Gals.	21,406	..	21,406
15. Groundnut oil	"	..	..	..
16. Ghee	Cwt.	..	2	2
17. Salt	Ton.	..	3,641	3,641
18. Sugar	"	..	..	..
19. Gur, Rab and Molasses	"	..	..	..
20. Coffee	Cwt.	Nil.	1,764	1,764
21. Tea	Lb.	50	16,462	16,512
22. Tobacco, raw	"	3,523	360,074	363,597
23. Hemp, raw	Cwt.	..	..	..
24. Hides, raw	Tons.	104	291	395
25. Skins, raw	"	10	169	179
26. Hides and skins (tanned or dressed)	"	6	16	22
27. Cotton, raw	"	446	2,636	3,082
28. Cotton, twist and yarn	Lb.	..	7,840	7,840
29. Cotton piece goods	Yards.	9,675	1,252,002	1,261,677

	EXPORTS. *Denominations.*	*Foreign.*	*Coastwise.*	*Total.*
1. Paddy	Tons.	..	..	..
2. Rice	"	..	..	..
3. Wheat	"	..	..	..
4. Wheat flour	"	..	..	..
5. Grams	"	..	..	..
6. Jowar and Bajra	"	68	..	68
7. Castor seed	"	..	..	..
8. Cotton seed	"	..	..	..
9. Groundnut seed	"	1,510	..	1,510
10. Linseed	"	..	..	..
11. Rape and Mustard	"	57	10	67
12. Til or gingelly	"	..	384	384
13. Oil cakes	"	..	304,685	304,685
14. Coconut oil	Gals.	749,977	72,742	822,719
15. Groundnut oil	"	..	..	..
16. Ghee	Cwt.	..	..	..
17. Salt	Tons.	..	..	..
18. Sugar	"	..	..	..
19. Gur, Rab and Molasses	"	..	..	..
20. Coffee	Cwt.	5,039	37)	5,479
21. Tea	Lbs.	2,603,258	668,935	3,272,193
22. Tobacco, raw	"	2,810,676	260	2,810,936
23. Hemp, raw	Cwt.	..	..	..
24. Hides, raw	Tons.	..	(Cwt.) 89	(Cwt.) 89
25. Skins, raw	"	30	..	30
26. Hides and skins (Tanned or dressed)	"	1,030	5	1,035
27. Cotton, raw	"	18	44	62
28. Cotton twist and yarn	Lb.	24,000	44,000	68,000
29. Cotton piece goods	Yards.	3,897,484	1,749,492	5,646,976

(Continued on next page)

and increased production and by checking corruption and black-marketeering. As agricultural efficiency depends on a sound land tenure, effective steps have been taken to remove the intermediaries between the tiller of the soil and the State and to introduce suitable tenancy legislation. Agricultural Departments have been reshuffled and irrigation policies have been reoriented. Distribution of agricultural loans, seeds and manures have been popularized. There has been a drive for resuscitating the dying village industries and crafts with a view to relieve the pressure on land and to raise the standard of living. To aid the industries, big and small, efforts are being made to generate cheap electricity through hydro-electric plants. Possibilities are being explored to make the villages self-sufficient in the matter of cloth by stimulating the hand spinning and handloom weaving. Each of the Ministries is pursuing with a crusading spirit the programme of liquidating illiteracy, drunkenness, untouchability and exploitation either in fields or factories. Producer-cum-consumer co-operatives are being developed to eliminate the middleman. Last but not the least, autonomous village administrative units are being built up, because the independence of the individual's personality and judgment demands decentralization of power, both political and economic.

As Sri Jugal Kishore points out in his preface to the brochure, "that some of the hardships consequent upon the retention of control are still weighing heavily upon the people is a matter of grave concern to the Congress Governments and every effort is being made to reduce these hardships by gradual removal of controls, and, if their retention for the time being is considered absolutely essential, to have them administered efficiently and equitably."

"The Congress derives its strength from the people. And "Congress Ministries at Work" shows beyond all doubt that the Congress Ministers are doing their best to be worthy of the confidence that the people in this country have placed in them."

(Continued from previous page.)

III

Statement showing the index numbers of import and export prices for the province of Madras for March 1947—

1. The index number of declared values of foreign imports declined by 14 points to 278.

2. The index number of declared values of foreign exports declined by 16 points to 275.

3. The index number of declared values of coastwise imports declined by 71 points to 301.

4. The index number of declared values of coastwise exports declined by 24 points to 328.

MANUFACTURE OF RUBBER SPONGES

Good quality rubber sponges are generally manufactured from rubber latex because its use results in uniformity of cells and good resilience, but the control of the process is more difficult than with para rubber. Attempts on the manufacture of sponges from para rubber have, however, not yielded sponges of the quality approaching that of sponges from rubber latex. Recently a new process has been discovered. This process implies a real improvement in so far as it enables the manufacture of sponges of uniform cells from para rubber with resilience approaching that of latex sponges. The process is further ideally suited for the manufacture of contraceptive or safety sponges for birth control purposes which used to be the exclusive monopoly of Germany in the pre-war days, and the fact that it employs para rubber instead of latex makes their manufacture rather more economic.

The Process

The process does not involve any specific change in the general technique now adopted for the manufacture of crude sponges from para rubber in various rubber factories. Its special feature is the composition of the mixture used in the manufacture and therein also specially the inflating agent.

Raw materials.—All the raw materials, including the inflating agent, are easily and abundantly available in the country and are generally those in common use in rubber factories.

Equipment.—The process is not supposed to be worked in a factory set up exclusively for its exploitation. It is most advantageously worked as an item of manufacture in any existing rubber factory, specially one that is already engaged in the manufacture of sponges. As such it would suffice to mention that the equipment needed is just the same as in ordinary rubber factories, i.e., mixing rollers, calender, volcanizer, moulds to suit the size of sponges, etc.

Costing

As the sponges are manufactured to comply with various specified standards, determined by the cell structure, no comprehensive cost sheet can be given. It would, therefore, suffice to indicate the prime cost of production per pound of sponges manufactured.

Again, the labour and power cost has been indicated on the basis of statistical information pertaining to medium sized rubber factories in general i.e., labour at 9 pies per pound and fuel and power at 1 anna 3 pies per pound of compounded rubber excluding depreciation.

	Rs.	A.	P.
Raw materials ..	1	3	0
Labour	0	0	9
Power and fuel ..	0	1	3
Cost per pound ..	1	5	0

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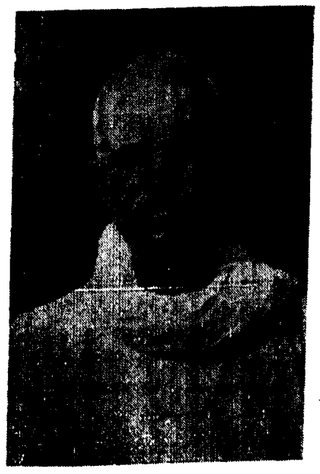
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Vol. I, No. 18 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" August 15, 1947

Looking Backward and Forward



LOOKING backward on this historic occasion over the long and hard road towards freedom that we have traversed, the first striking fact is the almost comparative ease with which we have attained freedom. Thanks to Mahatmaji and his creed of non-violence—our country has been able to reach freedom without the blood baths which have disgraced the freedom movements of other countries. We have attained freedom at comparatively lesser cost in loss of life and property. We have set a glorious example to the world and have established that freedom could be won by the method of truth and non-violence and that the method followed by other countries of war, murder, assassination and arson and devastation are not the necessary concomitants of the struggle for freedom.

LOOKING forward, we are struck by the enormous responsibilities which we have, of shouldering the responsibilities of a free country. We must try to be worthy of our great past and of our leader Mahatmaji. We should not allow internal quarrels to mar our political life. Our differences must be resolved by the method of discussion and persuasion. We must use this freedom to improve the lot of the common man. It is a well known fact that India is a land of villages and our freedom would not be worthwhile if we do not improve the standard of life of the villages. Our present day problems are shortage of food and clothing. This must be solved first and then we must provide the villagers with good roads, communications, water-supply, health services, education and other amenities of civic as well as civilized life. Only then would we be justifying the freedom which we have won. May God give us the strength and fixity of purpose to achieve this end!

—O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar

This issue includes, among other items, articles and messages from :

Acharya Kripalani.

* * *

Hon. Mr. O. P. Ramaswamy Reddiar
" " T. S. Avinasihlingam Chettiar
" " Kala Venkata Rao

Hon. Dr. P. Subbarayan
" Mr. B. Gopala Reddi

* * *

Hon. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
" Pandit G. B. Pant

Hon. Mr. B. G. Kher
" " Sampurnanand

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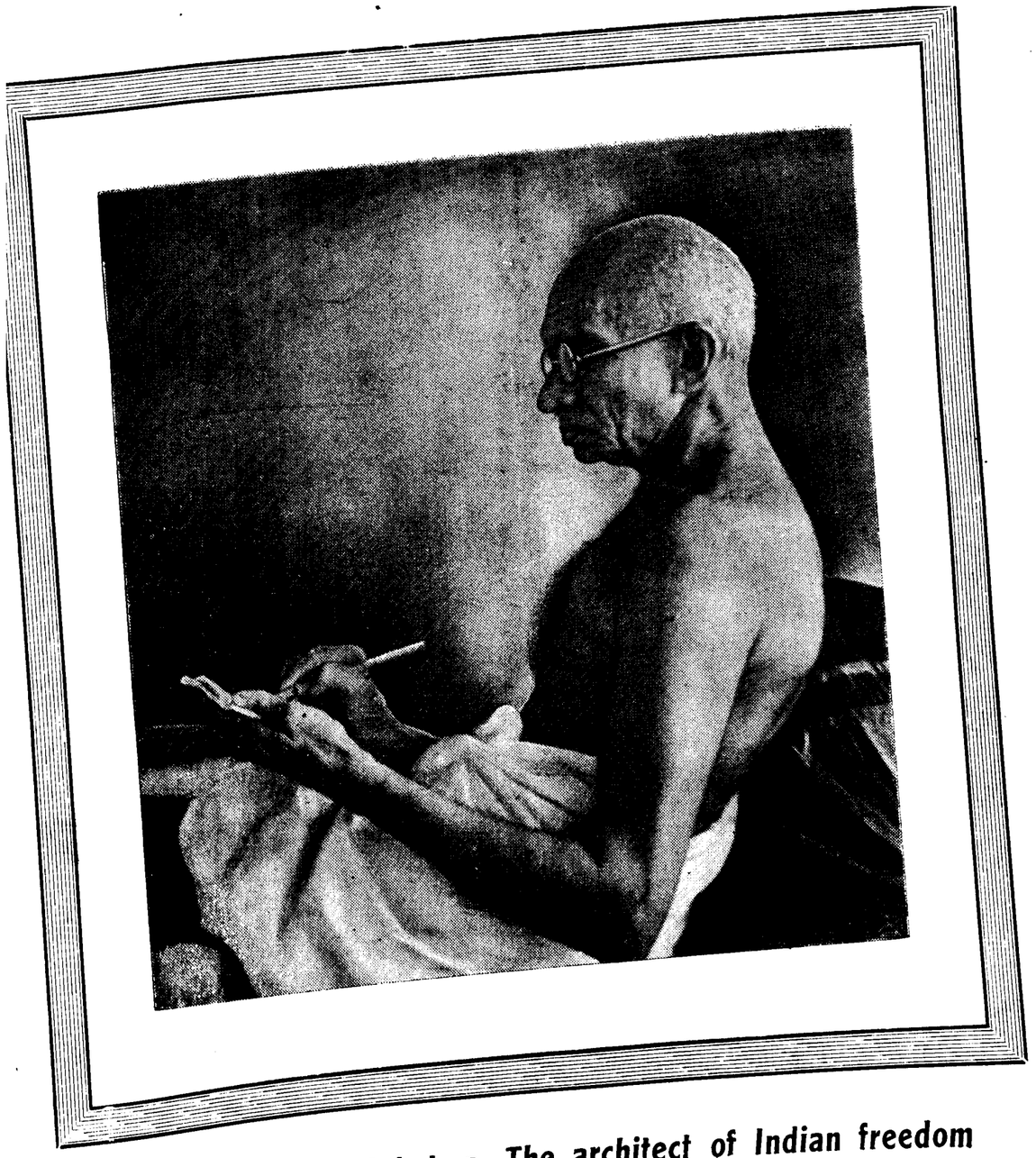
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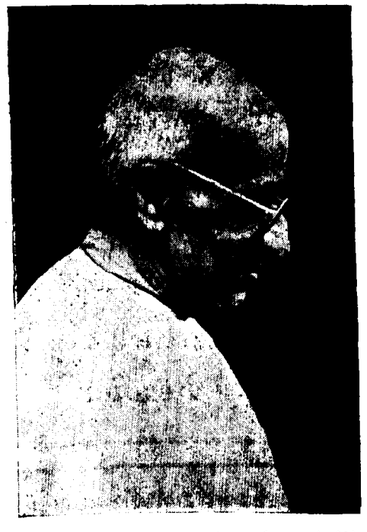
We Salute the Mahatma—The architect of Indian freedom

On the 15th of August we shall wake up as citizens of a free nation. This freedom has not descended on us overnight, but is built up by the selfless sacrifice of countless people who have struggled and died for freedom's sake. Let us then first salute these heroes, known and unknown, with affectionate gratitude and respect. Let us pledge ourselves to preserve this sacred heritage with untiring vigilance.

Freedom is not for a section, group or party but for the common people and for India as a whole. It behoves all of us, therefore, every man, woman and child, from now on to conduct ourselves in our everyday lives as responsible citizens of a free and proud country. Let each one think not only of himself and his individual gain but of his neighbour and let all of us learn to live and pull together, subordinating our personal and sectional interests to the good of the larger Whole. Thus can we help to build up the India of our dreams and make her once again, as in days of yore, the pride and glory of the world.

—ACHARYA KRIPALANI.

"PAKISTAN, young and energetic and commanding the unqualified support and co-operation of its people and of its civil service, has every chance of beating the older Government in constructive progress, if the fullest co-operation on the part of people and of all grades of Government servants in our Provinces is not accorded in the same measure as it is done in Pakistan. Friendly rivalry in efficient and frugal administration will, I hope, mark the immediate future of the two Governments. Political Freedom has been established and the task of patriotic effort in reconstruction has to begin. Self-Government is now a settled fact. What we have to establish and maintain is good Government. A new patriotism has to be forged for this, a positive effort in industry, co-operation and sacrifice in terms of honest toil and unflagging zeal in the public interest. The stables are large and very unclean. Herculean effort is required for the accomplishment of our task. Labouring for the nation with a smile on the face should be the feature of life for all men and women until honesty and industry become the confirmed habit of the nation as it is in other civilized countries, notably in the British Isles."



C. Rajagopalachari.

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MADRAS INFORMATION OFFICE 13 AUG 1947 MADRAS

Editorial

August 15

IN the annals of India, August 15, 1947, will be a memorable and historic day and will be celebrated in years to come as the Day of Indian Independence. Technically known as the "Appointed Day," August 15th is the day on which control over Indian affairs, which had been exercised for nearly a century and a half by Britain, will be transferred to the representatives of the Indian people. By and large it is one of the most significant acts of self-abnegation in history; and it is an event on which Britain can legitimately take pride and India as legitimately rejoice. It is a tribute also to the statesmanship and sense of robust realism of, besides many others, two great Englishmen, Mr. Attlee, the British Prime Minister and Lord Louis Mountbatten, the Viceroy of India. By their combined efforts they have translated an aspiration long held by Indians and long fought for by them into a practical and concrete reality. On the other hand it is the culminating point of three decades of continuous and unremitting effort on the part of Indian leaders, among whom the name of Gandhiji stands conspicuous and uppermost, and of the Indian National Congress.

THE division of India into two parts simultaneously with conceding the claim of India to freedom and Dominionhood undoubtedly extenuates the extent of rejoicing that we feel, but it is one of those inevitable accidents of history that must be taken for granted and accepted as a concession to inescapable necessity. If this consideration is adequately realized the feeling of tragicness associated with the transfer of power will be substantially mitigated. Subject to this, the passing of the Indian Independence Act can in fact be the starting point for the evolution of one of the greatest and most influential nations on the world map with a great and long history behind and a glorious future before her.

Extent of Change

IMMEDIATELY, the Dominion of the Indian Union will occupy a status similar to that of any other dominion of the British Commonwealth, such as Australia, South Africa or Canada. There is no limit to the authority and initiative that the Dominion Government can exercise in respect of the governance of the country either in regard to her external affairs or internal affairs. Sovereign authority vests in the Dominion Parliament and the Viceroy will be the constitutional Head of the State appointed on the recommendation of the Dominion Government. The one connecting link between the Indian Dominion and Britain, which we have voluntarily accepted, is the one provided by the British Crown. The Governor-General's special powers and responsibilities which covered a somewhat undefined but extensive ground under the 1935 Constitution Act will be eliminated and the Executive Government of the country will be carried on by the Dominion Cabinet responsible to the Constituent Assembly transformed into the Dominion Legislature. Admittedly this is a transitional arrangement. Not only is there no impediment or obstruction of any kind in the way of the Indian Dominion being converted into a Republic with no kind of external connection but actually and in fact the Constituent Assembly now in session is engaged in the formulation of a constitution which aims at establishing a sovereign Republic of that kind. At the same time there is nothing to prevent the Indian Republic from continuing her friendly association with Great Britain if she chooses to and if she feels that that procedure will be advantageous to her.

Provincial Sphere

IN the provincial sphere, there are going to be equally revolutionary alterations after August 15, 1947. All the special powers and special responsibilities, the powers of discretion and individual judgment vested in the Governors under the 1935 Act will be abrogated. The Secretary of State's control over the all-India services will be abolished and equally so the entire responsibility for safeguarding the interests of the minorities, and for maintaining Law and Order will come to vest in the Council of Ministers responsible to the Legislature. These changes which are consequential to the passing of the Indian Independence Act, mark the climax of the process of devolution of power, which began in the last quarter of the 19th century and the scope of which had been gradually extended and widened in 1909, 1919, and 1935. The powers of superintendence, control, and guidance exercised by the Government of India (now the Government of the Indian Dominion) over the provinces in respect of subjects in the concurrent list will continue, but the vital difference will be that the Dominion Government will itself be a responsible Government hereafter and is no longer subject to any extraneous control like that of the Secretary of State for India and the British Parliament.

ALL this is a tremendous transformation and its significance can be realised adequately if only it is considered in the context of the existing position on the one hand and the position which the other Dominions in the British Commonwealth occupy on the other. The word "Freedom" has, for many of us, a vague and indistinct connotation and since many Indians did not feel its imminence, they did not trouble to secure an exact definition of its content and meaning *vis-a-vis* their national aspirations and requirements. Freedom is now actually at our doors but many among the Indian people are apparently overwhelmed by a feeling of embarrassment at its advent, which has been so unobtrusive as to be almost imperceptible.

While it is true that freedom is a somewhat undefinable term, which is used by people who are subject to another people to express something enjoyed by those not similarly subject to domination, its content actually varies with the constitutional set-up in each country and the extent of the liberty that the individual can exercise in speaking, writing and expressing his views in relation to the dominant party or faction, which happens to be in charge of the Government of the day and the extent to which they are safeguarded against persecution for free expression of opinion. It may also be equated to the extent of the opportunities that one is permitted to possess to earn a living, to live a life of his or her own, to secure employment, to enjoy the minimum standard of life—in short, to ensure for himself the benefits of economic security and freedom from want.

Implications of Freedom

WHEN, therefore, we feel glad that India has attained freedom and is about to enjoy the privileges of a free existence, we cannot afford to forget that it means not only what has been mentioned above but something more too. What everyone of us means when we assert that we are free or enjoy freedom, there is something in it which is interlinked with our own individual and national character and requirements, something for which we must ourselves strive and for the achievement and preservation of which every citizen should contribute. After all a people can enjoy only that much freedom which they deserve. They cannot in any case claim that they are free to convert their liberty to act and speak as free men into a licence for promoting chaos and confusion or so to conduct themselves as to render freedom an incubus and a bug-bear instead of being something valuable and worth aspiring for.

AT the same time freedom must be regarded as a sacred trust demanding individual and collective endeavour for the promotion of the national good and the welfare of the common man, both of which instead of being mutually exclusive are mutually complementary and interlinked. It should be considered a heaven-sent opportunity which should be made use of by every Indian to render his own life and the life of his fellow-countrymen richer, more wholesome and more enjoyable than what has been the case so far. It must mean the end of exploitation of all kinds and the consistent promotion of the interests of the common man through the machinery of the political power, that, as a free-country, India will come to possess hereafter. When the flag of free India flies over our buildings, our offices, our ships and our planes, or when Indian delegations are sent to international conferences, they must symbolise the will and determination of the Indian people to advance the cause of world peace and humanity and the enthronement of truth, justice and fairplay on a high pedestal.

Beginning, not the end

THE freedom that has come to us must be regarded as the beginning and not the end of national effort. It should, in fact, be the starting point for greater, more intensive and more vigorous endeavours to transform what is merely technical freedom now into a real, effective and purposeful instrument for the promotion and advancement of the national interests. Freedom must not only broaden down from precedent to precedent, but also from one great act of reconstruction to another great act until we attain the same kind of national integration, oneness, compactness and completeness as other big nations in the world like the United States of America, Britain or Russia. Vast and important problems of reconstruction await the attention of the Dominion Government and the provincial Governments, which can be solved only by united endeavour, foresight, and by bringing to bear a broad and bold outlook on their execution.

OUR national strength has to be consolidated and built up from within; our national genius which has lain latent for so many decades must flower and bloom by sustained endeavour; and it is a task which demands not only the individual effort of every man and woman and child, but also the collective effort of the nation as a whole. It is for this purpose that the period of transition from Dominionhood to Republicanism should be intensively utilised. Nor possibly can national glory be achieved in isolation from the rest of the world. The "One World" idea may appear a remote possibility. But that national and international ideals in various parts of the world are becoming rapidly merged into one and that it is becoming increasingly impossible for any country or any nation to live an isolated existence apart from others is borne in on us as much by the irresisitible force of circumstances as by the inexorable needs of modern developments and conditions. The Indian Union must be nationally strong and virile before she can pull her full weight in the international sphere.

Indo-British Relations

IT does not seem essential or indispensable also that freedom for India should mean complete dismemberment of our long existing association with Great Britain. In retrospect, the Indo-British connection may appear a period of missed opportunities and regretful misunderstandings until the present Viceroy and the Prime Minister and other members of the British Cabinet imbued with an imagination denied to many of their predecessors, have realised that the favourable opportunity presented now should not be missed but that on the other hand it must be taken advantage of to place Indo-British relations on a footing of friendship, goodwill and mutual advantage On August 15, the curtain will be rung down on one era of Indo-British relations, and it depends as much on British statesmen as on Indian statesmen, whether it will be rung up on another and a more fruitful era of relations based on trust, goodwill and fellowship between the two countries in the service and cause of peace and humanity. One can only express the hope that even after India becomes a Republic, she may not completely dissolve her association with Great Britain.

The New Constitutional Changes

Sri Kala Venkatarao, Revenue Minister



Commending the Objectives Resolution to the Constituent Assembly, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru concluding his speech said: "I would beg of this house to consider this resolution from the prospect of the future and the turmoil of the present, and the great unborn future that is going to take place soon."

Based on these ideals the Indian Constituent Assembly is trying to forge a constitution that will not only suit the country for the present but also for the future. Till now India has been a unitary state and till 1935 the provinces enjoyed only such powers as were granted from time to time by the Central authority, in addition to those provided for in 1919. In the 1935 Act, greater control over the provincial matters was given to the provincial Governments. But on account of the special powers vested in the Governors, the provincial autonomy was still a moonshine. The break came earlier than anticipated on account of the Great War when the provincial Governments refused to take part in the war effort and under the guidance of the Indian National Congress demanded complete freedom for the country as a price for taking a share in the war effort. For practically seven years there was Proclamation under Section 93, and rule by the Governors in most of the provinces. Now when India is to be a Republic the problem arises whether it should be a unitary state or a federal one with all its concomitants. The whole problem is whether local sovereignity and national unity can subsist together. A strong authority is necessary in the Centre. Of course, there is the dread of setting up a tyranny, though with our present leadership it may not go to such lengths. But the constitution has to stand the test of years. Therefore in the framing of the constitution we should have a very long view taking into account possible political changes and changes in the ideological leadership.

"Via Media" Course

It is equally impossible to secure all rights of independent sovereignity to each of the units. Even individuals entering into a society must give up a share of their liberty to preserve the remaining share. The provincial units must surrender some of their autonomy in order to withstand attacks from outside. The constitution that is being framed at present takes a *via media* course about this. It would have been possible to entrust more powers to the provinces if India remained a whole and not split up into two sovereign dominions. Till both the dominions reunite,—as they inevitably must at a future date,—the *via media* course seems to be the best.

Under the new constitution the provinces will occupy a place of importance. In the list of provincial subjects we find many items that will go towards the rebuilding of the nation. I am constrained to remark, however, that the financial resources of the provinces will not be what they ought to be. Over this matter consultations are still going on at a top level at New Delhi.

The list of subjects in the Federal, Provincial, and Concurrent Lists being very exhaustive there is very little left for the residuary powers. It is still a matter of dispute whether these residuary powers, whatever they might be, should vest in the provinces or in the centre. The Constitution Committee recommended that they should be vested in the Centre. But it is very doubtful whether that will be the right course.

The provinces will become republics with their governors elected on the basis of adult franchise. In him will also be vested some special emergency powers. But there will not be any trouble because all the Governments will be popular ones and there will be no likelihood of misuse of such powers. He will be the constitutional head of the province and will be guided by the Council of Ministers.

British System Adopted

The British Cabinet system of Government has been chosen as the model for the Governance of the provinces and the Centre. Attempts were made to bring in the system of irremovable executive as in the American Constitution. Our association has been with the English Cabinet system of Government and it is the right type. The election of members to the Lower House will be on adult franchise. Probably some provinces will have an Upper House too. The constituencies will return members at the rate of one member per each lakh of adults. There will be no special constituencies. But there may be reservation of seats for some minority communities, for some time. Certain fundamental rights are guaranteed to every citizen and there will be no differences based upon property or status as between one citizen and another. Therefore, the whole fabric will be a new one.

I believe there will be no Madras Province with its present boundaries in the future. It is bound to be split up on linguistic lines. When this shall have been done, not only will the debates in the Assembly take place in the language of the area but also the whole administration may be conducted in the language of the province. Of course, for all-India purposes, Hindustani will be the official language.

With these changes in the basis of our constitution, we can expect that a new spirit will pervade the scheme of administration. We should not only make ourselves worthy of the new trust but also will have to make India an ideal country to live in. With our combined efforts India is bound to occupy a top rung in the comity of nations.

Our Task Ahead

Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education



Independence brings with it tremendous responsibilities. For good or for evil, the responsibility for this country is entirely ours. The task that we have to do is something very great. In this country, we have a population of nearly 300 millions to-day, i.e., in Independent India. It is a people, very poor, poorly fed, poorly lodged, poorly educated and in every circumstance far backward than many other countries in the World. Independence should mean relief to the millions of men and women who are craving for the barest necessities of life. This is a stupendous task. These cannot be won by mere slogans or by platitudes. Hard work, tremendous and continuous effort, these alone will solve the problem. Of late, the circumstances in this country have not been particularly encouraging. Our food situation has been deteriorating. The ration that we get is not sufficient for our necessities. The cloth position has not been very good. The need for houses is tremendous. Many of the professions in the lower scales are discontended and in the meantime, there is a terrible economic unrest. Labour is getting restive. Apart from the demand which they may make, the efficiency of work as well as the extent of produce has been going down and generally people are depressed. What is the solution for these problems ?

That these tasks are great and tremendous, none can deny. These great tasks can be tackled and solved only with a tremendous enthusiasm and by a supreme effort. The Government are striving their very best in this direction but unless the large numbers of people living in this country appreciate the Government's moves in the matter and co-operate with them, nothing much can be done. What we want to-day is tremendous enthusiasm and tremendous willpower and a tremendous joint effort at raising the status of the country and a tremendous increase in the produce of all things that are necessary for the millions of this great country.

The main necessities are rice or foodstuffs and clothes. Even now it is not too late to have a food production drive as well as a cloth production drive. I have no doubt that if the people of this Province will work with earnest co-operation and go in for a united action, these problems can be solved.

Till now, we have been dreaming of a great and glorious Independent India. We are getting our Independence and the question is how glorious we will make it. It is in the palm of our hands to make it glorious or otherwise. The question is whether the large body of men and women in the country will appreciate this state of things and do his or her best in that direction. I have great faith in them. Our children are some of the best in the World. They have both intelligence and industry and given the requisite training, they will become the best young men and women in the world. Our people are good-natured and noble and I have no doubt that with the coming enthusiasm of Independence, they will make a tremendous and huge effort at making a recovery so that India will occupy a great and glorious position in the comity of nations.

May God help us in this great task !

Governors in the Future Constitution

Sri B. Gopala Reddi

In the July Sessions of the Constituent Assembly two important matters, viz., principles of Provincial Constitution and of the Union Constitution were debated and disposed off. The Law Drafting Department will have to draft the Bill on the lines of those decisions which may come up before the Constituent Assembly in the October-November Sessions. In the August Sessions the Union Powers Committee Report, the Minorities Committee Report and the Tribal Areas Committee Report may be considered so that these decisions could be incorporated into the Bill.

I propose to give the salient features of the Provincial Constitution in so far as they relate to the Governor.

Naturally the first point to be decided in any constitution is with regard to the future head of the Province, call him Governor or President or by any other name. It was decided that he should be elected on the basis of adult franchise without the intermediate stage of electoral colleges. This is on the lines of the American State Governors' election. He is to hold office for 4 years. There was a lot of discussion about these matters and there were many suggestions put forward in this respect.

Some suggested that the Governor of a Province may be appointed by the President of the Republic in consultation with the Provincial and Dominion Governments. This suggestion did not commend itself to most people as it involved the nomination by the Centre which went against the basic principles of Provincial Autonomy.

The second suggestion that was advanced was the election of the Governor through the Legislature. The Legislature has to elect the Leader



H.E. Sir Archibald Nye

of the House who will be the Prime Minister and the real *de facto* executive of the Province and if the same Legislature were to choose the Governor, he will be from the same Party and with almost the same policies and programmes which in other words mean a superfluous adjunct to one another and the Governor will have to depend entirely on the Prime Minister without a personality of his own and ultimately he may reduce himself to the position of a creature in the hands of the Prime Minister. That was a valid objection and this suggestion could not commend itself to the House.

Election of Governor

The third suggestion was that he should be chosen by an electoral college specially elected for the purpose as in the case of the American Presidential election or by the Members of the Legislature and Members of the District Boards, Municipalities and University Bodies together, who will form the electoral college. This also had its intrinsic defects and objections and this too had to be given up. There were some who were not in favour of the election of a Governor on this popular basis because a Governor elected thus would naturally assume larger powers and would override the Ministry as he will be always conscious of his own majority in the Province and of the huge number of votes he polled while the Prime Minister is the Leader only of a particular Party in the Legislature and has been returned by only a small constituency.

Genuine misgivings

By a process of elimination the House had to adopt this election on a popular basis though many people entertained genuine misgivings about the popular election for a titular headship of the Province. Though his election is on the U.S.A. style his position is more or less on the U.K. style. This compromise between these two systems had to be done in view of the peculiar posision of Indian Provinces. Practically he will be a constitutional head acting always on the advice of his Ministers. In Provinces where there are two Chambers he cannot even withhold his assent to Bills passed by both the Houses, but where there is an unicameral Legislature he can send it back to the House with his own suggestions and if the House reiterates its previous decision he has to assent to it.

The Governor hereafter cannot act in his individual judgment as he is doing now under the Government of India Act, 1935. He will appoint a Provincial Public Service Commission and a Provincial Auditor-General—they have preferred the word "Auditor-General" to the existing "Accountant-General" —acting in his discretion and also make the appointment of Election Commissioners and Tribunals.

Emergency Powers

In a grave emergency he can usurp all the powers of the Legislature and the Ministry and can act in his discretion. There was very sharp difference of opinion in the House with regard to his powers in an emergency and the House registered its opinion against the Report of the Sub-Committee which was presented to the House by Sardar Vallabhai Patel. The Report contemplated that the Governor should merely report to the President of the Federation who may thereupon take such action as he considers appropriate under his emergency powers. The other view which was finally accepted by the majority was that the Governor being a popularly elected Governor he must have some authority to act in an emergency overriding the advice tendered by the Ministry. Others felt that this would lead to constant friction between the Governor and the Prime Minister and that this friction may cause a breakdown of the Constitution. While the Hon'ble Mr. Govind Vallabh Pant, Prime Minister of U.P., pleaded for the President of the Federation to act in a



The Hon'ble Sri B. Gopata Reddi

Provincial emergency, Mr. B. G. Kher, Prime Minister of Bombay, passionately advocated that the Provincial Governor should be vested with powers to act when a crisis threatened the Province, the ultimate decision being that a Provincial Governor will act and report the matter immediately to the President of the Federation and that what he does legislatively or executively shall have validity only for two weeks unless approved by the President of the Federation.

The last point that aroused a lot of heated discussion was whether the Governor to be elected should be a citizen of the Province or any citizen of the Federation of India, who has attained his 35th year. Reference to precedents in other Constitutions was made and several constitutional points were raised in this connexion and ultimately it was decided that he need not necessarily be a citizen of the Province, the ultimate safeguard being that the adult electorate in a Province will not ordinarily choose a non-Provincial. But it must also be open to them in special cases to choose an Indian of outstanding ability to preside over the Government of the Province.

Originally there was no provision for a Deputy Governor, but as an aftermath of the discussions among the Members of the Constituent Assembly it was finally decided to have a Deputy Governor who will be elected by the Legislature and who will act in the absence of the Governor.

August 15th will be celebrated as Independence Day all over India. There is of course regret that India has been divided; but I hope through division, we shall one day achieve unity. It is unique that this country should have attained its independence not by an armed revolution, but by agreement between England and ourselves. This certainly is Mahatma Gandhi's great contribution to the settlement of international problems through peaceful means. Gandhiji will always stand as the embodiment of peace, and this country should have achieved its freedom by his message of non-violence is a great tribute to the sagacity of our great leader.



Our minds go back to-day to many men and women who have sacrificed their all in the cause of country's freedom. Many Indians from all over India have fought this battle. We must remember to-day two Maharashtrian names, who led this battle for freedom, namely, Gopalakrishna Gokhale and Bal Gangadhar Tilak. Many Bengalee leaders like Chitharanjan Das and Surendranath Banerji also have contributed in this fight for freedom. Let us also remember Pandit Motilal Nehru whose son to-day befittingly leads the Dominion Government. Sir Tej Bahadur, who is still happily with us, though broken down in health, has contributed his knowledge of Constitutional Law towards this achievement of freedom. Let us remember Satyamurthi, Nageswara Rao and C. Vijiaragavachariar who contributed to the fight in South India; also our leader S. Srinivasa Ayyangar who laboured for the cause of independence. As a free country, the citizens will have their duties as well as their rights and I feel sure with our cultural background, freedom will usher a new era for India.

There is not much enthusiasm because of the division; but let us prayerfully on this day think of the union that is to come and the contribution India would make towards the achievement of world peace and world federation.

P. SUBBARAYAN.

The Future

SRI Alladi Krishnaswami Iyer

The 15th of August 1947 is a great day in the history of India, being the day of emancipation of an ancient people from foreign domination for over a century and a half. It marks the crowning achievement of the long struggle for freedom fought under the banner of successive political leaders, the greatest of whom is of course Mahatma Gandhi, under whose leadership for the last 27 years the country has fought its way to complete freedom with the weapon of non-violence.

But freedom carries with it its own responsibilities. No longer will it be possible for those at the helm of affairs to plead foreign rule and the shackles imposed by it as a reason for the poverty and distress in the country and for the economic ills to which we are subject. At the same time, the average citizen must realize that it is not possible for the National Government to bring a new heaven on earth over night. It is the bounden duty of every citizen in this country to help the new administration with well-informed and instructive criticism as it is the duty of the Government to seek enlightenment from every quarter. The change over from opposition to the responsible task of administering the affairs of this country is by no means such an easy task as it might be imagined. The next few years will be eventful in the history of our country. Some of us of the older generation might not be able to realize the magnitude of the changes that are coming on and there may be a tendency in us to still think in terms of the past and of a by-gone age. The lawyer, the judge, the politician, the government servant and the average citizen will have to tune themselves to the new conditions and learn to think and speak in a different language and in different terms. Questions which assumed importance in a struggle with a foreign power and under a foreign administration must naturally lose their importance under the new dispensation. The Police Force, the military arms of Government and even the civil service, which the people were prone to regard with distrust and supicion as instruments of a foreign rule, will henceforward have to turn themselves into efficient instruments of national service. The citizen must also be trained to regard them as such.

English cannot occupy the same place in our national life as hitherto, as the medium of knowledge and communication of ideas. The education of our masters, the electorate, would have to be in their own tongue. That of course does not mean that we can afford to neglect the new currents of world thought or the advancement of scientific knowledge if India is to keep pace with the rest of the world and deserve a place of honour and distinction in the comity of nations. It cannot be denied that English is one of the great languages of the world and in international gatherings and foreign contracts for a long time we may have to use English as the medium of expression and of thought.

In pondering over the status of India under the Indian Independence Act or under any republican constitution that may be framed by the Constituent Assembly as a sovereign body, it is as well to remember that a constitution is after all what the people make of it. An instrument of Government is but the expression of the national will and its potency for good depends principally upon the people that work it and not upon any research or scholarship brought to bear by those who are engaged in the task of framing the constitution. The patriotism and the spirit of sacrifice that have been up till now harnessed to fight the battle for freedom, have to be pressed into service in the task of constructive national effort and nation-building activities. The history of freedom movements in other countries shows that unless a nation bends its energies in a new direction, the freedom that was achieved might not bring out the expected results.



Photo shows a group of trainees taking the accelerated course in spinning in the Khadi Vidyalaya at Masulipatam. Out of the 40 students admitted, 32 have passed out. Of these 16 are women, 2 Muslims, 3 members of the Scheduled castes and 3 Christians. The total turn-over in spinning was 1,268 hanks.

Meaning of Freedom

(Contributed)

August 15, the date on which the British Government have decided to transfer power to India, will go down in India's history as a historic day. On that day India, which had been under the domination of the British for nearly a century and a half, attains the status of an independent country.

We are thus on the threshold of freedom—freedom which we have not enjoyed for a number of decades, for which we have been striving for more than half a century, and for which many of our countrymen have suffered and sacrificed. On an important occasion like this it is necessary for Indians to understand clearly the significance and value of the freedom we are getting and the responsibilities that the transfer of power imposes on all of us.

It has often been said that freedom cannot come as a gift from one country to another—but that it must be fought and won. India fought for her freedom, as already pointed out, for more than half a century; but, curiously enough, when we are actually going to get it, it appears as though it has come as a gift from Britain. It has come so suddenly in fact that many of us are not mentally prepared to receive it with the enthusiasm that the occasion calls for and to understand what it means to us.

According to the provisions of the Indian Independence Act passed recently by Parliament, two Dominions have been created and will come into being in India, one Pakistan, and the other the Indian Union. Under the Dominion Status constitution which is going to be inaugurated on August 15, the Dominion of the Indian Union has been placed on a par with the other Dominions and with Great Britain herself so far as her political, constitutional and international status is concerned. It means that the two Dominions created in India are independent in every aspect of their internal and external affairs and that they accept the British connection only to the extent that they are part of the British Commonwealth of Nations, in which the connecting link is the British Crown. Apart from this, all the Dominions are equal in status to one another and equal to Britain herself. It also vests all authority so far as the management of the Dominion affairs are concerned in the hands of the Dominion Governments and in those of the Provincial Governments and eliminates the responsibility of the British Parliament for the government of this country. The Parliaments of the Indian Union and Pakistan will be supreme legislative bodies and can pass laws concerning all matters of public welfare and the governance of the respective dominion. Above all, it vests in the two Dominions freedom either to remain in or leave the British Commonwealth as and when they choose. The new constitution that is being framed by the Constituent Assembly is a constitution for India's independence, and when it is finally approved and put into effect, it may be followed by the conclusion of a treaty of friendship between India and Britain as two independent sovereign countries.

It is true that we are on the threshold of our country's freedom; but at the same time it is necessary that everyone of us individually, and all of us collectively, should realise the fact that freedom imposes heavy responsibilities on the people concerned. Withdrawal of British power from India is of course the first step in the attainment of this freedom. But it also means that it imposes on us the right and the duty of managing our own affairs, running our own Government, defending our country against foreign enemies, conducting our foreign relations and entering into friendly diplomatic relations with other nations of the world. It must be understood that we can no longer have the British to guide or assist us in all these matters.

In order to discharge these national responsibilities and duties, the Indian people must be fully organized, united, intelligent and capable of understanding, directing and managing their own affairs. The people must acquire the intellectual and moral capacity necessary to run their own Government on the basis of self-help. They must strengthen the foundations of their social and economic structure, and above all, they must learn to think and act unitedly and without discordant or jarring voices. Freedom also imposes on us the necessity to educate ourselves so that everyone can equip himself to discharge the functions and duties of a citizen of the Indian Union. There must be a substantial rise in the standard of our living, which can come only from industrial development and the development of our natural, national resources.

Over and above all these, the dawn of freedom means that we are put on our trial as a nation. We had no time to think of it so far, but now that we have attained our freedom, we must as quickly as possible, cultivate our national character so that we can stand before other nations and proclaim that the people of the Indian Union are a people with character and a moral backbone. This is very essential because during the period of foreign domination our national morale and moral standards have deteriorated considerably and we have lost faith in ourselves, and lost our national individuality and characteristics. During the last 30 years of the freedom struggle conducted under the auspices of the Indian National Congress and under the leadership of Gandhiji, there has been undoubted improvement in this direction, but the spirit has not permeated our masses. During the first few years of freedom, it will be the first and foremost duty of the Government of the Indian Union and of the provinces to instil in the masses a sense of individual and national self- respect and extricate them from the morass of degradation, poverty and ignorance.

The above are all the necessary and inevitable incidents of the attainment of freedom. Many times we were told by Gandhiji and other leaders that attainment of freedom is onething but its preservation is another. It is a time of test for the Indian people. It is a time of test for them as to whether they can manage their own affairs and maintain in tact the freedom which they have gained after so many years of struggle. It is also a time of test for the leaders of the Indian people whose duty it is to provide all the opportunities necessary to enable the masses to attain economic independence along with political independence and to enable them to cultivate a sense of moral and economic security. Freedom from British control must also mean for every Indian enjoyment of freedom from want, freedom from fear, freedom of association and freedom from war. Let us hope that now that we are free we shall very soon develop ourselves as a nation and raise ourselves in the estimation of the world and contribute to the peace and prosperity of the world at large.

August 15—Herald of A New Era

Sri Sampurnanand, Minister for Education, United Provinces

The Working Committee of the Congress has decided that August 15 shall be observed as a National Holiday and a day of rejoicing. In coming to this decision, the Committee has given expression to the wishes of the vast majority of thinking Indians.

I wish I could have said 'all' in place of vast majority. But unfortunately there is a section of our countrymen which wishes to treat this day as a day of mourning.

They are of the opinion that the partition of the country is an event so painful and so fraught with potentialities of future trouble that there is no occasion for rejoicing. There is no denying the fact that the partition of the country is painful to us. Those of us who have striven, each in his own place, for the independence of the country cannot contemplate this fact of partition without a violent wrench at the heart. A truncated India was not the object of our dreams and aspirations. True, over fairly long periods of its history, the country was divided into a number of independent States. But all down the ages, and through our traditions, ran the unifying thread of a common culture. Now that cord is being snapped. The seceding parts will be professedly developed on the basis of a culture that derives sustenance from alien sources. A high wall, much stronger than merely political lines of demarcation is being deliberately built between the two parts. Our homeland, the cradle of our race and its traditions, Brahma varta and Brahmarshi desh, the country that lies between Sindhu and Saraswati will be lost to us. We cannot reconcile ourselves to this without a pang. There is the hope and the wish and the prayer that somehow, sometime, the two parts shall again come together but the how and the when are literally in thelap o f the gods.

We know also that such a decision is a source of great weakness. The relations between India and Pakistan may, let us hope, will be cordial; on the other hand they may become strained. This will create a very embarrasing situation for both the States. India, for instance, will have large pockets of Muslim population whose sympathies may possibly go to the other State which claims go to be a Muslim State. But even if such a contingency never arises, the problem of defence will be a very difficult one. India has been strong during those periods when there has been a strong central Government to direct her defences. Our frontiers lie across the Khyber. The defence from external aggression will now be in the hands of the Government of Pakistan. We cannot afford to take risks. India will have to build up a strong and expensive system of defence all along the imaginary frontier that separates her from Pakistan.

We know all this. It is enough to make the heart heavy. Still there is no justification for losing all sense of proportion. We are now getting back an opportunity which we lost when Prithwiraj lost the battle of Thaneswar to Mohammad Ghori. On that fatal day India lost not only a battle but, what was infinitely more serious, she almost lost her soul. This is no exaggeration. The history of our science and philosophy amply bears this out. This great land has made no contributions to the world of thought for the last ten centuries. The establishment of foreign rule ushered in the age of commentaries, when scholarship consisted merely in hair-splitting logic and the painful weaving of doubtful meanings around half-forgotten and ill-understood ancient texts. The holy expression which creative genius found for itself was in the domain of poetry, but a study of this poetry is itself a revealing proof of the truth of what I have said. Much of it is erotic, symptomatic of escapism from an unpleasant reality into a domain of fancy and sense pleasure. The rest is inspired by Bhtaki. I shall not say anything about the spiritual value of Bhakti but it is significant that this variety of spiritual thought and practice flourishes only among the lowly and the downtrodden. The soul seeks, and finds, solace not so much in communion with, as in supplication to, God. One has only to compare and contrast the works of our Bhakta poets with the hymns of the Vedas and the vigorous creations of the Sanskrit religious writers who lived in an age when the land was free.

The country has now come into its own. We have the opportunity now to give full scope to our national genius and enrich the world's store-house of knowledge and thought, to develop along the lines inspired by our cultural heritage. There is no foreign rule to strangle us; let us rise now to our full stature, materially, morally, spiritually. Let us also remember that the strength, prosperity and fullness of life of our India will be the surest means of bringing back to us the part that has been torn away from us.

It may be that those who talk of a day of mourning hope to reap some petty political advantage from this stunt. I am sure the country at large will not be deceived by these tactics. But if they must mourn, let them do so in the privacy of their own homes; their prayerful tears may bring them wisdom.

It is a great day. It will usher in the great India of tomorrow, free and independent, the India that will be the greatest bulwark of freedom and justice, the noblest champion of tolerance and international honesty, an India whose sympathies have been broadened and chastened by her own travail and sufferings. Let us on this great day pay homage to all those men and women, so many of them unknown to fame, whose sacrifices have made this event possible. It is rarely given to men to witness the dawn of such a great day. Let us rejoice that we live to see it.

Independence Day Celebration

The public are aware that the 15th of August, 1947, is the day fixed for the transfer of power from British to Indian hands. The Government consider that the 15th of August as well as the 16th of August should therefore be celebrated in a suitable manner by all sections of the people in order to demonstrate their rejoicing. The Government therefore feel that it would be a fitting and proper gesture on the part of managements of all mills, factories and tea and coffee plantations in the Province to grant holidays with wages on the 15th and 16th of August to all their labour and to illuminate the premises of all institutions under them with suitable flood-lighting and other means.

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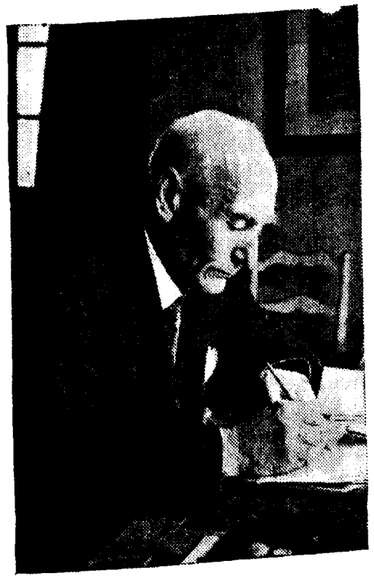
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The Indian Independence Bill

The following is the full text of the Indian Independence Bill which was introduced in the British Parliament on July 4.



Lord Pethick Lawrence

The first section of the Bill states that as from August 15, 1947 two independent Dominions shall be set up in India, to be known as India and Pakistan.

Section 2 sets out the limits of the territory of Pakistan, gives certain areas the right to join either Dominion, and Indian States the right to accede to either Dominion.

Section 3 deals with the division of Bengal into East and West Provinces (and the first schedule of the Bill sets out in detail the districts which comprise the two Provinces).

The following are the further clauses of the Bill (Sections of the 1935 Government of India Act which are affected by the provisions of the new Act are indicated in brackets after the clauses concerned):

Section 5: For each of the new Dominions, there shall be a Governor-General who shall be appointed by His Majesty and shall represent His Majesty for the purpose of the Government of the Dominion:

Provided that, unless and until provision to the contrary is made by a law of the Legislature of either of the new Dominions, the same person may be Governor-General of both the new Dominions. (Section 3, Government of India Act, 1935.)

Section 6, Sub-section 1: The Legislature of each of the new Dominions shall have full power to make laws for that Dominion, including laws having extra-territorial operation.

Sub-section 2: No law and no provision of any law made by the Legislature of either of the new Dominions shall be void or inoperative on the ground that it is repugnant to the laws of England, or to the provisions of this or any existing or future Act of Parliament under any such Act, and the powers of the Legislature of each order, rule or regulation in so far as it is part of the law of the Dominion.

Sub-section 3: The Governor-General of each of the new Dominions shall have full power to assent in His Majesty's name to any law of the Legislature of that Dominion and so much of any Act as relates to the disallowance of laws by His Majesty, or the reservation of laws for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure thereon, or the suspension of the operation of laws until the signification of His Majesty's pleasure thereon shall not apply to laws of the Legislature of either of the new Dominions. Section 32, Government of India Act, 1935.)

Sub-section 4: No act of Parliament of the United Kingdom passed on or after the Appointed Day shall extend or be deemed to extend, to either of the new Dominions as part of the law of that Dominion unless it is extended thereto by a law of the Legislature of the Dominion.

Sub-section 5: No Order-in-Council made on or after the Appointed Day, and no order, rule or other instrument made on or after the Appointed Day under any such Act by any United Kingdom Minister or other authority, shall extend or be deemed to extend, to either of the new Dominions as part of the law of that Dominion. (Section 43, Government of India Act, 1935.)

Sub-section 6: The power referred to in sub-section one of this section extends to the making of laws limiting for the future the powers of the Legislature of the Dominion.

King's title changed

Section 7, *Sub-section* 1: As from the Appointed Day—(*a*) His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom have no responsibility as respects the Government of any of the territories which, immediately before that day, were included in British India.

(*b*) The suzerainty of His Majesty over the Indian States lapses, and with it, all treaties and agreements in force at the date of the passing of this Act between His Majesty and the Rulers of Indian States, all functions exercisable by His Majesty at that date with respect to Indian States, all obligations of His Majesty existing at that date towards Indian States or the Rulers thereof and all powers, rights, authority or jurisdiction exercisable by His Majesty at that date in or in relation to Indian States by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or otherwise.

(*c*) There lapse also any treaties or agreements in force at the date of the passing of this Act between His Majesty and any persons having authority in the Tribal Areas, any obligations of His Majesty existing at that date to any such persons with respect to the Tribal Areas, and all powers, right, authority, or jurisdiction exercisable at that date by His Majesty in or in relation to the Tribal Areas by treaty, grant, usage, sufferance or otherwise, provided that, notwithstanding anything in paragraph (*b*) or paragraph (*c*) of this sub-section effect shall, as nearly as may be, continue to be given to the provisions of any such agreement as is therein referred to which relate to customs, transit and communications, posts and telegraphs, or other like matters, until the provisions in question are denounced by the Ruler of the Indian State or person having authority in the Tribal Areas on the one hand, or by the Dominion or Province or other part thereof concerned on the other hand, or are superseded by subsequent agreements. (Section 8, Government of India Act, 1935.)

Sub-section 2: The assent of the Parliament of the United Kingdom is hereby given to the omission from the Royal style and titles of the words,

"India Imperator" and the words "Emperor of India", and to the issue by His Majesty for that purpose of his Royal Proclamation under the Great Seal of the Realm.

Interim Government

Temporary provision as to Government of each of the new Dominions.

Section 8, sub-section 1: In the case of each of the new Dominions, the powers of the Legislature of the Dominion shall, for the purpose of making provision as to the Constitution of the Dominion, be exercisable in the first instance by the Constituent Assembly of that Dominion, and references in this Act to the Legislature of the Dominion shall be construed accordingly.

Sub-section 2: Except in so far as other provision is made by, or in accordance with a law made by the Constituent Assembly of the new Dominion under sub-section 1 of this section, each of the new Dominions and all Provinces and other parts thereof shall be governed as nearly as may be in accordance with the Government of India Act of 1935; and the provisions of that Act or of the orders-in-Council, rules and other instruments made thereunder, shall so far applicable, and subject to any express provisions of this Act, and with such omissions, additions, adaptations and modification as may be specified in orders of the Governor-General under the next succeeding section have effect accordingly.

Provided that—

(a) The said provision shall apply in relation to each of the new Dominions and nothing in this sub-section shall be construed as continuing on or after the appointed day any Central Government or Legislature common to both the new Dominions;

(b) Nothing in this sub-section shall be construed as continuing in force on or after the Appointed Day any form of control by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom over the affairs of the new Dominions or of any province or other parts thereof.

(c) So much of the said provisions as requires the Governor-General or any Governor to act in his discretion or exercise his individual judgment as respects any matter shall cease to have effect as from the Appointed Day;

(d) As from the Appointed Day, no Provincial Bill shall be reserved under the Government of India Act,



Mr. A. V. Alexander

1935, for the signification of His Majesty's pleasure, and no Provincial Act shall be disallowed by His Majesty thereunder;

(e) The powers of the Federal Legislature or Indian Legislature under that Act, as in force in relation to each Dominion, shall in the first instance be exercisable by the Constituent Assembly of the Dominion in addition to the powers exercisable by that Assembly under sub-section 1 of this section.

Sub-section 3: Any provision of the Government of India Act, 1935, which has applied to either of the new Dominions by sub-section 2 of this section and the orders therein referred to, operates to limit the power of the Legislature of that Dominion shall, unless and until other provision is made by or in accordance with a law made by the Constituent Assembly of the Dominion in accordance with the provisions of sub-section 1 of this section, have the like effect as a law of the Legislature of the Dominion limiting for the future of the powers of that Legislature. (Sections 9, 32, 54, Government of India Act, 1935.)

Powers of the Governor-General

Section 9, sub-section 1: The Governor-General shall by order make such provision as appears to him to be necessary or expedient:

(a) For bringing the provisions of this Act into effective operation;

(b) For dividing between the new Dominions, and between the new Provinces to be constituted under this Act, the powers, rights, property, duties, and liabilities of the Governor-General-in-Council, or as the case may be, of the relevant Provinces which, under this Act are to cease to exist;

(c) For making omissions from, additions to, and adaptations and modifications of the Government of India Act, 1935, and the orders-in-Council, rules and other instruments made thereunder in their application to the separate new Dominions;

(d) For removing difficulties arising in connexion with the transition to the provisions of this Act;

(e) For authorizing the carrying on of the business of the Governor-General-in-Council between the passing of this Act and the Appointed Day otherwise than in accordance with the provisions in that behalf of the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935;

(f) For enabling agreements to be entered into, and other acts done, on behalf of either of the new Dominions before the appointed day;

(g) For authorizing the continued carrying on for the time being on behalf of the new Dominions, or on behalf of any two or more of the said new Provinces, of services and activities previously carried on on behalf of British India as a whole or on behalf of the former Provinces which those new Provinces represent;

(h) For regulating the monetary system and any matters pertaining to the Reserve Bank of India; and

(i) So far as it appears necessary or expedient in connexion with any of the matters aforesaid, for varying the constitutional powers or jurisdiction of any Legislature, court or other authority in these new Dominions and creating new legislatures, courts, or other authorities there.

Sub-section 2: The powers conferred by this section on the Governor-General shall, in relation to their respective Provinces, be exercisable also by the Governors of the Provinces which under this Act are to cease to exist; and those powers shall, for the purposes of the Government of India Act, 1935, be deemed to be matters as respects which the Governors are under that Act to exercise their individual judgment. (Section 54, Government of India Act, 1935.)

Sub-section 3: This section shall be deemed to have had effect as from the 3rd day of June 1947, and any order of the Governor-General or any Governor made on or after that date as to any matter shall have effect accordingly and any order made under this section may be made so as to be retrospective to any date not earlier than the said third day of June: provided that no person shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence by reason of so much of any such order as makes any provision thereof retrospective to any date before the making thereof.

Sub-section 4: Any order made under this section, whether before or after the appointed day, shall have effect (a) up to the appointed day, in British India; (b) on and after the appointed day, in the new Dominion or Dominions concerned; and (c) outside British India, or as the case may be, outside the new Dominion or Dominions concerned to such extent whether before on or after the appointed day, as a law of the Legislature of the Dominion or Dominions concerned would have on or after the appointed day, but shall, in the case of each of the Dominions, be subject to the same powers of repeal and amendment as laws of the Legislature of that Dominion.

Sub-section 5: No order shall be made under this section by the Governor of any Province after the appointed day, or by the Governor-General after the 31st day of March, 1948, or such earlier date as may be determined in the case of either Dominion by any law of the Legislature of that Dominion.

Sub-section 6: If it appears that a part of the Province of Assam is, on the appointed day, to become part of the new Province of East Bengal, the preceding provisions of this section shall have effect as if, under this Act, the Province of Assam was to cease to exist on the appointed day and be reconstituted on that day as a new Province.

Position of the Services

Section 10, Sub-section 1: The provisions of this Act keeping in force the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, shall not continue in force the provisions of that Act relating to appointments to the Civil Services of and civil posts under, the Crown of India by the Secretary of State, or the provisions of that Act relating to the reservation of posts. (Section 246, Government of India Act, 1935.)

Sub-section 2: Every person who (a) having been appointed by the



Sir Stafford Cripps

Secretary of State or Secretary of State in Council to a Civil Service of the Crown in India continues on and after the appointed day to serve under the Government of either of the new Dominions or of any Province or part thereof or (b) having been appointed by His Majesty before the appointed day to be a Judge of the Federal Court or of any court which is a High Court within the meaning of the Government of India Act, 1935, continues on and after the appointed day to serve as a Judge in either of the new Dominions shall be entitled to receive from the Governments of the Dominions and Provinces or parts which he is from time to time, serving on or as the case may be, which are served by the courts in which he is from time to time a Judge, the same conditions of service as respects remuneration, leave and pension, and the same rights as respects disciplinary matters or, as the case may be, as respects the tenure of his office, or rights as similar thereto as changed circumstances may permit, as that person was entitled to immediately before the appointed day.

Sub-section 3: Nothing in this Act shall be construed as enabling the rights and liabilities of any person with respect to the family pension funds vested in Commissioners under section 273 of the Government of India Act, 1935, to be governed otherwise than by Orders-in-Council made (whether before or after the passing of this Act or the Appointed Day) by His Majesty in Council and rules made (whether before or after the passing of this Act or the Appointed Day) by a Secretary of State or such other Minister of the Crown as may be designated in that behalf by Order-in-Council under the Ministers of the Crown (Transfer of Functions) Act, 1946.

Section 11, Sub-section 1: The orders to be made by the Governor-General under the preceding provisions of this Act shall make provision for the division of the Indian Armed Forces of His Majesty between the new Dominions, and for the command and governance of those forces until the division is completed.

His Majesty's Forces

Sub-section 2: As from the Appointed Day, while any member of His Majesty's Forces, other than His Majesty's Indian Forces, is attached to or serving with any of His Majesty's Indian Forces—(a) he shall, subject to any provision to the contrary made by a law of the Legislature of the Dominion or Dominions concerned or by any order of the Governor-General under the preceding provisions of this Act, have, in relation to the Indian Forces in question, the powers of command and punishment appropriate to his rank and functions; but (b) nothing in any enactment in force at the date of the passing of this shall render him subject in any way to the law governing the Indian Forces in question.

Section 12, Sub-section 1: Nothing in this Act affects the jurisdiction or authority of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, or of the Admiralty, the Army Council, or the Air Council or of any other United Kingdom authority, in relation to any of His Majesty's Forces which may, on or after the Appointed Day, be in either of the new Dominions or elsewhere in the territories which, before the Appointed Day, were included in India, not being Indian Forces.

Sub-section 2: In its application in relation to His Majesty's Military Forces, other than Indian Forces, the Army Act shall have effect on or after the Appointed Day—(a) as if His Majesty's Indian Forces were not included in the expressions, "the Forces", "His Majesty's Forces" and "the regular Forces" and (b) subject to the further modifications specified in parts 1 and 2 of the third Schedule

Sub-section 3: Subject to the provisions of sub-section 2 of this section, and to any provisions of any law of the Legislature of the Dominion concerned, all civil authorities in the new Dominions, and subject as aforesaid and subject also to the provisions of the last preceding section, all Service authorities in the new Dominions, shall in those Dominions and in the other territories which were included in India before the Appointed Day, perform in relation to His Majesty's Military Forces, not being Indian Forces, the same functions as were before the Appointed Day performed by them or by the authorities corresponding to them, whether by virtue of the Army Act or otherwise and the matters for which provision is to be made by orders of the Governor-General under the preceding provisions of this Act shall include the facilitating of the withdrawal from the new Dominions and other territories aforesaid of His Majesty's Military Forces, not being Indian Forces.

Sub-section 4: The provisions of sub-sections 2 and 3 of this section shall apply in relation to the Air Forces of His Majesty, not being Indian Air Forces as they apply in relation to His Majesty's Military Forces, subject however to the necessary adaptations and in particular as if—(*a*) for the references to the Army Act there were substituted references to the Air Force Act; and (*b*) for the reference to Part 2 of the Third Schedule to this Act there were substituted a reference to Part 3 of that Schedule.

Section 13, sub-section 1: In the application of the Naval Discipline Act to His Majesty's Naval Forces, other than Indian Naval Forces, references to His Majesty's Navy and His Majesty's ships shall not as from the Appointed Day include references to His Majesty's Indian Navy or the ships thereof.

Sub-section 2: In the application of the Naval Discipline Act by virtue of any law made in India before the Appointed Day to Indian Naval Forces, references to His Majesty's Navy and His Majesty's ships shall, as from the Appointed Day, be deemed to be, and to be only, references to His Majesty's Indian Navy and the ships thereof.

Sub-section 3: In section 90 (*b*) of the Naval Discipline Act (which in certain cases, subjects officers and men of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines to the law and customs of the ships and Naval Forces of other parts of His Majesty's Dominions) the words "or of India" shall be repealed as from the Appointed Day wherever those words occur.

Secretary of State

Provisions as to the secretary of State and the Auditor of Indian Home Accounts.

Section 14, sub-section 1: A Secretary of State or such other Minister of the Crown as may be designated in that behalf by Order-in-Council under the Ministers of the Crown (Transfer of Functions) Act, 1946, is hereby authorized to continue for the time being the performance on behalf of whatever Government or Governments may be concerned, of functions as to the making of payments and other matters similar to the functions which up to the Appointed Day the Secretary of State was performing on behalf of Governments constituted or continued under the Government of India Act, 1935.

Sub-section 2: The functions referred to in sub-secti on 1 of this section include functions as respects the management of, and the making of payments in respect of, Government debt and any enactments relating to such debt shall have effect accordingly: provided that nothing in this subsection shall be construed as continuing in force so much of any enactment as empowers the Secretary of State to contract Sterling loans on behalf of any such Government as aforesaid or as applying to the Government either of the new Dominions the prohibition imposed on the Governor-General in Council by section 315 of the Government of India Act, 1935, as respects the contracting of Sterling loans.

Sub-section 3: As from the Appointed Day there shall not be any such Advisers of the Secretary of State as are provided for by section 278 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and that section, and any provisions of that Act which require the Secretary of State to obtain the concurrence of his Advisers, are hereby repealed as from that day.

Auditor of Accounts

Sub-section 4: The Auditor of Indian Home Accounts is hereby authorized to continue for the time being to exercise his functions as respects the accounts of the Secretary of State or any such other Minister of the Crown as is mentioned in sub-section 1 of this section, both in respect of activities before, and in respect of activities after, the Appointed Day, in the same manner as nearly as may be as he would have done if this Act had not been passed.

Legal proceedings by, and against the Secretary of State.

Section 15, sub-section 1: Notwithstanding anything in this Act, and, in particular notwithstanding any of the provisions of the last preceding section, any provision of any enactment which but for the passing of this Act would authorize legal proceedings to be taken in India or elsewhere, by or against the Secretary of State in respect of any right or liability of India or any part of India shall cease to have effect on the Appointed Day, and any legal proceedings pending by virtue of any such provision on the Appointed Day shall by virtue of this Act abate on the Appointed Day so far as the Secretary of State is concerned (section 306, Government of India Act, 1935).

Sub-section 2: Subject to the provisions of this sub-section, any legal proceedings which, but for the passing of this Act, could have been brought by or against the Secretary of State in respect of any right or liability of India or any part of India, shall instead be brought—(*a*) in the case of proceedings in the United Kingdom, by or against the High Commissioner; (*b*) in the case of other proceedings, by or against such person as may be designated by order of the Governor-General under the preceding provisions of this Act or otherwise by the law of the new Dominion concerned and any legal proceedings by or against the Secretary of State in respect of any such right or liability as aforesaid which are pending immediately before the Appointed Day shall be continued by or against the High Commissioner or, as the case may be, the person designated as aforesaid: provided that, at any time after the Appointed Day, the right conferred by this sub-section to bring or continue proceedings may, whether the proceedings are by, or are against, the High Commissioner or person designated as aforesaid, be withdrawn by a law of the Legislature of either of the new Dominions as far as that Dominion is concerned, and any such law may operate as respect proceedings pending at the date of the passing of the law.

Sub-section 3: In this section, the expression "the High Commissioner" mens, in relation to each of the new Dominions, any such officer as may for the time being be authorized to perform in the United Kingdom, in relation to that Dominion, functions similar to those performed before the Appointed Day, in relation to the Governor-General in Council by the High Commissioner referred to in section 302 of the Government of India Act, 1935, and any legal proceedings which, immediately before the Appointed Day, are the subject of an appeal to His Majesty in Council or of a petition for special leave to appeal to His Majesty in Council shall be treated for the purposes of this section as legal proceedings pending in the United Kingdom (section 302, Government of India Act, 1935).

Provisions Regarding Aden

Section 16, sub-section 1: Sub-sections 2 to 4 of section 288 of the Government of India Act, 1935 (which confer on His Majesty power to make by Order-in-Council provision for the Government of Aden) shall cease to have effect and the British Settlements Acts, 1887 and 1945 (which authorise His Majesty to make laws and establish institutions for British settlements as defined in those Acts) shall apply in relation to Aden as if it were a British settlement as so defined.

Sub-section 2: Notwithstanding the repeal of the said sub-sections 2 to 4 the Orders-in-Council in force thereunder at the date of the passing of this Act shall continue in force, but the said Orders-in-Council, any other Orders-in-Council made under the Government of India Act, 1935, in so far as they apply to Aden any enactment applied to Aden or amended in relation to Aden by any such Orders-in-Council as aforesaid, may be repealed, revoked or amended under the powers of the British Settlements Act, 1887 and 1945.

Sub-section 3: Unless and until provision to the contrary is made as respects Aden under the powers of the British Settlements Acts, 1887 and 1945, or, as respects the new Dominion in the question, by a law of the Legislature of that Dominion, the provisions of the said Orders-in-Council and enactments relating to appeals from any courts in Aden to any courts which will, after the Appointed Day, be in either of the new Dominions shall continue in force in their application both to Aden and to the Dominion in question, and the last-mentioned courts shall exercise their jurisdiction accordingly.

Section 17, sub-section 1: No court in either of the new Dominions shall by virtue of the Indian and Colonial Divorce Jurisdiction Acts, 1926 and 1940, have jurisdiction in or relation to any proceedings for a decree for the dissolution of a marriage, unless those proceedings were instituted before the Appointed Day, but save as aforesaid and subject to any provision to the contrary which may hereafter be made by any Act of the Parliament of the United Kingdom or by any law of the Legislature of the new Dominion concerned all courts in the new Dominions shall have the same jurisdiction under the said Acts as they would have had if this Act had not been passed.

Divorce Rules

Sub-section 2: Any rules made on or after the Appointed Day under subsection 4 of section 1 of the Indian and Colonial Divorce Jurisdiction Act, 1926, for a court in either of the new Dominions shall instead of being made by the Secretary of State with the concurrence of the Lord Chancellor, be made by such authority as may be determined by the law of the Dominion concerned and so much of the said subsection and of any rules in force thereunder immediately before the Appointed Day as require the approval of the Lord Chancellor in the nomination for any purpose of any Judges of any such court shall cease to have effect.

Sub-section 3: The reference in subsection 1 of this section to proceedings for a degree for the dissolution of a marriage include references to proceedings for such a degree of presumption of death and dissolution of a marriage as is authorised by section 8 of the Matrimonial Causes Act, 1937.

Sub-section 4: Nothing in the section affects any court outside the new Dominions, and the power conferred by section 2 of the Indian and Colonial Divorce Jurisdiction Act, 1926, to apply certain provisions of that Act to other parts of His Majesty's Dominions as they apply to India shall be deemed to be power to apply those provisions as they would have applied to India if this Act had not been passed.

Section 18, sub-section 1: In so far as any Act of Parliament, Order-in-Council, order, rule, regulation or other instrument passed or made before the Appointed Day operate otherwise than as part of the law of British India or the new Dominions references therein to India or British India, however worded and whether by name or not shall in so far as the context permits and except so far as Parliament may hereafter otherwise provide be construed as including references to the New Dominions, taken together, or taken separately, according as the circumstances and subject matter may require: provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be construed as continuing in operation any provision in so far as the continuance thereof as adopted by this subsection is inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act other than this section.

Sub-section 2: Subject to the provisions of sub-section 1 of this section and to any other express provision of this Act, the Order-in-Council made under sub-section 5 of section 311 of the Government of India Act, 1935, for adapting and modifying Acts of Parliament shall except so far as Parliament may hereafter otherwise provide continue in force in relation to all Acts in so far as they operate otherwise than as part of the law of British India or the new Dominions.

Sub-section 3: Save as otherwise expressly provided in that Act, the law of British India and of the several parts thereof existing immediately before the Appointed Day shall so far as applicable and with the necessary adaptations continue as the law of each of the new Dominions and the several parts thereof until other provision is made by laws of the Legislature of the Dominion in question or by any other Legislature or other authority having power in that behalf.

Sub-section 4: It is hereby declared that the Instruments of Instructions issued before the passing of this Act by His Majesty to the Governor-General and the Governors of Provinces lapse as from the Appointed Day and nothing in this Act shall be construed as continuing in force any provision of the Government of India Act, 1935, relating to such Instruments of Instructions.

Sub-section 5: As from the Appointed Day so much of any enactment as requires the approval of His Majesty in Council to any rules of court shall not apply to any court in either of the new Dominions.

Definitions

Section 19, sub-section 1: References in this Act to the Governor-General shall in relation to any order to be made or other Act done on or after the Appointed Day be construed—(*a*) where the order or other Act concerns one only of the new Dominions as references to the Governor-General of that Dominion; (*b*) where the order or other Act concerns both of the new Dominions and the same person is the Governor-General of both those Dominions as references to that person and (*c*) in any other case as references to the Governors-General of the new Dominions acting jointly.

Sub-section 2: References in this Act to the Governor-General shall in relation to any order to be made or

other Act done before the Appointed Day, be construed as references to the Governor-General of India within the meaning of the Government of India Act, 1935, and so much of that or any other Act as requires references to the Governor-General to be construed as references to the Governor-General-in-Council shall not apply to reference to the Governor-General in this Act.

Sub-section 3: Reference in this Act to the Constituent Assembly of a Dominion shall be construed as references—(*a*) in relation to India to the Constituent Assemby, the first sitting whereof was held on the ninth day of December 1946 modified—

(1) By the exclusion of the members representing Bengal, the Punjab, Sind and British Baluchistan; and (2) should it appear that the North-West Frontier Province will form part of Pakistan, by the exclusion of the members representing that Province: and (3) by the inclusion of members representing West Bengal and East Punjab. (4) Should it appear that on the Appointed Day, a part of the Province of Assam is to form part of the new Province of East Bengal, by the exclusion of members thereto for representing the Province of Assam and the inclusion of members chosen to represent the remainder of that Province.

(*b*) In relation to Pakistan, to the Assembly set up or about to be set up at the date of the passing of this Act under the authority of the Governor-General as the Constituent Assembly of Pakistan provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be construed as affecting the extent to which representatives of the Indian States take part in either of the said Assemblies or as preventing the filling of casual vacancies in the said Assemblies, or as preventing the participation in either of the said Assemblies. In accordance with such arrangements as may be made in that behalf of representative of the tribal areas on the borders of the Dominion for which that Assembly sits, and the powers of the said Assemblies shall extend and be deemed always to have extended to the making of provisions for the matters specified in this proviso.

Sub-section 4: In this Act, except so far as the context otherwise requires —references to the Government of India Act, 1935, include references to any enactment amending or supplementing that Act, and in particular references to the India (Central Government and Legislature) Act, 1946.

"India" where the reference is to a state of affairs existing before the Appointed Day or which would have existed but for the passing of this Act, has the meaning assigned to it by section 311 of the Government of India Act, 1925.

"Indian Forces" includes all His Majesty's Indian Forces existing before the Appointed Day and also any Forces of either of the new Dominions.

"Pension" means, in reference to any person, a pension whether contributory or not or any kind whatsoever payable to or in respect of that person, and includes retired pay so payable, a gratuity so payable and any sum or sums so payable by way of the return with or without interest thereon or other additions thereto, of subscriptions to a Provident Fund.

"Province" means a Governor's Province:

"Remuneration" includes leave pay, allowances and the cost of any privileges or facilities provided in kind.

Sub-section 5: Any power conferred by this Act to make any order includes power to revoke or vary any order previously made in the exercise of that power.

Section 20: This Act may be cited as the Indian Independence Act, 1947.

Background of the Independence Bill

The following is the full text of the British Government's Proposals, as embodied in their statement of the 3rd June 1947.

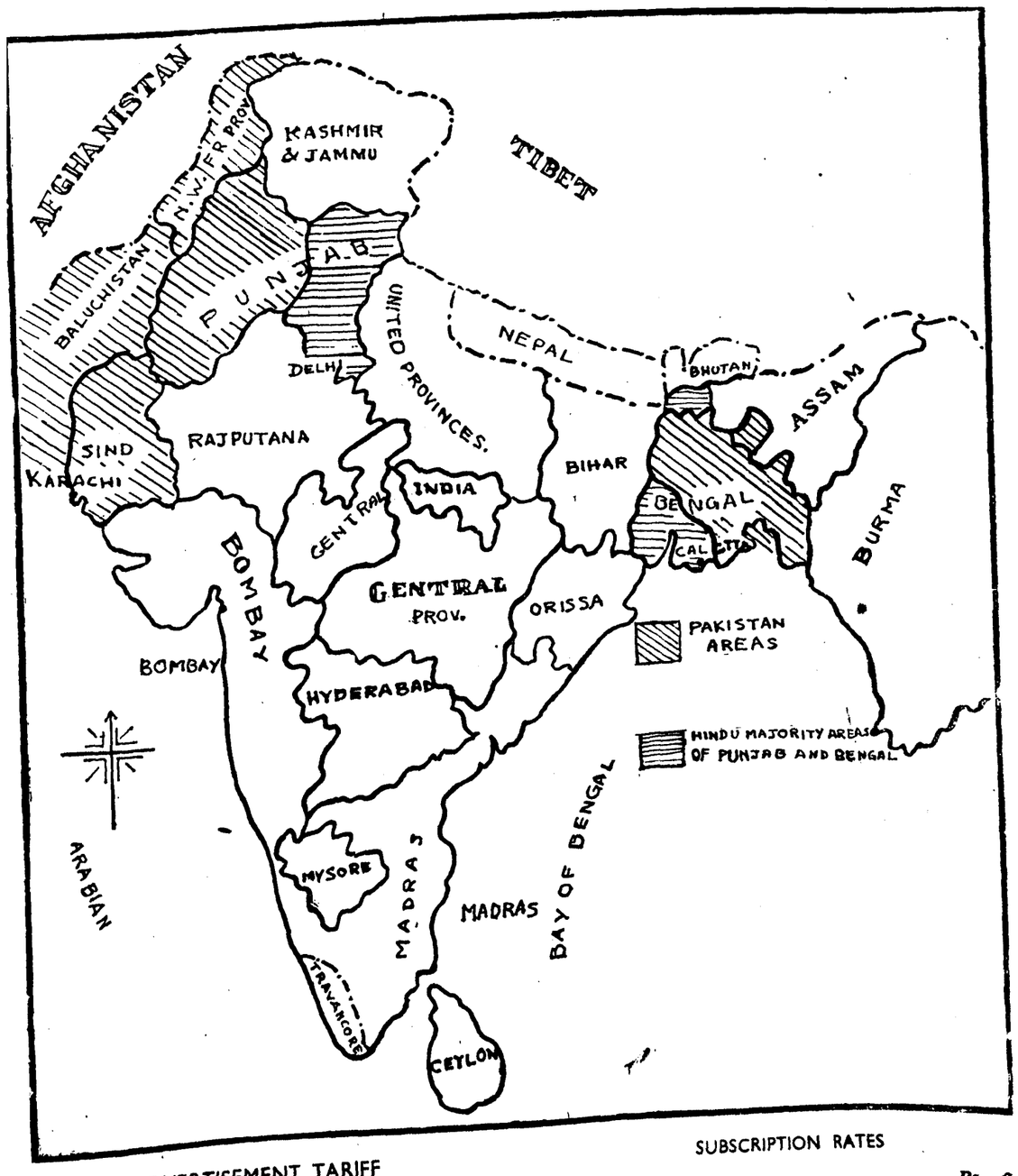


Lord Mountbatten

1. On 20th February 1947, His Majesty's Government announced their intention of transferring power in British India to Indian hands by June 1948. His Majesty's Government had hoped that it would be possible for the major parties to co-operate in the working-out of the Cabinet Mission's Plan of May 16, 1946, and evolve for India a Constitution acceptable to all concerned. This hope has not been fulfilled.

2. The majority of the representatives of the Province of Madras, Bombay, the United Provinces, Bihar, Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, Orissa and the North-West Frontier Province, and the representatives of Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and Coorg have already made progress in the task of evolving a new Constitution. On the other hand, the Muslim League Party, including in it a majority of the representatives of Bengal, the Punjab and Sind as also the representative of British Baluchistan, has decided not to participate in the Constituent Assembly.

3. It has always been the desire of His Majesty's Government that power should be transferred in accordance with the wishes of the Indian people themselves. This task would have been greatly facilitated if there had been agreement among the Indian political parties. In the absence of such an agreement, the task of devising a method by which the wishes of the Indian people can be ascertained has devolved on His Majesty's Government. After full consultation with political leaders in India, His Majesty's Government have decided to adopt for this purpose the plan set out below. His Majesty's Government wish to make it clear that they have no intention of attempting to frame any ultimate Constitution for India; this is a matter for the Indians themselves. Nor is there anything in this plan to



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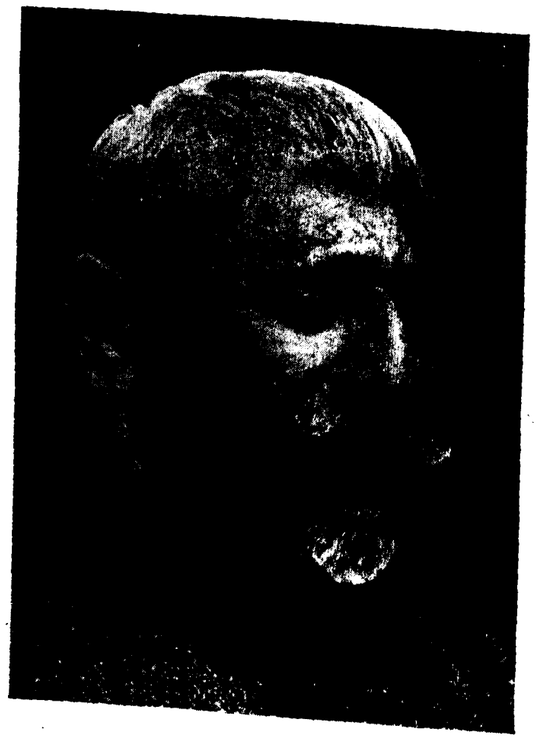
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The Old Interim Cabinet. Mr. Asaf Ali, second from right, is at present India's Ambassador in U.S.A. In his place was appointed Moulana Abul Kalam Azad, seen below.



precludе negotiations between communities for an united India.

The Issues to be decided

4. It is not the intention of His Majesty's Government to interrupt the work of the existing Constituent Assembly. Now that provision is made for certain provinces specified below, His Majesty's Government trust that, as a consequence of this announcement, the Muslim League representatives of those Provinces a majority of whose representatives are already participating in it will now take their due share in its labours. At the same time, it is clear that any Constitution framed by this Assembly cannot apply to those parts of the country which are unwilling to accept it. His Majesty's Government are satisfied that the procedure outlined below embodies the best practical method of ascertaining the wishes of the people of such areas on the issue whether their Constitution is to be framed :—

(*a*) in the existing Constituent Assembly ;

or

(*b*) in a new and separate Constituent Assembly consisting of the representatives of those areas which decide not to participate in the existing Constituent Assembly.

When this has been done, it will be possible to determine the authority or authorities to whom power should be transferred.

Bengal and the Punjab

5. The Provincial Legislative Assemblies of Bengal and the Punjab (excluding the European members) will, therefore, each be asked to meet in two parts, one representing the Muslim majority districts and the other the rest of the Province. For the purpose of determining the population of districts, the 1941 census figures will be taken as authoritative. The Muslim majority districts in these two Provinces are set out in the Appendix to this announcement.

6. The members of the two parts of each Legislative Assembly sitting separately will be empowered to vote whether or not the Province should be partitioned. If a simple majority of either part decides in favour of partition, division will take place and arrangements will be made accordingly.

7. Before the question as to the partition is decided, it is desirable that the representatives of each part should know in advance which Constituent Assembly the Province as a whole would join in the event of the two parts subsequently deciding to remain united. Therefore if any member of either Legislative Assembly so demands there shall be held a meeting of all members of the Legislative Assembly (other than Europeans) at which a decision will be taken on the issue as to which Constituent Assembly the Province as a whole would join if it were decided by the two parts to remain united.

8. In the event of partition being decided upon, each part of the Legislative Assembly will, on behalf of the areas they represent, decide which of the alternatives in paragraph 4 above to adopt.

9. For the immediate purpose of deciding on the issue of partition, the members of the Legislative Assemblies of Bengal and the Punjab will sit in two parts according to Muslim majority districts (as laid down in the Appendix) and non-Muslim majority districts. This is only a preliminary step of a purely temporary nature as it is evident that for the purposes of a final partition of these Provinces a detailed investigation of boundary questions will be needed ; and, as soon as a decision involving partition has been taken for either Province a Boundary Commission will be set up by the Governor-General, the membership and terms of reference of which will be settled in consultation with those concerned. It will be instructed to demarcate the boundaries of the two parts of the Punjab on the basis of ascertaining the contiguous majority areas of Muslims and non-Muslims. It will also be instructed to take into account other factors. Similar instructions will be given to the Bengal Boundary Commission. Until the report of a Boundary Commission has been put into effect, the provisional boundaries indicated in the Appendix will be used.

Sind

10. The Legislative Assembly of Sind (excluding the European members) will at a special meeting also take its own decision on the alternatives in paragraph 4 above.

North-West Frontier Province

11. The position of the North-West Frontier Province is exceptional. Two of the three representatives of this province are already participating in the existing Constituent Assembly. But it is clear, in view of its geographical situation, and other considerations, that if the whole or any part of the Punjab decides not to join the existing Constituent Assembly, it will be necessary to give the North-West Frontier Province an opportunity to reconsider its position. Accordingly, in such an event, a referendum will be made to the electors of the present Legislative Assembly in the North-West Frontier Province to choose which of the alternatives mentioned in paragraph 4 above they wish to adopt. The referendum will be held under the aegis of the Governor-General and in consultation with the Provincial Government.

British Baluchistan

12. British Baluchistan has elected a member but he had not taken his seat in the existing Constituent Assembly. In view of its geographical situation, this Province will also be given an opportunity to reconsider its position and to choose which of the alternatives in paragraph 4 above to adopt. His Excellency the Governor-General is examining how this can most appropriately be done.

Assam

13. Though Assam is predominantly a non-Muslim Province, the district of Sylhet which is contiguous to Bengal is predominantly Muslim.* There has been a demand that, in the event of the partition of Bengal, Sylhet should be amalgamated with the Muslim part of Bengal. Accordingly, if it is decided that Bengal should be partitioned, a referendum will be held in Sylhet district under the aegis of the Governor-General and in consultation with the Assam Provincial Government to decide whether the district of Sylhet should continue to form part of the Assam Province or should be amalgamated with the new Province of Eastern Bengal, if that Province agrees. If the referendum results in favour of amalgamation with Eastern Bengal, a Boundary Commission with terms of reference similar to those for the Punjab and Bengal will be set up to demarcate the Muslim majority areas of Sylhet district and contiguous Muslim majority areas of adjoining districts, which will then be transferred to Eastern Bengal. The rest of the Assam Province will in any case continue to participate in the proceedings of the existing Constituent Assembly.

Representation in Constituent Assemblies

14. If it is decided that Bengal and the Punjab should be partitioned, it will be necessary to hold fresh elections to choose their representatives on the

scale of one for every million of population according to the principle contained in the Cabinet Mission's Plan of May 16, 1946. Similar elections will also have to be held for Sylhet in the event of its being decided that this district should form part of East Bengal. The number of representatives to which each area would be entitled is as follows :—

Province.	General.	Muslims.	Sikhs.	Total.
Sylhet district ..	1	2	Nil.	3
West Bengal ..	15	4	Nil.	19
East Bengal ..	12	29	Nil.	41
West Punjab ..	3	12	2	17
East Punjab ..	6	4	2	12

15. In accordance with the mandate given to them the representatives of the various areas will either join the existing Constituent Assembly or form the new Constituent Assembly.

Administrative Matters

16. Negotiations will have to be initiated as soon as possible on administrative consequences of any partition that may have been decided upon—

(*a*) between the representatives of the respective successor authorities about all subjects now dealt with by the Central Government including Defence, Finance and Communications ;

(*b*) between different successor authorities and His Majesty's Government for treaties in regard to matters arising out of the transfer of power ; and

(*c*) in the case of Provinces that may be partitioned as to administration of all provincial subjects such as the division of assets and liabilities, the police and other services, the High Court, provincial institutions, etc.

The Tribes of the North-West Frontier

17. Agreements with tribes of the North-West Frontier of India will have to be negotiated by the appropriate successor authority.

The States

18. His Majesty's Government wish to make it clear that the decisions announced above relate only to British India and that their policy towards Indian States contained in Cabinet Mission Memorandum of May 16, 1946 remains unchanged.

Necessity for Speed

19. In order that the successor authorities may have time to prepare themselves to take over power, it is important that all the above processes should be completed as quickly as possible. To avoid delay. the different Provinces or parts of Provinces will proceed independently as far as practicable within the conditions of this Plan, the existing Constituent Assembly and the new Constituent Assembly (if formed) will proceed to frame Constitutions for their respective territories ; they will of course be free to frame their own rules.

20. The major political parties have repeatedly emphasized their desire that there should be the earliest possible transfer of power in India. With this desire His Majesty's Government are in full sympathy and they are willing to anticipate the date of June 1948 for the handing over of power by the setting up of an independent Indian Government or Governments at an even earlier date. Accordingly, as the most expeditious, and indeed the only practicable way of meeting this desire His Majesty's Government propose to introduce legislation during the current session for the transfer of power this year on a Dominion Status basis to one or two successor authorities according to the decisions taken as a result of this announcement. This will be without prejudice to the right of the Indian Constituent Assemblies to decide in due course whether or not the part of India in respect of which they have authority will remain within the British Commonwealth.

Further Announcements by Governor-General

21. His Excellency the Governor-General will from time to time make such further announcements as may be necessary in regard to procedure or any other matters for carrying out the above arrangements.

Appendix

Muslim majority districts of Punjab and Bengal according to 1941 Census.

1. The Punjab :—

Lahore Division : Gujranwala, Gurdaspur, Lahore, Sheikhupura and Sialkot.

Rawalpindi Division : Attock, Gujrat, Jhelum, Mianwali, Rawalpindi and Shahpur.

Multan Division : Dera Ghazi Khan, Jhang, Lyallpur, Montgomery, Multan and Muzaffargarh.

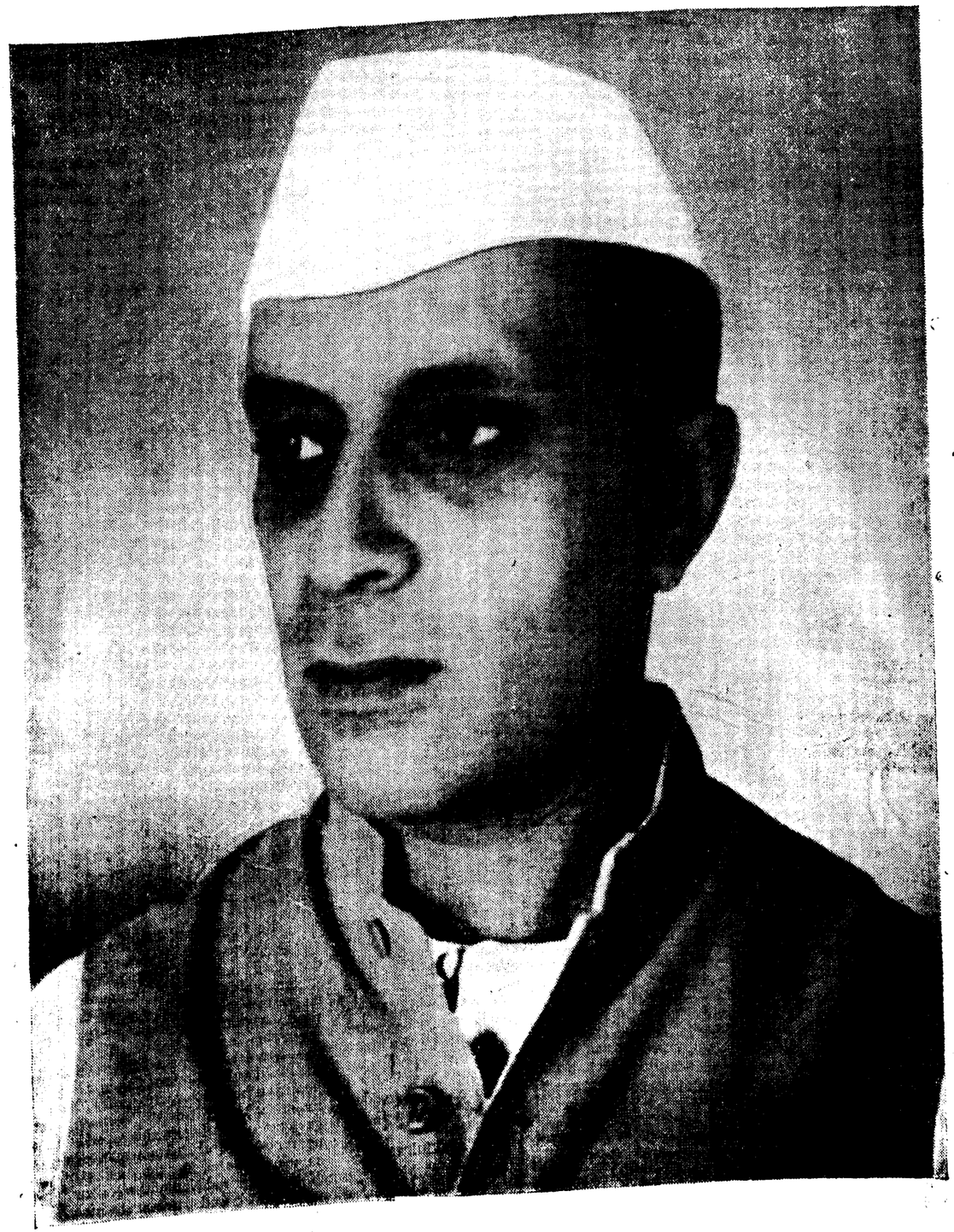
2. Bengal :—

Chittagong Division : Chittagong, Noakhali and Tippera.

Dacca Division : Bakarganj, Dacca, Faridpur and Mymensingh.

Presidency Division : Jessore, Murshidabad and Nadia.

Rajshahi Division : Bogra, Dinajpur, Malda, Pabna, Rajshahi and Rangpur.



Nehru Unfurls India's National Flag

Historic Oration in the Constituent Assembly

On July 22, the Constituent Assembly decided that the National Flag of India shall be the saffron-white-green Tricolour, which has long been the Congress flag, with the Asoka wheel in blue embossed on it in the middle.

Amid loud and enthusiastic cheers and cries of "Mahatma Gandhi-ki-jai," Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presented the flag to the Constituent Assembly.

Moving the resolution for adoption of the new flag, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said : "This resolution is simple and slightly technical in language and there is no glow or warmth in the words I have read. Yet I am sure that many in this House will feel that glow and warmth which I feel at the present moment. Behind this resolution and the flag which I have the honour to present to this House for adoption, lies history—the concentrated history of a short span in the nation's existence. But, sometimes in a brief period we pass through the track of centuries. It is not so much the mere act of living that counts, but what one does in this brief life that is ours. It is not so much the mere existence of a nation that counts, but what the nation does during various periods of its existence. And I do venture to claim that in the past quarter of a century or so, India

has lived in a concentrated way, acted in that concentrated way, and the emotions which have filled the people of India represented not merely that brief span of years, but something infinitely more.

"They have gone down in history, into tradition, and have added themselves on to that vast history and tradition which is our heritage in this country. So, when I move this resolution, I think of this concentrated history through which all of us have passed during the last quarter of a century, memories grow upon me, I remember the ups and downs of the great struggle for freedom of this great Nation, I remember—and many in this House will remember—when we looked up to this flag not only with pride and enthusiasm but with a tingle in our veins. Also when we were sometimes down and out, then again the sight of this flag gave us courage to go. And many who are not present here to-day, and who have passed away, many of our comrades, to the last they held on to this flag and some amongst them even unto death and handed it over, as they sank, to other hands to hold aloft.

"So in this simple formula, there is much more than would appear on the surface. There is this struggle of a people for freedom, with all its ups and downs, trials and disasters, and there is finally to-day, as I move this resolution, a certain triumph about it, a measure of triumphant conclusion to that struggle.

Triumphant conclusion of our struggle

"I realise fully, as this House must realise, that this triumph of ours has been marred in many ways. There have been, especially in the past few months, many happenings which have grieved us and sorrow has gripped our hearts. We have seen parts of this dear Motherland of ours cut off from the rest, we have seen large numbers of people suffering tremendously, large numbers wandering about like waifs and strays without a home, we have seen many other things which I need not repeat to this House but which we cannot forget. This sorrow has dogged our footsteps when we were close to victory and triumph and still dogs us when we have tremendous problems to face in the present and in the future. Nevertheless, it is true, I think, that this moment does represent a triumphant conclusion of our struggle for the Motherland. As I have said, all of us are sad at heart because of these things, but let us distinguish that from the other fact of triumph also. There has been a very great deal of bewailing and moaning over various things that have happened, but there is triumph and victory in what has happened. It is no small thing for a great and mighty Empire, which has represented imperialist domination in this country to end its days here. That was the objective we aimed at. We have attained that objective or we shall attain it very soon. Of that there is no doubt. We have not attained it exactly in the shape that we wanted to and other things have accompanied which are not to our liking It is very seldom that we realize the dreams that we have dreamt. It is very seldom that the aims and objectives with which we start are achieved in their entirety in an individual's life or a nation's life.

"We have examples before us. We need not go into the distant past but in the recent present. Some years back a great war was waged, a world war bringing terrible misery to mankind.

"That war was fought for freedom and democracy and the rest; that war ended in the triumph of those who stood or said they stood, for freedom and democracy. Yet, hardly had the war ended, when there were rumours of fresh wars. Three days ago this House, this country, and the world were shocked by the brutal murder in a neighbouring country of the leaders of the Nation. To-day we read in the paper of an attack by an Imperialist power on a friendly country in South-East Asia. Freedom is still far off from this world and all nations, in greater or lesser degree, are struggling for that freedom. If we in the present have not exactly achieved what we aimed at, it is nothing to be surprised at greatly, nothing to be ashamed of, but I do think that our achievement is not a small one. It is a very considerable achievement, a great achievement. Let no man run it down because other things have happened which are not to our liking. Let us keep these two things apart. Look at any country in the wide world. Where is the country to-day from the greatest of the big Powers to the least of them, which is not full of terrible problems, which is not in some way politically or economically—striving for freedom which somehow eludes its grasp?

With Pride and Thankfulness

"So think of India in this wider context and do not be terribly downhearted because things have happened which are not agreeable to us. We have faced many disagreeable things in the past and have not flinched and we shall face all the other disagreeable things that face us in the present or may do so in the future and we shall not flinch or falter. So, in spite of everything that surrounds us, it is in no spirit of downheartedness that I stand before you but in pride and thankfulness for what this Nation and the people of this Nation have achieved.

"It is right and proper that at the moment we should adopt the symbols of this achievement, the symbols of freedom. Freedom eludes us in its entirety as it has eluded thus far nearly all humanity. What is freedom, what is the struggle for freedom and when does it end? As soon as you take one step forward and achieve something, further steps come up before you. There will be no freedom in this country or in the world so long as a single human being is unfree. (Cheers.) There will be no complete freedom so long as there is starvation, hunger, lack of clothing, lack of the necessaries of life, lack of opportunities for growth for a single human being, man, woman or child, in this country. We may not accomplish that because it is a terrific task, but we shall do our utmost and, I hope, hand over to our successors when they come, a somewhat easier path to pursue. But there is no ending to that road to freedom just as we sometimes in our vanity aim at perfection but perfection never comes, but if we try hard enough we do approach it step by step and we increase the happiness of the people and their stature in many ways.

"So I present this flag to you. In a sense this flag was adopted not by a formal resolution but by popular acclaim and usage, adopted much more by the sacrifices that have surrounded it in the past two decades. We only in a sense ratify that popular adoption.

No Communal Significance

"It is a flag which has been variously described and some people have misunderstood it and have thought of it in communal terms that some part of it represents this community or that, but when this flag was devised there was no communal significance attached to it. We tried to find out a flag which was beautiful because a symbol of a Nation must be beautiful to look at. We thought of a flag which would in its combination and in its separate parts somehow represent the spirit of the Nation, the tradition of the Nation, that mixed spirit and tradition which have grown up in these thousands of years in India. So we devised this flag.

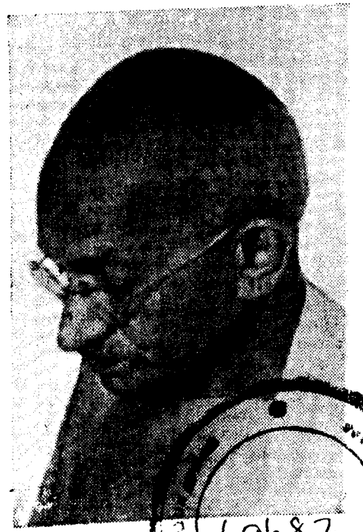
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Perhaps I am partial but I do think that it is a very beautiful flag to look at purely from the point of view of artistry and it has come to symbolise many other beautiful things also, things of the spirit, things of the mind, things that give value to the individual's life and to the Nation's life.

"For a nation does not live merely by material things, although they are highly important. It is important that we should have the goods of the world, material possessions of the world that our people should have the necessaries of life. That is of the most urgent importance. Nevertheless, a Nation, and especially a Nation like India with an immemorial past, lives by other things also, things of the spirit. If India had not been associated with these ideals and things of the spirit during these thousands of years, what would India have been? It has gone through a very great deal of misery and degradation in the past but somehow, even in the depths of degradation, the head of India has been high, the thought of India has been high and the ideals of India have been high. And so we have gone through these tremendous ages and we stand up to-day in proud thankfulness for our past but even more so in pride of the future that is to come, for which we are going to work and our successors are going to work. It is our privilege to-day to mark the transition in a particular way, in a way that will be remembered and, therefore, I began by saying that it is my proud privilege to be honoured by being asked to move this resolution.

Slight Variation

"It will be seen that there is a slight variation in this flag, from the one many of us have used during these past years. The colours are the same—deep saffron white and dark green. Previously there was the symbol of the Charkha, which symbolised the common man in India, which symbolised the masses, which symbolised their industry, which came to us from the message which Mahatma Gandhi had delivered to the country. (Cheers.) This particular Charkha symbol has been slightly varied in this flag. Why has it been varied? Because, normally speaking, a symbol on one side of the flag should be exactly the same as on the other side. Otherwise there is difficulty; it goes against the rules, if I may say so. The Charkha as it appeared previously on this flag has the wheel on one side and the spindle on the other. If you put it on the other side of the flag, the spindle goes the other way and the wheel comes this way, or, if it does not do so, it is not proportionate because the wheel must be towards the pole nearer to the end of the flag.



"There was this heraldic [illegible], a practical difficulty. We were, of course, convinced that this great symbol which had infused the people should continue, but we thought that it should continue in a slightly different form. The wheel should be there, not the rest of the Charkha which created this confusion. The essential part of the Charkha should be there, that is, the wheel. So the old tradition continued in regard to the Charkha and the wheel, but then what type of wheel were we to have?

Asoka Wheel

"The Asoka wheel itself," said Pandit Nehru, was symbol of India's ancient culture and of many things that India had stood for. So we thought that this Chakra emblem should be that particular wheel instead of just any odd wheel. For my part, I am exceedingly happy that indirectly we have associated with this flag of ours not only this emblem, but in a sense the name of Asoka one of the most magnificent names, not only in India's history but in world history.

"It is well that at this moment of strife and conflict and intolerance, our minds go back to what India stood for in those ancient days and what it has stood for, I hope and believe, essentially throughout these ages in spite of mistakes and errors and degradations from time to time. For, if India had not stood for something very great, I do not think that India would have survived and carried its cultural traditions in a more or less continuous manner throughout these vast ages. It carried that cultural tradition, not unchanging, not rigid, but keeping its essentials, always adopting itself to new developments, to new influences, and thereby, always becoming the same but ever different and richer.

Message of Peace

"India has not been in the past a tight little narrow country disdaining other countries. India, for long ages in her history, has not only been connected with other countries but was, you might say, an International centre, sending out her people abroad to far countries, carrying her message and receiving the messages of other countries in exchange. But India throughout was strong enough to remain grounded on the foundations on which she was built, although many changes took place.

"The strength of India, it has been said, consists in this strong foundation. It consists also in its amazing capacity to receive, to adopt what it wants to adopt, not to reject something because it is outside its scope, but to accept and receive everything, because it is folly for any nation or race to think that it has all the good in the world, all the truth in the world. Once an individual or race begins to think that, it becomes rigid, ungrowing, and anything that does not grow, grows backward and decays. In fact, India's periods of decay are those when it drew herself in and refused to look at the outside world. India's greatest periods are those when it stretched out and send to far countries, emissaries, messengers and trade agents and merchants, and received messengers and emissaries from abroad.

"The Asokan period in Indian history was an essentially international period of Indian history, it was not a narrow national period. It was a period when India's messengers went abroad to far countries not in the way of Empire and Imperialism but as messengers of peace and culture and goodwill."

Freedom will not be Abused

Pandit Nehru went on: "I hope that in the freedom that is coming to us, we will not do what many other people or some other countries have unfortunately done, that is, in the new-found strength

suddenly to expand and become imperialistic in design. If that happens that would be a terrible ending to our struggle for freedom. But there is that danger and, therefore, I venture to remind this House of it, although this House needs no reminder. If we do that, we become just like other nations, which seem to live in a kind of succession of conflicts. This is the world to-day, unfortunately.

Referring to India's foreign policy, Pandit Nehru reiterated that we proposed to belong to no Power group. We proposed to function, as far as we could, as peace-makers and peace-bringers. "We may not be that to-day, because we are not strong enough to be able to have our way even by way of peace elsewhere, but, at any rate, we propose to avoid all entanglement of power politics in the world. It is not completely possible to do that in this complicated world of ours, but certainly we are going to do our utmost to that end."

The ratio of the flag, said Pandit Nehru, should ordinarily be 2 : 3. There was no absolute standard about the ratio, because the same flag on a particular occasion might have a certain ratio that might be more suitable for another occasion. In another place the ratio might differ slightly. So there was no compulsion in this ratio, but generally speaking the ratio of 2 : 3 was the proper ratio. But whatever the ratio, the important thing was not so much the relative length and breadth, but the essential design of the flag.

Pandit Nehru unfurled a specimen of the new flag, made of khadi silk. A cotton flag was also presented to the House. Later, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, was photographed with the flags held on either side.

Minority Leaders' Support

Chaudhry Khaliquzzaman, Leader of the Muslim League Party in the Assembly, extending his wholehearted support to the resolution said it was the duty of all loyal citizens to enhance the prestige and honour of the flag. He appealed to all sections of people in the country to forget the bitter happenings of the past few years.

"I hope that the people of India will forget the bitterness of recent months and work jointly to carve out a new history for the country in which every individual will enjoy a place of respect. The flag, although it is only a piece of cloth, really represents the aims and objects and the moral and spiritual aspirations of the Nation. There is no room for difference of opinion on this matter. I am confident that every Muslim and Christian who is a citizen of India will take pride in hoisting the flag and honouring it."

Mr. Mohd. Saadulla, Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party, said that the flag symbolised the fruition of the fulfilment of India's struggle for independence. He pledged the loyalty and allegiance of his community to the Indian Union.

Dr. H. C. Mukherjee, the Indian Christian Leader, on behalf of the Christian community pledged allegiance to the flag. Christians, he said, had the greatest faith and confidence in the Congress and in fact they had received better treatment from Indian National Leaders than anybody else.

Mr. Jai Pal Singh on behalf of the Adi Basis and tribes people said it was his privilege to acknowledge the flag as the flag of Free India.

Mr. Frank Anthony, the Anglo-Indian Leader, who was on the *Ad Hoc* Committee on the National flag, said that it has been made clear that the flag would not contain any communal or sectarian motives. While they had retained the panel under which India's struggle for independence was carried on and brought to a successful consummation there had been some changes in regard to details. The flag they were adopting to-day was the flag of a free Indian Nation and it must be the privilege of everyone to live and serve under it and die, if need be.

Sikh Support

Mr. Giani Gurmukh Singh pledged the support of the Sikh community, which he said had been associated with the Congress in its struggle for freedom and had made considerable sacrifice. He was grieved to find that many who had participated in the fight for freedom were not present to-day to see the fruit of their sacrifices.

Mr. Khandekar, on behalf of the Depressed Classes, recalled that the saffron colour embodied in the flag had particular associations for his community who had fought at the time of Shivaji under the same colour.

The Pillar of Saranath—A Message of Peace and Dharma

(K. V. Krishna Ayyar, M.A., L.T., Zamorin's College, Calicut)

The message of peace and good-will is to be the unique contribution of Independent India to the world. Appropriately enough, India's national seal and ensign have drawn their inspiration from the famous pillar of Saranath. In this article Mr. K. V. Krishna Ayyar shows how by sacred as well as symbolic ties, the present Gandhian Era is linked with the Asokan Age.

In the history of human freedom two voices are heard, each with its own message of hope and deliverance, the voice of the United States and the voice of India—one from the West, the other from the East—the first from one of the youngest, the second from one of the oldest countries of the world. The United States proclaimed from America the Liberty and Equality of Man. "We hold" said the authors of the historic Declaration on Independence, the Bible of a new political faith, "these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal: That they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights: That among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness: That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed: That whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it and to institute a new Government . . . . ." Across the Atlantic, France heard the voice and through France it reached the countries of the Old World.

Blood-baths

But unfortunately everywhere the road to Liberty was paved with violence and crime. In the name of Liberty the streets of Paris ran with blood. War and Revolution were its weapons The end, said its champions, justified the means. But the inevitable day of reckoning came. The inexorable moral law, the law of spirit and reason, cares not for policies and expediencies, peoples and parliaments. Like begets like, violence begets violence. Men do not gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles. The subsequent history of Europe proved the truth of the saying "They that take the sword perish by the sword."

From India today goes forth a new message to the world, a message of comfort and happiness to its helpless and defenceless millions. The history of the Indian Independence Movement shows that Liberty can be won by non-violence and self-inflicted sufferings as by violence and bloodshed, and the Liberty won through hate may perish. Thus, what the United States began in the eighteenth century, India fulfils now, in the twentieth.

Glorious revolution

The succession of George I to the English Throne is acclaimed as the greatest miracle in the history of England. But today has been accomplished the greatest miracle not in the history of India alone but in the history of the whole world. Laughed at by some as the naked Fakir and worshipped by as many thousands as a Great Soul and Saint, Mahatma Gandhi said from his little hut at Sevagram, "quit India," and lo, the British Lion, that had been lording for nearly a century and a half over this old land of India and driving its inoffensive and harmless herd hither and thither as it liked, has left. Never in the history of the world have a subject people won their freedom without practically shedding a single drop of blood. The English themselves, the pioneers of civil liberty, had to pass through the ordeal of a civil war, execute one king, expel a second and import a third. India today proclaims through her four hundred millions the grand superiority of soul force over brute force.

It is only in the fitness of things that this message should go forth from India. France fought to establish the liberty, equality and fraternity of man. But in India, the land of the Rishis, the great Emperor Asoka strove to establish the brotherhood of all living creatures, not only of man but also of bird and beast. "Amidst the tens of thousands" says Wells, "of names of monarch, their majesties and graciousnesses and serenities and royal highnesses and the like, the name of Asoks shines and shines almost alone as a star. From the Volga to Japan his name is still honoured. China, Tibet and even India, though it has left his religion preserve the tradition of his greatness. More living men cherish his memory today than have ever heard the names of Constantine or Charlemagne."

Asoka's glory

Extolled by Wells as one of the world's six greatest men, ranked by him along with the Buddha, Aristotle, Jesus, Bacon and Lincoln, Asoka made it his life mission to spread Buddha's gospel of universal love and tolerance. His *Digvijaya* assumed the form of a *Dharmavijaya*, the conquest of the world not by arms but by *Dharma*. "Unique among the victorious monarchs and captains in history," says Pandit Nehru, "he decided to abandon warfare in the full tide of victory." The suppression of the Kalinga rebellion opened his eyes to the manifold and infinite suffering caused by war, and from that time forward he devoted all the resources of his mighty empire to no less a task than the abolition of war and the establishment of peace among the people of the world. Among kings and statesmen he was the first to see that the causes of war do not lie in the piling up of armaments but deep down in the human mind, in selfish ambition and hate, and the best way of eradicating the effect is to root out the cause. The victorious emperor at once transformed himself into a missionary of peace, love and tolerance. Far and wide within his empire as well as outside, from distant Epirus and Cyrene in the west to China in the east and Ceylon in the south, the monks and nuns sent by him spread the teachings of the Buddha.

It was at Saranath, so called from its having been the abode and favourite haunt of Saranganatha, about three miles from Benares, that the Buddha preached his first sermon. Saranath was doubly holy. In a previous birth the Boddhisatva, Saranganatha or Lord of the Deer, had been able to persuade the kings of Benares to stop the hunting and slaughter of these lovely and inoffensive creatures from which time onwards the place came to be known also as Migadaya or Deer Park. It was to Saranath, again, that the Rishis of the Himalayas repaired for their *Chaturmasya* or winter retreat of four months. Hither came the Buddha from Bodhgaya, and delivered his first and noblest discourse, the *Dhammachakkapavattanasuttam*, the discourse that set the Dharmachakra or the Wheel of the Law in motion.

The message of the pillar

Three centuries afterwards Asoka erected a pillar at the spot so sacred to Buddhism. Like the pillar at Sanchi it was a round and slightly tapering monolithic shaft, finely finished and brilliantly polished to a remarkable lustre from top to bottom. The capital consisted of four lions, set back to back, with the Wheel of the Law over them. They rested on an abacus, which bore in relief an elephant, a horse, a bull, and a lion, separated by four small *Dharmachakras*. Below the abacus and supporting it was an inverted lotus flower. On the pillar was also carved an inscription warning the monks and nuns against dissension, disruption, and schism.

The pillar embodied in concrete what Asoka and his brother Buddhists conceived as *Pragna-parmita*, the Supreme Wisdom. The bottom of the pillar forming the root of the lotus was all-Brahman, the stem Maya, the flower the world, the animals on the abacus the guardians of the heavenly pond, *Anutapta*, in which Mayadevi purified herself before the Buddha entered her womb, the four lords of the forest the Lord of Men, the Buddha, and the wheel at the top the *Dharmachakra* turned by the Buddha for the good of mankind.

Clad in the russet robe, seated cross-legged, with the *Ashadha* (July-August) full moon just above the horizon, he proclaimed his doctrine, that "breathes balm to the bruished heart and peace to the soul in pain." Wonderful must have been his power and noble his teachings; for his first disciples were no other than the five brothers who had first deserted and reviled him as a Patita or one fallen from his vows. After expounding in his own imitable way the four Aryan truths or *Chaturarisachcham—Duhkhah* or misery, *Duhkhahetu* or the cause of misery, *Duhkhanirodha* or the removal of misery, and the *Ariyeattangikomaggo* or the noble eight-fold path, he exhorted his listeners in a grand peroration to go forth and spread the new message.

(*Continued on page* 48)

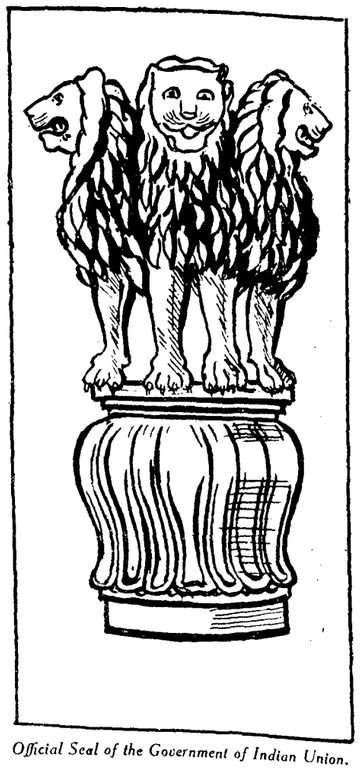
Significance of the National Ensign

India's National Flag and Seal have drawn their inspiration from the famous Sanchi Pillar of the time of Asoka, the Great. The background of the flag will remain the same, saffron-white-green, but instead of the *Charkha* the Committee have proposed the historic Wheel or *Chakra* which stands as a beautiful adornment on the Sanchi Pillar. The *Charkha* offered practical difficulties. It tapers towards one end and on the reverse side looks topsy-turvy and odd. The *Chakra*, however, produces no lack of balance and looks the same from both sides.

It is learnt that Gandhiji has put his signet of approval on the proposed change. As long as there is a wheel he is satisfied. But it must not be forgotten that the 'Chakra' symbolizes not only the spinner's wheel and the potter's wheel, but the wheel of life, the wheel of destiny, the wheel of motion and progress. There is no doubt whatever that the beautifully ornamented wheel carved by the skilled craftsmen of the 3rd Century B.C. was inspired by the great and great-hearted Emperor, who, victorious in battle, renounced the method of violence, and commanded memorials to be erected dedicated to peace and the art of peace. In terms of Buddhist Symbolism, the 'Chakra' or wheel represented 'Dharma' or the Law. It is not without deep significance that the symbol of 'Dharma' is to have a place on India's National Ensign to remind the Indian people of the Law of righteousness, of the duty of citizens, of the continuity of Indian Culture.

The modern connotation of the wheel is, of course, as a symbol of the development of science, especially on the mechanical and industrial side. It reminds one of the mighty strides man has taken to conquer space and time with the inventions of the engine, the motor car, the aeroplane. Altogether, taking the ancient Indian and modern associations clustering round the concept of the wheel one cannot but praise those who conceived the brilliant idea of using the wheel on the National Ensign, combining the ancient idealism of India with all the modern realism of a scientific age.

The spokes of the wheel are in the form of a sun. For centuries without number the sun has been worshipped as the giver of health and life, light and harvests, and all good things. Even today science has taught us how valuable are certain rays of the sun for human, animal and plant life. As a symbol of



Official Seal of the Government of Indian Union.

life and light it also suggests freedom from disease and darkness.

The National Seal that has been proposed has a very striking and beatiful design. This also is based on the Sanchi Pillar of Asoka of ancient fame. Marshall tells us "When intact the pillar was about forty-two feet in height and consisted of a round and slightly tapering monolithic shaft with bell-shaped foliate capital surmounted by a cable necking above which was an 'abacus' supporting the forefronts of four magnificent lions, possibly intended to typify Sakya Sinha, the lion of the Sakya race. The abacus was adorned by four honey suckle Motifs." The sculptor's art is seen not only in the fine finish of the work and the lustrous polish which made even Chunar stone shine like marble, but specially in the spirited vitality of the lions, the tense development of the claws, and the crisp treatment of the mane disposed in short schematic curves.

Of this, the foliate capital which is in the form of the conventional lotus, the pillar itself and three instead of four lions leaning, shoulder-to-shoulder against the pillar, have been chosen and recommended by the 'Ad Hoc' Committee for the National Seal of the Government of the Indian Union.

This particular pillar called 'Asoka-Ki-Lat' or the pillar of Asoka has an Edict which after relating the penalties for schism declares the royal desire for unity. "For what is my desire? That the Sangha may be united and may long endure." It sounds as if Asoka were saying to us on the eve of our attaining the happy status of a free Republic, "What is my desire? That the country may be united and may long endure."

In Indian symbolism the lotus is associated with beauty and prosperity. It is not strange therefore that the lotus finds a place in the proposed official insignia of the free Indian Union. The lotus is a reminder that Indians must now shake of the lethargy of the past and become ardent, tireless, inspired 'Karma Yogins,' striving for India's progress and prosperity.

Lion—Symbol of Strength.

Majesty, valour, strength, these are the qualities associated with the monarch of the forest. Three lions leaning against the pillar of victory might very well suggest that every Indian must become a lion-hearted citizen of a free and sovereign Republic, strong, fearless and dignified in order to defend the freedom that India has triumphantly secured. Weak, dastardly, mean citizens can never remain free and do not deserve liberty. It may be that one of the pernicious effects of continued foreign domination is that many of us have been robbed of strength, courage and dignity. But as the new day dawns, the new day of freedom and glory, the powerful, majestic, brave lions on our Seal will remind us that India wants lion-hearted men and women who have self-respect and can serve her without fatigue, defend her without fear, and prove in day-to-day living, in all their human relations, as well as in their laws and administration, that she has regained her majesty of ancient days, of the Age of Asoka and the Golden Age that followed.

Such a significant National Ensign must lead India from victory to victory. Such a unique National Seal must be honoured by all nations.

[*Abridged from the* **Amrita Bazaar Patrika**, *Calcutta.*]

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lines of the corresponding provisions in the Act of 1935.

The transitional provisions of the Draft, provide that the laws in force in the territories of the Federation immediately before the commencement of the Constitution shall continue in force therein until altered, or repealed or amended by a competent Legislature or other competent authorities, until the Supreme Court is duly constituted under the new constitution. The Federal Court shall be deemed to be the Supreme Court and shall exercise all the functions of the Supreme Court; provided that all cases pending before the Federal Court and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council at the date of the commencement of the constitution may be disposed of as if the constitution had not come into operation. Excepting holders of certain offices, to be specified in a schedule, every person who, immediately before the date of the commencement of this constitution, was in the service of the Crown in India shall, on that date be transferred to the appropriate service of the Federation or unit concerned.

The supplementary report on the principles of Union constitution—referred to by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly—has made a few changes in the original report.

The clause relating to amendment of the constitution has been rewritten so as to make it possible for either House of the Federal Parliament to initiate amendments to the constitution. When the proposed amendment is passed in each House by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of that House present and voting, it shall be presented to the President for his assent; upon such assent being given the amendment shall come into operation; provided that if the amendment is in respect of any change in the Federal legislative list, representation of units in the Federal Parliament and powers of the Supreme Court, it will also require to be ratified by the legislatures of units representing a majority of the population on all the units of the Federation, in which units representing at least one-third of the population of the Federal States are included.

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Jurisdiction and Powers of the Union Centre

Shri GOVIND BALLABH PANT, Prime Minister of United Provinces

In this article the Premier of United Provinces outlines the provisions of the report of the Union Constitution Committee and explains how the new set-up, which is to usher in a new epoch, will function.

Every minute is full of promise and pregnant with possibilities. Our freedom is taking a concrete shape. The old order is changing and a new state is being brought into existence in spite of all turmoil and tribulations. After centuries of foreign domination this ancient land of ours is going to breathe the refreshing and invigorating air of genuine freedom. You must have heard of the historic event that stirred the imagination and produced a wave of enthusiasm all over the country only this week when the National Flag for the Union of India was adopted unanimously by the Constituent Assembly. The Tricolour flag has been in the forefront of our struggle for independence. It was, however, only a symbol, so far, of our indomitable determination to be free. The acceptance of this flag as the recognized emblem of the State is a concrete demonstration of the consummation of the objective for which several generations have laboured and many had sacrificed their all. On the 15th of August this Tricolour flag will be hoisted all over the country. It will take the place of the existing flags in all official and state and public buildings. It will be the visible symbol of the new Union of India which is steadily taking shape. I have been invited to tell you something about the constitutional structure of this Union. I can give you but a bare outline of the salient features of the plan which the Union Constitution Committee has outlined. According to this scheme the Union of India will embrace almost the whole of India including the Indian States except the territories that may be included in Pakistan. We all wish that the unity of our country had been maintained intact. It is a matter of deep distress and sorrow to all of us that some of the areas in the North-West and the East are not joining the Federation of India. Let us hope that this breach will be healed and those who are keeping out will voluntarily come back to the Union and restore its integrity. But let us not forget that the seceding areas form but a fraction of the entire whole and even if these are left out, the Union of India will be almost the biggest State in the world. Out of about four hundred millions living in India the citizens of the Indian Federation will not be less than three hundred millions in any case and are likely to be greatly in excess of this figure. No other state can claim such a huge population anywhere else. This Federation will include the Provinces of Madras, Bombay, West Bengal, United Provinces, Bihar, East Punjab, Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, Orissa, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara, Coorg, Andaman and Nicobar islands and most of the Indian States. The representatives of the Indian States having a population of more than 60 millions have already joined the Constituent Assembly. This Union of India has vast possibilities. It has a mighty future before it and we can be sure that very soon it will come to occupy a very conspicuous place in the comity of nations and in the international world.



Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant, Premier of United Provinces

You would naturally like to know what this Federation is going to be like. I should first of all refer you to the Objectives Resolution which was passed by the Constituent Assembly in December last. The Constituent Assembly then declared its firm and solemn resolve to proclaim India as an independent sovereign republic wherein all power and authority shall vest in the people, wherein justice, social, economic and political; equality of status, of opportunity; and freedom of thought, expression, belief, faith, worship, vocation, association and action shall be guaranteed to all the people, and wherein adequate safeguards shall be provided for minorities and depressed and other backward classes so that this ancient land may attain rightful and honoured place in the world and make its full and willing contribution to the promotion of world place and the welfare of mankind.

Powers of the Centre

As you are doubtless aware, to begin with the powers of the Centre were strictly limited. According to the scheme of the Cabinet Mission of May 1946, besides Defence, External Affairs and Communications no other subject was to be included within the ambit of the Federal Centre, the residuary powers were to vest in the Provinces and no major communal issue was to be decided except with the consent of the majority of each of the two major communities. Momentous changes have occurred since, with the result that the Constituent Assembly has in law as well as in fact become a sovereign body. It is no longer subject to any limitations or restrictions. Its jurisdiction as well as its powers are supreme and unlimited. Being no longer fettered by the conditions of the 16th May plan it has now been decided by the Union Constitution Committee that the Federation will have a strong centre. All subjects necessary for maintaining the might, authority and efficiency of the Federation have been included in the Federal list. Accordingly as many as 87 items have been already entered in it. Besides, there will be a concurrent list and residuary powers shall also remain with the Centre. In order, however, to facilitate the entry of the States into the Union and to remove any possibility of any misapprehension on their part the residuary powers in the case of the States will vest in them and they will *not* be required except with their own free will to cede wider powers to the Centre than those contemplated in the May 1946 statement. The Federation will have full executive authority to give effect to its decisions with regard to all matters coming within its scope and included in the list of Federal subjects. It will have, besides the ultimate authority and responsibility for the defence and maintenance of the State and of peace and tranquility in all the territories of the Union.

Two chambers

The authority of the Federation shall be vested in the President and the

Constitution for Free Indian Union

Summary of Report Presented to the Constituent Assembly

The following is a general summary of the draft report on the constitution for Indian Union which was presented by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to the Indian Constituent Assembly on July 21.

The report which enumerates the principles of the future Union constitution is divided into eleven parts under the following heads: Federal territory and jurisdiction; Citizenship; Fundamental rights including directive principles of State policy; Federal executive; Distribution of legislative powers between the Federation and the units; Administrative relations between the Federation and the units; Finance and borrowing powers; Directly administered areas; Amendment of the constitution; Transitional provisions and miscellaneous.

The preamble to the draft says: "We, the people of India, seeking to promote the common good, do hereby, through our chosen representatives enact, adopt and give to ourselves this constitution."

The Federation shall be a sovereign independent Republic known as India. A schedule of the territories subject to the jurisdiction of the Federation includes the provinces in the present Indian Union and provision has been made for the acceding or "ratifying Indian States." It is explained in this regard that there may be Indian States which, though unfederated and therefore not in the schedule, may have ceded jurisdiction for certain special purposes by some treaty or agreement. The Parliament of the Federation may, from time to time, by Act include new territories in the schedule upon such terms as it thinks fit.

The part relating to the Federal Executive contains seven chapters dealing with the Head of the Federation who shall be an elected President (Rashtrapati); the Federal Parliament comprising two Houses, the Council of State and the House of the People; Legislative powers of the President; the Federal Judicature; Auditor-General of the Federation and Services and elections.

The election of the President shall be by an electoral college consisting of (*a*) the members of both Houses of Parliament of the Federation, and (*b*) the members of the Legislatures of all the units or where a Legislature is bicameral, the members of the Lower House thereof. In order to secure uniformity in the scale of representation of the units, the votes of the unit Legislatures shall be weighted in proportion to the population of the units concerned.

The President shall hold office for five years and shall be eligible for re-election once, but only once. A President may, for violation of the constitution, be removed from office by impeachment.

When a President is to be impeached for violation of the constitution, the charge shall be preferred by either House of the Federal Parliament, but no proposal to prefer such charge shall be adopted by that House except upon a resolution of the House supported by not less than two-thirds of the total membership of the House. There is provision for a Vice-President.

The functions of the President are listed as follows: The supreme command of the defence forces of the Federation shall be vested in the President. The right of pardon and the power to commute or to remit punishment imposed by any court exercising criminal jurisdiction shall be vested in the President, but such power of commutation or remission may also be conferred by law on other authorities. All executive action of the Federal Government shall be expressed to be taken in the name of the President.

There shall be a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head, to aid and advise the President in the exercise of his functions.

The legislative power of the Federation shall be vested in the Parliament of the Federation which shall consist of the President and the National Assembly, comprising two Houses, the Council of State and the House of the People.

The Council of State shall consist of not more than ten members nominated by the President in consultation with universities and scientific bodies; representatives of the units on the scale of one representative for every whole million of the population of the unit up to five millions plus one representative for every additional two millions of the population, subject to a total maximum of twenty.

The House of the People shall consist of representatives of the people of the territories of the Federation in the proportion of not less than one representative for every million of the population and not more than one representative for every seventy-five lakhs of the population.

The Council of State shall be a permanent body not subject to dissolution, but, as near as may be, one-third of the members thereof shall retire in every second year.

The House of the People, unless sooner dissolved, shall continue for four years but during an emergency the President may extend the period not exceeding one year.

According to the present census the Council of State will have a maximum strength of about 200 members and the House of the People a maximum strength of between 300 and 400 members. Except in the case of money bills both the Houses should have equal powers of legislation and deadlock should be resolved by joint meetings of the two Houses.

The President is empowered to promulgate ordinances during recess of Parliament. But every such ordinance shall be laid before the Federal Parliament and shall cease to operate at the expiry of six weeks from the reassembly of Parliament.

The ordinance-making power has been the subject of great criticism under the present constitution. It is, however, pointed out that circumstances may exist where the immediate promulgation of a law is absolutely necessary and there is no time in which to summon the Federal Parliament. A democratically elected President, who has moreover to act on the advice of Ministers responsible to Parliament is not at all likely to abuse any ordinance-making power with which he may be invested.

There shall be a Supreme Court with the constitution, powers and jurisdiction recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee on the Union judiciary, except, that a Judge of the Supreme Court shall be appointed by the President after consulting the Chief Justice and such other Judges of the Supreme Court as also such Judges of the High Courts as may be necessary for the purpose.

There shall be an Auditor-General whose duties and powers shall follow the



President of the Constituent Assembly

National Assembly comprising two Houses, namely, the Council of State and the House of the people. The term of office of the President shall normally last for five years and no President shall be eligible for re-election more than once. The President shall be elected by the members of the National Assembly of the Federation and the members of the Legislatures of all the units, and where the Legislature is bicameral, by members of the Lower House thereof. The value of the vote of each member will be roughly in proportion to the number of voters in the constituency which he represents. The President shall not be less than 35 years in age. The Council of State shall consist of about 116 representatives of the Provinces and of about 70 from the States if all of them accede to the Federation. The representatives of the Council of State shall be elected by the members of the popular House of each unit. The House of people shall consist of the representatives of the people of the territories of the Federation in the proportion roughly of one representative for every million of the population. The elections to the House of the people shall be on the basis of adult suffrage. The elections for the said House will ordinarily be held once in every four years, and the maximum strength of the House of the people shall be between 300 to 400. The Council of State shall be a permanent body, not subject to dissolution and there shall be an election for filling one-third of the vacancies in the House every second year.

Setting up of the Machinery

It must inevitably take some time even after the passage of the Constitution Act to set up the machinery prescribed therein. The preparation of the electoral rolls must precede the election of the members. But the process of transfer of power is proceeding very speedily. All British authority is going to be withdrawn from the 15th of August and from that date the Constituent Assembly will be the supreme Legislature with full power not only with regard to the framing of the Constitution but also about all matters of legislation and administration. The President will, however, be only a constitutional head and the real administration of the country will be conducted by the Council of Ministers under the leadership of the Prime Minister. The Army, the Navy, the Air-force and all other Departments will be maintained and controlled by the people through their Ministers and until both the Houses of the National Assembly have been duly constituted, the Constituent Assembly shall itself exercise all the powers of both the Houses and until the President of the Federation has been elected in the manner prescribed, the Constituent Assembly shall be competent to elect a provisional President of the Federation. In order to meet any unforeseen difficulties the Federal Parliament shall have power to make necessary adaptations and modifications in the Constitution for three years from its commencement.

My task has been prosaic and matter-of-fact. I had only to give an outline of the provisions contained in the report of the Union Constitution Committee. But we have to take note of the fact that for all practical purposes our country is going to be independent on the 15th of August, from which date no vestige of British authority will remain here and full power to order things as they like will be vested in the members of the Cabinet of an independent Federation of India. Let us prepare for the new epoch and the new era that will be dawning on the 15th. Long live this sovereign Independent Republic of India !

[By Courtesy, A.I.R., Delhi.]

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SARASWATHI STORES, MADRAS-2

Our Model Provincial Constitution

Sri B. G. KHER, Prime Minister of Bombay

The framing of our constitution and its inauguration will not be the end of the task before us, but only its beginning, says the Premier of Bombay in this article.



Sardar Vallabhai Patel, President, Provincial Constitution Sub-Committee

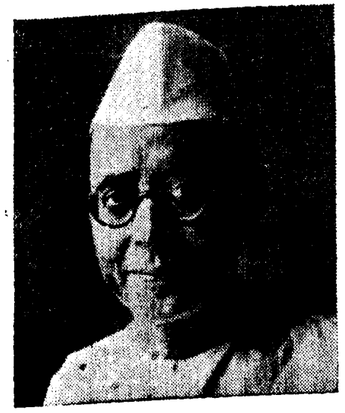
India has now achieved her independence, though not quite in the manner expected. We *are* living in very eventful and stirring times. The Indian Independence Act which has now been passed envisages full Dominion Status for India and broadly speaking it continues for the time being the provisions in the Government of India Act relating to Provincial Constitutions. The Constituent Assembly will now frame a new Constitution for a free India from which some part has seceded, and also for the Provinces. You will agree with me that we need to have a strong Centre which should be in a position to check all fissiparous tendencies.

Constitution-making is always a difficult task. It is particularly so in a country like ours and at the present time. The Constituent Assembly has set up a number of Committees to assist it, and the Provincial Constitution Committee, of which I have the honour to be a member, is one of such Committees. It was appointed to prepare a Model Constitution for the Provinces of the Indian Union.

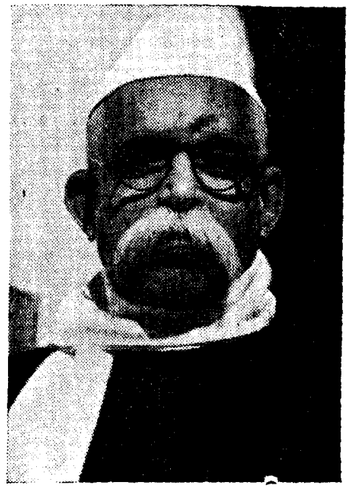
The committee consists of twenty-five members and is presided over by Sardar Vallabhai Patel. It is largely due to his guidance and courteous but firm handling of the business at its meetings that the Committee which began its work early in June was able to frame its report so quickly. This was presented by the Sardar to the Constituent Assembly on Tuesday last.

Defects in the 1935 Act

The Constitution embodied in the Government of India Act, 1935, which is now in force, gave a large measure of autonomy to the Provincial Governments. But the sting was in the reserved powers of the British Governor who in this respect was subject only to the control of the Governor-General and through him of the Secretary of State. In practice, the use of the reserved powers depended largely on the good sense of the Governors. My own relations with the Governors I have had to work with (and there were five of them) have been very cordial. But it was highly objectionable that the accredited representatives of the people should be looked upon with suspicion and provision made for their control by an alien authority. Besides that, Communal interests, Tribal interests, European interests, Service interests, Princely interests—all came first, and the interest of the general public—the people of the country—became a secondary consideration. That was a defect inherent in the Constitution and we have seen how in some Provinces it worked havoc. The Services could and did look only to the Governor as the protector of their interests and many suffered for the loyalty they showed to the first Ministry of 1937 after it resigned in 1939. Thank goodness—it can never happen again.



Srl B. G. Kher, Premier of Bombay



Pandit Ravi Shanker Shukla, Premier of Central Provinces

Truly Democratic

The Provincial Constitution Committee constantly kept in view the desirability of making a truly democratic constitution which will also ensure a stable and efficient administration. At the outset, it was decided that the future Governmental structure should be of the federal type. This would enable Provinces to concentrate their energies on local problems while the Central Government will deal exclusively with matters of all-India interest like defence, external affairs, currency, foreign trade, etc.

Broadly speaking, in every Constitution provision has to be made for the discharge of the executive, legislative and judicial functions of the State. I shall briefly indicate provisions made by the Provincial Constitution Committee in each of these cases.

It is proposed that the legislature should normally consist of a single Chamber elected on the basis of adult

franchise with one seat for every lakh of voters but subject to a minimum of 60 and a maximum of 300 members. The Executive will consist of the Governor elected on adult franchise and a Cabinet consisting of a Prime Minister and other Ministers. The Ministers will be appointed on the recommendations of the Prime Minister. The executive head of the State will be the Governor and all acts of Government will be expressed as orders of the Governor. But he will be required to act always on the advice of his Cabinet.

Powers of the Governor

Unfortunately the danger cannot be overlooked that in a country like ours party politics may sometimes assume undue importance in a legislature, that the larger interests of the country may be ignored and a situation may develop which may be a grave menace to the safety, peace and tranquillity of the Province. The influence of the Governor who will not be subject to the pressure of party politics in the legislature and who will himself be a person commanding the confidence of the people and the powers vested in him should be such as to act as a corrective in such cases. The Governor should also have the power to report to the President of the Federation whenever he is unable to secure legislative support to combat an emergency of such a nature and the President should be provided with powers to deal with it.



Mr. H. K. Mehtab



Mr. Shrikrishna Sinha

The Provincial Constitution Committee deliberated at some length over the pros and cons of having a second Chamber. Men, who had risen to the heights of their profession and those representing special interests might be deterred from seeking election partly because of aversion to the rough and tumble of a popular election and partly on the score of expense. An upper House would act as a revising Chamber and would enable the State to make use of the mature advice of such people. It was decided that any Provinces which so desired might have a second Chamber elected more or less on the Irish model.

Judiciary

As regards the judiciary, the Committee has recommended that High Court Judges should be appointed by the President of the Federation in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Governor of the Province and the Chief Justice of the High Court of the Province. This would ensure that appointment of High Court Judges will be independent of political or party pressure. One of the greatest institutions created by British Government in this country is a judiciary which is generally impartial and fair. It should be our duty to foster this tradition of impartial justice which is the basis of all sound administration.

After the principles of the Provincial Constitution and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Minorities are approved of by the Constituent Assembly, a draft Bill will be prepared. I hope the problem of the rights and duties of minorities which was created and fully exploited by the British will now be satisfactorily solved. The draft Bill will be approved by the Constituent Assembly before the end of the year and I expect that the first elections on the basis of adult suffrage will be held about the end of 1948 or early in 1949. The Committee has recommended that the present Ministries and the legislature should continue to function until the first elections are held.

Beginning, not the end

The framing of the Constitution and its inauguration will not end the task before us. With the dawn of independence the struggle for true freedom of the people has only just begun. The independence we have gained is independence to chalk out a course for our own good and for the good of the world. Some of the things which have happened have hurt us deeply, but I have no doubt that the future is bright for this ancient motherland of ours. I see no reason for the gloom which some people are trying to spread and make political capital out of it. It is my earnest appeal to all Indians, to all my countrymen, that they should forget past divisions and unite in the building up of a great nation of modern men and women worthy of their ancient heritage—able to show to this restless world the way of *Dharma*—which is the only true way to happiness.

[*By* Courtesy, *A.I.R., Delhi.*]



Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi, Premier of Assam

The Economic Outlook for Free India

DR. B. V. NARAYANASWAMY NAIDU, M.A., PH.D., B. COM., BAR.-AT-LAW

[In this article Dr. Naidu examines the economic problems Free India has to solve and argues that the progress of this vast country depends upon the State's playing a grand role in all spheres of human activity.]

The transference of power from the British into Indian hands on the 15th August 1947 marks the triumphant conclusion of India's long struggle for freedom but the fruits of freedom and independence will not fall into our lap on that day. Political freedom is only a means to an end; the nation will be politically free to pursue its cherished ideals of higher standard of living, full employment and an ever-rising curve of prosperity. The pursuit of these objectives had been retarded in the past by many factors. Now a vigorous and sustained effort is an urgent requisite on the part of the Governments as well as the public for the attainment of the goal.

Characteristics of Indian Economy

At this juncture, it will be instructive to examine the present Indian economy, a knowledge of which is indispensable to envisage the economic future of this great country of ours. A critical study of the Indian economy will reveal two of its major characteristics—its haphazard growth and its unbalanced nature. Economic development of this country has remained for too long a period a plaything of planless private enterprise. It has shown until very recent times the traits of a colonial economy. Industries have been developed from time to time to serve the imperial or commonwealth interests rather than national interests. It is not entirely a prejudicial view, as characterised by some critics, to regard even the establishment of the Eastern Group Council during the war years, as a culminating instance of the Colonial economic policy. Viewed in this light, Indian industrial development is not merely the result of a lack of planning but that of the pursuit of a policy of "Subject economy". The second major trait of unbalanced economy is, in fact, a corollary of the first characteristic. The economic pattern of India differs sharply from that of any advanced industrial nation. In the U.S.A., there is an even balance between the primary, secondary and tertiary occupations. Agriculture, mining, forestry, fishing and other industries support only about one-third of the population while on manufacture and processing of commodities depend another third of the population. The increase of employment in the domestic and social services, for example, Government, quasi-public, medical and sanitary services, recreational arts such as dancing, music and cinema, has been phenominal in the inter-war period. The net result of these forces is that there is a balanced economy in the U.S.A. The French national economy before the World War II was also described as a model of balanced economy. In comparison with these countries, India presents a gross instance of unequal and lop-sided advancement. Whereas 75 per cent of the population directly or indirectly depend upon land for sustenance, only about 4 per cent earn their living from manufacture. The Government employees number only about one per cent of the entire population. There are only 4,525,000 engaged in public administration and liberal arts. Industry, trade and transport give employment to 27,943,000 people. The tertiary occupations are very few in number and feebly developed. The unbalanced nature of Indian national economy will also be evident from the high percentage of unemployed and under-employed. Among those who depend upon agriculture, only a portion perform the actual operation of cultivation and that too only for about six months in a year. In India, a vast amount of man-power is going to waste every year for no other fault than lack of organization and training. India has abundant supply of minerals and raw materials such as iron ore, coal, bauxite, mica and manganese, cotton, jute and oil-seeds. Yet notwithstanding over 70 years of industrial development, she has not yet crossed the first and immature stage of industrialization. Her dependence upon foreign countries for machine tools, machinery, heavy chemicals as well as manufactures like locomotives, aircraft, automobiles and ships, refrigerators, typewriters, radio-receiving sets and a host of other high-grade consumption goods is pitiable in the extreme.

Problems to be solved

The defects and deficiencies of Indian economic development will make a formidable list. Indian agriculture suffers from impoverished soil, evils of morcellement, zamindari system of tenure, absentee landlordism, primitive implements, emaciated draught animals, inadequate credit facilities and indebtedness. The bulk of Indian labour is unskilled, ignorant, illiterate, migratory, casual and unorganized in character. The most glaring deficiencies in the field of mining and manufacture are the limited stocks of high-grade coking coal and inadequate and costly supply of power. The development of all the basic and heavy chemical industries together with new industries like aluminium and rayon hinges upon a vast increase in the supply of electricity. The absence or feeble development of machine tool, fertilisers, dyes, plastics and engineering industries constitutes the most serious lacunae in the present industrial structure. There is a great need for the renovation and rationalisation of the war-time over-worked industries like the textiles. So far, only niggardly attention has been paid to industrial and scientific research without which our industries can never reach the peak of efficiency and excellence associated with the manufactures of the U.S.A. and the U.K. Despite war-time expansion of currency and the accumulation of sterling balances, capital is still scarce in relation to the enormous need for capital for the establishment of many brand-new, and expansion of the existing, industries. The present pattern of industrial location is marked by a strong tendency for agglomeration; it is far from satisfactory and calls for regional planning.

Banking in India has been beset with numerous evils such as slender cash balances, excessive branch-banking, dabbling in non-banking activities, sacrificing the interests of shareholders and depositors for the promotion of directors' interests and fraudulent window-dressing of the balance sheets. The development of specialised industrial banks is in its infancy. The setting up of the proposed Industrial Finance Corporation by the Central Government will not completely solve the problem. Many more such institutions will have to come into being to appease even slightly the hunger for

capital that will be felt by the legitimate demands of industrialization.

The problem of prices affects the industrialists, agriculturists, merchants and consumers alike; and the Indian prices are today abnormal in the extreme. A gradual stepping down of the price-structure is of vital importance to set the country on the road to prosperity. The inter-group price relationships call for a considerable re-adjustment. With regard to our commodities entering the export trade, reduction of prices is an urgent necessity lest they should lose their export markets. A revision of the price structure so as to harmonise with the national objective of rapid industrialization is a most baffling issue.

Transport is of pivotal importance in India with her continental dimensions. She had only a route mileage of about 40,525 of railway in 1942-43, whereas in the U.K. the total track is over 50,000 miles. Further in India roads are inadequate and thousands of villages are not connected with market towns by any kind of road. The canals system is found only in certain parts of the country. Coastal navigation requires considerable development. Apart from the insufficiency of railways, roads and canals, the transport system of this country is handicapped by a lack of co-ordination among the various branches. Further, the rates-policy pursued by the Indian railways, has been most injurious to the industrial advancement of this country. Unless the rates structure is thoroughly revised to suit the requirements of rapid industrialization and regional planning, the transport system will offer one of the difficult obstacles in the way of realising our cherished goal.

Again financing of industries offers some hard problems; the repatriation of the sterling balances, the tapping of all the hoarded wealth within the country and the promotion of industrial finance corporation which are commonly suggested to overcome financial difficulties, cannot supply the requisite finance. In our anxiety to promote rapid industrialization, the fabric of commercial banking should not be overstrained. Created money is theoretically easy to suggest but, in practice, difficult to handle without producing harmful repercussions on certain sections of the community. Supposing this financial bottle-neck is removed by overseas borrowing under favourable conditions, the industries fostered thereby must be protected from infantile mortality due to foreign competition. Hence a well-thought-out and clear-cut tariff policy must buttress all our industrial efforts. The elimination of most of these bottle-necks will be impossible without an active and purposive action on the part of the State.

State must step in

State action may take many forms. They may be classified broadly under five heads, namely, legislation, subsidization, State enterprise, State regulation of private enterprise and direct provision of social services by the State. By Legislation, I mean certain fundamental alterations in the legal frame-work as it exists to-day and within which social and economic activities take place. The legal set-up of capitalism allows free play for all kinds of economic enterprise the upshot of which are rank competition, exploitation of weak by the strong, glaring maldistribution of wealth and unequal opportunities for the citizens of a country. The rights of ownership, inheritance, bequest and freedom of contract must undergo a drastic change. The objectives of State legislation should be the provision of equal opportunities for all and a more even distribution of wealth among the people. Laws for compulsory consolidation of fragmented and diminutive holdings are absolutely necessary for setting agriculture again on its feet. These laws must needs be accompanied by suitable amendments of the laws of inheritance so that holdings would not be split up beyond a specified size. State acquisition of "Zamindari" estates by payment of compensation on an equitable basis would involve the removal from the statute book of the Permanent Land Revenue Settlement Act and Estates Land Act; further legislation affecting land will be concerned with its use; State will have to fix the areas under food and non-food crops annually or biennially as the case may be. This piece of legislation must be very flexible and capable of being amended from time to time according to the national requirements of food crops and commercial crops. There must also be statutory enactment for the compulsory liquidation of indebtedness of chronic rural debtors. In the industrial sector, legislation for a scientific distribution of industries according to well-devised regional planning, under the direction of an Industrial Licensing Board, will be a prime necessity. The policy of nationalization of the key and basic industries will lead to the passing of many laws which will go a long way to circumscribe the sphere of private economic enterprise. The future trend will be the expansion of State entrepreneurship to cover an increasing area of industrial activity leaving only the fringes to private entrepreneurs. The policy of selective protection, to be pursued in the future, will necessitate the passing of a law setting up a Board of Trade and Industries to examine the case for protection to industries. As an inevitable corollary of this legislation, there will be a regular flow of Tariff Acts every year.

Due to pursuit of an enlightened labour policy, the statute book will be burdened with numerous laws calculated to ensure minimum wages, hours of work, proper sanitary and working conditions, adequate compensation for accidents, unemployment insurance and provident fund benefits. Beyond this, laws will be required to confer full rights upon the Trade Unions as well as to guide them on sound lines. A new set of laws will be needed to set up Joint Production and Joint Consultation Committees which should not be left to the option of the employers.

It is incumbent upon the State to ward off fluctuations in trade and prices. This onerous responsibility can be discharged only by a fresh set of legislation affecting prices, imports and exports. It is of course true that legislation cannot banish slumps and booms; physical controls can be exercised only under the sanction of law. According to changing conditions, productions of particular commodities will have to be curtailed or expanded.

Finally legislation is urgently required to prohibit speculation monopoly and private accumulation of windfall profits which constitute the major factors leading to the concentration of fabulous wealth in the hands of a few. Speculative investment in urban sites and in arable lands in project areas are an anti-social act which must be forbidden. Without a legal reform of this revolutionary character, industrial effort will not be crowned with any success.

Government should help with subsidies

When the police State is transformed into a social State, it has to discharge numerous paternal functions in which subsidization plays a prominent role. There is a great necessity for the payment of subsidy to well-sinking and live-stock rearing. The supply of fertilisers, implements and seeds to agriculturists must also be liberally subsidized at the present juncture and for a few more years to come. At key points, the industrial structure also requires subsidy. Whenever a new industry is growing up, its growth must not be affected by artificial rise in the prices of machinery, machine stores, chemicals, etc., required for its smooth working. In such circumstances, subsidization for a time will help the industry to tide over a critical period. Power, in the form of coal or electricity, is the most suitable object for subsidy as the benefits derived therefrom will permeate the whole industrial structure in a properly ordered economy.

Extension of State-enterprise

The next field of State action is socialization of key industries. Railways, forests and posts and telegraph have been for a long time objects of State enterprise in India. Public ownership and control of Industries will be on the increase. It is not only the key-industries but also new industries like fertilizers which do not attract private capital and old industries in which anti-social exploitation is evident, that would be nationalized.

There is an unmistakable tendency for the extension of enterprises and one should not be surprised, if, within a very short period, our national economy is in all vital parts socialized. With respect of the non-socialized sector, a considerable amount of control and regulations will be necessary. Location, organization, capital issue, labour recruitment and conditions of work, will be objects of State scrutiny, inspection and regulation. In all these, the State will be animated by the prime motive of increasing the net social welfare. Economic or social injustice will have to be stamped out. High rates of industrial profits must be discouraged; sharing of the profits of the industry between employers and labourers should be the goal.

Social Services

Finally direct provision of services by State has gained great significance in recent times. Health and education of the nation are the primary care of the State. The modern "Social Service" State will have to spend considerable amounts in various schemes of economic and social development and welfare of which the most important are road programme, flood control and irrigation works, sanitation, housing—urban and rural.

Square deal to the masses

In conclusion, I wish to emphasize that the eradication of poverty, ignorance, illiteracy, disease, dirt and squalor among the masses is imperative. The full exploitation of the industrial potential on the scientific and economic lines indicated will be the only means of ensuring higher standards of living and higher level of employment. To this end the State will have to shoulder heavy financial and administrative responsibilities. The sphere and functions of the State will have to be so enlarged that the pattern of economy must become eventually socialistic in all its vital sectors. Private economic enterprise will be there but circumscribed in its sphere of activity and pruned of its numerous extravagances. The economic progress of this vast country of ours, in short, depends upon the State's playing a grand role in all the spheres of human activity.

The Cultural Heritage of the Indian Union

Dr. C. Kunhan Raja

After nearly a century of unitary Government in India, now the foreign Government has transferred its power to Indian hands. During the period of the foreign rule, the political unity of India extended to Burma. But twelve years ago, Burma was separated from India. Now India has again been divided into two parts officially. Thus there is a bit of unfortunate irony in speaking of the "Indian Union". This shows that political unity is only a camouflage without any reality of unity in it.

We know very little about the political alignment of the country before the Mauryan Empire. There is historical evidence to show that Chandragupta's Empire extended to a part of what is now Afghanistan, Baluchistan and Persia. Perhaps it extended northwards to parts of the present Turkistan also. There are reminiscences of this extension of Chandragupta's Empire beyond the present borders of India, in the works of Kalidasa, who must have lived soon after the end of the Mauryan period. Asoka's empire extended southwards to about Conjeeveram; butit did not include the extreme south of India. Samudragupta and Yasodhavarma could not extend their conquest to the south. Alla-ud-din Kilji's sway extended as far as Madura. But he too was never the overlord of the whole of India.

In the Ancient Times

Although the Puranas speak of emperors who have ruled over the whole earth surrounded by the ocean, there is no evidence of any puranic personality having been the ruler of the whole of India. Neither Sri Rama nor Yudhishthira were emperors of the whole of Bharatavarsha.

The Asvamedhas performed by emperors in former days marked only the cultural unity of the country, just as the great festivals in temples of all India fame now mark such a unity. Later, Asvamedha became an emblem of imperial sway; but there is no record to show that any emperor who performed the Asvamedha (and many have done so) had the title to being the emperor of the whole of Bharatavarsha.

The term "Greater India" must be familiar to the people by this time. This Greater India was never a political unit. We hear of the conquest of Sumatra by Kalinga. We hear of other conquest of lands outside India by Indian rulers. But such political conquests were very insignificant, and contributed practically nothing to the building up of the Greater India. The Greater India was a cultural unit.

The difference between political unity and cultural unity has been exemplified by the story of the Greater India and the British Rule in India. The former held many countries together in spite of political rivalries and mutual wars among the rulers; in the latter case, the strong force was one of disintegration and the political power could not hold the parts together.

I thought that when the one obstacle to the political unity of India as a strong centralized administrative unit, namely, the differences between the Muslims and the Congress, disappeared with the separation of India into two States, an attempt would be made to establish a strong centralized administration, so that there would be

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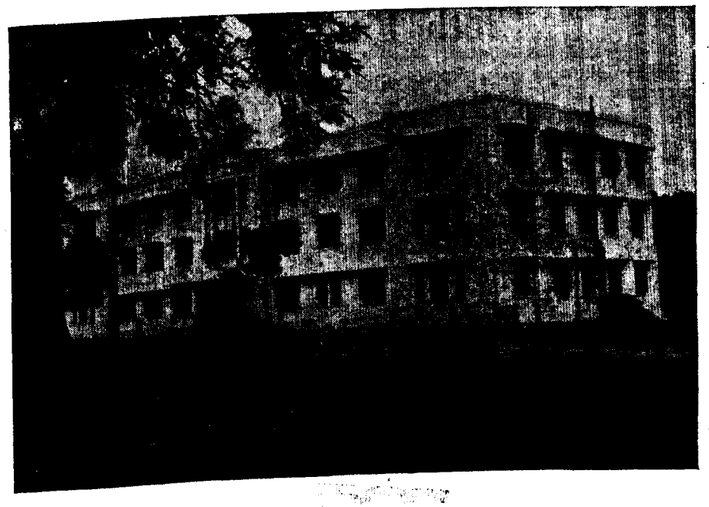
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Lady Hope School of Nursing opened on 24th July, 1947, at Madras.



Her Excellency Lady Nye is seen distributing the prizes to the nurses on the occasion of the opening ceremony of the Lady Hope School of Nursing



Hon'ble Sri A. B. Shetty, Minister for Public Health, is addressing the gathering at the opening ceremony of the Lady Hope School of Nursing

unity in the matter of legislation and also in the matter of the administration of the law. But the present tendency seems to be towards emphasizing the autonomy aspect of the provinces and other parts of the 'Union' in the matter of both legislation and administration in a wide field of the life of the nation, especially those aspects that have a great influence on the cultural side of the life of the nation, like education and social life.

Cultural tie ignored

The cultural unity that held the people together for many centuries, has become loosened; the political tie that kept the people together for a century, had completely ignored an aspect in national life called culture, under the guise of religious neutrality; and in order to escape from interference by the State, the scope of religion began to be expanded, and every social institution and usage was brought under religion. Divorced from the State function, these social institutions and usages lost their real significance in life and became mere forms. As such, they grew to be grounds for separation between different groups.

In former times, Tamils, Andhras and Mahrattas settled down in North India and mixed up freely with the people there. Muslims studied Sanskrit and Indians studied Persian. There was a possibility of the two people uniting into a single and homogeneous nation, having a common culture in spite of the differences in certain religious creeds, just as the various sects of the followers of the Vedic religion formed a cultural unit in spite of their differences in the forms of religious worship and of sectarian creeds.

What we want now is to use the political unity as an instrument for creating a cultural unity through accepting the cultural aspects of national life as matters in which the State has a real concern. This cannot be achieved if the function of the Union Government is confined to purely political matters like defence, foreign communications, currency and foreign credit, etc., and if such aspects like education and social institutions are left to the parts of the Union.

The cultural rift will widen and the political power in the centre may not be able to hold together the culturally conflicting elements in the parts of the Union. If once again, the cultural unity of the country becomes stronger than the political aspects of the life, then perhaps, we can have provincial autonomy with even a vengeance, as in olden times, when the political differences between States could not break away the cultural unity of the nation.

It may be that we cannot ignore the provincial consciousness, and that we cannot hold together such different elements through a system of mere police force. But recently there was a Commission functioning for the unification of Hindu Law; and what service can their work do to the nation if, in future, the various provinces can legislate and administer law through autonomous courts in the various parts of the country.

A Compromise

A possible compromise between these two extreme positions is to bifurcate the State function between the centre and the parts into (*a*) complete legislative power in so far as the cultural aspects of life are concerned, reserved to the centre and (*b*) administrative power given to the parts following a uniform administrative policy laid down by the centre, instead of bifurcating the functions according to subjects. Thus, in the whole of the country, there will be only one law and one policy. There shall be only one final authority to interpret law (and what is law is not the statute passed by the legislature but the statute as interpreted by the courts). This will satisfy the needs of unity in the matter of cultural life in the whole country and of the autonomy of the parts of the Union.

It is true that all the parts that have now signified their readiness to join the Indian Union, may not accept such a position. But if the provinces of the former 'British India' will accept such a compromise, then that is a sufficiently big portion of the country, and even if any other parts keep aloof from this cultural unity of India, the pull will be too weak to be effective and even to be noticed.

If this cultural unity, the consciousness of a common interest among the various people of the country even in matter of their life, apart from matters of political security and economic stability, can be secured without a centralized machinery, then that device must be thought of; I am not able to think of another way. Without the cultural unity, with aggressive provincialism, the political freedom may create a complete break up of the life of the people as a 'Nation.'

The transitory nature of the political union of Burma with India and the recent splitting up of the country into different parts as independent States must be a warning to those in whose hands the political future of the country rests.

Independence—What Next?

(P. K. K. Menon, M.A., M.LITT.)

[*Mr. Menon makes a strong plea in this article not to rest content with our past glory, but to look forward and act in the living present. We have to preserve the independence we have newly won, avoid the danger of dictatorship, and make freedom meaningful to the common man by making his lot better*].

Another blue day;
Think, Wilt thou let it
Slip uselessly away?

One hundred and ninety years ago, a British Captain sowed the seeds of a growing empire on the field of Plassey; ninety years ago was waged the first war of Indian Independence. It was a conflagration that kindled an undying flame in every heart. a struggle that knew no caste or class or creed. Under the inspiration of the western system of education, new forces, social, political and religious, converged to form the mighty river of Indian nationalism. We have associated with administration in 1892; we got a responsive government in 1909, and a partially responsible Government in the provinces in 1919. The Swadeshi movement gave a deeper hue to our nationalism; after the political Liberalism of Gokhale, the Gandhian era dawned in the early twenties of this century. The new technique of the spinning wheel and spiritualized politics successfully gathered more momentum with every apparent defeat. Under a saintly commander we learnt to love an adversary, to view life as a comprehensive whole and to look upon means and ends as a distinction without a difference. The nobility of Non-violence of the strong has at last compelled the voluntary and therefore unique liquidation of a mighty empire.

Look forward

In this first flush of freedom, let us control our emotions and passions. Let us not rest on our oars. Let us transfer our thoughts from the winning of independence to its preservation. To save ourselves from extinction in a world of revolutionary changes, we have to think deeply and act promptly. We have to maintain our freedom within a framework that allows to every one the richest expression to his inner creative personality. We have to preserve our independence within the larger framework of world interdependence.

We must change our ideas about the golden age in history. Tradition, we accept, has moulded us in the context of our culture; but there is nothing golden possessed in the childhood of the race and lost in the process of time. It is time we stopped gloating over the glory that was the past: let us rather prove that we are worthy of it. The essence of the past, of the accumulated treasures of human experience, lies at our disposal to-day. We must cast away our pathetic contentment and apparent indifference to material achievements and derive our inspiration from the present in which is cast our destiny; and, if we find it imperfect, we must make it the golden age for us and for the generations yet to be born.

Arrest fissiparous tendencies

Political unity, administrative uniformity, common historical and cultural tradition, common law and language, common economic policy and social consciousness, improved transport and communication and, above all, the British bayonet had combined with natural geographical factor in knitting us all together into a nation during the past one century and a half. We realized our national identity. It is the tragedy of Indian independence that, at this vital hour, in this atomic age, when artificial barriers between country and country are fast broken up by extra-political forces and when mankind is shaping a super-nation State on a federal basis, we should be undoing the achievements of the recent past. But we may not weep and wear out in vain longing. Mother India has given birth to twins who have to pursue their individual destinies. It is for us, however, to arrest the further play of fissiparous tendencies. In the name of linguistic autonomy and the preservation of local cultural integrity, we have been stressing, for some time past, upon petty parochialism. This narrow provincialism has already spread its hideous tentacles over the vital organism of our national life, and our sense of unity gained during the days of struggle seems to be getting lost in a maze of shibboleths. We do not decry local autonomy or regional culture which may give variegated colour to the national fabric, but in the present crisis when the future is on the anvil a premature over-emphasis may cause incalculable injury in so far as it may take us backward to the same political conditions in which the East India Company had originally seen us. Let our universal homage impart solidarity and stability to the central structure first; diversity afterwards would be enriched and strengthened only by this fundamental unity.

Danger of dictatorship

We have to preserve our democracy in future. Eternal vigilance is its price. It can never mean the domination of the crowd. Its first function is to educate its own masters and develop in them a particular attitude to life. The gift of suffrage, remarks Bryce, creates the will to use it, and the gift of knowledge creates the ability to use the suffrage aright. Democracy and independence are hot-house plants in India to be nurtured under ideal conditions. With an illiterate and ill-informed electorate, adult suffrage and one-party government, there is always the danger of personal or party dictatorship. But society is no mere collection of units. It is a net-work of human relations and creative force comes from and is evolved through group organizations which should be the foundation of our system. Organization has to be met by organization. We want a well-organized opposition, on healthy lines, almost equal in strength to the party in power in order to keep the latter alert, responsible and efficient, and to preserve the balance in the constitutional structure. Criticism has to be respected where it is not degenerate.

Recognize merit

A sound administrative system has come down to us as a noble legacy characterized by objectivity, efficiency, impartiality, open competition and recognition of merit. Any violent break from this system should be tempered by the realization of the woeful dearth of trained hands. In the critical days ahead we must put a premium upon efficiency, irrespective of political affiliation. The revival of mediæval ideas about social and economic organization and undue emphasis upon voluntary service may not attract talent, capacity or experience. The cream of youth about to be absorbed by our administrative services should have broad vision and deep sympathy which is inculcated only by a critical study of the social science. The latter alone can create a full-fledged citizenship by which one is enabled to contribute his best instructed judgment to the maximum social advantage. This implies a radical modification of the educational system of the country in which the humanities should re-capture their lost importance. Let not the politicians and statesmen of the future, lacking imagination or sympathy, lose the peace and security that the humble soldiers of war have just now established on the battle field.

Freedom and the common man

Freedom loses its meaning unless it is related to the material comfort of the common man. He is entitled to those conditions of social life in which he can be at his best. We must guarantee to him, as Laski says, 'the opportunity to exercise freedom of choice in those areas of life where the result of his effort mainly affects him in that isolation by which, at least ultimately, he is surrounded, we must guarantee to him the security and opportunity to find reasonable significance in the course of earning of his bread. Equality implies not only the absence of special privilege but adequate opportunity for all. But can we say that the system of caste and class has not denied the common man his birth-right?

And so let us not soar too high lest we should fall; we should stoop to rise, and we should cultivate the virtues of moderate saintliness and consummate prudence. We want men, great hearts, strong minds, true faith and willing hands, men, whom the lust of office cannot kill nor spoils of

(*Continued on page 48*)

Cloth Position in the Madras Province

The following is a report on the working of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order, 1945 :—

I. *Cotton yarn.*—The October 1945 Agreement guarantees the supply of 21,574 bales of yarn per mensem to the Madras Region, out of which this Province is entitled to receive 21,305 bales. A revision of the quota can be made only if this agreement is revised with the consent of both the Governments. The Textile Commissioner, Bombay, however, has written to the Provincial Textile Commissioner that with reference to the average All-India Yarn deliveries between January and March 1947, the quota of the Madras Province would be reduced to 19,223 bales per mensem from March 1947. As this is contrary to the October Agreement, the Provincial Textile Commissioner has told him that his proposal for a reduction in the quota cannot be accepted.

II. *Handloom cloth.*—The price of handloom cloth continues to be unattractively high. With a view to bring down the level of prices as well as to prevent the blackmarketing in yarn by consumers, it is necessary that the Madras Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947, should be applied through the Province. The Stamping Inspectors who will be appointed under the Control Order will be able to take a correct census of looms and it will then be possible to eliminate all bogus looms.

III. *Mill cloth—October* 1946 *quota.*—Out of a quota of 4,531 bales at Bombay, 8½ bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 17 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, the entire quota of 4,849 bales has been purchased and one bale is awaiting transport.

November 1946 *quota.*—At Bombay, out of a quota of 4,780 bales, 15¾ bales have still to be released and 13½ bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, the entire quota of 4,966 bales has been purchased and moved into this Province.

December 1946.—No allocation.

January 1947 *quota.*—The entire quota of 3,678 bales at Bombay has been purchased and only one bale is awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, the entire quota of 2,577 bales has been purchased and 31 bales are awaiting transport.

February 1947 *quota.*—Fifty-five and a half bales out of a quota of 4,148 bales at Bombay have still to be released and 45½ bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, out of quota of 2,234 bales, 1,208 bales have been transferred to Bombay. Out of this, 21½ bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 10 bales are awaiting transport. Out of the balance of 1,026 at Ahmedabad, the entire quantity has been purchased and moved into the Province.

March 1947 *quota.*—At Bombay, out of a quota of 2,122 bales, 68½ bales have still to be purchased and 31 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, the entire quota of 1,223 bales has been purchased and 35 bales are awaiting transport.

April 1947 *quota.*—Two thousand, five hundred and fifteen and three fourt bales out of a quota of 7,595 bales at Bombay have still to be released and 2,958¾ bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, the entire quota of 2,436 bales have been purchased and 124 bales are awaiting transport.

May 1947 *quota.*—One thousand, nine-hundred and eighty-two bales out of a quota of 2,564 bales from Bombay have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 155 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, out of a quota of 3,382 bales, 2,237 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 1,645 are awaiting transport. At Baroda, the entire quota of 250½ bales has been purchased and 108 bales are awaiting transport. At Sholapur, the entire quota of 250 bales has been purchased and 250 bales are awaiting transport.

June 1947 *quota.*—Purchase authorities have not yet been issued by the Textile Commissioner.

2. A total quantity of 10,388¾ bales has been received from the Bombay surplus area in this Province and distributed during the period under review :—

Week ending—	BALES.
10th May 1947 ..	2,242¼
17th May 1947 ..	3,106
24th May 1947 ..	1,709
31st May 1947 ..	3,331½
Total ..	10,388¾

3. Also a total quantity of about 3,831 bales of South Indian mill production has been received and distributed during the period under review.

4. The following statement shows the cotton cloth and yarn receipts and arrears for May and April, respectively :—

MAY 1947.

(*Cloth in bales of* 1,500 *yards each.*)

	Quota for the month.	*Arrears at the beginning of the month.*	*Quota received.*			*Arrears at the end of the month.*	*Remarks.*
			Out of the quota for the month.	*Out of the arrears.*	*Total.*		
May ..	6,446½	13,489	..	10,388¾	10,388¾	9,546¾	
April ..	21,574	3,353	(Not furnished by the mill.) (Yarn in bales of 400 lb.)	..	19,291	5,636	Out of the arrears of 11,298 bales at the end of March 1947, the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has made good 7,945 bales in instalments.

IV. *Mills.*—The strike in the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Madras, ended during this month (June) and the mills are now working.

V. *Enforcement.*—Action against textile dealers contravening control measures is being taken by Collectors to whom this work has been delegated in accordance with the re-organisation scheme of the Textile Control Department carried out recently.

The Government have recently sanctioned the prosecution of the following Mills for the unauthorised sale of untexmarked cone yarn :—

(*a*) The Sri Kothandram Weaving Mills, Madura.

(*b*) The Janakiram Mills, Rajapalayam.

All the accused who were convicted in the Lotus Mills have appealed to the Sessions Judge, Coimbatore.

The trial of the case against Messrs. Sri Meenakshi Mills, Limited, is proceeding.

VI. *Rationing and distribution of Mill Cloth.*—The introduction of the full rationing scheme is in progress in the different districts. Cloth ration cards have been distributed in a fairly large number of Municipalities and towns with a population of 10,000 and above.

One of the immediate results of the introduction of rationing has been the accumulation of unattractive varieties of cloth with retail dealers. Consumers are inclined to postpone their purchase in anticipation of supplies of final varieties of cloth reaching the retailers later on in the year. The Government have since exempted certain coarse varieties of cloth from the scheme of rationing. The Government have also introduced a system of quarterly rations by which a 'buying pressure' is brought to bear on the consumer.

Working of Prohibition

Report for the month of May

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, Chitoor and North Arcot during May, 1947, is published for information.

Enforcement

Cases detected.—The total number of cases detected in the districts during the months of January, 1947 to May, 1947, was as follows :—

January ..	1,763
February ..	1,541
March	2,352
April	2,059
May	2,132

There has been an increase in the number of cases detected during the month in the districts of Anantapur, Kurnool, North Arcot and Chittoor and a decrease in the other districts as compared with the previous month.

Illicit distillation.—Out of the 2,132 cases detected 1,368 cases (representing about 64 per cent) relate to illicit distillation and kindered offences. The total number of cases of illicit distillation decreased from 822 to 777.

Illicit tapping.—The number of cases of illicit tapping increased from 21 to 37. There were only two cases of tapping of sweet juice without licence as against 79 cases in the previous month, the reason being that the season for sweet juice was almost over.

Smuggling of liquor.—The number of cases of smuggling of liquor into Prohibition districts decreased from 105 to 99. The decrease is marked in Anantapur 28 (46) and slight in Kurnool 24 (29). The District Prohibition Officer, Anantapur, reports that the decrease was partly due to the vigilant patrols by the border staff and the general Prohibition staff and to the concentrated measures taken by the Mysore Excise staff in their own areas to minimise offences under smuggling and partly to the information of officers in the taluks of the Mysore State bordering the western part of Anantapur district. Smuggling has, however, been reported from H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions and the Banganapalle State.

Intoxicating drugs.—The number of cases relating to intoxicating drugs decreased from 172 to 166. Some cases of smuggling of Mysore Ganja were detected but the quantity involved was small except in two cases.

Assistance by officials of other departments.—The work done by Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees towards detection of crimes continued to be poor. Collectors have been requested to impress on the members of these committees the necessity for their co-operation with the enforcement staff in the detection and suppression of crime and the role they have to play in making enforcement of prohibition a success. The question as to how greater support can be enlisted from these Committees and the general public for Prohibition work is under the consideration of the Government.

General remarks.—The preventive work during the month was on the whole satisfactory.

Ameliorative work

Substitutes for drink.—A progressive increase in the number of tea and coffee stalls is reported from all the districts except Cuddapah. There is a definite indication that these drinks are becoming increasingly popular among the ex-addicts.

The number of villages visisted by the Rural Recreation officers increased from 735 in April to 869 in May.

Bajanas, Kathaprasangams and Kalakshepams.—In 1,441 villages Bhajanas, Harikathas or Kalakshepams were held during the month. In 309 villages folk-dances, dramas or cinema shows were held at the instance of the Special Staff for ameliorative work.

Dramas.—Reports from Collectors indicate that in various parts of the Prohibition districts local people have organised amateur dramatic parties and staged dramas. Village dramas were conducted by ex-addicts and others in 107 centres in the Coimbatore district. In the Chittoor district 10 amateur dramatic troupes staged dramas in 15 villages. Street dramas were conducted in a number of places in the North Arcot district, which were well attended.

Ballad Singers.—The ballad singers visited 363 villages during the month, organised community songs in 148 villages and trained 622 villagers in such songs.

Gramasangams.—Five thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine Gramasangams have been organised. The activities of the sangams included the following items :—

Organisation of games, opening of night schools, libraries and reading rooms, repair of village roads, street cleaning, [illegible]ng of factions, sinking of new [illegible] and repair of old wells and tan[illegible]nd construction of village

chavadis. One village raised Rs. 2,000 and another Rs. 1,000 for the construction of village chavadis. A destitute home was opened at Bellary.

Rural Uplift Schools.—During the month 5 new Rural Uplift Schools were opened in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot, Cuddapah and Anantapur and 241 students were given training. "Button making" as a cottage industry is being taught to the students of the school at Cheyyar, North Arcot district.

Promotion of thrift.—The amount saved in hundi boxes as a result of the thrift campaign up to the end of May 1947 was Rs. 80,478 as against Rs. 68,555 up to the end of April 1947. The total amount of subscriptions raised under the National Savings Scheme in the 8 Prohibition districts in May 1947 is Rs. 1,34,270.

House-building.—A second co-operative Building Society was started for the residents of Salem Town. House schemes for weavers are also progressing.

Employment of ex-toddy tappers.—The number of ex-tappers who have found or have been found employment is 9,300 in Coimbatore and 2,022 in Salem district. Licences have been issued to 636 tappers for tapping sweet juice in North Arcot district. In Chittoor district 121 ex-tappers have been employed in jaggery manufacture and the remaining ex-tappers have all found employment in agriculture, cooly work, etc. One hundred and forty-three ex-tappers have found employment in Cuddapah district. The problem of unemployment of ex-tappers is not very acute in this district. In Kurnool district all ex-tappers are reported to be employed in agricultural labour. Full particulars are not available for Anantapur and Bellary districts.

Jaggery manufacture.—In the four districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor, where Co-operative Societies for the manufacture of jaggery have been formed 1,80,871 maunds of jaggery, valued at Rs. 12,72,578 (excluding the figures for Erode Division) were produced up to the end of May 1947.

Beneficial results of Prohibition.—The reports of the Collectors and Special Development Officers reveal that Prohibition is having a salutary effect on the social and economic life of the community. The labouring classes in particular have been enabled to lead a better life. They are found to be orderly in meetings and are receptive to ideas of improvement. With the disappearance of street brawls and domestic quarrels, life in many homes has become happier and the domestic atmosphere of the ex-addicts and their families appears cleaner as a result of the elimination of the drink evil.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 15th July 1947

The Government of Madras have appointed a Court of Enquiry consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Lakshmana Rao, *Kt.*, a Judge of the High Court of Judicature, Madras as its sole member and have referred the industrial dispute between the workers and the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills, Company Limited, Madras, to the Court for Inquiry and report.

The Government of Madras have prohibited the continuance of the lock-out in the East Asiatic Company, Madras, in connection with the industrial dispute on 29th May 1947, the date on which the dispute was referred for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of Sri Balasubramania Mills, Singanallur, regarding payment of wages for the period of strike and lockout from 16th December 1946 to 11th February 1947.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of United Coffee Supply Company Limited, Coimbatore, regarding the fixation of minimum basic wages, scales of increments, etc. to the Industrial Tribunal at Coimbatore for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of Sri Ramachandr Spinninga and Weaving Mills, Pandlapakka, East Godavari, regarding closure of the mills to the Industrial Tribunal at Bezwada for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have prohibited the continuance of the lock-out of the Mills.

The aluminium wokers of Rajahmundry, who struck work on 25th June 1947 demanding increase of wages and other conditions of service, have not yet resumed work. The District Magistrate, East Godavari, is looking into the matter. The report of the Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, is awaited.

The workers of the Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Company Limited, Chirala, Guntur, who struck work on 8th July 1947 resumed work on 12th July 1947.

The workers of Sri Jayalakshmi Rice Mills, Teleprolu, Kistna District, struck work on 23rd June 1947 demanding increased wages, etc. The report of the Labour Officer, Bezwada, is awaited.

The Beedi workers of Ponnani who struck work on 26th June 1947 have not yet called off the strike and resumed work, and in spite of the advise of the District Magistrate, began obstructive picketing, the District Magistrate has promulgated prohibitory orders under section 144, Cr.P.C. The District Magistrate is reported to have visited Ponnani on 10th July 1947 with a view to effect a settlement of the dispute. His report is awaited.

The Government of Madras have prohibited the continuance of lock-out in St. Vincent's Industrials, Calicut, consequent on a strike. The Management of the Pulliccar Mills, Tiruchengode, declared a stoppage of work in all the departments of the mills on 6th May 1947 consequent on the refusal of the roving intermediate and slubbing tenters to run the machines. The workers demanded payment of wages for the period of stoppage of work before returning to work. The management refused to concede to the demand of the workers. As it was not possible to bring about a settlement by conciliation the Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute between the workers and the management may be referred to the Industrial Tribunal at Coimbatore for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have appointed Mr. P. Ramakrishna Ayyar, District and Sessions Judge, in the place of Mr. P. V. Balakrishna Ayyar who was originally appointed in G.O.

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No. 2224, Development Department, dated 19th May 1947 to adjudicate in the dispute between the boatmen and the boat owners of Cuddalore Port.

The Boat workers of Tuticorin struck work on 23rd June 1947. The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Madras, who visited Tuticorin on 15th July 1947 has wired stating that the dispute between the boat workers and their employers has been settled and the strike has been called off.

The workers of the Hindustan Construction Company, Limited, Vizagapatam, who struck work on 16th June 1947, called off the strike on 7th July 1947.

The Government of Madras have prohibited the continuance of the lock-out in the Hindustan Construction Company, Limited, Vizagapatam.

The Government of Madras have prohibited the lock-out in the Andhra Paper Mills, Rajahmundry, as the dispute between the workers and the management had already been referred for adjudication.

The workers of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Vizagapatam, struck work on 8th July 1947 even though the dispute between the workers and the management was referred to the Industrial Tribunal at Bezwada for adjudication. At the instance of the District Magistrate, Vizagapatam, the Commissioner of Labour has requested the Government to prohibit the continuance of the illegal strike and to instruct the District Magistrate to prosecute the officials of the shipyard workers' union and the Scindia Shipyard labour union.

Independence—What Next ?

(*Continued from page* 41)

office buy. We may very well sing with Sir William Jones,

What constitute a state ?
Not high-raised battlements or
laboured mound,
Thick wall or moated gate ;
Nor cities fair, with spires and
turrels crowned.
No !—men, high-minded men.
. . . . . .

The Pillar of Saranath

(*Continued from page* 27)

"Go ye, O Bhikshus, and wande forth for the good of the many, for th welfare of the many, in compassion fo the world, for the good, welfare, an happiness of gods and men. Proclain O Bhikshus, this doctrine full meaning and sweet in words an preach ye a life of holiness, pure and perfect. Go forth, O Bhikhus, and proclaim the Law, noble in the begin ning, noble in the middle, noble in th end."

This is the message of Saranath a message of love, tolerance, kindnes and peace. By adopting the ancien Saranath Wheel as an emblem, Moder India, Independent India, affirms he faith in the political ideals and tradi ions of Asoka, and pledges herself to policy of Universal Brotherhood in the management of her internal affairs a well as her external relations.

Activities of the Education Department

Report for July 1947

Secondary Education

The Government have revised the pay of teachers of all grades employed in the aided secondary schools. They have decided that all aided managements should adopt at least the scales adopted by the local boards. As a first step to implement this decision the Government have declared that the aided secondary schools which adopt the local board scales will be paid grant-in-aid at ⅔rd net cost instead on half the net cost as at present.

The Government have ordered that the system of paying fixed lump sum subsides to local bodies towards the cost of maintenance of secondary schools be abolished as from 1st January 1947 and that local bodies be paid every year, for all recognised secondary schools under their control grant-in-aid based on the net cost on the institutions in the preceding financial year subject to certain conditions.

Education of Ex-army men

The second meeting of the Education Board was held in the office of the Director of Public Instruction at 12 noon on Monday the 16th June 1947. The Board among other things considered the desirability of exempting the ex-service personnel from the payment of University examination fees also.

Basic Education

To provide for the training of teachers on Basic Education lines, the Government have ordered the opening of three Basic Training Schools during the year. The schools will be opened at Cuddalore (South Arcot District), Pallayat (North Arcot District), and Moodabidri (South Kanara District). The candidates trained in these institutions will be employed in the Basic Schools in the areas around the training schools. With this end in view only those who are prepared to serve in these schools are being selected for training this year. For the opening some more Basic Training Schools ne year, teachers already employed Government Training Schools and tho already employed in the existing schoo under local bodies and aided manage ments, will also be given training in the basic course at selected centres.

To assist the Director of Public Instruction, in working out the scheme of basic education, a Basic Education Officer has been appointed in the Director of Public Instruction's office with effect from 5th June 1947.

General

The Provincial Advisory Board of Education met on 23rd June 1947. It considered the following questions :

(1) Introduction of library bill,
(2) Introduction of Medical Inspection in schools, and
(3) Reorganisation of the control of elementary schools.

The Board was, in general, in favour of the first items and referred the last item to a Sub-Committee for consideration and report.

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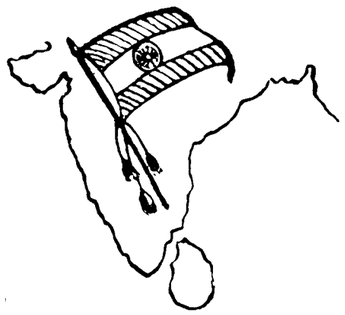
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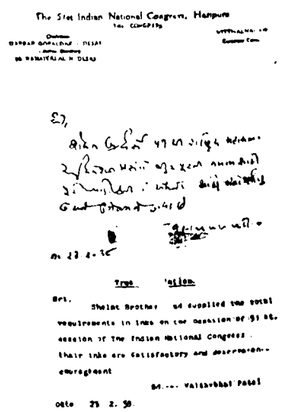


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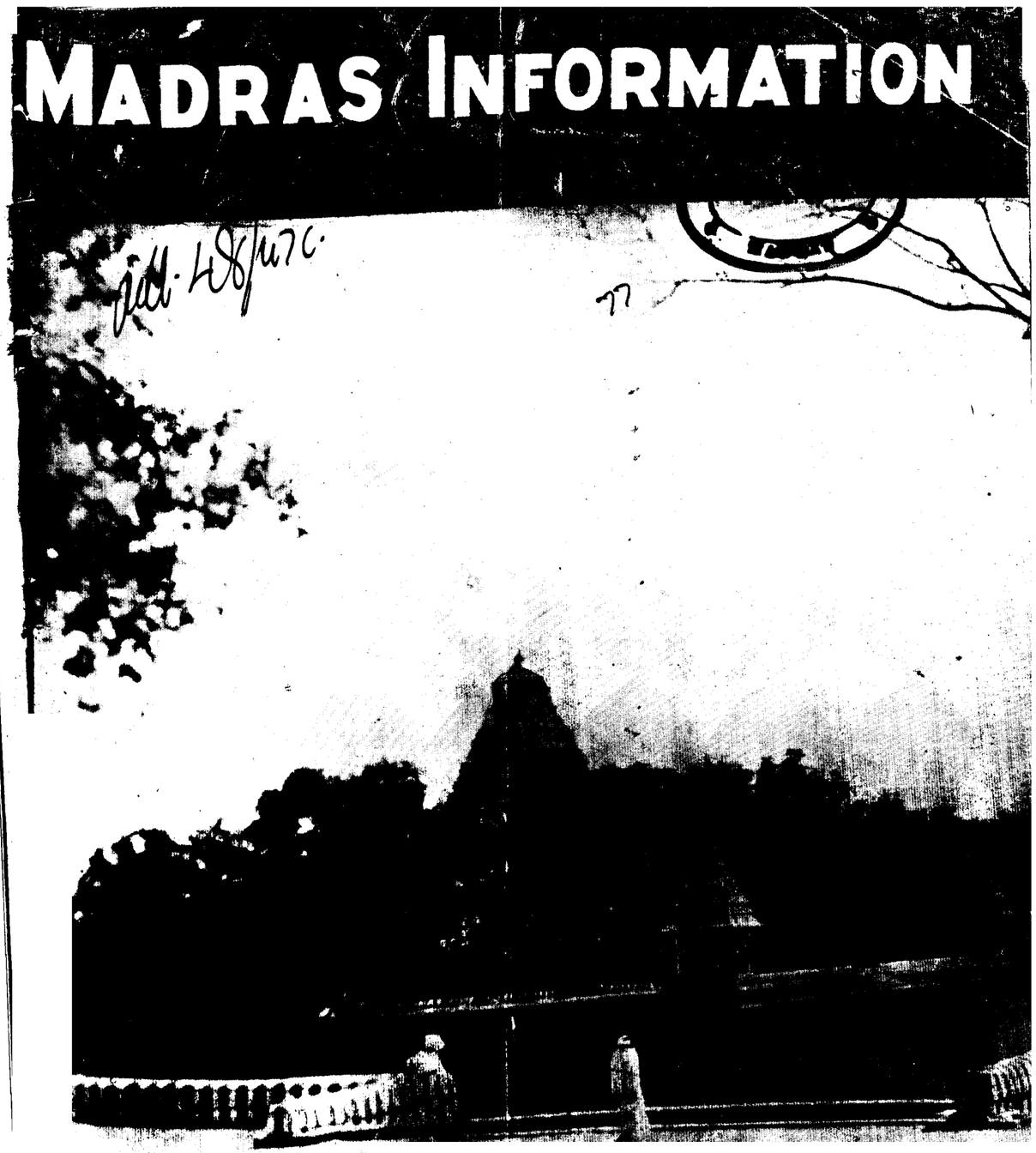
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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Madras Information

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Vol. I, No. 19 | "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" | August 30, 1947

Sardar Patel's Message

I send to the Readers of *Madras Information* my best wishes and greetings on the Independence Day.

Today when we are witnessing the fulfilment of our life's ambition and participating in the victory that has crowned the nation's struggle for freedom, it is our first duty to pay homage to the memory of those whose sacrifices have contributed so much to this glorious conclusion of that struggle. Let the nation honour their memory in the rejoicings which freedom has brought in its train.

For us, the fortunate ones who have lived to see this day, the hour is one both of pride and glory. We are proud to have brought India to its goal and to acclaim the glorious results achieved by a long-sustained, peaceful and non-violent struggle under Gandhiji's inspiring leadership. Although it must be acknowledged that the goal which we have reached is not the one that we had set out for, there is not the least doubt that there is nothing now to prevent us from moulding the future of India in the manner we like. It is our glory that we are free to share the fruits of the struggle with every man, woman and child in this vast sub-continent.

Let us not forget, however, in the joy of the hour, the stupendous responsibilities and obligations which freedom has brought in its wake. Our primary duty is jealously to guard our freedom against dangers from without and from within. We have also to ensure that the humblest among us has the same stature as the tallest in the land, that Labour gets its legitimate share of its product, that the toiling millions in villages obtain just return for the sweat of their brow, and that the State discharges adequately its elementary



duty of feeding, clothing, housing and educating every son and daughter of the Motherland. It has now been given to us by Providence to fashion our country's destiny according to our cherished ideals and aspirations. If we fail the Motherland, the blame will not lie at others' doors. Indeed, there are enormous difficulties and almost insuperable obstacles in our way, but it is for us to overcome them.

We ask our countrymen to lend us a helping hand in this gigantic task. The duty is too sacred to be profaned by selfish scrambles, internecine dissensions, and narrow prejudices; the responsibilities are too great to be slighted by obstructive tactics or prejudiced by subversive activities. Many a wound of this fair country remains to be healed; many an anguished soul requires to be comforted. In this humanitarian and national endeavour, none can afford either to withhold co-operation or to refuse goodwill. All of us must offer our best in this joint undertaking.

Our hearts naturally go out to those who were of us and with us so long, but who are now to be separated. Few can realise the bitterness and sorrow which partition has brought to those who cherished unity but lived to fashion its details. But let not our brethren across the border feel that they are neglected or forgotten. Their welfare will claim our vigilance and we shall follow with abiding interest their future in full hope and confidence that sooner than later we shall again be united in common allegiance to our country.

It is in this spirit and faith that we must dedicate ourselves this day afresh to the service of the nation and invite all our countrymen to do the same.

MAIN FEATURES

(1) Independence Day Celebration.

(2) Muslims in Indian Union.

(3) Pakistan and Provincial Autonomy.

(4) Press Notes.

(5) Food Front.

(6) Preservation of Forest Wealth.

(7) Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society.

(8) Provincial Finances.

(9) Grow your own vegetables.

(10) Rural Reconstruction.

Independence Day

Prime Minister's Broadcast



On this historic day, when power is being transferred to the people of India, let me convey my respectful greetings to the people of this Province. On this occasion, it is but proper that we pay our homage to our revered leader, Mahatma Gandhi, who had led us through the path of ahimsa to our goal of independence. Let us also pay our homage to the thousands of martyrs who laid their lives at the altar of our Mother India and to the millions of men, women and children who sacrificed for the cause of our country's freedom.

My mind goes back to the days when India was free and to the events that led us into bondage. It was disunity among us and the treachery of a few that first led to foreign invasion. Witness the episode of Jaichand and Prithviraj as also the history of the fall of the Maharatta Empire.

The War of Independence of the year 1857 was waged with much valour and with a lot of loss of life. It unfortunately failed and left the people with a sense of frustration and defeatism. The torch of fight for freedom then lit was dimmed but not extinguished. It was 28 years before the people could rise up and think again of freedom and organize themselves for that purpose under the banner of the Indian National Congress. The Congress first began in a humble way but soon its voice became more strident and persistent and it is under its banner that the country has now achieved freedom.

The great movement of non-co-operation was started by Mahatma Gandhi. The Civil Disobedience Movements in 1930 and 1932 galvanized the nation into a strength which it had not felt before and the people at last began to realize their strength.

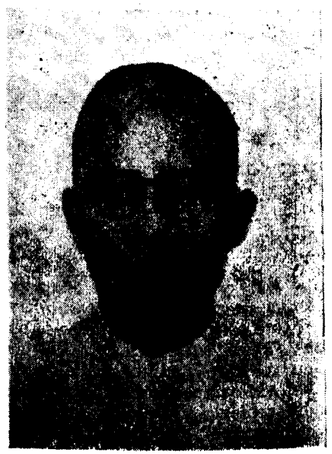
The climax in the freedom struggle was reached when in August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi first sent forth the call "Quit India", and it is in the fitness of things that in the same month India should become an independent Dominion. We have suffered much, we have undergone many privations, many of us have lost all that we had, but comparing our freedom struggle with the struggles of other countries, our loss in life and property has been very small indeed—thanks to Mahatma Gandhi's doctrine of non-violence. We have waged our war of independence without any feeling of bitterness and our war has been to a remarkable extent free from any racial hatred.

If we want to retain the freedom which we have won, it is necessary that we should equip ourselves to run the affairs of our country in a most efficient manner. Ours is a country with great natural resources. But unhappily to-day it is one of the poorest countries in the world. In spite of the fact that agriculture is our main industry, we are deficit in our food production. We have to rely upon foreign countries to feed us. We are underclothed and for many of our necessities in life we have to depend upon imports from foreign countries. Unless we harness the natural resources of the country and make our country self-sufficient, our attainment of freedom will be absolutely useless.

Till now ours has been a fighting programme, a programme to drive the foreigner out and win our political independence. We should realize that by the elimination of the foreign rule, we have only removed the obstacles which stood in the way of our country's progress. After the attainment of freedom we have to change our entire outlook and train ourselves to the task of the administration of the country so that the entire people of our country may be uplifted socially, educationally and economically. Unless the common man in this country is well clothed, fed and housed, our attainment of political freedom will have no meaning. The real freedom can come only when poverty and ignorance are driven out of our country. The strong should not oppress the weak but try to elevate him in all walks of life. The whole country is in a state of chaos at present. The effects of the

(*Continued on page* 16)

Check Exploitation



We are very happy in celebrating the attainment of Independence and we pay our homage to those martyrs who have toiled and sacrificed in the cause of freedom for this country. Let us not however forget the real objective of those great architects of freedom. The Swaraj for which the Congress wrought was the power to ameliorate the conditions of the masses of India. We shall have to be vigilant in preventing and checking all kinds of exploitation. We have to guard ourselves against exploitation not only by the vested interests but also by self-seekers who would try to capture power for themselves by mere slogans. We should understand our disease and the remedy and we should realize the responsibility that has devolved on us for solving our own difficulties. Let us resolve that we shall never miss our objective of securing the maximum happiness of the people.

—M. BHAKTAVATSALAM.

General Amnesty to Mark Independence Day

In connection with the celebration of the Independence Day on 15th August 1947, the Government granted the following concessions to prisoners who were confined in the jails of this Province :—

Sentence of death.—The sentence of death passed on prisoners who were awaiting execution has been commuted to one of transportation for life.

Prisoners who have Served 10 years in Jail

All prisoners who have served a period of 10 years of their sentence inclusive of remission under the existing rules on 15th August 1947 have been released.

Prohibition Prisoners

Premature release.—All prisoners who have been convicted for offences under the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, and have served one-fourth of their sentence inclusive of remission under the existing rules on 15th August 1947 have been released, on giving a written undertaking that if they are convicted again for an offence under the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, within a period of six months from the date of their release, they will serve the unexpired portion of their sentence.

Special remission.—Prisoners who have been convicted for offences under the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, but who have not served one-fourth of their sentence, inclusive of remission under the existing rules, on 15th August 1947 and are not therefore eligible for release under the paragraph above will be given a special remission of 15 days.

NOTE.—The order in paragraphs above does not apply to those who have been convicted under the Madras Prohibition Act as also for offences under the I.P.C. and other laws. They come under the other categories mentioned below.

Other Prisoners

Premature release.—Prisoners sentenced to imprisonment up to a term of 10 years, who have served half their sentence inclusive of remission under the existing rules on 15th August 1947 have been released.

Prisoners sentenced to terms of imprisonment of more than 10 years or transportation for life who have served a term of at least five years, inclusive of remission under the existing rules on 15th August 1947 have been released.

NOTE.—The order of release of prisoners sanctioned in paragraphs above does not apply to

(1) habitual criminals ;

(2) prisoners detained in jail under sections 106, 107, 108, 109 and 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code ;

(3) (*a*) prisoners convicted of offences under Chapters IX, X and XI of the Indian Penal Code ;

(*b*) prisoners convicted of robbery, dacoity, assault or criminal force on a woman with an intent to outrage her modesty, offences under sections 359 to 377 of the Indian Penal Code ; extorting confession and abetments and attempts to commit offences mentioned above ; and

(*c*) prisoners convicted of murder or are attempt to commit murder or abetment of murder.

Special remission.—All prisoners sentenced to imprisonment up to a term of three months or less who have not served half their sentence on 15th August 1947 have been granted special remission of half their sentence.

All prisoners who have been sentenced to imprisonment for a term of more than three months but not more than one year have been given a special remission of one-fourth of their sentence and in no case less than 45 days.

All prisoners who have been sentenced to imprisonment for a term above one year have been given a special remission of two months per year to the sentence imposed.

In all the above cases—

(1) a sentence in default of payment of fine should be deemed to be a substantive sentence ; and

(2) half year or six months or more will be counted as one year.

The orders in the previous paragraphs will not apply to the following classes of prisoners :—

(1) Prisoners who have been convicted under section 376, I.P.C. (Rape) ;

(2) State prisoners and internees ;

(3) Civil prisoners ;

(4) Convicts convicted by Courts in Indian States or other Provinces ;

(5) Military convicts who are still subject to the Indian Army Act ; and

(6) Convicts on prosecutions ordered by the Government of India.

Prisoners who, on completion of their term in the Madras jails, are due to be sent to an Indian State or other Province and who are released under this order should be sent forthwith to serve their sentence in such State or Province.

Habitual convicts.—The release ordered, or the special remission granted to prisoners who are certified as habitual convicts fit for confinement in the Special jails at Salem and Vizagapatam with reference to rule 544 of the rules in the Madras Prison and Reformatory Manual, Volume III, will be subject to the condition that after their release, the prisoners should report themselves to the nearest police station or out-post once a fortnight for the period of their unexpired portion of the sentence or for the period of the special remission granted to them, as the case may be.

Rules 312, 323 and 327 of the rules in the Madras Prison and Reformatory Manual, Volume II, will be deemed to have been relaxed to the extent necessary in giving effect to the above orders.

Borstal Schools

Premature release.—Inmates who have an unexpired portion of six months or below of their detention on 15th August 1947 have been released on that date on the usual condition of good behaviour.

Special remission.—Other inmates who are ineligible for discharge under the above paragraph have been granted a special remission of three months of their period of detention.

Certified Schools

Pupils in Certified Schools who have completed two years of detention have been discharged from the schools on 15th August 1947. In the case of the remaining pupils, the date of discharge has been advanced in each case by a period calculated at the rate of two months for each year in the period for which he has been ordered to be detained.

All Detenus Released

The Government have released, in connection with the Independence Day Celebrations, all persons detained under the Maintenance of Public Order

soon as accommodation there is ready. The power line for the supply of power for construction works at Moyar is being constructed by the Operation branch. The works at Moyar and erection of the Pykara-Moyar-Erode line will be in progress. Preliminary work on the Pykara dam will be on.

Papanasam.—All civil works connected with the Papanasam plant extensions will have been almost completed. Erection of the gates at Tambraparni dam will be well advanced. The manufacture of low-pressure pipes, surge tanks, etc., by the contractors will be in progress and erection of the pipeline will be completed about 50 per cent. Construction work on the Madura thermal station will be in progress.

Investigations.—Investigations of the hydro-electric sites in South Kanara and Andhra areas will be in hand if staff is availabale.

The above programme assumes availability of sufficient civil engineers, materials and transport facilities. Transport facilities, though far from satisfactory at present, are showing signs of improvement. With the end of the war and reduction of demand for men and materials in the military, conditions are expected to improve soon. The civil engineering establishment required for this department is being drawn from Public Works Department (General branch), which has to supply, in addition to its own needs, the requirements of the Irrigation and Highways departments, also. Should the supply not meet the demands of this department, corresponding delay in the completion of the works as scheduled above will be inevitable. The position is being reviewed from time to time and the needs of the department and the urgency of the works explained to the Chief Engineer (General). If any difficulty is experienced in the matter, Government will be duly advised of the position so that they may take suitable action to ensure progress of the Machkund Hydro-Electric Scheme and other important works.

There was little progress or development in licensed electric supply undertakings. The number of electric supply undertakings under the Indian Electricity Act continued to be 81. No applications for new licences under the Act were received in the year nor any new ones granted. The restrictions imposed in the previous years on the working hours of oil engine generating stations continued during the year. The feasibility of partially relaxing such restrictions was under study at the close of the year.

Retail rationing of electricity was in force in the areas of three licensees who generate with oil power.

In Madras and in the panchayat areas taking bulk supply from the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, as well as in the areas of the five licensees who take bulk supply from the Government coal-operated station at Bezwada and in the area of the Cocanada licensee taking supply from the Government oil power-station at Cocanada, retail rationing of electricity continued to be in force. Except in certain thermal areas, the licensees were permitted to give new domestic service connexions monthly up to certain fixed limits. Restoration of street lights to pre-war level in the areas of licensees served by the Pykara, Mettur and Papanasam systems was permitted.

Groundnut Cultivation

Summer crop—Area and yield.—The area under the summer crop of groundnut in parts of the Madras Province during the five months January to May 1947 is estimated at 80,700 acres as against 61,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, representing an increase of 32·3 per cent. The increase is due mainly to high prices. The yield per acre is expected to be normal in Cuddapah and Nellore and below the normal in all the districts of the Province. The total yield is estimated at 68,100 tons of unshelled nuts as against 48,500 tons estimated for the corresponding period of last year, representing an increase of 40·4 per cent.

Early crop.—The area under the early crop of groundnut (mostly unirrigated) up to 25th July 1947 in the districts of Salem and Coimbatore is estimated at 137,400 acres. When compared with the area of 120,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year, it reveals an increase of 14·5 per cent. The yield per acre is expected to be normal in Coimbatore and below the normal in Salem. The yield in these two districts is estimated at 68,200 tons of unshelled nuts as against 57,700 tons estimated for the corresponding period of last year representing an increase of 18·2 per cent.

The wholesale price of groundnut (machine shelled) per Imperial maund of 82-2/7 lb. or 3,200 tolas as reported from important market centres on 2nd August 1947, was Rs. 23–12–0 in Erode, Rs. 23–4–0 in Salem, Guntur, Nandyal, Adoni, Vellore, Tadpatri and Cuddalore, Rs. 21–10–0 in Bellary, Rs. 21–1–0 in Vizianagram, and Rs. 20–7–0 in Cuddapah. When compared with the prices published in the last report, i.e., those which prevailed on 12th April 1947, these prices reveal a rise of 19 per cent in Erode, 16 per cent in Salem, 11 per cent in Guntur, Nandyal, Adoni and Vellore, 10 per cent in Tadpatri and Cuddalore, 6 per cent in Bellary and a fall of 4 per cent in Cuddapah. The price in Vizianagram ramained unchanged.

(*Continued from page* 24)

1st January 1947 is estimated at Rs. 2·02 crores a year. The Government cannot do more for Government servants in this matter than their financial resources permit. They have already revised the pay scales of their subordinate services and they feel that their resources do not permit of a further upward revision. The Government regret that they are not able to contemplate any further revision on the lines of what the Central Pay Commission has recommended for Central Government servants."

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National Saving Certificates

Subscriptions from the Province towards National Savings Certificates for the period from 1st April 1947 to 19th July 1947 amount to Rs. 44,80,630.

The highest amount is from Tanjore with Rs. 8,36,680. Madras comes next with Rs. 7,20,160 and West Godavari ranks third with Rs. 4,86,705. Nellore takes the last place with Rs. 27,045.

(*Continued from page* 25)

distribution of groundnut through ration shops in the rural areas has been given up.

Potatoes.—To supplement the foodgrains ration, it is proposed to make potatoes available to the public at prices not exceeding As. 10 a viss, and to subsidize their sale where necessary.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Supply of firewood was not adequate in the towns of Guntur, Chicacole (Vizagapatam district) and Coimbatore and in parts of the Ramnad district.

There was scarcity of matches in parts of the Chingleput and West Godavari districts.

Society's Duty to Discharged Prisoners

Mr. Scott Brown Reviews work of D.P. Aid Society

The following are extracts from the address delivered by Mr. W. Scott Brown, I.C.S., the then Chief Secretary to Government and President of the Madras Presidency Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society, presenting the Annual Report of the Society on the occasion of the annual day celebration of the Society :—



D.P. Aid Society, 26th Annual Gathering—Standing from left to right are : Sir Gopathy Narayanaswamy Chetty, the Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon, His Excellency the Governor, Messrs. T. Sundar Rao Naidu, Scott Brown and Justice Gentle.

The number of members on the roll is now much higher than it has ever been. There has in fact been a gratifying increase of about 700 in the last two years. A membership figure of 343 for Madras City is still a low figure but the upward trend is promising, and shows that more people are becoming interested in the society's work.

Comparison of the financial position with the previous year is rather difficult because there has been a decrease in receipts and expenditure consequent on the provincialisation of the probation service in May 1946. The society did not therefore get the usual Government subsidy for probation work for the remaining months of the year nor did it have to spend during those months the very considerable sums it used to spend. We are grateful to Government for continuing to make the usual contribution of Rs. 5,000 towards working expenses. The amount received by way of subscriptions and donations by the Central Committee has continued to be much the same as in the previous year but there has been a very marked fall in the subscriptions collected by mufassal branches from a little over Rs. 17,000 to just under 8,000. That is a disquieting feature but appeals have been made to the Presidents of various branches to stimulate interest and I trust an upward trend will soon be noticeable.

Basically it is the amount of subscriptions that determines the number of persons that can be helped financially and given shelter. The amount directly spent in aid is still repectively small, though of course, very much real help is given in other ways, e.g., in placing discharged prisoners in employment. Certainly the greatest service the Society and public spirited men and women can give to ex-prisoners is to get them settled in situations where they can forget the past and earn an honest living. But that is not an easy task and it takes time and involves appeals, representations, visits and correspondence of which no adequate account can be given in an Annual Report. And in cases where ex-prisoners are helpless or stranded till they are placed in jobs they have to be looked after and given financial aid. From my knowledge of some of the cases dealt with, I may safely say that we would all like to be more generous at that stage to greater numbers.

I hope that by next year instead of reporting that we were able to secure employment for 264 we shall be able to report employment found for 500 and instead of an expenditure of about



The Hon'ble Sri K. Madhava Menon addressing the gathering

Act. They have also released detenus who were convicted for offences not involving violence, such as Mr. K. Anandan Nambiar and Mr. A. K. Gopalan, the unexpired portion of their sentences being remitted. All pending warrants for arrest of persons issued under the Maintenance of Public Order Act have been or will be withdrawn. Certain cases pending under Section 107, Cr.P.C., involving Communists have been ordered to be stayed and the Government are calling for the papers in these cases to decide whether they should be proceeded with further.

The Government have also released those detained in connection with the recent B. and C. Mills' strike as also those who are undergoing sentences of imprisonment.

In ordering the general release of the detenus the Government wish to emphasise that this is being done solely in view of the "Independence Day" celebrations. They also take the opportunity to warn all concerned that the Government will not hesitate to act under the Maintenance of Public Order Act and take stringent measures, should there be recrudescence of trouble.

Muslims in Indian Union

By Dr. SYED MAHUMED, Minister for Development, Bihar

Now that the partition of India into the Dominions of the Indian Union and of Pakistan is a settled fact, it is time that the Muslims of the Indian Union should pause and consider what course they should adopt in the present political context. I do not here propose to enter into a controversy over the wisdom or otherwise of partitioning India. Time alone can show how far this step will be conducive to the common good of India in general and to the Muslims in particular. Personally I believe that overriding economic and other interests of the mass of people, irrespective of communities, will in the long run restore the indivisibility of India. Although the situation is, at the present moment, further complicated by the attitude taken up by some of the Princes, I have no doubt that the Congress, as representing the Indian Union, will play a most careful and states-man like role and hasten the consummation of the ideal in the coming years of our independence.

Change in outlook needed

Now that Pakistan is an accomplished fact, there is no justification whatsoever for continuing the outlook which shaped the political activities of the Muslim League so far. Is it not desirable now that the Muslims in the Indian Union should change their outlook and re-orient their policy by taking deep and abiding interest in the Province they live in and help in ushering in a new economic order?

If past experience be a guide, I would unhesitatingly say that communal weightages and reservations have proved but poor aids to their healthy growth and development. On the other hand these special privileges have caused heart-burning and resentment in the minds of other communities without enhancing the self-respect of the Muslims themselves. It needs scarcely be added that no nation or community can thrive on props like these which sap its vitality, initiative and self-reliance rather than stimulate them. This was the view held by some of us all along, and in the changed conditions of to-day it has become all the more vital and important. I would, therefore, ask my co religionists in all earnestness not to look for those special privileges and concessions but to take their stand on merit alone. It is possible that a community which has been used to concessions may suffer for a short time, when it has to enter the field of open competition but we should be prepared to put up with this temporary handicap, for in the long run this will add materially to our efficiency and vitality. Let the Muslims participate fully in the civic, economic and social life of their respective Provinces and make the other communities feel by their action that they are second to none in promoting plans for the common welfare.

Separate Electorates

In this new context separate electorates will have no meaning and will rather be a great handicap instead of a help in enabling the Muslim community to rise to the full height of its stature. Should the Muslims remain satisfied with the usual reservations and weightages in seats for them in the legislatures and local bodies? Do not these special privileges perpetuate their minority position with all its attendant handicaps? Are these not veritable apples of discord causing endless jealousies and squables among the Muslims preventing their identifying themselves completely and unreservedly with the interests of their respective provinces and thereby win the goodwill and confidence of all and stand the chance of securing greater and effective representation through joint electorate and free competition? Above all what is wanted most is a healthy change in the mental attitude of the two communities so that mutual trust and confidence may develop. Giving up these concessions and reservations of our own accord will, I am sure, contribute to the desired change in the attitude. This will also furnish a practical proof of our desire to identify ourselves with the interest of the Indian Union. It is far more desirable for a Muslim or a Hindu to be elected on the support of both the Hindus and Muslims as it gives him a real representative character which will add strength to him and make his voice more effective. This forms the basis of the cardinal principle underlying the formula enunciated by the late lamented Maulana Muhammad Ali. Having regard to the existing gulf between the two communities, a practical solution is a modified form of joint electorate on the lines of Maulana Muhammad Ali's formula which insists on 25 per cent of the votes of the other community for election. It is not a concession to Muslims but it is needed most in the large interests of the country as it will strengthen the bond of unity.

Safeguard for Muslims

There is, however, ample room for building up an organization of Muslims to safeguard and promote their social and religious matters. This will offer a common platform to all the Muslims.

For months past I have been giving my most anxious thoughts to these problems and I feel it is my duty now to place my views before the country. It is my earnest hope that the Musalmans in the Indian Union will give their most serious consideration to the problems facing us on the correct solution of which rests our future. Time is moving fast and the present and future of our people demand prompt action.

Pakistan and Provincial Autonomy

By K. SANTHANAM

How has Pakistan affected provincial autonomy? From the statements of some leaders, an impression has been created that the position has altered to the disadvantage of provincial autonomy as contemplated in the Cabinet Mission plan of May 16, 1946. It is necessary to examine how far this is true.

Paragraph 15 of the Cabinet Mission statement says: "(1) There should be a Union of India comprising both British India and the States which should deal with Foreign Affairs, Defence, Communications, and should have the powers necessary to raise the finances required for the above subjects.....(3) All subjects other than the Union subjects and all residuary powers should vest in the provinces." If these two clauses stood alone, it will have to be admitted that the provinces would be autonomous under that plan to a degree far greater than that contemplated in the reports of the Provincial Constitution Committee, the Union Constitution Committee and the Union Powers Committee of the Constituent Assembly. I would, however, point out to those who may not have studied the documents that the list of subjects proposed for the Union Centre by the first report of the Union Powers Committee drawn up in conformity with the Cabinet Mission plan is practically identical with the later list drawn up by the same Committee. The only material difference is in the concurrent list which, for obvious reasons, the Committee did not feel necessary to draw in relation to that plan.

The plan of May 16, 1946 did not consist merely of a Central Government with the four classes of subjects indicated and the provinces. It imposed a group constitution between provincial autonomy and the federal Centre. If this plan had come into operation, there is no doubt at all that the groups would have had to appropriate some of the subjects allotted to the provinces under the Government of India Act of 1935, with the result there would have been less provincial autonomy than is now likely to be the case. Evon administratively, the group Government would have been much closer and consequently more oppressive than a Central Government consisting of many units including the Indian States is ever likely to be. I have, therefore, no doubt that the disappearance of groups as a result of Pakistan has helped rather than hindered the cause of provincial autonomy.

Generally speaking, the distribution of powers under the new constitution is likely to be more or less on the lines of the Government of India Act of 1935. During my work as Secretary of the Sapru Committee, I had occasion to scrutinize the lists of the seventh schedule with a view to transferring as many subjects as possible from the federal and concurrent lists to the provincial list. The main objective of the Committee was to preserve the unity of India by yielding to the Muslim demands as far as it was legitimately possible. As the Muslims had frequently expressed themselves against a strong Centre, the Sapru Committee accepted the principle that only the minimum powers should be given to the Centre. Yet on a careful scrutiny it was found that very little change could be made in the federal, concurrent and provincial lists of the Government of India Act. I am convinced that these lists were settled after a most impartial and objective examination by constitutional experts of the highest standing in Great Britain and, as there was no imperialist interest involved, they are as equitable as can be conceived.

There will be two serious departures from the present distribution of powers in the new constitution. One is that residuary powers will be vested in the Centre. At present they are vested neither in the Centre nor in the provinces, but as any particular subject not classified comes up, the Governor-General is empowered to allot it to either according to necessity or public interest. Therefore, the proposal to vest the residuary subjects in the Centre certainly amounts to its strengthening in relation to the autonomous provinces. But the importance of residuary powers should not be exaggerated. Where the lists are as exhaustive as those now proposed, the scope for residuary powers is extremely limited.

In the concurrent list proposed by the Union Powers Committee, a novel item under the heading "Economic and Social Planning" has been added. This is so vague and all-embracing that, if it is not more closely defined, it will give the Centre almost unlimited powers to regulate the affairs of the units. It will be argued that, as the federal Centre will be composed of the representatives of the units, there is no danger of misuse of these wide powers. I do not quite agree with this view. It is the tendency of every Government to be jealous of its power and authority. The representatives of the units in a Central Legislature are generally more anxious to increase the power of the Centre than to safeguard the power of the unit. I should therefore suggest that in the matter of planning, industries, mineral development, electricity and other economic issues attempt should be made to demarcate the limits of Central and provincial powers as precisely as possible.

In the field of finance also the provisions of the Government of India Act of 1935 were not quite satisfactory. While it is true that defence is important and must not be starved, it should not be forgotten that we should have a progressive society worth defending. Unless the units are left with sufficient financial resources to enforce universal education, to promote health and to organize social security in a comprehensive manner, provincial autonomy cannot function properly. It may be that it is more convenient to levy and collect certain taxes by Central legislation and administration than by individual units. This should not mean that the Centre should appropriate all such taxes. Nor should the provinces be satisfied with a mere provision for subventions at the sweet will of the Central Government. The scope of Central subvention should be limited as in Australia to the relief of specially poor and needy units. The general principle should be that each province is able to function and expand satisfactorily with the funds which it collects directly from taxes assigned to the province or statutorily secured by the constitution. I hope that the representatives of Provincial Governments in the Constitutent Assembly will see that these matters are equitably settled.

18. Dr. K. Venkateswarlu.
19. Mr. C. Venkatesan.
20. ,, C. Shrinivasa Ballal.
21. ,, D. Venkateswara Rao.
22. ,, E. C. Chandrasekharan.
23. ,, S. H. Mahadevan.
24. ,, M. Venkata Rao.
25. ,, T. V. Balakrishnan.

The selection of candidates for the award of the following four scholarships is under consideration :—

1. "Educational Administration with specialization in various aspects, e.g., recreation and social activities and juvenile employment.

2. Chemical Engineering.

3. Civil Engineering—Irrigation—Constructional methods with special reference to irrigation structures.

4. Industrial and Applied Chemistry—Tanning, Currying and Leather Technology."

The remaining six scholarships will not be awarded.

Development

Co-operative Advisory Council

The Government have constituted an Advisory Council called "The Madras Provincial Co-operative Advisory Council" with the following members :—

The Hon'ble the Minister in charge of Co-operation, Chairman; the Registrar of Co-operative Societies; The President, Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank, Madras; The President, Madras Provincial Co-operative Union, Madras; Rao Bahadur Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu, M.A., Ph.D., Principal, Pachaiappa's College, Madras; Sri P. L. Narasimha Raju, M.L.A., President, Co-operative Central Bank, Vizianagram; Sri Rao Bahadur V. K. Eradi, B.A., B.L., President, Malabar Co-operative Wholesale Stores, Calicut.

The term of office of the last mentioned three non-official gentlemen will be two years. If and when the Presidents of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank and the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union happen to be one and the same person, another non-official co-operator will be appointed to the Council. The Joint Registrar of Co-operative Societies will act as Secretary to the Council.

The Council will be a purely Advisory Body and will advise on any matter or scheme referred to it by the Registrar or the Government. It may call for information from the Registrar or the Government and take the initiative in the formulation of new plans or policies in the development of the co-operative movement and suggest new policies and new schemes. The Council will meet once a quarter or oftener if necessary. The Council may invite the Heads of Departments and other officers and office-bearers or representatives of the Co-operative institutions to attend its meetings whenever required. The headquarters of the Council will be in Madras.

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Application for Pipes

At present applications for pipes for the categories mentioned below are certified by the Secretary to Government, Education and Public Health Department, regarding the essentiality of demands and forwarded to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, for issue of permits :—

(1) For the manufacture of Tubewell strainers and sinking of tubewells; (2) Boiler tubes; (3) Municipalities, District and Local Boards; (4) Communications and Buildings (Provincial); (5) Public utility concerns; and (6) Industries, Firms and others not included in any of the above categories.

Applications for pipes for domestic demands are certified by Collectors up to 200 feet for any one demand. The powers of the Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, have since been transferred to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department.

The Government of India have decided that, from 1st July 1947 steel pipes, tubes and fittings for the categories (1) and (3) to (6) mentioned above will be released in this province against permits to be issued by the Provincial Steel Controller, viz., Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras, on approved stockists. A quota of 74,000 feet of pipes and tubes with corresponding fittings has been allotted to this province for III quarter of 1947 to be supplied by the Madras Circle Pipe Dealers' Association, 27, Linghi Chetty Street, Madras. The Government have accordingly directed that the Provincial Steel Controller, shall, in future, issue permits for pipes for categories mentioned above on receipt of applications in the prescribed form duly certified by the Advisory Authority, viz., Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department, as to the essentiality of the demands. Applications for Boiler tubes will however be continued to be sent to the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, as at present.

The Heads of Departments, the Special Officers of the District Boards, Commissioners of Municipalities and Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, shall, hereafter submit applications for pipes required by them for the categories mentioned above to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department, through the Administrative departments of the Secretariat concerned, who will scrutinise and forward the applications to Development Department with their remarks. Applications after being certified will be sent to the Director of Industries and Commerce or the Iron and Steel Controller, as the case may be, for issue of permits.

The Collectors are requested to forward all applications certified by them for domestic demands direct to the Director of Industries and Commerce. They are also requested to see that only extremely essential cases are sent, limiting the demands to the bare minimum in each case.

Applications for pipes for non-Government public utility concerns and industries, firms and others not mentioned in any of the categories referred to above shall be submitted to the Joint Secretary to Government, Development Department. They will be sent to the Director of Industries and Commerce or the Iron and Steel Controller, as the case may be, for issue of permits after being certified.

P.C.C. Societies : Enquiry Committee

The Government have nominated Rao Bahadur J. C. Ryan, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, as a member of the Committee constituted to enquire into the Producers'-*cum*-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in Northern Circars districts, in the place of Mr. N. S. Aurnachalam, I.C.S.

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Labourers in the Tungabhadra Project Area

In May last, Government received a representation that the conditions of labour in the Tungabhadra Project area left much to be desired and needed immediate looking into. The representation was made with special reference to the evacuee labour imported into that area from Vizagapatam. Approximately, 1,700 labourers were taken from Vizagapatam to Hospet for work in connection with the Tungabhadra Project. These labourers had to be taken in batches in quick succession in the course of April 1947 and naturally it was not possible to make sufficient advance arrangements for their settling down in the project area. Mention was made of the dearth of hutting accommodation, lack of facilities for the purchase of rationed foodstuffs, and unsatisfactory medical facilities. In the nature of things these drawbacks were inevitable to some extent, but conditions were not so bad as they were made to appear. Transport of a considerable labour force from one area to another generally entails difficulties and conditions may not be very satisfactory from the very beginning. Government have, however, through their local officers given adequate attention to this matter, and they are satisfied that everything possible has been done and is being done to make the lot of the labourers as good as local conditions permit.

As regards hutting accommodation, 600 quarters are under construction and of these 400 have been already completed and occupied. These are spacious, roomy and hygienic. The plinth area is 195 square feet for each quarter and the cost ranges from Rs. 450 to Rs. 850. Rations supplied are 16 ounces per adult per day under the special sanction of the Government. There is at present no grievance whatsoever as regards the supply or distribution of the rations. As regards medical facilities, a Subdivisional Officer's quarters has been temporarily converted into an in-patient ward., Another in-patient ward is also nearing completion. A Special Deputy Collector with the necessary medical and revenue staff has also been appointed to look after the welfare of the labourers.

In this connection, Government's attention has been drawn to a newspaper article in which reference was made to 20,000 labourers in the Project area being subjected to a number of hardships. Inadequate accommodation, insufficient ration and low wages are some of the points made in the article. Government have instituted a detailed enquiry into the matter and find that the article was exaggerated out of all proportions. The total number of labourers working in the area is about 4,000 of whom 2,200 were recruited departmentally. These 2,200 labourers, besides 300 or 400 contractors' labourers are residing in the Camp area. They are now comfortably accommodated. The wages paid are more than those paid elsewhere in the Presidency except probably in the industrial centres. No unskilled male labourer gets less than a rupee per day. All unskilled recruited male labourers get a minimum wage of Re. 1-2-0 per head and the skilled labourer gets Rs. 2 per day. Masons and carpenters are paid Rs. 2-8-0 and Rs. 3 per day. The wages are quite attractive. Periodical healthy entertainments are provided for labourers by the organization set up by the Government for the purpose.

At a time when increased production is all-important, Government deprecate the spread of alarmist reports, which are bound to have an unsettling effect on the labour force in this province.

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Re-organization of Industrial Museums

The Government in their G.O. No. 1256, dated 22rd March 1947, have sanctioned funds for the reorganization of the District Industrial and Commercial Museums.

As a part of the reorganization scheme, it has been proposed to establish Sales Emporiums in all museums, in addition to the display of exhibits of the several industries of the Province.

Emporiums of this kind would foster the development of industries by bringing the manufactured goods to the notice of the public.

It is hoped that all the industrialists of the Province would avail themselves of this means of publicity for their goods and make the scheme a thorough success.

Firka Development

The Demonstration and Training Units in the industries shown below have been started in the following firkas :—

Name of industry.	*Name of firka.*
1 Blacksmithy ..	Tellicherry.
2 Woodwork ..	Do.
3 Pottery	Do.
4 Hard-made paper ..	Musiri.
5 Leather goods manufacture.	Dendulur.
6 Blacksmithy ..	Musiri.
7 Coir goods	Do.
8 Light metal casting.	Do.

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Trade Dispute

A trade dispute arose between the workers and management of the Sri Krishna Jute Mills, Limited, Ellore, in respect of certain matters. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to the District and Sessions Judge, West Godavari, for adjudication, under the Defence of India Rules. After enquiry the adjudicator has submitted his award. The following are the recommendations of the adjudicator :—

(1) The present basic scales of wages of all the categories of workers should be raised by twelve and a half per cent. The enhanced wages should be paid from 1st April 1947.

(2) The workers will be entitled to a dearness allowance of nine annas per day instead of seven annas a day now paid. The enhanced dearness allowance should be paid with effect from 1st April 1947.

(3) All workers who were in service in 1946 and who were on the rolls of the mills on 26th March 1947 will be entitled to a bonus of one month's wages inclusive of dearness allowance then prevailing. Those workers who were absent for more than sixty days in the year excluding recognized leave days will not be entitled to the bonus. The bonus will be proportionate to the length of service in the year 1946, i.e., at the rate of one month's average wage for twelve months' service. The bonus must be paid to all workers irrespective of their character and should be paid within two months of the acceptance of the award by the Government.

(4) The workers will not be entitled to any additional efficiency or production bonus.

(5) A provident fund should be instituted for the benefit of the workers. A draft scheme should be prepared within three months from the publication of the award and sent to the workers' representative for comment and opinion. After mutual discussion and settlement and with the good offices of the Commissioner of Labour the fund should start working from the beginning of the year 1948.

(6) In addition to the existing leave of thirteen days on full pay, the workers should be allowed leave with wages for seven more days. The management should also provide for the grant of leave on loss of pay for a maximum period of ten days in the year.

(7) The workers will not be entitled to any house rent allowance.

(8) The two workers, G. Satyanarayana and K. Nookaraju were properly dismissed and cannot be reinstated.

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Industrial Dispute

An industrial dispute arose in May 1937 between the workers and management of the Sri Krishna Jute Mills, Limited, Ellore, consequent on the dismissal of eleven workers. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to the District and Sessions Judge, West Godavari, as Industrial Tribunal, for adjudication. After enquiry the Tribunal has submitted its award and recommends that the dismissal of Thelu Appalaswamy was proper but that the other ten workers should be reinstated. These ten workers will not be entitled to wages for the period of their absence until they join duty. They will however be entitled to bonus for the year 1946 if they are otherwise entitled to it.

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Securing Army surplus materials for civil departments

Various materials lying in the Army Engineering Stores Parks and Depots have been declared surplus to Army requirements and the Directorate of Disposals, Government of India, has taken up clearing of these Parks by selling such materials in public auctions.

Many of the materials contained in the Parks, e.g.:

Iron and steel of the controlled categories,

Pipes of various materials and pipe fittings,

Sanitary fittings,

Door and window fittings,

Asbestos cement roofing materials,

Electrical goods, etc.,

are useful for the various schemes of the Provincial Government—buildings, irrigation, highways, electricity, co-operative, housing, etc. Most of these materials are now in short supply in the market and several development projects are held up for want of such materials. With a view to secure these materials for use on urgent works in progress and to prevent the useful materials falling into the hands of private traders who might unduly inflate the price, the Madras Government indicated their interest in acquiring useful materials and the Government of India agreed to transfer the materials to the Provincial Government at values to be fixed by negotiation. In the meantime, auction sales are kept in abeyance in respect of materials which are the subject of these negotiations and the most urgent demands of the Provincial Government have also been permitted to be drawn from the surplus stocks, pending the results of price negotiations.

The Parks also contain other materials acquired for special military purposes which cannot be used by the Civil Departments in their present form or at their high book values.

The Government of India are anxious to dispose of the materials in the Parks quickly and in their entirety so that their disposals organization might be closed down early.

While it may be desirable to secure as much of these materials as can be used within a reasonable limit of time on the various post-war reconstruction projects which are in progress or are likely to be started shortly, it is equally necessary to avoid taking over stocks at uneconomical rates or in quantities not likely to be usable within a reasonable period.

The Government of Madras have appointed a Special Officer of the rank of an Executive Engineer of the Public Works Department with the necessary staff under the administrative control of the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department (General), to inspect the stores, select useful items, price them at current market rates and indicate the order of usefulness of the materials for their acquisition. After examining these data, Government will decide on the most desirable terms of purchase, whether to purchase the stocks in their entirety, or only selected items in the Parks.

A report on the Arkonam Park is now with the Government. Immediately their general policy of purchase is settled, materials will be available for use on many urgent works now held up for want of such materials.

Reports on the Park at Avadi and Vizagapatam are under preparation.

The special staff will also attend to the selection of surplus plant and machinery and help all departments of Government in securing their requirements from the Army surplus stocks.

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Agricultural Jamabandi

The Government consider that an agricultural jamabandi by the Agricultural Department will be the surest way of bringing the ryots and the department together for disposing of their grievances quickly. They have therefore directed that the Deputy Director of Agriculture and the District Agricultural Officers should conduct the jamabandi before the cultivation season, so that the ryots may express their needs in person to the Jamabandi Officer and get them redressed quickly where possible. If there are, say, eight taluks in a district, the Deputy Director of Agriculture can cover half and the District Agricultural Officer the other half. The Deputy Directors, it is expected, can cover all taluks at least once in three years. The Government feel that this method will go a long way to assure the agriculturists of the Government's interest in them and will also help to check whether the work of the Agricultural Demonstrators is genuine and whether they are in touch with the ryots and understand their needs and requirements as far as possible. The Government have decided that the jamabandi should be tried immediately in one Tamil district and one Telugu district.

The Director of Agriculture has been asked to submit a report to the Government after the close of the first jamabandi in all the taluks of the two selected districts to enable the Government to consider the question of extending it to other districts.

The Government have also sanctioned the employment of a large number of demonstration maistris. It is essential that these maistris should render useful services to the people. The District Agricultural Officers should give a certificate annually that the maistris are residing in their headquarters.

Transport

Madras Board of Transport

The Government have directed that the Madras Board of Transport constituted in Government Order dated 14th March 1947, will start functioning with the following non-official representatives nominated by the States, the railways and several trade interests in this Province. A representative from Hyderabad State will be included if and when the latter's nomination is received. The non-official members now nominated are :—

(1) Sri N. Ramamurti, Director of Transport, representing Travancore Government.

(2) Sri R. Ramakrishna, Secretary to Government, Railway and Electrical Departments, nominated by the Mysore Government.

(3) Sri Rao Bahadur V. Bhujanga Rao, Superintendent of Police, Pudukottah State.

(4) The Commissioner of Police, Cochin State, representative of the Cochin State.

(5) Lt.-Col. A. M. Johnstone, representative of the Madras Motor Vehicles and Allied Merchants' Association.

(6) Mr. E. A. Watson, Chairman of the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association, Limited.

(7) Mr. M. M. Syed Md. Rowther, Agent of Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, representing Coastal Shipping Agents.

(8) Sri B. K. N. Rao, M.B.E., Branch Manager, Air India, Limited, Madras, representing airways of the Province.

(9) Mr. R. J. J. Perry, Chief Commercial Manager, the M. & S. M. Railway, representing the M. & S. M. Railway.

(10) Mr. J. F. C. Reynolds, General Manager, the S.I. Railway, representing the S.I. Railway.

The non-official members will serve on the Board for a period of two years in the first instance.

The Government did not consider that there shoud be a representative of manufacturing and mercantile interests on the Board as proposed by the Southern India Chamber of Commerce as it is open to the Board to co-opt at its option representatives of any interest and also to invite any person to be present at its meetings to help in taking decisions.

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Bonus to Transport Services

In February 1947 the Government constituted a Court of Enquiry under the Trade Disputes Act to go into all problems connected with the working conditions of labour in Motor Transport Services, Motor Transport Workshops, etc., in the Province. As the final report was likely to be delayed in view of the elaborate enquiries which the Court had to undertake, the Government referred the question of payment of interim relief to the workers in Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops for adjudication. After enquiry the adjudicator recommended certain scales of relief and his recommendations were accepted by Government and enforced on the parties. The Court of Enquiry has now submitted an interim report in which it recommends that, in addition to the interim relief already awarded by the adjudicator, the workers in Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops shall be paid bonus as detailed below :—

All individual operators and companies who have not paid any bonus to their workers during the last twelve months should pay a bonus of one month's basic wages to the workers who have completed twelve months' service on 30th June 1947 and a bonus of fifteen days' wages to the workers who have completed six months' service but less than twelve months on that date.

The Government commend the recommendation to the parties and trust that both parties will abide by it.

Local Boards

Hindu Mahasabha : Election Colour

In the press communique, dated 13th December 1946, it was notified that the orange colour has been allotted to candidates standing on behalf of the Hindu Mahasabha for the ensuing elections to local bodies.

In the press communique, dated 7th June 1947 it was announced that candidates standing on behalf of the Tamilnad Provincial Hindu Mahasabha should produce as their credentials, certificates from Sri K. Sivanandhi Thevar, General Secretary of the Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, Madura. The President of the Andhra Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, Bezwada, Sri Pandrangi Kesava Rao, B.A., B.L., proposes to issue certificates to serve as the credentials of the official candidates at the coming elections to municipal councils and local boards, standing on behalf of the Andhra Provincial Hindu Mahasabha. The official candidates of the Hindu Mahasabha in the Telugu-speaking areas should produce as their credentials, certificates from Sri Pandrangi Kesava Rao, President of the Andhra Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, Bezwada.

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Village Headmen and Elections

The Government have directed that village headmen who desire to stand for election and serve as members of any District Board, Panchayat Board of Municipal Council, including the presidentship and vice-presidentship of any of these bodies, should take leave while standing for election and during the period of their membership of the local body, if elected.

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Programme for Municipal Elections

It has been decided to hold elections to municipal councils in the months of August and September 1947, The following is the programme of dates.

Publication of election notice—
14th August 1947.
Receipt of nominations—
25th, 26th and 27th August 1947.
Scrutiny of nominations—
28th August 1947.
Publication of valid nominations :
If no appeal—
3rd September 1947.
In the event of appeal—
9th September 1947.
Poll—29th September 1947.
Counting—30th September 1947.

It may not however be possible, in the case of certain municipal councils to adhere to the above schedule owing to local circumstances.

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Bonus to Local Board Employees

When orders were issued by Government revising the scales of pay of their non-gazetted servants, Government permitted the more senior among them to count towards their pay in the revised scales their past service, so that they may get a substantial benefit in the matter of their pay. This, however, was not allowed in the case of municipal

(*Continued on page* 13)

Miscellaneous

Bonus for A.R.P. Men

A large number of applications have been received by the Madras Government from ex-A.R.P. personnel claiming bonus with reference to the Press Note issued by the Defence Department of the Government of India in June 1947. The bonus in question is apparently being paid by the Defence Department to personnel who were in the Defence Services, and not to personnel in Civil Defence or A.R.P. Services. No bonus has been sanctioned for payment to ex-A.R.P. personnel.

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Short Course in Paper Making

The Government have approved the proposal of the Director of Public Instruction that a short training course in paper making may be conducted in eight selected centres, the training being confined to teachers employed in schools under local bodies.

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Indian Pensioners of Macao Police Force

In future Indian pensioners of the Macao Police Force resident in India must produce for inspection there every two months properly certified copies of life certificates with photographs attached.

Macao is a Portuguese Colony on the coast of South China on the West side of the entrance to the Canton river and 35 miles distant from Hong Kong Island.

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Separation of Judiciary

In connection with the implementation of the scheme submitted by the Sub-Committee for the separation of the Judiciary from the Executive, the Government have now decided that the schemes should first be examined by a Cabinet Committee consisting of the following personnel: The Hon. Dr. P. Subbaroyan, Minister for Home, Chairman, the Hon. Mr. M. Bhakthavatsalam, Minister for Public Works, the Hon. Mr. Sitarama Reddi, Minister for Industries, the Hon. Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, the Hon. Mr. K. Madhava Menon, Minister for Agriculture, as Members.

The Committee will be assisted by a Special Officer of the grade of District Judge, who will also be its Secretary.

It will be the duty of the Secretary of the Committee to examine the proposals contained in the report of the Sub-Committee as well as the comments thereon made by the High Court, the Madras Public Service Commission and the Board of Revenue and work out details for the consideration of the Cabinet Committee.

The Secretary's post will be for a period of six months.

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Relief Granted

The Government sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1,990 (rupees one thousand nine hundred and ninety only) for the alleviation of the distress caused by the fire accident in Perungalathur village, Chengam taluk, North Arcot district, on 30th June 1947.

The expenditure should be debited to "54. A. Famine Relief."

The action of the Board of Revenue in having authorized the Collector to incur the expenditure in anticipation of the sanction of the Government is approved.

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National Savings Certificates

Subscriptions from the Province towards the National Savings Certificates for the period from 1st April 1947 to 12th July 1947 amounts to Rs. 42,19,185. Tanjore continues to hold the first place with Rs. 8,33,660. Madras ranks second with Rs. 6,40,210 and West Godavari shoots up to the third place with Rs. 4,86,065.

Subscriptions from all over the province towards National Savings Certificates for the period from 1st April 1947 to 28th June 1947 amounted to Rs. 36,55,525. Tanjore continues to take the first place with Rs. 8,15,090 and Madras comes second with Rs. 4,49,865.

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Reconstitution of District Boards.

The Government have decided to postpone the date for the reconstitution of the following 23 District Boards from 1st August 1947 to 1st December 1947 :—

Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Guntur, Tinnevelly, Madura, Salem, Bellary, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Nellore, Chingleput, Anantapur, Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Nilgiris, North Arcot, South Arcot, Tanjore, Ramnad, Malabar and South Kanara.

In a Government Order, dated 26th April 1947, 1st August 1947 was fixed as the date for the coming into office of the members newly elected to these District Boards at the ordinary elections. As election to these Boards have not yet been held, Government have decided to postpone this date to 1st December 1947. The Government further direct that the members newly elected to the District Boards mentioned above at the next ordinary elections shall come into office on the noon of 1st December 1947 instead of on the 1st August 1947.

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Civil and Sub-Assistant Surgeons

The Government have had under consideration the proposals submitted by the Surgeon-General and the Medical Licentiate Associations regarding the unification of the cadres of Civil Assistant Surgeons and Sub-Assistant Surgeons and the grant of a uniform scale of pay to all officers. The Government have now decided that Civil Assistant Surgeons should be designated as Civil Assistant Surgeons, Class I, and that Sub-Assistant Surgeons, should be designated as Civil Assistant Surgeons, Class II, and remain non-gazetted, that promotion from Civil Assistant Surgeon, Class II to Civil Assistant Surgeon, Class I shall be treated as promotion to a selection cadre and be on the following conditions, namely; (1) fifteen years satisfactory service as Civil Assistant Surgeon, Class II, under Government service for Licentiates, and (2) not less than five years of service under Government for Medical Graduates.

They have also decided that the posts of Civil Assistant Surgeons, Class I, in the King Institute, Guindy, and the Senior Assistant to the Chemical Examiner to Government be brought under the scheme of appointment of Supernumerary Civil Surgeons.

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Pension to Political Sufferers

At present some Government servants who resigned their posts in Government service from 1921 onwards in response to the call of the Indian National Congress are drawing pensions of Rs. 5 or 6 or 8 per mensem. The Government have decided that on the attainment of Independence, the pensions of all such pensioners who are

now getting less than Rs. 20 per mensem would be raised to Rs. 20 per mensem with effect from 15th August 1947.

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Europeans in India

Reports have reached the Government that there is an impression among certain sections of the public that after the transfer of power on August 15, 1947, there will be no Europeans in India. The Government wish to state that this is a mistaken impression. The fact is that, though a certain number of Europeans who are in Government service may retire or be released from service before or on August 15, 1947, other Europeans who are not so released from Government service or who are engaged in business or other walks of life in this country will continue to reside in India and to carry on their work as usual. The Government confidently expect that the most friendly relations will continue to subsist between Indians and Europeans who stay on in the country.

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Work of the Employment Exchanges

Statistics relating to the work of Employment Exchanges during the past one year disclose a period of striking progress. The Employment Exchanges have been in operation from June 1946 and since then the number of men placed by the Exchanges all over India has increased to 14,861 in June 1947 from 6,428 in June 1946. Similarly the number of employers who have made use of the Exchanges rose from 2,579 in June 1946 to 3,527 in June 1947. These figures are significant as indicating the increasing popularity of the Employment Exchanges amongst both employers and the demobilised personnel in the brief span of a year. It may be recalled in this connection that the Exchanges worked under a number of handicaps during the period, and among these are included the usual initial difficulties incidental to a new born organization and the general unsettled and abnormal conditions which prevailed during the period.

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Irrigation Wells

The present critical food situation requires an all-out effort to increase food production. The Government of Madras have taken measures to afford the maximum facilities to agriculturists to bring more land under cultivation and to increase the output of the land already under cultivation. In many districts loans are granted to ryots for deepening irrigation wells and for digging new wells for the purpose of growing food crops. Besides, certain concessions in the form of remission of assessment for the first three years are granted.

There is one excellent use to which these wells could be put, which now needs emphasis and publicity. It is recognized that water could be 'cultivated' just as land and if this were properly done it would yield as much food as the land. The ryot who seeks to grow more food on his land with water from the well, could at the same time grow fish in the well and reap a double harvest with very little extra labour. Fish is a valuable protein food of which there is not enough to meet the demand.

The irrigation wells have immense possibilities for increasing food production. There are at present innumerable wells in this Province. Quite a number of fish could thrive in these wells. If the well is rather narrow and deep, certain species of murrel *Verahl* and *Avuri* in Tamil) could be bred in them with advantage. In fact *Avuri* naturally occurs in many such wells; but with some systematic stocking a good crop of fish could be reaped. In wider wells, which are rather step-wells than draw-wells, other varieties of fish could be grown, particularly the Pearlspot (*Setha Kendai* in Tamil) which is a hardy fish very popular with fish-farmers. If the well has sufficient depth of water with fair algal growth, the quick-growing carp (*Catla*) could profitably be fattened in it. The digging of more irrigation wells would of course mean not only increased production from the land but also a corresponding increase in the fish production.

It is said that we are nearing the limit of the maximum possible cultivation of our lands. But only a small fraction of our waters is cultivated.

The Fisheries Section of the Department of Industries and Commerce would readily supply the required stock of fish and also give help and advice—*Madras Fisheries Information Bureau.*

(*Continued from page* 11)

and local board servants when the new scales were introduced in such of the municipalities and district boards as could afford to adopt the new scales, with a view to reducing the burden on local finances to that extent. But realizing the hardship that is caused to the more senior men by this, Government have now decided to grant the advance increments to employees of municipalities and district boards also as was done in the case of Government servants. The Government have also decided to permit the 30 municipal councils and 8 district boards which are unable to give effect to the revised scales of pay immediately, to grant to their employees, drawing a pay of Rs. 100 per mensem and less, a bonus equal to one month's pay. The Executive authorities of municipal councils and district boards have been instructed to disburse the bonus on or before the 14th August 1947.

INDEX NUMBER OF RURAL PRICES

The index numbers of rural prices for the month of July 1947 with the year ending 30th June 1936 as base or 100 were as follows for the several centres in the Province.

District.	Rural centre.	Rural price index.	Variation when compared with the index for the previous month.
Vizagapatam ..	Adivivaram ..	394	A fall of 1 point.
	Thettangi	370	A rise of 3 points.
West Godavari ..	Alamuru	367	A rise of 3 points.
Bellary	Madavaram ..	415	A rise of 1 point.
South Arcot ..	Puliyur	301	A rise of 2 points.
	Agaram	311	A rise of 1 point.
Trichinopoly ..	Thulayanatham ..	391	A rise of 7 points.
Madura	Eriodu	330	....
	Gokilapuram ..	354	A rise of 6 points.
Coimbatore . ..	Kinathukadavu ..	353	A rise of 2 points.
Malabar	Koduvalli	421	A rise of 9 points.
Chingleput ..	Guduvancheri ..	340	A fall of 9 points.
	Kunnathur ..	325	A rise of 5 points.

Awards in Industrial Disputes

Scindia Steam Navigation Co.

A dispute arose between the workers and management of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Vizagapatam, on certain matters. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the Government referred the dispute to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, on the 24th June 1947. The District Magistrate, Vizagapatam, and the Commissioner of Labour have since reported that the workers have gone on strike on the 8th July 1947, that is, after the Government referred the dispute for adjudication. Any strike during the pendency of proceedings before a Tribunal and two months after the conclusion of such proceedings is illegal under section 23 of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. Now the Government have also prohibited the strike under section 10 (3) of the Act. The workers are expected to return to duty immediately.

Standard Vacuum Oil Co.

There was a dispute between the commercial staff and the management of the Standard Vacuum Oil Co., Limited, Madras. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the dispute was referred to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. After enquiry, the Tribunal has submitted its report and has recommended that the clerical and service staff should be paid bonus. The present pension scheme, even if calculations are made according to the scale introduced in 1933, is much more beneficial than any provident fund. The basic pay of clerical staff is reasonable and not low. The minimum pay for service staff should be Rs. 21. Rules relating to the gratuity are more generous than in any other company. The amount of leave allowed to the employees is sufficient, as also the existing medical facilities. No increase in dearness allowance is recommended, and provision for travelling allowance during leave cannot be forced on the Company. No separate house rent allowance need be given. The discharge of Dhanakoti was not unjust.

The award will be made binding on the parties for a period of one year.

Burma-Shell Co.

There was a dispute between the staff and management of the Burma-Shell Co., Limited, Madras. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as Industrial Tribunal, for adjudication. After enquiry the Tribunal has submitted its report and has recommended that the bearers are eligible for bonus and that a bonus of one month's wages for all employees is adequate. Bearers who elect to go to their villages after completing one year's service should not be considered as permanent. The strength of the bearers should be fixed at sixteen and the others eliminated and those who are eliminated need not be paid any gratuity. The minimum pay of Rs. 21 to the staff is adequate. No full time employee should be paid less than Rs. 21 and those who are now to be paid Rs. 21 should be paid with effect from 1st January 1947. It has been agreed that those who work on Sundays and holidays should be given substitute holidays. The office car drivers need not be paid overtime. Existing provision for leave in the case of service staff is adequate.

There is no justification for paying railway fare to Gurkha watchmen for visiting their native place once in two years as they are recruited at Madras. Train fare need not be paid to service staff while they go on leave as in the case of the clerical staff. House rent allowance need not be paid to clerical staff and service staff. The Labour Provident Fund system intended for labourers and service staff may be continued without any modification. Dearness allowance should not be taken into account when calculating bonus. The discharge of M. Ekambaram, watchman, was not improper or unjustifiable, but the company may give him one more chance if the Company's doctor certifies him to be keeping good health.

The award will be made binding on the parties for a period of one year.

Dispute in Cigar Factories

There was a dispute between the workers and management of the beedi and cigar factories in Mangalore, and other places in South Kanara district, at Tellicherry, Cannanore, Ponnai, Badagara, Calicut, Palghat and in Kottayam taluk of Malabar district. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the Government referred the dispute to the District and Sessions Judge, South Kanara, for adjudication. After enquiry, the adjudicator has submitted his report and recommended that the existing rates of wages for thousand beedies be increased by 1 anna, the wages for a bundle of twenty-five cigars be 10 pies, and that a bonus of one month's wages should be paid to both beedi and cigar workers. He has left to Government to fix the period for which bonus should be paid and the different scales of bonus to be paid according to service. The Government accept the recommendations of the adjudicator and direct that the increase in wages recommended should be given effect from 1st April 1947 and that the bonus recommended by him should be for the calendar years 1946 and 1947. As regards the rates of bonus to be paid the Government direct that workers with less than three months' service need not be paid any bonus, that the workers with a service of three months and more but less than six months be paid a bonus of one-fourth of a month's wages, that workers with a service of six months and more, but less than nine months be paid a bonus of half of a month's wages and that workers with a service of nine months and more be paid bonus of one month's wages.

The recommendations do not apply to the Kuyil Mark Beedi Factory, Tellicherry, as the rates of wages paid are already higher and as the factory is a temporary one. They do not also apply to the beedi factories in Palghat as the parties did not appear before the adjudicator.

Vummidi and Guruswami Chetty Co.

There was a dispute between the workers and management of Vummidi Ramiah Chetty and Guruswami Chetty & Co., Madras. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, for adjudication. After enquiry the Tribunal has submitted its report and has recommended that the closure of the factory was not mala fide as the management has reported that the price of silver and gold has reached its highest level and it would sustain loss if it continues its business. The management has also lost its trust in the workers and there has been a big drop in production. The management cannot therefore be compelled to open the factory but if the management

(*Continued on page* 36)



Hon'ble Mr. Kala Venkat Rao inaugurating the Madras Secretariat Services' Week Celebrations, Father Jerome D' Souza was one of the principal speakers.



Hon'ble Mr. Baktavatsalam addressing the Association



Hon'ble Mr, Gopal Reddi, speaking at another meeting of the Association

CITY CELEBRATES THE DAWN OF FREEDOM



The Governor and the Premier watch the Girl guides marching along



His Excellency Salutes the National Flag



Governor inspects the Guard of Honour



The Governor's Body Guard Marches Past



For the first time in history, India's National Flag flew over Fort St. George, where for years the Union Jack had been flying

Two New Colleges Opened: Education Minister's Inaugural Addresses

The following is the speech given by the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam, Minister for Education, on the occasion of the opening of the Rajah Doraisingam College, Sivaganga.

"I have great pleasure in opening this College to-day. The other day, when we were considering the situation of Colleges in the various districts, we thought that Ramnad did not have any College, but, to the surprise of all of us in this year, all on a sudden three Colleges have come into existence—one here, another at Karaikudi, which I shall have the pleasure of opening this evening, and the third one at Virudunagar. I must congratulate the Rajah of Sivaganga on his magnificent gift which has made the existence of this College possible. Along with him I must congratulate also the generosity of others which has made the coming into existence of the other two Colleges also. The only two other districts in which there is no College of any kind are Ootacamund and Cuddapah. In Cuddapah, certain friends interested in higher education are making arrangements to start a College and I hope it will come into existence before the next College year.



You are aware that the Government has been taking up the problem of re-organization of secondary education. God willing, it is expected that the re-organized schemes of studies will come into effect from the next school year. On the eve of Independence of this great country, it is necessary that those who are in charge of education should have the vision and forethought to re-align our educational system so as to suit the coming needs of this great country. In view of these changes, it is necessary that we should recast the contents of the various courses of studies that we are having in schools and Colleges. Apart from courses of studies there is another much more difficult problem. The real training in schools and Colleges is not so much in the knowledge that you seek to give to the children who come to the portals of these institutions but the training for life that we must give them in these schools and Colleges. Man has to move with his family, with his community, with society at large, and has to play his part in the great country to which he belongs as well as in the world. If he is to play a proper part in all these spheres, it is necessary that we should give him the necessary training and practice in daily life which will enable him to face the problems of life as and when they occur. This is an essential aspect of education which our schools and Colleges must tackle.

I am told that one of the items in the curricula of eduction for girls in the Japanese Universities was to teach girls how to behave with their mothers-in-law as well as with their other relatives after marriage. One may smile at this but those, who know how many families are being broken, and the happiness of how many is being daily disturbed by want of this knowledge, will understand how essential these practical hints in life are. I mention this only by way of example to show that these practical things in life are perhaps more important and more useful in our lives than many books on theory which we may learn by-heart.

God willing, I hope the re-organization of our education in the various spheres will meet this need and equip our boys and girls to face the problems of life with courage, strength and nobility, so that all of them can make their own contribution in the building up of this great country.

While thanking the Rajah Sahib for starting this College, let me hope and pray that the College will have a long era of usefulness and the boys and girls of the College will also have a long era of service to the Motherland."

Re-organization of College Education

The following is the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam, Minister for Education, Government of Madras, on the occasion of the opening of the Alagappa College at Karaikudi on 11th July 1947.

I am very glad to be able to associate myself with the opening of the Alagappa College, Karaikudi. I must congratulate Dr. Alagappa Chettiar on his latest munificence in opening this College. I have known him only for a short time and I must appreciate his generosity, not only for what he has done to the two Universities and to this College, but for the future proposals that he has for the educational uplift in this Province.

We are moving fast. The world is changing and with it, we must also adjust to the changing conditions. No man or woman and no society or country can live and be effective unless it adjusts itself to the changing conditions of the environments within which it lives. Those who stop or falter will be thrown to the winds by nature and so it is absolutely essential for us that we must take stock of the existing and changing conditions in the life around us in the world and plan with vision for the future; and in so planning, nothing is more important than education: for education is mainly planning for the future. If we plan well today and infuse courage and strength in our children, then and then only we lay the foundations for a great and glorious future for this great country. And so, it is up to us who are in charge of education in the

(*Continued on page* 21)



First Governor of Madras under the New Constitution, takes the Oath

Financial Relations between Centre and Provinces

Mr. Gopal Reddi Seeks Advice of Non-officials

At the conference of economists, publicists and public men convened by the Hon'ble Mr. B. Gopala Reddi, Finance Minister, and held in the Cabinet Room in the Secretariat on 11th August 1947, a number of suggestions were put forward regarding the adjustment of financial relations between the Union Centre and the Provincial Governments under the future constitution. After the Finance Minister delivered his address, a general discussion followed in which Mr. T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, Mr. Md. Ismail, Mr. T. K. Doraiswami Ayyar, Mr. C. Seshachalam, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachariar, Mr. M. Tirumala Rao, Mr. M. A. Majid and Mr. C. R. Srinivasan participated.

Among the suggestions proferred by them were that 50 per cent of the Excise duty on tobacco, etc., raised by the Centre from the provinces should be handed over to the provinces, that the provinces should have the right to levy Succession duties and Estate duties, that the proceeds of the Corporation tax should be amalgamated with the proceeds of income-tax and form the devisible pool available for distribution to the provinces, that manufacture and sale of salt should be made provincial and that the possibilities of increasing the rates of the sales tax should be explored.

Suggestions were also made that items of taxation like the agricultural income-tax, which could be better and more suitably made a part of the general income-tax scheme, should be allocated to the Centre and that it would be desirable for the provinces to go slow with regard to the implementation of Prohibition which involves considerable loss of revenue. It was also pointed out that at a suitable time before the financial proposals for distribution of the financial resources between the Centre and the provinces are formulated and approved, a conference should be convened where the issues can be discussed at Governmental level and a suitable formula evolved. The constitution of a permanent Economic or Fiscal Relations Board, which would continuously have under review the financial relations between the Centre and the provinces was also suggested.

The general view was that, while each unit of Government should be allotted revenue-yielding resources which will be commensurate with the requirements of the administrative functions it is called upon to discharge, the Provincial Governments, which have to undertake developmental programmes on a large scale, should be enabled to have adequate finances to meet the demands on them. In other words the financial requirements of a strong Centre should be reconciled with the needs of the provinces which have to carry through large nation-building schemes.

It was also felt that a more fruitful discussion on the issues involved can take place only when the outlines of the whole future financial relations between the Centre and the provinces are more or less complete. Before the conference closed, the Minister thanked the invitees for the useful suggestions they made, which would be helpful to him and the Government in carry ing on negotiations with the Central Government in the near future.

Mr. Gopala Reddi's Speech

I may just give you a bird's eye-view of the financial position of the province so that it may give you a correct idea of the present position. It will enable us to press for new sources of revenue in order to meet the normal needs of the province and also the requirements of post-war development schemes.

The amount of revenue from the principal heads for 1946–47 is as follows :—

	RS. (IN LAKHS).
Income-tax	406·86
Land Revenue ..	842·34
Excise	1,421·73
Forest	171·65
Stamps	427·01
Registration	77·00
Motor Vehicles Act ..	118·31
Commercial Taxes ..	806·83
Receipts from Electricity Schemes.	126·68
Other heads	773·17

The total income is Rs. 5,171·52 lakhs. The expenditure chargeable to



revenue account in 1946–47 comes to Rs. 5,997·13 lakhs. The deficit in the revenue account according to the above figures comes to Rs. 825·61 lakhs which we have to draw from the revenue reserve fund. Taking this out, the balance in the revenue reserve fund at the end of 1946–47 will be Rs. 2,337 lakhs.

Excise Revenue

You are aware that the Congress has been fighting for total prohibition of all alcoholic liquors right from 1920 and it has been one of the chief planks of the Congress programme. It was approved by the Electorate both in 1937 and in 1946 elections. Eight districts had already gone dry from October 1946 and eight more are to go dry from October this year. We are painfully aware that the loss of excise revenue will obviously affect the finances of the province. But we are pledged to it and we are determined to carry it out. When we talk of provincial finances we can only take into account all sources of income for the province deducting the excise income. During the war the excise revenue of the province went up and in 1945–46 it reached a peak figure of

1,679·50 lakhs—that was the peak year for Madras and also for any other province in India. So deducting the excise revenue, the total revenue would be roughly about 35 crores.

Post-War Development

During the war, a number of committees were appointed by the Advisers' regime to go into post-war development schemes of the province and a compilation of all the items comes to about 135 crores of rupees. This amount is needed to execute the first five-year plan of post-war development. Even at the end of this first five-year plan, only one-third of the province would come under the road development scheme, and one-fourth of the province under compulsory elementary education and medical relief schemes.

The main items of post-war development expenditure are given below :

	CRORES.
Education	30·67
Medical and Public Health.	14·08
Agriculture	8·01
Industries and Fisheries.	3·37
Irrigation	27·56
Electricity	11·10
Forest	1·62
Veterinary and live-stock.	1·67
Roads	27·79
Other items	9·13
Total ..	135·00

Central Grants

To finance the post-war development schemes, Government of India had been pleased to give us Rs. 6·25 crores. This amount covers not only post-war development schemes but also the Grow More Food scheme subsidies. The Government of India could not tell us whether this block-grant of Rs. 6·25 crores would be maintained during the next five years. But let us hope that they will maintain the figure. Even so, it will only come to about thirty crores of rupees and we would still require over Rs. 100 crores for the next five years. This will have to be met partly from new sources of revenue and partly from borrowings. If it is not possible to cover this deficiency from these sources, the post-war development programme will have to be curtailed to the extent necessary.

In 1945–46 we had a surplus of Rs. 17 crores which was transferred to the Revenue Reserve Fund and in 1946–47 we ran into a deficit of Rs. 8 crores which was drawn from the Revenue Reserve Fund, as I had stated above. Food subsidies and purchase of army surplus military lorries and jeeps alone represent a little over Rs. 12 crores, while the loss of revenue due to prohibition, revision of scales of pay for the police constables, bonus to the N.G.Os., expansion of almost all Government departments and subsidies to ryots for sinking wells, etc., represent the rest. This year too, due to extension of prohibition in more districts, bonus for procurement of food grains, revision of salaries for teachers, warders and police constables, and new schemes introduced in the course of the year, there will be a deficit of two to three crores even after setting off the anticipated excess income from sale of arrack, ganja, etc., shops, due to competitive bids at the auctions and from income-tax.

Under capital expenditure too, we will have the nationalisation of road transport, payment of compensation to zamindars, taking over the Madras Electric Supply Corporation and loans for housing schemes. These schemes require several crores of rupees which have to be met from borrowings.

Thus we are running into deficit year by year and with the advent of total prohibition, the deficit must be on the increase. This can only be met by drastic retrenchment, which is almost out of the question, revision of our tax system and getting more sources of income from the Centre.

Centre *vs.* Provinces

As the Constituent Assembly is to discuss the Union Powers *vis-a-vis* Provincial powers in its next session, I have ventured to call this Conference just to see whether we can cajole the Centre to part with, or to share with the Provincial Government, certain sources of their income.

Just at present, Government of India give us 15 per cent of half the net proceeds from income-tax excluding Corporation Tax, under what is termed the 'Niemiyer Award'. Excepting that contribution, there is no other statutory contribution from the Centre to the provinces.

I shall now mention a few sources of Central revenues in which we can claim a share even under the existing Government of India Act. (1) Though sections 137 and 140 (1) of the Government of India Act provide for distribution to provinces of taxes on succession of property, terminal tax, federal duties on excise, exports, etc., nothing has been done so far and the Provinces were not benefited by the incorporation of these clauses into the Government of India Act. I particularly draw youf attention to section 140 (1) of thar Act under which the Government ot India have to share with the provinces the whole or part of the income from the tax on excise and export duties. Under section 140 (2) of the Act, the Bengal Government are getting a major portion of the export duty on jute while our province is not getting anything from the export duty imposed on coffee, tea and cotton; nor are we getting any benefit out of the excise duty levied on tobacco and other articles. On tobacco the excise duty collected is nearly three crores of rupees in our province. We are only getting a paltry sum of Rs. 22 lakhs from the Government of India on the basis of revenue derived by us during the three years 1940–41 to 1942–43. We have a legitimate claim to revive our Tobacco (Taxation of Sales and Licensing) Act of 1939. It may yield us roughly about 150 lakhs if a tax is levied at 10 per cent of the turnover. On the basis of it, we can press for a revision of the existing arrangement. This Government had addressed a communication to the Government of India recently on this question and promptly came the reply that this 22 lakhs is a permanent compensation per annum and it cannot be enhanced. Surely what was done during the Advisers' Regime cannot bind a popular Legislature and the popular Legislature is entitled to revise, if not repudiate, what was done previously with regard to this.

Under other heads under excise duty, the Government of India get from our Province a sum of three crores of rupees and if we can get 50 per cent of it, it will mean another 150 lakhs for our province. We can safely and legally claim under section 140 (1) quoted above, half of the revenue from excise duties collected in this Province.

Under export duties too, we have a clear case for at least 50 per cent of the net proceeds if not for the whole of it.

Taxes on Corporation including excess profit tax levied during the war time was not divisible between the Centre and the provinces. It was entirely ear-marked for the Centre while the provinces contributed largely for making up that revenue. All the facilities that companies require, like electricity, etc., are provided by the provinces; but they do not get any return out of these business profits. It does not stand scrutiny that Corporation tax should be excluded from the divisible pool while income-tax is



Ladies' Rally at the Banquetting Hall. Lady Nye is seen in the centre



They march—to take their rightful place beneath the flag

(Continued from page 16)

country and who are interested in education in its various spheres, to take note of these facts and plan ahead with vision, strength and enthusiasm.

You are aware that the Government have taken up the matter of reorganization of Secondary Education. With that must also come the reorganization of College education to suit the needs of the times and the genius of our people. In the reorganization of College education, two things must be borne in mind.

One is about the medium of instruction. Many of the Universities in Northern India have already made their own regional language the medium of instruction. The regional language should be made the medium of instruction, not for any sentimental reasons, but for the fact that only through the regional language can education be effective and it cannot be so through a medium which our people do not normally understand. This will have the additional great purpose of bridging the existing gulf between the so-called educated and the uneducated classes of this country.

Secondly, we must provide in our Universities scope for higher knowledge in various branches of studies so that the country may produce men and women required for its various services. For many of these we had largely to depend upon foreigners till now, but that cannot continue any longer and it is necessary that we should provide in our own Universities for all our needs. In this, I must also mention the need for high-grade research in our own institutions. Our University education will have to be planned from these and other important aspects and I have no doubt that our Universities have a proper appreciation of all these facts and will make all attempts to meet these needs.

Education is costly and college education is indeed very costly. Such things as higher education in research, are much more costly. The Government have many limitations as you are aware, and with programmes such as Prohibition and the need for large-scale adjustments, the Provincial finance has greatly been strained. Any re-adjustment that must be made can at best be only gradual. It is now that we depend more than at any time upon the private munificence of merchants, industrialists, zamindars and other philanthropists in setting up these large institutions of science as well as research. The Government appreciate very much the coming forward of rich and well-to-do friends like Dr. Alagappa Chettiar and the Rajah of Sivaganga and would like to appeal to the other industrialists and rich persons in the various parts of this Province to emulate their example and set up educational institutions of various types throughout the Province.

I must also point out the need for books representing the higher knowledge in our various regional languages. Unless this need is satisfied, it will be impossible to raise the general level of the people and make it possible to impart higher knowledge in the regional languages. The Government are aware of this problem and would like to have the patriotic help and co-operation of all people interested in these matters.

God willing, let us build a great and glorious India. That can be done only on the solid foundations of intense knowledge and greater discipline and I will appeal to you and through you to all the men and women interested in the education of the Province to co-operate with the Government in every way possible and help them in achieving this great ideal.

Court of Enquiry

In February 1947, the Government appointed Sri Rao Bahadur M.Venkataramayya, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as a Court of Enquiry to go into the conditions of labour in the Motor Transport Services, Motor Transport Workshops, Engineering Firms and Type Foundries. The Government have since decided that one Court cannot deal with all the four industries and have therefore constituted a separate Court of Enquiry consisting of Sri P. C. Sundaram Ayyangar, Retired District and Sessions Judge, as its sole member to enquire into the conditions of labour in the Engineering Firms and Type Foundries in the Province. The Court will among other matters enquire into the problems connected with the working conditions of labour such as wages, dearness allowance, bonus, leave facilities, etc. in these industries. As there are a large number of Engineering Firms and Type Foundries scattered throughout the Presidency, the Court is unable to send individual invitations to them and to workers' unions. Interested parties may therefore, make written representations to the Court of Enquiry for Engineering Workshops and Type Foundries at Block No. XVI, Fort St. George, Madras, so as to reach it on or before 5th September 1947.

Potato Production and Utilization

Central Research Institute to be set up

A proposal to set up a Central Potato Research Institute for the development of co-ordinated fundamental research on all aspects of potato production and utilization, including a Central seed-certifying station for seed supply to the Provinces, is now under examination by the Government of India.

The Central Organization will consist of (i) a main institute to be located probably in Bihar supported by three complementary research sub-stations in the hills in North India; (ii) three research sub-stations situated, one each in Bengal, Western U.P. and the Nilgiris and (iii) a seed organization for initial multiplication of improved seeds in a disease-free state and supply to the Provinces.

Improved Varieties

The main institute will be located in Bihar, as it is an important seed potato growing area, which exports more than 60 per cent of its produce as seed to other Provinces and represents typical conditions for potato growing.

The primary object of the seed certification organization will be to ensure that no diseased seed is used for potato growing. This will help in maintaining the purity of improved varieties. It is stated that certified seed is known to have given increased yields up to even 100 per cent, in many cases. In order that the high yielding potentialities of improved varieties be maintained, for a number of years, it is necessary to use certified seed.

The total annual potato production in India is about 49,000,000 maunds, the average yield per acre being 100 maunds as against 220 in the United Kingdom. The annual average potato imports in India are over 1,100,000 maunds valued at more than Rs. 33,00,000.

The possibilities of improving and popularising the potato crop in India lie in the direction of the evolution of higher yielding varieties for different climates and soils, the production of seed potatoes, the elimination of diseases which attack the crop in the field by producing disease-resistant varieties, and the improvement of seed storage so as to prevent loss by rot and insect pests.

included. There does not seem to be any reason or rhyme in this and we must ask for the inclusion of the Corporation tax also to come into the joint divisible pool.

Needless to say, all the primary development schemes are vested in the provinces and the income derived under the income-tax must be made available to the provinces to a greater degree than before. With the alteration of our geographical boundaries, the division of Bengal and the Punjab and the cession of the Frontier Province and Sind, the entire Niemiyer Award has to be revised and modified to the advantage of the provinces. The present 50 per cent basis is totally inadequate and we can safely press that it must be enhanced to at least 75 per cent. The Joint Select Committee presided over by Lord Linlithgow, in one of its recommendations, envisaged a distribution of the net proceeds from the income-tax up to 75 per cent of the total. But Niemiyer put it at the rock-bottom minimum of 50 per cent. We have a right case for raising it to 75 per cent from 50 per cent.

For a total of about 36,000 miles of road in our Province, only 2,000 miles have been taken over under the National Highways leaving about 34,000 miles to be maintained by the Province, and the demand for rural roads and improved communications is very pressing and urgent. The Government of India is levying a very high import duty on motor cars, spare parts, motor spirit, etc. While the bulk of the responsibility for maintaining roads is on the provinces, the import duty on vehicles running on these roads is taken away entirely by the Centre. Except for a percentage of the surcharge on motor spirit, provinces do not get any benefit out of this import duty. It is one of the principles of finance that he who maintains an institution must also get the benefits derived from or through that institution and it cannot be gainsaid that unless there are good provincial and marketing roads, the number of buses, lorries and cars plying on them cannot increase. Here again we have a good case for a share in the import duty levied on motor spirit, motor vehicles, etc., by the Centre.

Gentlemen, I have indicated a few points for your consideration and I am sure you have other proposals to make for making provincial autonomy a real success by allowing to it other new sources of income and by also adding to it increased percentages in the existing resources.

Financial Position of the Province Explained

In the course of a Studio Interview on the evening of 24th July at the Madras Station of All-India Radio, the Hon'ble Mr. B. Gopala Reddi, Finance Minister of the Government of Madras, made a reference among other things to the financial position of the Province and the question of the salaries of Madras Government employees in relation to the high cost of present living.

The Finance Minister said, "According to the budget estimates both revenue and expenditure will be much lower this year. The chief cause of the lower revenue is the rapid extension of Prohibition. Expenditure is lower largely because there is no contribution to the Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift Fund this year whereas Rs. 4 crores was contributed last year, and partly because this year's budget assumes a better food position and therefore lower expenditure on subsidising the supply of foodgrains. As the food position is now worse than last year, there will be much extra expenditure on this account above what is shown in this year's budget.

"Last year was expected to close with a deficit of about Rs. 8¼ crores, of which Rs. 4 crores was due to the contribution to the Village Reconstruction and Harijan Uplift Fund. The final figure for the deficit is not available yet. The actual deficit will be covered by a transfer from the Revenue Reserve Fund. This year's budget shows a deficit of about Rs. 1½ crores There will be extra expenditure due to the food crisis and other causes and a further loss of revenue of over half a crore of rupees due to the extension of Prohibition to two more districts from 1st October 1947 in addition to the six districts on which the budget figures are based. The final result this year may therefore probably be a deficit of some Rs. 4 to 5 crores which will be covered by a transfer from the Revenue Reserve Fund."

Referring to the efforts being made to improve the revenues of the Government, Mr. Gopal Reddi said "Many proposals have been considered but many of them had to be given up for some reason or other. The Government increased the rates of tax on petrol and other motor spirit considerably from 1st February 1947. The rates of registration fees in certain cases were increased from 1st May 1947. The fees in Government Arts and Engineering Colleges have been raised with effect from the current academic year. There are some other proposals now under consideration. The chief one is for an increase in the rate of the General Sales Tax. The Government will take over the Madras Electric Supply Corporation in August 1947. They have also decided that all the buses in Madras City shall be run as a Government Transport concern as soon as possible. These changes will produce some additional revenue. The abolition of the Zamindari system of land tenure should also result eventually in some increase in the land revenue."

Referring to the question of salaries of Government employees and the new cost of living, the Finance Minister admitted it was reasonable for Government employees to expect higher emoluments than they received in 1942 in view of the abnormal increase in the cost of living that has taken place since 1942. The Government have done what they thought reasonably possible to meet this need. He went on:

"A dearness allowance was sanctioned during the war for all except the most highly paid officers, and it has been increased from time to time. The pay scales of all the subordinate services were also revised with effect from the 1st January 1947 and a house allowance was given to all Government employees on pay up to Rs. 80 a month in towns with a population of 50,000 or more. This was done on the recommendation of the Cabinet Salaries Committee, which examined the whole position with great care. Before the Committee made its report, the Chairman had a discussion with the Central Pay Commission, and the Commission's tentative views were taken into account by the Committee.

"The total cost of dearness allowance to this Government is now about 4·46 crores a year for Government servants and Village Officers. The House Allowance for Government servants costs about 12·3 lakhs a year. The ultimate cost of the revision of pay scales for Government servants from

(*Continued on page* 30)

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the second fortnight of July

Market Conditions and Trend of prices

There was no perceptible change in the prices of cereals and pulses. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil-seeds, oil-cakes, etc., was as follows:—

No change.—Gingelly oil-cake and groundnut oil-cake.

Rise.—Groundnut (shelled) (5·1 per cent)—Gingelly seed (1·4 per cent)—Coconut oil (10·8 per cent)—Groundnut oil (5·3 per cent)—Gingelly oil (3·8 per cent) and cotton seed (3 per cent).

Fall—Copra (1·4 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets procured locally in the districts and the quantities of cereals and pulses imported from abroad:—

(*a*) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 15th July* 1947.—

Paddy—32,878 tons and Rice—13,461 tons—Together equivalent to 36,284 tons in terms of rice.

Millets—4,622 tons.

(*b*) *Receipts from other States and Provinces during the fortnight ending 31st July* 1947:—

Rice—2,627 tons.
Millets—288 tons.
Wheat—Nil.
Wheat products—Nil.
Pulses—

	TONS.
Blackgram ..	253
Redgram ..	Nil.
Greengram ..	49
Bengalgram ..	1,134
Total ..	1,436

(*c*) *Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 31st July* 1947.—

	TONS.
Rice	Nil.
Millets (milo) ..	9,140
Wheat	Nil.
Wheat products ..	Nil.

Stocks and supply—Principal Foodgrains

Rice.—The steamer "Ormara" which left Karachi on 7th July 1947 with 2,308 tons of whole rice and brokens from Sind for this Province is understood to have been held up at Bombay on account of congestion in that Port. Its arrival at Cochin has therefore been delayed. There is a balance of 2,700 tons of whole rice and brokens due from Sind; but it is not known when this quantity of rice will arrive. The quota of 10,000 tons of rice from Central Provinces, has now been reduced to 5,000 tons.

There is some improvement in the procurement of rice probably as a result of the announcement of the Bonus Scheme. In the week ending 31st July 1947 procurement of rice amounted to 25,182 tons compared with 21,247 tons in the previous week and 15,765 tons in the week ending 17th July 1947. Nevertheless, the stock of rice in the Province has fallen from 193,477 tons on 10th July 1947, to 184,680 tons on 31st July 1947. The stock position continues to be worse in Malabar, Coimbatore and South Kanara. It is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain an adequate flow of supplies to these districts. Unless improvement in procurement can be maintained, a crisis in these districts at the end of August may be unavoidable.

Millets.—During the fortnight, 8,000 tons of milo on the S.S. "Andalusia" and 1,140 tons of milo on the S.S. "Palamcottah" were received. A further 320 tons of milo from Ceylon is expected on the S.S. "Shajahan" at Madras early in August. A quantity of 230 tons of Australian millets is expected on the S.S. "Mutra" at Madras early in August. A shipload of 8,000 tons of milo was expected at Madras in August; but it is not now being received. Nevertheless, the millets stock position is generally satisfactory. On 31st July 1947, the stocks of millets were 27,326 tons, i.e., just under 2½ months' stocks.

Maize, Barley and Rye.—No imports of these foodgrains were received during the fortnight. The stocks of these foodgrains now remaining in the districts are small and the rate of disposal continues to be satisfactory.

Wheat and Wheat Products.—The stock of wheat has fallen to 1,606 tons on 31st July 1947 when compared with the offtake of 1,137 tons in June. The S.S. "Noorjahan" carrying 1,000 tons of Sind wheat is leaving Karachi early in August. When this shipload is received at Madras, it will be possible to replenish the stocks in most districts. The flour position is much less satisfactory than the wheat position. Stocks are now only 532 tons and in many districts the shortage is so great that wheat is being issued to bakeries in place of flour. Unfortunately, no imports of wheat flour are expected in August.

Pulses.—The S.S. "Jalavijaya" carrying 966 tons of Jhind and Punjab gram arrived at Cochin on 22nd July 1947. The S.S. "Rivercrest" carrying 168 tons of Jhind gram arrived at Tuticorin on 31st July 1947. In the first fortnight of August, the S.S. "Ormara" carrying 179 tons of Sind gram products and the S.S. "Jayabramha" carrying 678 tons of Sind, Jhind and Punjab gram products are expected at Cochin. The balance of the Sind, Punjab and Nabha 1946-47 rabi plan bengalgram dhall amounting to about 2,000 tons have been cancelled. Consequently, there is practically no bengalgram to be moved now against 1946-47 rabi plan allotment. The Government of India have now agreed that the Bahawalpur quota of 2,000 tons of bengalgram under the 1947-48 rabi plan should be moved through the trade. The quota of redgram from United Provinces has now been increased to 15,000 tons, but due to rise in price in that Province, it is feared that only a fraction of the quota will be secured. The redgram quota from Rampur has been increased from 870 tons to 1,830 tons. The redgram stock position continues to be unsatisfactory in most districts. Several districts are also short of blackgram. The bengalgram and greengram stock position is generally satisfactory throughout the Province.

Rationing

The total ration to rice eaters has been raised from 8 oz. per adult per day to 10 oz. (composed of 8 oz. of rice and 2 oz. of millets, milo, maize, etc.) and that to meals' hotels from 4 oz. to 5 oz. per meal (composed of 4 oz. of rice and 1 oz. of millets, milo, etc.). Milo has also been included as one of the components of the supplementary ration to heavy manual labourers.

Subsidiary Foodstuffs

Groundnut.—In view of the avilability of millets to supplement the rice ration, the scheme for the

(*Continued on page* 30)

Food Transport

The public has got used to dealing with the Civil Supplies Department, which has indeed been called in some quarters the "Corn Chandlers Department", and it buys rice quite cheerfully from the ration shop with its familiar yellow sign board, and other foodstuffs from the ordinary merchants. It never bothers to ask itself how the food comes to the shops. If it thinks at all, it assumes that it is a simple matter for Government to move rice from the paddy fields and pulses from North India and put them on sale. Food has always found its way from the grower to the consumer and the public has never bothered how it was done; the mechanics of the movement do not concern it. In point of fact it is a continual strain on the transport of the country. Food is brought into the Presidency from all over India and all over the world. Feeding the public has become a matter of international, national and provincial concern.

Pre-war Period

It was not always so. Before the war the whole organization of food supply was in the hands of the merchants, who bought in the cheapest market and transported food to where it was required, and famines in those days were rather a matter of lack of money than of lack of food itself. Now all that has changed and not only is food itself in "short supply" but also the means of transporting it from the grower to the consumer. There is a shortage of ships, of railway waggons and of lorries; there is also a shortage of fuel-oil, coal and petrol. In these circumstances it is no longer possible to leave the purchase and distribution of food to private merchants and the whole of the civilized world has been called in aid. A tremendous burden has been thrown on all forms of transport and it is necessary not only to ration food stuffs themselves but also to control and organize transport so that the limited facilities at present available may be made to do as much work as possible. The Civil Supplies Department has built up an elaborate organization which not only assist the railways by seeing to it that supplies are moved along them in the most economical manner possible, but also wherever it can lays on alternative means of transport, sometimes ships, sometimes lorries and sometimes other more primitive means of transport like canal craft.

As far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, Madras City has to be entirely fed from outside, and even in the best years the south-west corner of the Presidency is heavily deficit in rice, millets and pulses. Taking first things first, it is of interest to examine the supply of rice. Madras City in spite of its relatively heavy demand is not particularly difficult to feed. It has good rail communications with all parts of the Presidency and food can be brought straight in along the north-east line of the M.S.M., the main metre gauge line of S.I.R., and to some extent also by canal from Nellore. Coimbatore, Malabar and the Nilgiris, however, present a much more difficult problem. In the first place they consume enormous quantities of rice. The demand in Malabar sometimes rises to as much as 30,000 tons a month—1,000 tons a day. Secondly the only really large surpluses are to be found in the Delta Areas—the Circars and Tanjore district. Bezwada is more than 700 miles from Calicut and though Tanjore is very much nearer, it is entirely serviced by metre gauge lines, while Malabar is broad gauge from Palghat onwards. Nor is it all plain sailing even from Bezwada, for apart from the enormous distance to be covered, which in itself makes for a considerable time lag between procurement and consumption and keeps wagons loaded with rice for days together, there is the added complication, as in the case of Tanjore, that the Kistna district and a corner of West Godavari, are served by a metre gauge line. There is no question but that the existence of two gauges in India has led to enormous waste of wagons, time, labour and temper. Wagons loaded in the metere gauge area of Kistna for the south have to be transhipped at Tadapalli and loads from Tanjore for Malabar have to be transhipped at Palghat or Coimbatore and delays on account of transhipment are endless. In spite of the best efforts of the railways it is not always possible to produce the required number of empty wagons at the transhipment point at the precise moment that the loaded wagons arrive: it is always necessary to have shunting engines and coolies and they may not be available. It is the business of the Civil Supplies Department to minimize the use of these transhipment points as far as possible, though the running of loads through them cannot be eliminated entirely. There is another subject which is the direct concern of this department and that is to see that there is no cross movement. It is a cross movement to bring rice from the Circars to Malabar, while we are at the same time moving rice from Tanjore to the Ceded districts. The rule is that districts must be supplied from the source nearest them. This is generally done, though it sometimes happens that a crisis arises in which it becomes necessary to move stocks from wherever they happen to be available to a threatened area.

Fortunately Malabar is not fed entirely from the Presidency and rice is allotted to it from other parts of India and from Overseas, though to a very much less extent than before the war. The bulk of the rice from the rest of India comes from the Punjab and Sind and in either case it moves by sea from Karachi direct to Cochin in the monsoon, or when the port is open, to Calicut. This obviously relieves the pressure on the railways and if only these shipments were more frequent a very great burden would be raised from the transport of South India. It is also possible sometimes to move rice by sea from the Circars ports of Masulipatam and Coçanada to Malabar ports, but this is a more expensive way of doing things and the time factor is involved. To justify the use of a ship it is necessary to collect at least 5,000 tons of rice at the port and this involves stopping rail supplies while the stock is being built up and it is a plain fact that it is very rarely possible to stop rail supplies even for a day or two.

There are other extra-provincial sources of supply too. Orissa supplies large quantities of rice which come by rail and rice is also found in the Eastern States. The difficulty in that case is that these States are extremely remote, their communications are bad and for the most part they lie far away from the nearest rail head. Only in the case of Baster is there a reasonable road and even on that road there is a deep gedda to be crossed which is not bridged. It is easy enough to get across in times of dry weather, but when the monsoon has set in it involves the running of one set of lorries from Jagdalpur to the gedda and another set of lorries from the other side of the gedda to the Bobbili rail head, with a ferry service in between. This is even worse than a rail transhipment, as it is carried out in pouring rain and by inadequate means. A unit of lorries has been stationed at Salur for nearly two years to move this rice and also to bring in the rice which we get as part of the Orissa allotment from Koraput district. All this rice has to come down the inadequate and nearly ruinous Salur Ghat to Bobbili whence it is railed to its destination. For the first five months of this year there was a unit at Tellicherry to transport a quota of rice from Coorg to North Malabar and in both cases the lorries were part of the Civil Supplies Transport fleet.

It was very early found that there were not nearly enough lorries available in the Presidency for the movements that this department had to make and ever since lorries have been added to the fleet under its control. These are stationed in small units all over the Presidency and there is a large number in Madras city itself which transports firewood and rice from the stations to the depots. Units are also sent out from time to time to districts in urgent need of them. At present there are over 40 in Kistna where they perform two functions, transporting paddy from the threshing floor to the mill and rice from the mill to broad gauge station in order to avoid unnecessary use of the Tadepalli transhipment point. Obviously lorries can also be used in an emergency to transport food when the railways are out of commission by reason of floods or strikes: the units sent to Tanjore last year during the South Indian Railway strike did very well.

The lorries are under the control of the Provincial Road Transport Officer except in the city where they are controlled by the Transport Officer, and they are serviced in the districts by local garages and in the city by the Government automobile workshop, which was originally started by the Civil Supplies Department, though now it has been handed over to the State Bus Service.

The Civil Supplies Department, therefore, besides being one of the biggest customers of the railways in South India, and dealing extensively in ships, is a carrier on its own account. The whole object of the movements-side is to see first that the food reaches the people and secondly that it does so with the minimum dislocation to transport and inconvenience to the transporting public. Of course, since it moves such huge quantities of goods, it necessarily absorbs a great deal of the limited transport available, but efforts are constantly being made to reduce this to a minimum by economical movement and quick loading and unloading.

[By R. C. HOPE,
Assistant Commissioner (Movements), Civil Supplies.]

Milk Supply to School Children

By J. PARRY JONES, Friends Service Unit

In the spring of 1946 it was evident that for Madras Presidency the coming summer was going to present great problems on account of the food shortage which seemed inevitable. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies set about early preparations for guarding the food supplies of the Presidency. In so far as it has always been the indirect effects of such a shortage which are the most alarming and also that it is the children who are still in the growing years who become the most vulnerable section of the population, it was thought that alongside the struggle to bring in the grains and millets to Madras, milk should be imported also for distribution to the children as a protective food and to stave off the malnutrition and all-round debilitation which threatened them.

In March 1946, Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, who was then the Commissioner of Civil Supplies in the Board of Revenue, invited interested non-officials to his office for a conference during which he proposed a scheme by which the Government would buy large quantities of milk overseas and would distribute to elementary school children in Madras Presidency. He sought their suggestions and their consideration. The Adviser's Government, which was then functioning, accepted the proposal and issued orders on the initial preparations for the distribution project. When the popular Ministry came into power they also endorsed the scheme and in June passed final orders enabling the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to begin his operations. The Members of the Friends Service Unit, which was the Indian Section of an International Quaker Relief Organization, came down to Madras on deputation with the Food Department to co-operate with the Government in the working of the scheme and to cover the supervisory and inspection work involved. The Government put at their disposal a vehicle which enabled them to tour freely throughout the Presidency.

Essence of the scheme

The essence of the scheme proposed was that a pint of the milk shipped from America would be drunk daily by each child in the Elementary Schools of the districts chosen and all other parts of the work were merely to make this possible and to ensure the smooth working of such a scheme. It was decided that distribution should be made in the schools by the Headmasters because it is there alone that children congregate regularly and are under the discipline of their elders, as also because within the frame of the Education Department there is existing machinery for organizing school distribution. At first five districts were chosen as being most in need of the working of such a scheme—Anantapur, Bellary, Chittoor, North Arcot and Salem. Later on Vizagapatam, Malabar, Coimbatore, Ramnad and Tinnevelly were included in the project. The high lights of the scheme as worked out by the Commissioner were that the milk should be delivered in the taluks of each district and that the allocation to schools would be in the hands of the Taluk Supply Officer and the Deputy Inspector of Schools who had worked out between them the supply and collecting problems in their taluks. The milk would travel through the same channels as the food grains and millets, with the co-operation of the wholesale store-keepers, who did this free of charge as their contribution to the easing of the food problem, and the retailers. From the retail shop it would be collected by the schools and taken to the children for preparation and distribution.

In the school, the preparation for distribution of the milk was undertaken by the teachers, to whom it inevitably meant additional work, but who shouldered it sportively. A small allowance of Rs. 5 was made to each school to cover the incidental expense on any utensils and firewood bought. This was in no way adequate in the large schools where faggots were difficult to get, but it was at least a nominal acknowledgment of the fact that some expense was

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Pre-war Period

It was not always so. Before the war the whole organization of food supply was in the hands of the merchants, who bought in the cheapest market and transported food to where it was required, and famines in those days were rather a matter of lack of money than of lack of food itself. Now all that has changed and not only is food itself in "short supply" but also the means of transporting it from the grower to the consumer. There is a shortage of ships, of railway waggons and of lorries; there is also a shortage of fuel-oil, coal and petrol. In these circumstances it is no longer possible to leave the purchase and distribution of food to private merchants and the whole of the civilized world has been called in aid. A tremendous burden has been thrown on all forms of transport and it is necessary not only to ration food stuffs themselves but also to control and organize transport so that the limited facilities at present available may be made to do as much work as possible. The Civil Supplies Department has built up an elaborate organization which not only assist the railways by seeing to it that supplies are moved along them in the most economical manner possible, but also wherever it can lays on alternative means of transport, sometimes ships, sometimes lorries and sometimes other more primitive means of transport like canal craft.

As far as the Madras Presidency is concerned, Madras City has to be entirely fed from outside, and even in the best years the south-west corner of the Presidency is heavily deficit in rice, millets and pulses. Taking first things first, it is of interest to examine the supply of rice. Madras City in spite of its relatively heavy demand is not particularly difficult to feed. It has good rail communications with all parts of the Presidency and food can be brought straight in along the north-east line of the M.S.M., the main metre gauge line of S.I.R., and to some extent also by canal from Nellore. Coimbatore, Malabar and the Nilgiris, however, present a much more difficult problem. In the first place they consume enormous quantities of rice. The demand in Malabar sometimes rises to as much as 30,000 tons a month—1,000 tons a day. Secondly the only really large surpluses are to be found in the Delta Areas—the Circars and Tanjore district. Bezwada is more than 700 miles from Calicut and though Tanjore is very much nearer, it is entirely serviced by metre gauge lines, while Malabar is broad gauge from Palghat onwards. Nor is it all plain sailing even from Bezwada, for apart from the enormous distance to be covered, which in itself makes for a considerable time lag between procurement and consumption and keeps wagons loaded with rice for days together, there is the added complication, as in the case of Tanjore, that the Kistna district and a corner of West Godavari, are served by a metre gauge line. There is no question but that the existence of two gauges in India has led to enormous waste of wagons, time, labour and temper. Wagons loaded in the metere gauge area of Kistna for the south have to be transhipped at Tadapalli and loads from Tanjore for Malabar have to be transhipped at Palghat or Coimbatore and delays on account of transhipment are endless. In spite of the best efforts of the railways it is not always possible to produce the required number of empty wagons at the transhipment point at the precise moment that the loaded wagons arrive: it is always necessary to have shunting engines and coolies and they may not be available. It is the business of the Civil Supplies Department to minimize the use of these transhipment points as far as possible, though the running of loads through them cannot be eliminated entirely. There is another subject which is the direct concern of this department and that is to see that there is no cross movement. It is a cross movement to bring rice from the Circars to Malabar, while we are at the same time moving rice from Tanjore to the Ceded districts. The rule is that districts must be supplied from the source nearest them. This is generally done, though it sometimes happens that a crisis arises in which it becomes necessary to move stocks from wherever they happen to be available to a threatened area.

Fortunately Malabar is not fed entirely from the Presidency and rice is allotted to it from other parts of India and from Overseas, though to a very much less extent than before the war. The bulk of the rice from the rest of India comes from the Punjab and Sind and in either case it moves by sea from Karachi direct to Cochin in the monsoon, or when the port is open, to Calicut. This obviously relieves the pressure on the railways and if only these shipments were more frequent a very great burden would be raised from the transport of South India. It is also possible sometimes to move rice by sea from the Circars ports of Masulipatam and Coçanada to Malabar ports, but this is a more expensive way of doing things and the time factor is involved. To justify the use of a ship it is necessary to collect at least 5,000 tons of rice at the port and this involves stopping rail supplies while the stock is being built up and it is a plain fact that it is very rarely possible to stop rail supplies even for a day or two.

There are other extra-provincial sources of supply too. Orissa supplies large quantities of rice which come by rail and rice is also found in the Eastern States. The difficulty in that case is that these States are extremely remote, their communications are bad and for the most part they lie far away from the nearest rail head. Only in the case of Baster is there a reasonable road and even on that road there is a deep gedda to be crossed which is not bridged. It is easy enough to get across in times of dry weather, but when the monsoon has set in it involves the running of one set of lorries from Jagdalpur to the gedda and another set of lorries from the other side of the gedda to the Bobbili rail head, with a ferry service in between. This is even worse than a rail transhipment, as it is carried out in pouring rain and by inadequate means. A unit of lorries has been stationed at Salur for nearly two years to move this rice and also to bring in the rice which we get as part of the Orissa allotment from Koraput district. All this rice has to come down the inadequate and nearly ruinous Salur Ghat to Bobbili whence it is railed to its destination. For the first five months of this year there was a unit at Tellicherry to transport a quota of rice from Coorg to North Malabar and in both cases the lorries were part of the Civil Supplies Transport fleet.

It was very early found that there were not nearly enough lorries available in the Presidency for the movements that this department had to make and ever since lorries have been added to the fleet under its control. These are stationed in small units all over the Presidency and there is a large number in Madras city itself which transports firewood and rice from the stations to the depots. Units are also sent out from time to time to districts in urgent need of them. At present there are over 40 in Kistna where they perform two functions, transporting paddy from the threshing floor to the mill and rice from the mill to broad gauge station in order to avoid unnecessary use of the Tadepalli transhipment point. Obviously lorries can also be used in an emergency to transport food when the railways are out of commission by reason of floods or strikes: the units sent to Tanjore last year during the South Indian Railway strike did very well.

The lorries are under the control of the Provincial Road Transport Officer except in the city where they are controlled by the Transport Officer, and they are serviced in the districts by local garages and in the city by the Government automobile workshop, which was originally started by the Civil Supplies Department, though now it has been handed over to the State Bus Service.

The Civil Supplies Department, therefore, besides being one of the biggest customers of the railways in South India, and dealing extensively in ships, is a carrier on its own account. The whole object of the movements-side is to see first that the food reaches the people and secondly that it does so with the minimum dislocation to transport and inconvenience to the transporting public. Of course, since it moves such huge quantities of goods, it necessarily absorbs a great deal of the limited transport available, but efforts are constantly being made to reduce this to a minimum by economical movement and quick loading and unloading.

[By R. C. HOPE,

Assistant Commissioner (Movements), Civil Supplies.]

Milk Supply to School Children

By J. PARRY JONES, Friends Service Unit

In the spring of 1946 it was evident that for Madras Presidency the coming summer was going to present great problems on account of the food shortage which seemed inevitable. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies set about early preparations for guarding the food supplies of the Presidency. In so far as it has always been the indirect effects of such a shortage which are the most alarming and also that it is the children who are still in the growing years who become the most vulnerable section of the population, it was thought that alongside the struggle to bring in the grains and millets to Madras, milk should be imported also for distribution to the children as a protective food and to stave off the malnutrition and all-round debilitation which threatened them.

In March 1946, Mr. A. F. W. Dixon, who was then the Commissioner of Civil Supplies in the Board of Revenue, invited interested non-officials to his office for a conference during which he proposed a scheme by which the Government would buy large quantities of milk overseas and would distribute to elementary school children in Madras Presidency. He sought their suggestions and their consideration. The Adviser's Government, which was then functioning, accepted the proposal and issued orders on the initial preparations for the distribution project. When the popular Ministry came into power they also endorsed the scheme and in June passed final orders enabling the Commissioner of Civil Supplies to begin his operations. The Members of the Friends Service Unit, which was the Indian Section of an International Quaker Relief Organization, came down to Madras on deputation with the Food Department to co-operate with the Government in the working of the scheme and to cover the supervisory and inspection work involved. The Government put at their disposal a vehicle which enabled them to tour freely throughout the Presidency.

Essence of the scheme

The essence of the scheme proposed was that a pint of the milk shipped from America would be drunk daily by each child in the Elementary Schools of the districts chosen and all other parts of the work were merely to make this possible and to ensure the smooth working of such a scheme. It was decided that distribution should be made in the schools by the Headmasters because it is there alone that children congregate regularly and are under the discipline of their elders, as also because within the frame of the Education Department there is existing machinery for organizing school distribution. At first five districts were chosen as being most in need of the working of such a scheme—Anantapur, Bellary, Chittoor, North Arcot and Salem. Later on Vizagapatam, Malabar, Coimbatore, Ramnad and Tinnevelly were included in the project. The high lights of the scheme as worked out by the Commissioner were that the milk should be delivered in the taluks of each district and that the allocation to schools would be in the hands of the Taluk Supply Officer and the Deputy Inspector of Schools who had worked out between them the supply and collecting problems in their taluks. The milk would travel through the same channels as the food grains and millets, with the co-operation of the wholesale store-keepers, who did this free of charge as their contribution to the easing of the food problem, and the retailers. From the retail shop it would be collected by the schools and taken to the children for preparation and distribution.

In the school, the preparation for distribution of the milk was undertaken by the teachers, to whom it inevitably meant additional work, but who shouldered it sportively. A small allowance of Rs. 5 was made to each school to cover the incidental expense on any utensils and firewood bought. This was in no way adequate in the large schools where faggots were difficult to get, but it was at least a nominal acknowledgment of the fact that some expense was

involved and that Government was making its contribution. The process of preparation was really quite simple, involving a very thorough mixing of the powder with a little water until it became a thick paste of even texture. When this was achieved more water was added to bring the final preparations of the mixture to 1 part of powder to 8 parts of water. In most cases the children supplied their own cups but where this was difficult cigarette tins were made available to them or else they used coconut shells. It became a regular part of the school programme which the children looked forward to in more places with great enthusiasm, although it tended to eat up the time of the school staff. A register was kept in school showing the daily distribution of milk to each child who received it, which helped Inspecting Officers in their work of making the supplies to the taluk tally with the amount consumed in the schools.

Of the milk imported into Madras Presidency, 6.430 tons was made up of separated milk powder and 1,262 tons of whole milk powder. The separated milk, which for purposes of distribution to children is an excellent food indeed, as it contains all the necessary vitamins which Indian children lack in their diet in various packings. Some of it was in small air-tight packings which were ready to move to the taluks as they came off the ships but a great proportion came packed in 200 lb. barrels which were not air-tight and which were sometimes broken by the time they reached Madras, and this had to be re-packed altogether. Messrs. Parry & Co., undertook this task in their repacking plant at Ranipet and in the peak period of this work their out put of milk repacked in tins of 25 and 28 lb. reached 48 tons per day. The whole milk was purchased in America by the Agents of the Government of India as was the rest of the separated milk powder, but as it was a special food it was handled on behalf of the Government of India by the American Friends Committee, which is one of the leading organizations in the United States. As an established organization with old contacts in the Food and Milk World in America, the American Friends Service Committee was able to gain access to this valuable food commodity, and undertook to ship it to India independently of all the rest of the milk. This also arrived in tins of 5 lb. which was a very useful packing for the purposes of the Milk Scheme.

Working of the Project

When orders were passed in June 1946 that the milk project would start functioning, the first movement reached the districts in July and from then until the end of February 1947 the scheme was officially in operation, with ten districts involved from September onwards. In this time over 5,000 tons of powdered milk were distributed to school children in those ten districts at an estimated cost of Rs. 72 lakhs spent on the actual distribution alone. The 7,700 tons of milk imported had cost the Government of Madras over Rs. 145 lakhs to purchase, and in these ten districts they were able to feed almost 1½ million children daily with a tumbler of milk. These figures will indicate that this is an expensive way to fight a famine but we must remember that it is not merely a matter of rupees and pounds of milk and so many children. There are other far more intangible considerations to be taken into account, and foremost amongst these is the undeniable fact that the children in each district showed great improvement after the distribution had started in their schools. In one school in Chittoor district where the management had, over a number of years, taken the weight of each child at the beginning of each month for purposes of checking on health and development, there was an average increase of ½ lb. throughout the school and in one instance a child had gained 10 lb. in that first month. This will indicate that the children had a distinct need for such a food and that when it was made available to them they showed the improvement possible when fed regularly and systematically with good milk prepared under hygenic conditions. In most of the schools visited by the Friends Service Unit men, there was universal approval of the distribution and comments to the effect that the children had a great deal more vitality and were far less anxious to stay away from school. Perhaps the highest commendation of the benefits of the milk scheme came from the Government Nutrition officer with the Food Department, Sri Rao Saheb B. G. Krishnan who toured Malabar and other districts during the operation of the scheme.

> "All those whom I met were gratified at the free distribution of reconstituted milk to school children there and were anxious that it should be continued for some more time.
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> The introduction of the free distribution of reconstituted milk to the school children in Malabar appears to have done immense good and has increased the attendance and activity of the schools. Continuation of this system is desirable in the interests of the growing generation."

The history of the milk project has not been all plain sailing. In February 1947, it came to an end because the Government decided that it was too expensive, and because the food crisis was over any way they thought it best to drop it. This left about 4,000 tons of powdered milk stored in various parts of the Presidency and considerable quantities to be used up unofficially until stocks were exhausted except in Malabar where the project would proceed without interruption. The special consideration was made in favour of Malabar because the whole milk powder shipped by the American Friends Service Committee, unlike the rest of the milk which the Government of India bought freely in the States, could not, by its very terms of reference, be sold at all but had to be distributed to needy children in deficit areas. In this way the distribution has gone on in Malabar continuously since December of last year.

Scheme to be Revieved

The problem of feeding Madras Presidency is once again looming large in the minds of the Government, and since about 3,500 tons of the milk powder from last year's scheme is still stored in the various godowns in the Presidency, it has been decided to revive the milk scheme in eight of the original ten districts and also in Madras city. This comes in very good time, now that the food position appears difficult for the next month or two, and it is very much to be hoped that the milk which has been stored for many months will in this way become of value again in a time of crisis.

What were the effects of the scheme? What lessons did we learn from operating it? How keen are the people of South India to have such schemes provided for them? How prepared is Government to spend money on this type of project? These are fair questions and I think that there is an equally fair answer to each one. We have seen above from the reports of the Government Nutrition Officer that the milk was of great benefit to the children; I think it is true also that it established a sense of gratitude on behalf of the people towards a Government which provided for their children in times of need. To those who were engaged on the supervision and operation of the scheme it was also, in its way, an education. We learnt that the success of operating such a wisespread project depends on securing the co-operation of those at the far end of the lines of responsibility, i.e., in this case the school-masters. Having given them all possible details concerning all aspects of the project also instructions as to how it should be administered we found that they were always ready to do their utmost to make it a success and even when it meant that they were sometimes out of pocket we knew that they were only too happy to ensure that the scheme carried on. Apart from this lesson of securing the confidence of the teachers, another lesson we learnt was that no trouble should be too great in dealing directly with the people actually doing the distribution in the villages.

Once the people of this Presidency have seen such a scheme operating in their Elementary Schools and the children have acquired a taste for the milk, there is no reason to doubt that they would welcome the development of it further, and would probably be prepared to pay for part of it. Even the poorest women in the remote corners of the province understand the value of good milk for their children, and for something which is so obviously beneficial they would need less persuasion to co-operate than for other Government schemes which they cannot possibly be expected to understand.

The crucial question is whether Government can be persuaded that this kind of project is the most vital and important that they can embark on. There is no better way to provide for the future than to ensure milk for the growing generation now. There cannot possibly be a project which is more basically and directly nation-building in its effects, securing as it does the opportunities for growth and all- round development which milk means to children. It is not a matter of quick returns, as the harvest of such wise practice with youngsters is at least two decades later, but any Government who ventured on it could never be criticised for neglecting the welfare of the most important group of its citizens, and the certain gratification with which the Province's leaders could look back in later years should frotify them in taking courageous steps to-day.

Administration Report of the Electricity Department

The Administration Report of the Electricity Department for 1945–46 shows that the progress of the department was on the whole satisfactory notwithstanding the restrictions and controls which continued throughout the period, despite the cessation of hostilities in 1945. The aggregate demand under the Government systems during the year under review was 60,870 K.W. as against 58,125 K.W. in 1944–45 and the total number of units generated was 327·35 millions as against 301·14 millions in 1944–45. The gross revenue from the departmental undertakings was Rs. 116·44 lakhs as against Rs. 102·94 lakhs in 1944–45, representing an increase of 13 per cent.

The total number of consumers served by the electrical undertakings, including Government ones, was 134,125 as on March 31, 1946. Of these, 100,634 were in the area covered by the Government undertakings; 20,905 were served directly by the Electricity department and 79,729 by licensees distributing Government power. The remaining 33,491 consumers were served by the sub-generating licensees. One noteworthy feature is that there was increased demand and consumption of electricity for agricultural purposes.

During the period under review, water level was very unsatisfactory at Mettur. The Mettur Power-house had to be actually closed down from 16th to 30th January 1946, the lake level having gone down below the limits of power generation. However, supply over the whole system was continued without much inconvenience to consumers or dimunition in production by availing of relief available from Pykara and by enforcing restrictive measures.

Several major electricity schemes were sanctioned during the year. These include (1) Moyar Hydro-Electric Scheme, estimated to cost Rs. 193·1 lakhs initially, rising to Rs. 268 lakhs in five years; (2) extension to the power-station at Basin Bridge, Madras, estimated to cost Rs. 110·25 lakhs initially, rising to Rs. 244·17 lakhs in ten years; and (3) extensions to the Vizagapatam Power-house, estimated to cost Rs. 22·91 lakhs initially, rising to 27 lakhs in five years. Agreement was reached with the Orissa Government on the Machkund Hydro-Electric Scheme which is capable of an ultimate development of 100,000 K.W. The Madras Government's share is estimated at Rs. 420·11 lakhs initially, rising to Rs. 587·6 lakhs in ten years. The Madura Thermal Scheme was sanctioned in April 1946, at an estimated cost of Rs. 88 lakhs. Proposals for the purchase of power from the Jog Falls Scheme of the Mysore Government for distribution in the Ceded Districts have also been sanctioned by the Government in August 1946.

Under programme for 1946–47, the report says as follows:—

"The West Coast extensions, the Mettur IV unit extensions and Madura-Koilpatti II circuit line, will be completed and handed over to operation.

Machkund.—Local roads, camps, detailed investigations, and the anti-malaraial work, acquisition of tools and plant, organization of transport and stores, arrangements for construction power supply, and other preliminary works will be in progress on the Machkund Scheme.

Civil works on the Vizagapatam plant extensions will be in progress.

About 75 per cent of all the preliminary and civil works on the Bezwada-Rajahmundry extensions will be completed. Erection of the towers will be in progress as also the civil works at the Bezwada Power-house. The machinery from the United Kingdom is expected to be received and erected only in 1947–48.

Ceded Districts and Nellore.—The Ceded Districts and Nellore Schemes will be in progress.

Madras thermal.—Subject to foundation plans being received in time, a small amount of field work is possible to prepare ground and collect materials for the Madras plant extensions. About 75 per cent of all preliminary and civil works on the Mettur-Madras line will be completed.

Moyar and Pykara.—The Moyar Circle will be shifted to the field as

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

No Special Cloth Ration

As the mill cloth rationing scheme has already been introduced in Madras City and the mufassal areas, no special rations of mill cloth will hereafter be issued to any particular community in connexion with any of its festivals.

Government Silk Filatures, Kollegal

There seems to be a misapprehension amongst certain sections of the public that after the War, Government have lost nearly Rs. 50 to 60 lakhs on account of the Silk Filatures at Kollegal. The Government wish to make it clear that far from incurring a loss, the Government have earned substantial amounts as profit from the working of the Filatures. During the year 1945–46 the profit earned amounted to Rs. 2,69,840 (Kollegal Silk Filatures Rs. 1,60,250 and Government Silk Filatures Rs. 1,09,590). The Kollegal Silk Filatures was amalgamated with the Government Silk Filatures with effect from August 15, 1946, and for the period from April 1, 1946 to August 15, 1946 the Kollegal Silk Filatures earned a profit of Rs. 1,58,070. It is estimated that the Government Silk Filature would have made a profit of about Rs. 80,000 during the year 1946–47.

Control over the price of Coconut

In view of the decontrol of the prices and movement of coconuts, copra and coconut-oil, the Government feel that the control over the price of coconut punnac in the Malabar and South Kanara districts is not necessary.

The Collectors of South Kanara and Malabar districts have accordingly been requested to issue suitable notifications rescinding the notifications issued by them fixing the prices of the coconut punnac in their districts. The control over the export of coconut punnac in Malabar district would, however, continue.

Control of Potatoes

The Government have issued an order controlling the movement and prices of potatoes within the province of Madras.

According to this order, no person shall, with effect from the date of publication of the order, transport potatoes by rail, road, canal or sea from one district to another within the Province of Madras, except under, and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, or by the Collector of the District or by any other officer specially authorized by the Commissioner or Collector in this behalf.

It is provided, however, that nothing contained in the above clause shall apply to the transport of potatoes not exceeding ¼ railway maund by a *bona fide* traveller as part of his personal luggage for private consumption. The order also provides for the transport of potatoes as part of a consignment of vegetables not exceeding ¼ of a railway maund despatched by railway parcel.

The ceiling price for potatoes in the Nilgiris for sale to importing wholesale dealers in other districts of this province has been fixed at Rs. 33 per bag of 200 lb. The wholesale and retail prices of potatoes in the districts shall be fixed by the Collectors of the districts concerned. The retail price inclusive of any amount that may be charged as sales-tax, shall not, however, exceed 10 annas per viss.

If any of the provisions of this order are contravened, then, without prejudice to any other punishment to which the offender may be liable, the Court trying such contravention shall direct that any stocks of potatoes, together with the containers and coverings thereof, in respect of which the Court is satisfied that such provision has been contravened, shall be forfeited.

Reconstituted Milk for School Children

Towards the end of 1946, the Government wound up the scheme for the free distribution of milk reconstituted from separated milk powder to elementary school children in the deficit districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Salem, Chittoor, North Arcot, Ramnad, Vizagapatam, Malabar, Tinnevelly and Coimbatore, anticipating an improvement in the food situation. But the anticipation has not materialized and the Government have decided to revive the scheme for a period of four months from the date of its introduction in the above districts, except Chittoor and North Arcot. They have also decided to revive for a period of four months the scheme for the free distribution of milk powder to the Madras Corporation elementary school children, which was discontinued at the end of February 1947.

Consumers Beware

It has been discovered that a shortening product labelled "Vegetable product—Deer Brand" manufactured by the Snow White Products Company, Howrah, Calcutta, contains ingredients unsuitable for use in any food, drug or cosmetic product. The public are, therefore, warned against its use.

PREMIER'S BROADCAST

(*Continued from page 2*)

partition of the country are telling upon the resources of the country. So it is the duty of every Indian to re-dedicate himself to the service of the country so that our country may attain the position which it deserves in the Comity of Nations. The services in Madras are well-known for efficiency and integrity. But with independence their responsibility is greater. I appeal to them to consider themselves as the servants of the people and do their duty with a greater sense of devotion. It is their duty to weed out the few black-sheep among them. To the public I would appeal not to be indifferent but to realise their duties and responsibilities as citizens of a free country and work for the social, economic and spiritual uplift of the country.

On this occasion I cannot but refer to the food position in our Province. There is acute shortage of food and unless every agriculturist comes forward to help the Government by offereing to hand over every ounce of surplus stock of rice with him, it will be very difficult to tide over the crisis. And so, on this occasion, I appeal to all the people in our Province to surrender as much grain as possible as a sort of "yagna" on this day when we attain our independence. I pray to God that He should give us the strength to use our freedom for the good of humanity with courage, foresight and wisdom.

Vande Matharam !.

Inter-village Transport of Paddy

The Government of Madras have issued an order restricting the inter-village transport of stocks of paddy within the limits of East Godavari and West Godavari districts.

The order shall remain in force up to the end of September 1947.

It says that "no person other than a dealer appointed under the Procurement and Rural Rationing Schemes for the time being in force in the East and West Godavari districts, holding by himself on his own account or on account of or in partnership with any person any stock of paddy and rice or products thereof such as parched paddy, parched rice, beaten rice, rice flour, bran, shall transport such stocks from any place within the limits of any village in the districts of East Godavari and West Godavari to any place in any other village in the said districts by road, rail, river or canal except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of a permit issued by the Collector of the district concerned or by any officer of the Revenue Department authorized by him in this behalf."

If any person contravenes the provisions of the order, then, without prejudice to any other punishment to which he may be liable, any court trying such contravention shall order that any stocks of foodgrains and products thereof mentioned above, together with the containers and coverings thereof in respect of which the Court is satisfied that the said clause has been contravened, shall be forfeited.

The order shall not apply to the transport of foodgrains from or into areas in which rationing is enforced by statutory orders in the East and West Godavari districts which is governed by the provisions of the Madras Rationing Order, 1946, or to the transport to mills of paddy purchased for delivery at the mills, for which the producer holds a receipt issued by the Procurement Agent appointed by the Collector concerned.

Cost of Living Index

The following table shows the cost of living index numbers for low-paid employees at the different mufassal centres in the Province of Madras for the month of July 1947 :—

Vizagapatam	287·3
Ellore	351·4
Bellary	302·7
Cuddalore	289·1
Trichinopoly	298·2
Madura	290·8
Coimbatore	302·0
Calicut	354·4

Cut in Firewood Ration Continues

In the Press Note issued on 12th July 1947, the Government announced a 25 per cent cut in the normal scale of firewood ration in the City of Madras for a period of one month from the third quarter of July 1947. As the supply position of firewood in the City still continues to be unsatisfactory, the Government have decided to continue the cut from the third quarter of August 1947 to 30th September 1947.

Education

Mother-tongue in S.S.L.C. Curriculum

In G.O. No. 806, Education, dated 22nd April 1947, the Government approved certain amendments to rule 4 (2) of the S.S.L.C. Scheme in regard to the study of the languages. The amendment has given rise to doubts, and representations have been received by the Government that it does not make provision for the study of Sanskrit, Persian or Arabic. It is pointed out that, while the rule before the amendment provided for the study of the mother tongue, the regional language or the classical languages, the amendment does not contain a similar provision, with consequential hardship to pupils.

The Government desire to make it clear in this connection that it was not their intention to preclude the study of Sanskrit, Persian or Arabic under the S.S.L.C. Scheme. They have therefore revised the amendment so as to include Sanskrit, Persian or Arabic or any other language previously studied by a pupil. The Government trust the revised amendment would resolve the doubts in this connection.

Muslim Students in Queen Mary's College for Women

In 1942 the Government directed that all eligible Muslim applicants should be admitted into the Queen Mary's College, Madras, and that any applicant considered unsuitable by the Principal should be referred to the Director of Public Instruction for his orders. This order has now been cancelled by Government in view of the fact that a separate college for Muslim women has been opened where 75 per cent of the seats are to be reserved for Muslim students.

Muslim Girls in B.A. Classes

The Government have kept in abeyance until further orders the scheme for opening B.A. classes in the College for Muslim Women, in view of the poor strength in these classes. The few students attending these classes at present will be transferred to Queen Mary's College for Women.

The question of reduction in the staff consequent upon this step is also under the consideration of the Government.

Overseas Scholarships, 1947–48

The Government of India have allotted 35 overseas scholarships to this Province. The Madras Government have selected the following 25 candidates for the award of these scholarships :—

Government servants eligible for study leave—

1. Mr. S. M. Krishnan.
2. ,, M. V. Suryaprakasam.
3. ,, J. D. Walter.
4. ,, O. L. N. Reddi.

Others—

5. Mr. L. Venkatesan.
6. ,, T. Venkataramana Reddy.
7. ,, A. Madanagopal Menon.
8. ,, K. M. A. Mohamed Sulaiman.
9. ,, J. Sethumadhava Char.
10. ,, R. P. Arthur.
11. Miss C. D. Kanthimathi.
12. Mr. C. Ganesamurti.
13. ,, C. Srinivasan.
14. ,, Y. Sreeramulu.
15. ,, H. S. S. Lawrence.
16. ,, V. S. Ramachandran.
17. ,, M. Devidas Menon.

Rs. 5,000 on relief, I hope the figure will be Rs. 10,000. The figure of the number of persons helped (3,214) has risen by about 300 since 1945 and is now back to the standard of 1939 but it is very much below the peak figure of 5,690 in 1943 and I am sure there is abundant opportunity for doing more if funds are forthcoming.

It is true no doubt, that large number of prohibition offenders will return to their ordinary avocations with no special stigma and will in more cases require from the Society neither financial help nor help in securing employment. What they require is help before discharge by talks inculcating the evils of intemperance and stressing the harmful results to their families and themselves of offences like illicit distillation, smuggling of contraband liquor and the like. The Society has taken steps to expand its pre-discharge work in jails to that end and it is hoped the results will be fruitful. But it all makes calls on the time of willing workers and public-spirited people.

After-care work is also important. It is gratifying to note from the report that much is being done in this connection and that the reports of the after-care officers show that the great majority of those helped have really benefited. The report gratefully acknowledges not only the services of honorary after-care workers but also the helpfulness of many employers.

The 18 discharged prisoners' Homes have fulfilled a useful function but I feel that more use might be made of them than is done for the temporary accommodation of discharged prisoners. Our desire is to expand these Homes and make them more than mere shells. A friendly interest in them and a gift of an odd article of furniture, a picture or something to make them more homelike would help a great deal.

There are only one or two other matters to which I would like to invite attention. One is the provincialization of probation work for fostering which the Society has done so much. The report makes detailed reference to this. Government may rest assured that the Society by offering the use of its Homes and in other ways will do everyting possible to help the District Probation Officers even although probation work has been taken out of the Society's hands. The draw on the Society's funds for probation work has been considerable and in some years very heavy in spite of liberal Government grants. In 1945 the Society spent over Rs. 11,800 from its own funds and in 1946 over Rs. 6,000 on probation work. After delving in a somewhat desultory manner in the figures of past year's accounts, I am hopeful that provided public support is maintained the Society will now be able to do more for discharged prisoners proper than it has been able to do in the past, although as Mr. Gawne pointed out last year, by losing the Probation Officers the Society's other work is somewhat handicapped.

It is, however, with a real sense of regret that the Society parts with the work of after-care of ex-Borstal inmates and ex-pupils which it has done since its inception. That work has now been entrusted in the Probation Districts (from which the bulk of the population of the Borstal and Certified schools come) to the District Probation Officers of Government and the Society's work will be limited to the non-probation districts. I am glad to say the Society has offered to give monetary assistance to deserving ex-borstal boys and ex-pupils and has in fact helped several such boys, who were under the supervision of the District Probation Officers with funds to make a start in life.

Preservation of Forest Wealth, A National Duty

Mr. K. Madhava Menon's Broadcast

The expression "forest wealth" a very apt one. The forests of a country constitute an important element in its wealth in a more real sense than the gold in its vaults. The forest is a perennially renewable resource, if it is treated with ordinary care. In this respect it differs profoundly from coal mines, oil wells, gold mines, etc., all of which represent valuable but exhaustible resources. Plant life whether exploited for food by agriculture or for fuel and timber by forestry, is yet the largest and simplest means we have of impounding the energy of the sun in utilisable forms. In exploiting a forest we normally remove only wood from the site, the other plant residues returning to the soil whence they were derived. The forest is to all intent and purposes a self-feeding, self-regulating, self-regenerating perpetuas machine for transforming with the aid of the sunshine which it absorbs the water of the soil and the carbon dioxide



of the air into wood. It is in this sense that I claim that the forest is a more real, more abiding source of wealth than the gold mine.

The most remarkable thing about the vegetation of our country is that despite local variations and diversities, the same types of forest are met with in tracts as far apart as Madras and Assam or the United Provinces. This is due to the fact that over far the greater part of the country the *south-west monsoon*, conditions the growth of vegetation.

It is estimated that the total number of woody species in India, including exotics, is about 5,000, of which rather more than half are trees, the remainder being shrubs and climbers. There are several hundred economically useful species. These figures give some idea of the range of our forest flora.

The principal timbers of our country are teak, sal, rosewood, deodar, pine, spruce and fir. Teak and rosewood are the most valuable of the timbers

listed, and we in Madras are fortunate in that this province is the principal home in India of these two species. They are too well known in the south to require any description. Madras produces about seven lakhs of cubic feet of teak timber every year.

To this short list we must add sandalwood and bamboos. Madras shares with Mysore a practical monopoly in the production of sandalwood. A small quantity is produced by Bombay, Central Provinces and Hyderabad. Our annual production of sandalwood is about 850 tons, worth Rs. 35 to 40 lakhs. The bamboo is regarded as the poor man's timber, but it is now a recognised raw material for making paper pulp and the demand for it is likely to increase very considerably.

As the principal source of fuel for domestic purposes our forests are most important. During the last war very large quantities of firewood were converted into charcoal for making producer gas for lorries and buses. To meet this demand extensive areas of forest, mostly private forest, were felled, with the result that the normal sources of supply of firewood from private forests dried up and an acute firewood famine set in from which we are still suffering. This unfortunate state of affairs is an inevitable consequence of private ownership of forests; the temptation to clear his forests in order to make the most of a period of high prices is too strong for a private owner, however enlightened, to resist.

Forests are of great value to the people also because of the grazing they provide to cattle in their vicinity. In many localities the forest is the only area available for pasture. Unlimited grazing is definitely incompatible with forestry, but grazing limited to the capacity of the forest and controlled forms of grazing such as rotational grazing are not necessarily an evil and might in special circumstances even be beneficial to the forest.

The greater part of India enjoys what is called a forest climate, a climate in which land newly formed or artificially barred, if not interfered with, ultimately supports a forest of one type or another. There can be no doubt that at one time much more than 50 per cent of the land surface of India was densely wooded. There is much puranic and historic evidence to support this view.

Shrinkage in area

Many of us can ourselves testify to a visible shrinkage in the area of woodlands in our province during the last thirty years. This process of forest destruction would have been far more extensive had it not been for the fact that considerable tracts of land had been statutorily reserved in the last quarter of the last century for permanent retention as forest and thereby put beyond the inroads of unplanned, casual cultivation. These reserved forests are the final remnants of the extensive forest that once covered India. The total area of forest of all kinds in India, including the States, is 206½ million acres and represents 19·3 per cent of the total land surface of the country.

It is generally accepted that a balanced land economy requires that between 20 and 25 per cent of the land surface of a country should be under forest. The Indian figure is not unduly behind this norm. But it includes private forests and panchayat forests which are in many cases derelict areas or wasting assets. A considerable proportion of the forest area occurs on the higher Himalayas and in parts of the Western Ghats which are relatively remote and inaccessible; over vast stretches of the Indo-Gangetic plain and along the east coast, forests worth the dame do not exist. As these are precisely the areas which are most densely populated and intensively cultivated, there is an acute shortage of timber and firewood. The indiscriminate clearance of forests is an inevitable consequence of the spread of agriculture and the multiplication of human communities in townships and villages as a result of an expanding population.

Policy of the Government

The policy of Government was in the past largely influenced by revenue considerations. The clearing of woodland for the purpose of bringing it under the plough was considered an unqualified good and was encouraged because it produced more revenue than the original forest could ever pay. During the last few years an added motive arose for the indiscriminate conversion of woodland and grazing land to agricultural purposes the "Grow more food" campaign. In many cases the results have been deplorable, in some disastrous, as, for instance, on the Nilgiri plateau.

So far at least as firewood, small timber, bamboos and other items of minor forest produce were concerned there was a false appearance of abundance till the outbreak of First World War. The finding of new markets for forest produce was a major preoccupation of the Forest Department. World War II opened our eyes to the real situation. It disclosed scarcity in place of the imagined abundance and the greatly enhanced supplies which it demanded aggravated the scarcity and brought it into high relief. In timber we have always been a deficit country and have relied on imports of teak from Burma. The stoppage of this source of supply during the war combined with the greatly increased war demand for timber produced an acute timber famine from which we have not yet recovered.

When the Forest Departments in India were first formed in the last quarter of the 19th century they took over a depleted forest. Extensive areas of forest had already been cleared and brought under cultivation by private persons or had been appropriated by them. Consequently it proved impossible to secure proper distribution of reserved forests over provinces as a whole. A glaring instance of mal-distribution of provincial forests is that of United Province where the forests are almost exclusively confined to the Himalayas and a narrow fringe at the foot of the Himalayas. In our own province the distribution of forests is more normal, but there are many districts where the proportion is sub-normal, as for example in Madras, Chingleput, South Arcot and Tanjore. The density and increment of the reserved forests were considerably below normal at the time of reservation and what they needed most was conservation and protection from abuse. They have been treated accordingly and a notable improvement in their condition has resulted, but they are far from being normal yet. There has indeed been a set-back as a result of the recent war fellings.

One of the common mistakes made by most people is the assumption that any injury done to a forest either by clearings, heavy fellings, burning or overgrazing is relatively easily corrected. This facile belief is based on a profound misconception of the nature of the forest or any form of wild vegetation and its intimate relation to the soil and the climate. Clearing, burning and overgrazing being about a profound disturbance in the dynamic equilibrium prevailing in a climax forest. This disturbance may be and often is so serious as to make it impossible for the climax species to grow any longer on the site. This is what happens when evergreen forest is cleared or burnt; the regrowth is a throw back to a deciduous or scrub forest and it may take centuries for the

climax ever green forest to return to the site. The succession is a long and slow process. This is the reason why we find it so difficult to rehabilitate our panchayat forests.

Management by Village Panchayats

Considerable areas of non-timber forests were handed over in 1925 for management by village panchayats. The results have in most cases been deplorable. Over most of the area the forest has more or less completely disappeared. It was due to the assumption that dry and degraded forests which were of no importance for the production of timber or revenue could be handed over to popular management without technical control. Events have amply proved that it is precisely such areas which are most in need of technical management if it is intended to restore them to their maximum productivity. This is not to say that the immediate interests of the people should be ignored or that they should be precluded from participation in the management of their own village forests. But forestry is a long term industry, the essence of which is the principle of sustained yield; and that in meeting present demands the interests of future generations are not to be jeopardised. This required a degree of vision and self-denial which it would be too much to expect of an ordinary panchayat not controlled by technical advice.

Uncontrolled clearing, burning, felling and grazing have now brought into prominence an evil of national proportions. I refer to the evil of soil erosion which has been aptly called "Creeping death." Soil erosion is not a new phenomenon; some degree of erosion is inevitable, but under proper conditions the process is an imperceptibly slow one. But I think it is true to say more valuable top soil has been eroded out of our reserves during the last fifty years than was lost during the previous 1,000 years. There are many ways of checking erosion and of remedying the damage caused by it; contour cultivation, strip cropping, check-damming, gully plugging, etc., are various methods of dealing with this problem. But the cheapest, most fruitful and most durable method is to use vegetation to control erosion. Forest devastation is the ultimate cause of accelerated soil erosion and the remedy lies in a planned restoration of forest cover in our land.

The preservation and proper management of forests and their extension in areas where they are needed is a national duty of the first order.

[*By courtesy, A.I.R., Madras.*]

Grow Your Own Vegetables

What can we do to help resolving the acute shortage of foodgrains? This is the question generally asked. One way of contributing materially to ease this situation is for every one of us—man, woman and child—to grow vegetable crops. They can be grown more quickly and produce more per acre than grain crops.

There are families having open spaces in courtyards and backyards, still others have spacious open space on all sides of their residence. A part of such places can and should be devoted to vegetable culture. Those who have no open space can grow vegetables in wooden boxes, empty kerosene oil tins and broken earthenware.

Apart from the exigencies of scarcity of grains and famine conditions, every home, under normal conditicns, should have a vegetable garden to get, in whatever portion possible, its supply of fresh vegetables throughout the year. The intake of vegetables by the average person in India is extremely low.

Besides being nutritious, vegetables form the cheapest source of protective foods. They can take the place of the more expensive foods which cannot be afforded by every family. Every family, therefore, can through its kitchen garden economics on its food budget, eat more of the protective foods and less of the cereals which are so sorely needed for the masses.

Almost all classes of soil in our country are fit for vegetable growing. Even sandy and stiff soil can be used by adding manures like town refuse, leaf mould, nightsoil, factory wastes, kitchen waste, cow dung and oil cake.

Grass land requires a good dressing after digging or ploughing as it is usually very acid.

The land should be kept fertile by spading, hosing and occasional dressing of manures and fertilizers. Soils containing plenty of hums will grow better vegetables. Hums is decayed vegetable matter like rotted dung, leaves, weeds or grass.

The land should be dug up with spade to a depth of about 8 or 9 inches. When applying the manure, it should be spread evenly over the area, digging it in immediately so as to mix with the soil thoroughly before sowing. No layer of manure should be put at the bottom of the trench (except in the case of celery).

While selecting a site avoid low-lying ground, which is often badly drained. The place should also be open and as far as possible free from the shade of trees and buildings.

It would be convenient to divide the plot into two portions by a central *pakdandi* (pathway) and beds of convenient size made to become accessible from this path.

A unit of about one-sixteenth of an acre (300 square yards) should provide a major portion of an average family's requirements of vegetables, other things being normal. But in case so much land is not available, any small plot should be used. Those who have no land can fill receptacles like wooden boxes, etc., with earth to a depth of 9 to 12 inches adding a seer or two of well rotted cow manure. Such vegetables like *Lauki* (bottle gourd) *Kakri* (water melon) and *tori* (sponge gourd) can be conveniently grown if the containers are kept in sunny places and the vines provided with supports for trailing.

The fertilizers are sulphate of *Potash* and *Super Phosphate*. The vegetable enthusiast will always like to use these fertilizers; but the layman need not worry if it means much trouble, although the local agricultural office will only be too willing to help.

It is advisable not to use the organic manures in fresh condition, because as such they produce heat while decomposing, attract insects and destroy plant life.

A mixture of cow dung, horse dung, bazaar sweepings and kitchen waste would make an ideal manure.

For all those who have garden compounds or land, it is worthwhile having one's own compost heap or manure pit, which can be made by throwing in all waste vegetables, sweepings, kitchen refuse, soft hedge chippings, lawn mowings, dead leaves, waste grass, manure and anything that is disease-free and will rot down in a reasonable time.

You would thus have an excellent stock of manure.

If you wish to have a vegetable plot of 20 feet by 25 feet, you will require 7 maunds of rotted cow manure or about 4 maunds of sludge.

Good seed is necessary to ensure good crop. Cheap seed proves very expensive in the long run and has damped the ardour of many enthusiasts. The vegetable seeds are living bodies which must be taken care of. They should be stored in air-tight containers or bottles and if exposed to the atmospheric humidity, will lose their germination power. It is always preferable to use fresh seeds, for they have a food reserve in themselves which should not get dried up.

Soil condition is equally important. "Never sow on wet ground" is the saying. Hake down the surface to a fine tilth. Draw out the drills or shallow trenches and cover the seeds easily and effectively. The seed is a delicate thing. Its supply of food within is very quickly exhausted once growth commences. The seed must be surrounded by moist soil particles to absorb the moisture, which softens the outer coat of the seed and enters taking with it oxygen, thus setting the machinery of germination into motion. The soft and fragile young shoot cannot be expected to push its way through hard lumps.

The time of sowing is influenced by the length of time the crop takes to mature and partly by the country of origin of the plant. If the plant was from a colder elimate (e.g., garden peas and beans), then sowing must be delayed until the soil has lost all its summer heat; otherwise, the seeds will just rot away.

It is difficult to give a time-table for sowing of reaping which will be applicable to the whole of the country; but broadly, winter and summer sowings can be determined in respect of several vegetables. The local Agricultural Officer will be able to advise, as also the local seedsman.

If you have a mali, he will know much about it. If you haven't, ask your neighbour's mali.

As regards the *depth to sow*, most seeds germinate quicker and better with only a bare covering of soil, but if we sow out of doors shallowly, the seeds will be exposed to the drying influences of sun and wind. Once germination has commenced, it must proceed unhindered, or the seeding dies. As the seeds contain only a limited amount of food, the plant must begin to fend for itself by means of its roots, which extract food from the soil and its leaves. The smaller the seed the less food it contains. Therefore the small seeds must be sown nearer the surface than the large seeds, carrots, lettuce, cabbage, etc., have small seeds and should be sown an inch deep on light soils.

Parsnips, beetroots, etc., have medium-sized seeds and may go in up to an inch and a quarter. Peas have bigger seeds and may go in 2 inches in light soil and 1½ inches in a heavy one. Runner and french beans may go 1½ inches deep if sown early and 2 inches if sown late.

To enable the plants to start on their career without undue competition from neighbours, avoid making the furrows shallow or the drills too narrow.

Broadcasting seeds is not a good method. It often makes weeding very difficult and does not regiment the growth properly. Great care has to be taken at the time of fertilization for that is the critical time when the plant's future is decided. Some of the measures to be taken are, growing the plants for seeds well away from the same species, netting from insects, fertilizing by hand or by other methods, etc. The beginner, however, may leave these functions to the professional vegetable grower or the institutional gardens.

But it is necessary that as the plants grow, the soil should be occasionally stirred with the hand-hoe or wheel-hoe and the garden kept clean of all weeds. Weeds rob the plants of their food and should be killed while they are small. Weeds that are near the plant can be pulled by hand.

Rotational cropping is important and interesting especially due to limited labour and the cost of manure. It conserves plant food and checks spread of insect pests and diseases. The good plan is to rotate the entire garden each year. If this is not possible, the location of various vegetables may be changed each succeeding season. The rootcrops may be rotated with foliage crops and *vice versa*.

"Grow and eat more vegetables" should be our watchword. It should solve in a certain measure the problem of food shortage. It would have an economic effect on the present high market prices of vegetables and it will produce a greater balance in our present-day diet.

Railway Earnings

South Indian Railway

Additional trains were not introduced during this month. The details of the public train miles as compared with July 1946 are as follows:—

Public train miles.	*July* 1946.	*July* 1947.
Coaching	695,435	847,714
Goods	269,457	284,643
Total ..	964,892	1,132,357

The increase over July 1946 is due to the introduction of additional trains.

Details of traffic and earnings, both coaching and goods, carried during the month of July 1947 as compared with the previous month and the corresponding month of last year are given below:—

	July 1946.	*July* 1947.	*June* 1947.
Coaching traffic.			
Number of passengers ..	11,144,460	13,126,769	13,532,312
Earnings in rupees ..	66,62,373	72,79,348	78,99,187
Goods traffic.			
Weight in tons ..	513,632	500,875	485,909
Earnings in rupees ..	49,37,788	48,90,035	44,73,521

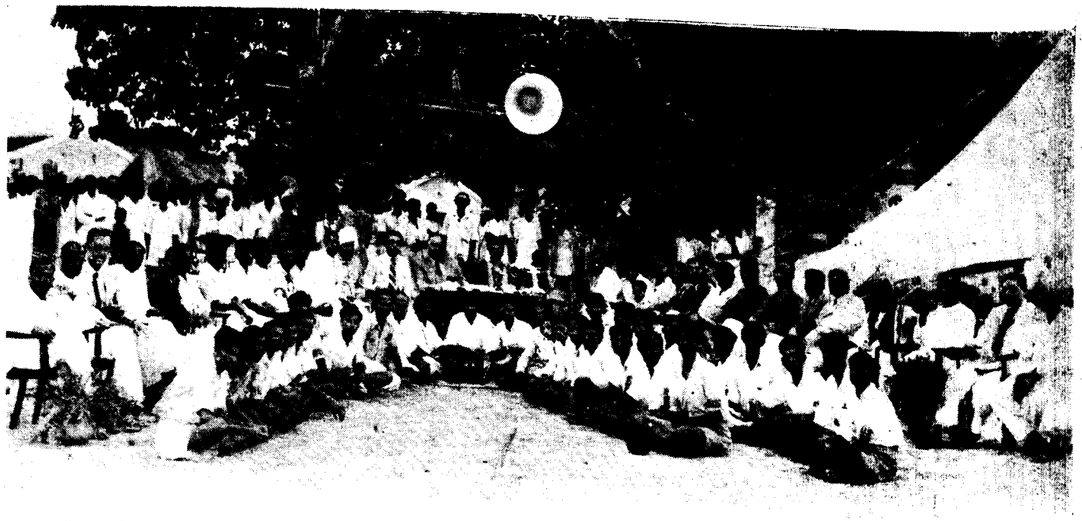
The increase in coaching earnings as compared with July 1946 is due to the introduction of additional trains and increase in fares, while the decrease in comparison with June 1947 is due to the close of the marriage season by 15th July 1947.

The decrease in goods earnings is due to less movement of rice and paddy, grain and pulses, fruits and vegetables, cement, military and other goods.

MADRAS INFORMATION

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One of the many meetings held in connection with rural tournaments in prohibition districts. Sports form an integral part of the ameliorative measures introduced in areas where prohibition is in force

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Book Review

"RURAL RECONSTRUCTION"—*By* MUKHTAR SINGH. Published by Kitabistan, Allahabad.

Since the close of the war the air is thick with talks of rural reconstruction. This is only natural, for in a country like India studded with 70,000 villages, the prosperity of the villager is the real basis of national prosperity. It, therefore, follows that the first logical step in any scheme of national amelioration should be the uplift of the villagers. This point has been realized long before the end of the war and there has been considerable activity in the sphere of drawing up rural reconstruction plans. The Bombay plan, the people's plan and several other plans are familiar to almost everybody now. The first of these envisages the all round improvement of conditions in this country at a cost of 10,000 crores of rupees. The "people's plan" which has been prepared by Mr. M. N. Roy deals with the question of rural reconstruction from, as he says, the people's points of view. In addition to these, Central and Provincial Governments, have drawn up various schemes for rural rehabilitation. Recently Mr. A. D. Shroff, a well-known economist and businessman and one of the signatories of the Bombay Plan suggested the creation of a Ministry for Economic Affairs charged with the special duty of promoting the economic well-being of the country. He also expressed the opinion that there should be a permanent Planning Commission in charge of developmental activities. Thus public interest in planning is at a high pitch now.

In this context a book on rural reconstruction must be warmly welcome. Of course of late there has been a spate of literature on the subject dealing with it from different angles. The present book by Mukhtar Singh is valuable in that it deals with the subject from a layman's point of view. The book falls broadly into two parts, the first dealing with some of the economic ills of the country and the second with their remedies. The initial point stressed by Mr. Singh is that rural reconstruction, which is largely synonymous with the reconstruction of agriculture, should also aim at the reconstruction of the agriculturist. The author expresses the view that improvement in agriculture need not necessarily bring about improvement of the agriculturist. For example, in a period of low prices for agricultural commodities, the agriculturist may not be benefited, though from a production point of view agriculture might have shown considerable progress. As regards the chief economic ills, he refers to the usual factors such as the poor public health of the country, the low standard of living, the low productivity of agriculture, etc. He stresses the fact that production has to be increased all-round if the general level of prosperity has to be raised. Incidentally this point has also been emphasized by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in one of his speeches recently. The author makes concrete suggestions as to how increase of agricultural production can be brought about. Some of these are familiar to all, such as expansion of irrigation facilities, intensive cultivation, improvement in livestock, etc. Special tress is also laid by the author regarding the development of cottage industries. The author is of the opinion that both cottage and large scale industries can exist side by side without one reacting detrimentally on the other. The case of Japan as well as that of China are cited in this connexion.

There is a tendency among people to regard rural reconstruction as an unilateral affair. This is a manifestly incorrect position. Success of rural reconstruction plans depends as much on the people as on the Government. This fact was amply demonstrated by Japan, China and Denmark, where the patience and perseverance of the people had contributed not a little to rural prosperity. This is a lesson to the people of India.

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New Book on Aboriginal Life

A remarkable volume on Indian anthropology entitled *The Muria and their Ghotul* by Dr. Verrier Elwin, is announced for publication in September by the Oxford University Press. Dr. Elwin's earlier works have established his fame as a sympathetic and scholarly anthropologist. The present work covers every aspect of the life of one of the most interesting of aboriginal tribes—the Muria of Bastar State. The ghotul, which is the most remarkable of the Muria's institutions, is the village dormitory to which all the unmarried boys and girls of the tribe belong. The subject of this book is as much a study of Muria life as of this institution, the ghotul, for the one is intimately associated with the other.

The book is to be prized at Rs. 25. It contains over 700 pages and is fully illustrated; there are no less than 150 photographs.

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Alleged lathi charge

Apropos of the report in the press that Mr. A. K. Gopalan, a detenu in the Cannanore Central Jail, gave up his fast on 2nd August on the Government undertaking to institute an enquiry into the alleged lathi charge on Communist prisoners on 6th July 1947, Government wish to state that the statement is incorrect. No undertaking of any sort was given by or on behalf of the Government to the detenue in question. On the contrary Mr. A. K. Gopalan was informed by the Government on August 1, 1947, that the alleged lathi charge on Communist prisoners on 6th April 1947 was not a matter concerning the detenu and the Government were satisfied that no enquiry was called for in that connection.

(*Continued from page* 14)

opens the factory and commences business within six months from now, preference should be given to the old workers when labour is recruited. The question of monthly payment of wages, provision for casual leave, for festival holidays with pay, pay for overtime and grant of weekly holiday on Sunday should be considered only when the factory reopens. The dearness allowance already paid is adequate. No bonus is payable as the management has increased the basic wages by twelve and a half per cent and dearness allowance by six and one-fourth per cent of the basic wages from January 1947. The management has agreed to pay a compassionate allowance of four months' wages to the widow of Kannan.

The award will be made binding on the parties for a period of one year.



The Finance Minister of Indian Union



The Provincial Harijan Uplift Committee Conference

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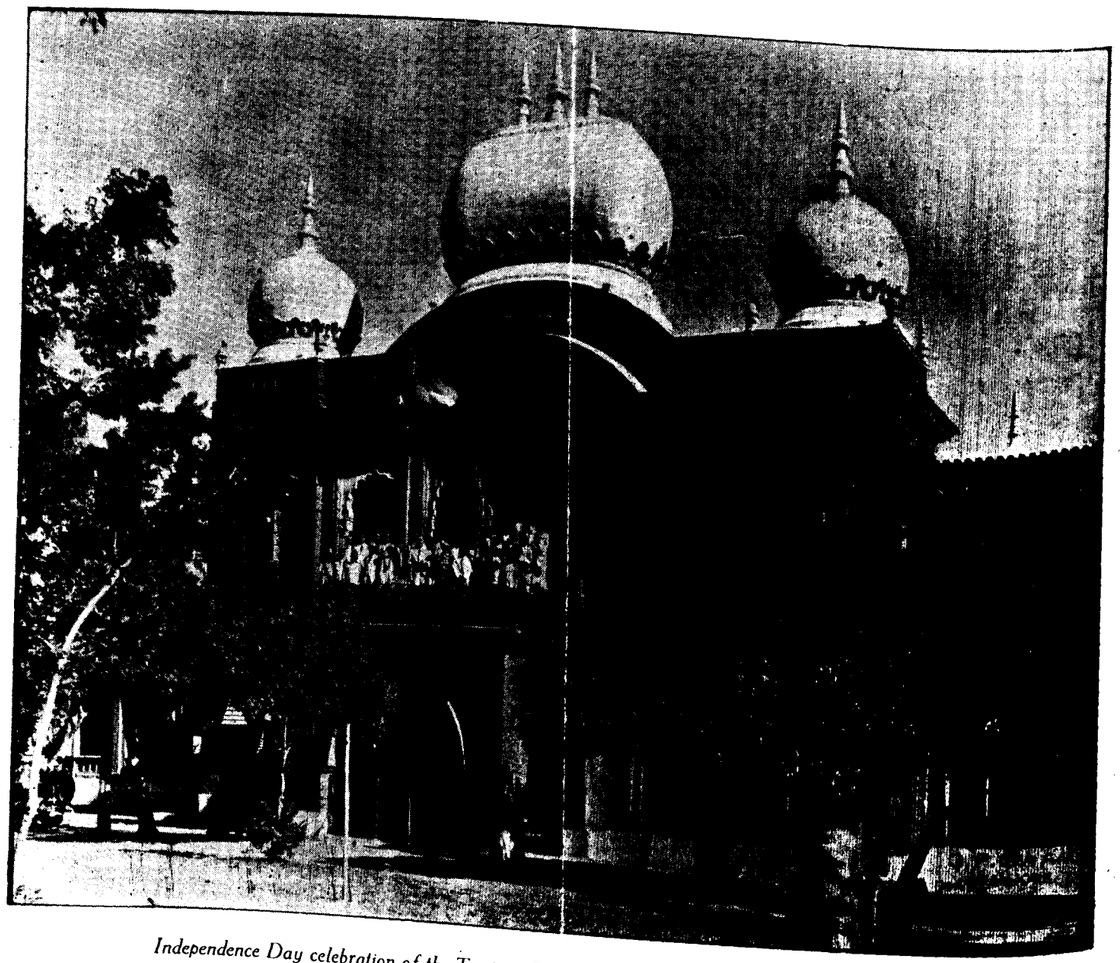
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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.



Independence Day celebration of the Tanjore Collectorate Recreation Club—15th August 1947

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Vol. I, No. 20 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" September 13, 1947

Editorial

SURRENDER ALL SURPLUS STOCKS!

With the realization that the food situation in the Province has become distinctly grave, owing to depleted stocks, the Government of Madras have decided on an intensive procurement drive to secure, if possible, all the available surplus foodgrains in the Province. Ministers have gone on tours to various districts to make personal appeals to landholders and other producers to deliver their stocks in the interests of the common good, and the Prime Minister has addressed a personal appeal to members of the Legislature in an effort to enlist their co-operation in the procurement drive forgetting, in the face of an overall food crisis, their group or party differences and utilizing their local influence. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies and other procurement officials in the districts are exerting themselves to intensify procurement. A combined and co-ordinated drive like the one undertaken now is bound to yield results and if it does, and only if it does, will we be able to overcome the crisis that looms ahead.

It has often been explained, and the explanation bears repetition, that the critical situation the Province is confronted with can be rendered easy and untoward consequences incidental to food shortage obviated mainly by local efforts and by the assertion of good sense and fellow-feeling among the producers in the Province. The prospects of extraneous assistance are likely to be meagre, even if they may not be altogether nil, and the Government of India have published figures of anticipated foreign imports of rice and wheat which indicate that practically nothing can be expected from outside India till the middle of October, if even then, and even when the expected supplies are received from Australia, U.S.A. and Burma, it is not known how much will be available for allocation to Madras. From all accounts, it appears, however, that within the Province itself there are considerable stocks of paddy and millets, which have not been delivered so far for one reason or the other. And that it is not a mere conjecture either is clear from the deliveries or promises of deliveries that have followed Ministers' appeals in some places. Should not, then, the producers who thus have surplus stocks come forward of their own account and offer to surrender those surpluses willingly and voluntarily and thus acquire the merit of having helped their less fortunate fellow-beings, whose food supply depends entirely upon the maintenance of the official rationing system in tact, and at the same time help Government to ensure that there is no breakdown of that system?

The Government have had advices from various quarters suggesting resort to force and coercion to secure surrender of stocks held by big producers. But so far they have not heeded these advices, relying more on the methods of persuasion and appeal on the one hand and on the efforts of the procurement staff to secure releases by personal approach and by resorting to the usual processes on the other. On the whole, the latter is the right method of approach at a time when the need is to get as much as possible within the shortest possible period and with the goodwill and co-operation of the people concerned. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that producers should realize their duty in the existing situation and reciprocate by voluntary offers of surplus paddy. They will thus set an example which will be appreciated.

If the procurement drive undertaken at present yields the desired fruit and if it is demonstrated that the Province, by voluntary sacrifice and voluntary endeavour, is in a position to meet the major part of

MAIN FEATURES

(1) Editorial.
(2) Press Notes.
(3) Procurement Drive.
(4) Labour Situation.
(5) Nationalisation: Electric Supply.
Road Transport.
(6) Fight against Tuberculosis.
(7) Local Administration.

her food requirements from her own internal resources, it may prove a vital argument in support of the Provincial Government's efforts to induce the Government of India to give them a somewhat free hand in the determination of policy with regard to the prices to be paid for local produce. It is now well-known that one of the factors standing in the way of willing co-operation by producers in procurement work is the price factor, and that one of the impediments in the way of the Government of Madras remedying this defect by offering a somewhat higher price for local produce, if such an increase is justified on expert investigation of all relevant considerations, is the reluctance of the Government of India to permit a departure from the all-India price policy. Spokesmen of the Government of India's Food Department have often asserted that provincial procurement is not satisfactory. Being a deficit Province, and therefore, dependent on the Centre for a portion of her food supplies, Madras has to accept the Centre's direction in this respect and fall into line. But with internal self-sufficiency more or less assured, the Madras Government will be in a better position to ask the Centre for a free hand than they have at present in fixing prices, etc., in conformity with local conditions and needs.

From the immediate as well as the long range point of view, therefore, the producers of paddy in the Province should respond unreservedly to the call of humanity as well as the call of necessity. Such response will contribute immediately to an improvement in the food situation and prevent a breakdown of the rationing system and in the long run, it will provide an effective argument for the Government to approach the Government of India, if need be, to release them from the obligation to adhere to the all-India price schedule as a reward for the sacrifices Madras producers have made at a time of real crisis.

Madras Government Press Notes

Food and Clothing

Decontrol of oilcakes except groundnut cake

The supply of groundnut cake in the Province has always been limited and not enough to manure even one-tenth of the area under paddy and the supply this season is still less owing to an appreciable fall in production. It is therefore advisable for ryots to go in for other kinds of oil-cake like castor, pungam, safflower, etc., to supplement groundnut cake. In order to enable ryots to purchase their requirements of these cakes and move them without difficulty, the Government have instructed the Director of Agriculture to de-control the price and inter-district movement within the Province of all oil-cakes except groundnut cake. Manure mixing firms are also advised to obtain and use these cakes for their mixtures. If necessary, they can obtain their requirements from outside the Province through trade channels. The Government hope that this de-control will benefit the ryots. If, however, it is found that it is taken advantage of for profiteering and blackmarketing, the Government will be obliged to consider re-imposition of control.

Bonus to Ryots

According to the announcement made by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies on 16th July 1947, bonus is payable in September 1947 only in regard to the deliveries of paddy or rice effected during the first half-year ending 30th June 1947 (i.e. from 1st January 1947 to the end of 30th June 1947). The Government have since ordered that the bonus scheme should run from 1st December 1946 to 31st October 1947 instead of from 1st January 1947 till 31st December 1947 as originally ordered. The first spell of the bonus period will therefore be from 1st December 1946 till 30th June 1947. As originally ordered, the bonus to all producers who have delivered paddy or rice during this period (i.e. from 1st December 1946 to 30th June 1947) will be assessed and paid from September onwards.

The stock position of foodgrains in this Province is deteriorating. Very little help can be expected from outside and the Province has therefore to depend mainly on her own resources to stave off the famine which is threatening her. The Government, therefore, make an earnest appeal to all producers, big and small, to surrender all their surpluses to the procuring agents immediately. As an incentive Government have ordered that the cash part of the bonus for deliveries made between 1st July 1947 and 15th August 1947 should be paid immediately instead of in March 1948 provided the producers deliver some quantity of paddy or rice to the authorized agents between 15th August 1947 and 30th September 1947. In addition to this, the producers will also be paid immediately the cash bonus due on the quantities of paddy or rice already delivered by them between 1st July 1947 and 15th August 1947 for which they could normally expect payment only in March next. Thus, in other words, any producer who delivers any quantity of paddy or rice between 15th August 1947 and 30th September 1947 will be paid the cash part of the bonus, immediately for deliveries made by him since 1st December 1946.

All producers are hereby exhorted to take full advantage of this concession by offering their paddy and rice immediately, willingly and unreservedly. They are also requested to apply to the Supply Officers for the bonus, viz., the District Supply Officer in the case of A Class producers, the Taluk Supply Officer in the case of B class producers and the Firka Supply Officer in the case of C class producers as already announced by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies on 16th July 1947. On receipt of the applications, arrangements will be made to distribute the bonus immediately.

Bonus for Producers

The Government recently announced a Bonus Scheme according to which bonus at the rate of Re. 1 per imperial maund will be paid to the producers for the paddy delivered by them during the period from 1st January to 31st December 1947. Representations have since been made to the Government by several persons belonging to different districts suggesting that effect should be given to the Bonus Scheme from 1st December 1946 instead of from 1st January 1947 so that the producers who delivered their paddy in December 1946 might also get the benefit of the bonus. It has been argued in these representations that since the producers who delivered their paddy up to the end of November 1946 were paid a bonus under the bonus scheme which was then in force and those who delivered their stocks after 1st January 1947 will also be paid bonus under the present scheme, it is not fair to deny the benefit of the bonus to the producers who gave up their surplus during December 1946 immediately after the harvest. This suggestion was viewed with favour by the Provincial Food Advisory Board at its meeting on 11th August 1947. The Government have accepted this suggestion and have accordingly issued orders directing that the bonus period be changed to run from 1st December 1946 to 31st October 1947 instead of from 1st January 1947 to 31st December 1947. This modification in the last date of applicability of the present scheme is made so that the end of the bonus scheme may coincide with the close of the current Kharif year, after which any revised set of prices which may be decided on by the Government for the next Kharif year will come into force.

Education

B.A. Classes in Muslim College

Representations have been received that it will cause great hardship if the B.A. Classes in the Government Muslim College for Women are to be closed in the middle of the year. Certain general representations have also been received that these classes may not be closed now and that the strength in these classes may improve in the coming years. The present strength in the Junior B.A. and Senior B.A. Classes is 1 Muslim amd 8 non-Muslims and 2 Muslims and 3 non-Muslims respectively, making up a total of 14 girls of whom three only are Muslims. If the staff and posts sanctioned for the B.A. Classes are abolished, the savings that will accrue to Government will be Rs. 24,816 excluding dearness allowance. The Government still feel that to spend Rs. 24,816 on such a small number and for only three Muslim girls, is not economical. In view of the above representations and more strength being promised, the Government are issuing orders keeping on those classes. Their further continuance must depend upon their adequate strength in the future.

Development

Co-operative Conference

The Government propose to convene a Co-operative Conference at Madras on the 12th and 13th September 1947 for evolving an integrated plan for the promotion of the Co-operative movement in the Province. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies will be the Secretary to the Conference which is expected to be attended by prominent co-operators from all over the Province.

Harijan Uplift Committees

In the Press Release, dated 24th June 1947, it was mentioned that the District Advisory Committees for the Amelioration of the conditions of the communities eligible for help by the Labour Department would be known as "District Harijan Uplift Advisory Committees." The Government have since altered this designation and the committees have now been renamed "District Harijan Welfare Committees." These committees will ordinarily consist of not more than six non-official members and the Collector of the district will be the chairman. In the case of Vizagapatam district, the committee will consist of eight non-official members. The term of office of non-official members of the Committees will be three years. The non-official members of the Provincial Harijan Welfare Committee will function as additional members of the District Harijan Welfare Committees of the districts to which they belong.

An Industrial Dispute

A dispute arose between the workers and management of the City Motor Service, Limited, Madras, in respect of the dismissal of certain workers for striking work on 31st March 1947. As the parties were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the dispute was referred for adjudication. During the enquiry, the parties composed their differences and on the request of both parties, the Industrial Tribunal has passed a compromise award. According to the terms of the award, twenty-seven of the dismissed workers will be reinstated on their expressing regret for their absence from duty on 31st March 1947 and three other workers, who expressed regret before the Tribunal on 11th August 1947, should be reinstated from that date. The management has also promised to consider the claims of fourteen workers for payment of bonus on the merits of each case.

Provincial Fodder Committee

The Government have increased the number of non-official members of the Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee from three to twelve and have appointed the following to be members of the Committee for a period of three years :—

1. Dr. Nangana Gowd (Bellary).
2. Sri Vengayil Raghavan Nainar, B.A., Bar.-at-Law (Malabar).
3. Sri N. Giriappa Gowder (The Nilgiris).
4. Sri Diwan Bahadur C. Tadulinga Mudaliyar (Madras).
5. Sri Pidatala Ranga Reddi, Giddalur, Kurnool district.
6. Sri M.R. Punja (South Kanara).
7. Sri Rao Bahadur R. V. Ramasundaram Pillai (Ramnad).
8. Sri J. C. Nagi Reddi, Tadpatri taluk, Anantapur.
9. Sri P. Ponnambala Gounder, M.L.A., Trichinopoly district.
10. The Pattaigar of Palayakottai, Palayakottai, Coimbatore district.
11. Sri Muparti Venkataratnam, Mori, Razole taluk, East Godavari district.
12. Sri K Cherian Jacob, L.Ag., F.L.S.

The Government have also appointed Mr. T. N. Venkatanathachari, Professor of Botany, Presidency College, Madras, as member of the Committee for another term of three years from 14th July 1947.

Pumps for Agricultural Use

At present pumps are hired out to agriculturists by the Agricultural and Industries Departments at concessional rates. Originally these rates were sanctioned only up to September 1947. The Government have since considered the question of their further continuance and have decided to continue them till 30th September 1948 partly

in view of the acute food situation in the Province. But the rates however are liable to be withdrawn at any time before 30th September 1948 should the Government consider such a step necessary. The concessional rate of hire charges is Re. 1 per day for oil engines as against the normal rate of Rs. 3 per day or Rs. 75 per mensem or Rs. 200 for a quarter. The transport charges of the pump sets or any parts thereof are waived in deserving cases. As regards petrol engine pump sets, the concessional rates are As. 8 per day or Rs. 10 per mensem for periods of one month and more.

It is needless to point out that these concessions are substantial and the Government trust that agriculturists would avail themselves of them and thus also assist increased food production which has proved a dire necessity in the present context.

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Irrigation Schemes

In pursuance of the G.M.F. Campaign, the Government have programmed to execute 86 schemes at a total cost of Rs. 20 lakhs. It is expected, that on the completion of the schemes an area of about 1·3 lakhs of acres would be brought under plough.

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Dispute in Andhra Paper Mills Company

The Government have accepted the findings of the Industrial Tribunal appointed to enquire into the trade dispute between the workers and management of the Andhra Paper Mills, Ltd., Rajahmundry, that the closure of the Andhra Paper Mills was unwarranted and the lock-out declared by the management was illegal.

History of the case.

A trade dispute arose between the workers and management of the Andhra Paper Mills Co., Ltd., Rajahmundry, on certain matters. As the parties to the dispute were unable to reach an amicable agreement, the dispute was referred to the District and Sessions Judge, East Godavari, for adjudication in January 1947. While the adjudication proceedings were going on, the management of the mills closed the mills on 24th May 1947, which resulted in further dispute between the workers and the management. As the parties were unable to arrive at a settlement, this dispute also were referred to the District and Sessions Judge, East Godavari, as Industrial Tribunal, for adjudication under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947. The Government also passed orders prohibiting the continuance of the lock-out after the date on which the dispute was referred to the Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. The management did not, however, open the mills but stated that the closure of the mills was not a lock-out and requested the Government to cancel the order prohibiting lock-out in the mills. The management was informed that the order prohibiting the lock-out would not be withdrawn. The Industrial Tribunal has, after enquiry, submitted its award.

2. The Tribunal says that the mills were closed on 24th May 1947 due to shortage of coal and that the management's plea of continual loss as the main and the only reason for the closure of the mills cannot be accepted. The Debenture Trustees have been working the mills for three months with the coal left by the previous management without paying the suppliers, but they could have easily paid the suppliers and purchased necessary coal for working the mills. The management had deliberately not ordered for further coal and the mills were closed down in view of negotiations for their sale. This closing down cannot therefore be said to be either bona fide or due to reasons beyond the management's control. Since the mills had been locked out during the pendency of adjudication proceedings, the lock-out is illegal. The Standing Orders of the mills have not yet been certified to by the Commissioner of Labour and the workers cannot be discharged on payment of wages for fourteen days. Therefore the Tribunal has found that the closure of the Andhra Paper Mills was unwarranted and the lock-out an illegal lock out. The Government have accepted the findings of the Tribunal.

The award.

1. The original minimum wage of 4 annas a day for female workers was raised by 50 per cent from 1st January 1947 while the minimum wage of 6 annas for male workers was raised only by 33⅓ per cent. There was no justification for any differential treatment and the wage of the male workers should be increased by 50 per cent. The existing basic wage of the female workers is confirmed and that of the male workers is increased to 9 annas a day. The increased wages should be paid from the date of the award, i.e., 16th August 1947.

2. The salaries paid to the skilled workers and maistries are reasonable and need not be enhanced. The salaries of the semi-skilled workers and welders do not require any revision.

3. In view of the present financial position of the company standard wages cannot be fixed and increments allowed.

4. The dearness allowance of Rs. 16 per mensem paid from 1st January 1947 is quite adequate.

5. The holidays already granted by the company are quite enough and do not warrant any increase.

6. After three months service an employee is entitled to confirmation.

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B.Sc. Course in Forestry

The introduction of a degree course in Forestry formed the subject of carping comment by the press recently. A brief statement of facts is therefore called for.

In 1945 the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University proposed the institution of a B.Sc. (Forestry) Course at the Forest College. It was not clear then that he did not intend the conversion of the existing ranger course into a degree course. The Chief Conservator saw no advantage in the proposal if that was what was intended. When it was explained that a separate three-year degree course was contemplated, for the purpose of training Gazetted Officers, in addition to the Ranger course, the proposal was accepted in principle and its practical aspects were examined carefully.

Now the profession of forestry is a narrow one all the world over. A trained forester cannot set up in private practice in the manner in which a doctor, an engineer or a veterinary can. Nor can he unless he owns extensive forests, apply his professional knowledge to his own lands. There is in short no market for the forestry qualification outside the public services. That being so the number of candidates taking the forestry course cannot much exceed the requirements of the services.

The annual requirements of Gazetted Forest Officers in Madras is of the order of 6 or 7. The institution of a separate course for such a small number seemed extravagant and unfeasible. It therefore became necessary to ascertain whether neighbouring Provinces and states would patronise the proposed new course. The plan was to have two regional training centres, one at Dehra Dun for North India and the other at Coimbatore

(*Continued on page 6*)

Miscellaneous

Prohibition: Enquiry Committee

The Government have appointed a committee to enquire into the working of Prohibition since October 1946 in the eight districts of Chittoor, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur. Sri K. A. Nachiappa Gounder, M.L.A., is the Chairman of the Committee and the members are Sri M. Kumaran, M.L.A., Sri N. Sankara Reddi, M.L.C., Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A. and Sri T. Subramanyam. The committee has been asked to report among other things on the adequacy and effectiveness of the staff for enforcing Prohibition, the extent to which there have been breaches of the Prohibition Act, the extent and adequacy of co-operation in the matter of enforcement, ways and means by which Prohibition could be more vigorously and successfully carried out, the extent to which social, economic and vocational betterment has been achieved, the lines on which it is desirable to amend the existing Prohibition Act, suggestions regarding the improvement on the ameliorative side of Prohibition, the provision of alternative employment for those thrown out of work and the general policy in regard to Prohibition including the pace at which it should be extended to the rest of the Province.

The headquarters of the committee is Madras and Sri G. Ranga Reddi, District Prohibition Officer, Cuddapah, has been appointed its Secretary. The Government trust that the public would fully co-operate with the committee in their enquiry. The question of evolving a sound Prohibition policy in the light of past experience is important and much in this matter depends upon the wholehearted co-operation of the public in general.

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Advisory Councils for Prohibition work

The Government have already constituted these committees for Salem, Malabar, Kistna and South Arcot for a period of three years from 20th June 1947. They have now appointed committees for the remaining districts also. Care has been taken to man these committees with persons really interested in Harijan welfare and the Government trust that these committees would prove to be of valuable assistance to them in promoting Harijan welfare.

The Government have decided that District Advisory Councils for Prohibition work should be set up in the districts of North Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore in the first instance. These committees are being constituted with a view to carry on effective propaganda and enlist greater support from the village and taluk committees and the general public for Prohibition work. The District Superintendent of Police, the Special Development Officer, all the members of the Madras Legislative Assembly and the Madras Legislative Council, all the District Presidents and Secretaries of the District Congress Committees and the District Muslim League Committees, the Head of the Roman Catholic Mission and of the most prominent non-Roman Catholic Mission in the districts will be the members of these committees, with the Collector of the district as Chairman.

These councils would be purely advisory bodies and would meet once a month. The Government have asked the Board of Revenue to submit a report before 1st December 1947, on the working of the Councils and to state whether similar bodies may be formed in other Prohibition districts also. It is intended that the Prohibition Committees should be separate and distinct from the Food Committees and that the duties of Prohibition Committees should not be entrusted to the Food Committees, though the meetings of both could be held on the same day.

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National Savings Certificates

Subscriptions from the Province to National Savings Certificates for the period from 1st April 1947 to 26th July 1947 amounted to Rs. 47,54,090. Of this amount Rs. 2,73,460 were collected during the week ended 26th July 1947. Tanjore continues to maintain its first place while Madras comes second.

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Police Firing in Tinnevelly

The following is the report of the Police Firing at Melapalayam in the district of Tinnevelly on 'Independence Day' received from the District Magistrate, Tinnevelly :—

The National Flag was hoisted according to programme at 10-15 a.m. near the Melapalayam Panchayat Board Hospital. Both Hindus and Muslims participated. V. S. T. Muhammad Ibrahim, Nationalist Muslim leader and his followers were in the crowd. As the crowd started leaving, there was sudden pelting of stones from the Muslims on the western side and Muhammad Ibrahim and his party were chased by a mob numbering about 4,000. He took refuge in the hospital which was then attacked on all sides with shower of stones. The Sub-Inspector, two head constables and ten constables were soon on the scene and a lathi charge proved futile.

The Sub-Inspector himself was hit on the head by a stone, and fell down unconscious. Three carbines from the police station nearby were procurrd and the Sub-Inspector, before he fell down, ordered opening of fire after due warning. Seventeen rounds were fired. Three persons were killed on the spot. At this stage the District Superintendent of Police arrived, followed soon by detachments of the Armed Reserve. The District Magistrate came a little later.

Total casualties.—Three killed and seven injured. On the police side, in addition to Sub-Inspector, two constables sustained injuries, all the injured being treated in hospital. The Sub-Inspector is pronounced out of danger.

The situation soon returned to normal and both sides have assured District Magistrate that there will be no repercussions. Police have made adequate bandobast arrangements.

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Cases of Corruption

During the year 1946, corruption among Government servants was brought to notice in the case of 70 persons belonging to the various departments of Government in this Province. Proceedings relating to 17 of these 70 were either dropped or were pending at the end of the year. Of these 17, 6 belonged to the Food Department. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 53 persons who were suitably punished. Of the 53 persons so punished, 34 belonged to the Police department, 9 to the Registration, 5 to the Food, 2 to the Education and 1 to the each of the Agricultural, Cinchona and Revenue departments.

Cost of living index

During the week ended 16th August 1947, the index number of the cost of living for working classes in Madras City rose by one point to 270 owing to a rise in the prices of vegetables, tamarind, turmeric, garlic and gingelly oil.

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Amenities to Prisoners

The Government have directed that prisoners other than political prisoners should be re-classified and provided with amenities as follows :—

(1) Political prisoners have already been classified as 'special class prisoners'. All other prisoners, who were hitherto classified into A, B or C class, should be reclassified into two classes only, namely, Class I and Class II.

(2) Class I prisoners will consist of those whose social standing and mode of life have been of more than the ordinary standard, without reference to the crime for which they have been convicted.

(3) Class II prisoners will consist of those who come from the lower strata of society and are accustomed to a lower standard of living.

(4) Remand and undertrial prisoners will also be classified into Class I and Class II, with reference to the criteria laid down in items (2) and (3) above.

(5) Prisoners will be allowed the following concessions :—

(*a*) *Diet.*—Class I prisoners will be supplied with diet on the scale now allowed to 'B' class prisoners. They will be allowed to buy fruits and supplement their food with articles which have food value, such as biscuits, cocoa and ovaltine, at their own cost. Class II prisoners will be allowed the diet supplied to the present 'C' class of prisoners.

(*b*) *Clothing and Bedding.*—Class I prisoners will be permitted to use their own bedding, but not their own dress.

(*c*) *Toilet.*—Class I prisoners will be allowed the use of soap, hair oil and unction oil at their own cost. This privilege may be extended to such of Class II prisoners as have, by their conduct and behaviour in jail, proved themselves deserving of this amenity.

(6) Class II prisoners will be allowed interviews once a fortnight and two letters a month instead of one letter and one interview once in two months, as now allowed to 'C' class prisoners.

(7) Flush out latrines will be constructed in Central Jails gradually, as and when funds permit.

(8) Radios will be installed in all Central Jails and in a few sub-jails to enable the prisoners to get news. Funds for this purpose will be raised by appeal to the public. The Discharged Prisoners' Aid Society will also be asked to spend some of its funds to provide these radios.

(9) Prisoners will be given work suited to their taste or training or experience.

The Superintendent of the Penitentiary will provide female prisoners in the Penitentiary with some occupation, such as grinding rice or corn or some service of domestic nature, instead of keeping them idle. The better class of female prisoners should be allowed to do some work, such as, stitching, or be employed in some handicraft work. As regards the other prisoners in various jails, the character, previous work and training and capacity to understand new kind of work of each prisoner will be examined by the Inspector-General who will decide as to what sort of work can b provided for each of them. Jail labour will be hired out for Government works with proper escort and guard and the Public Works Department and the other departments should be asked to employ jail labour to the greatest extent possible.

(10) Oil pressing in jails either by mills worked by bullocks or by electric power will be revived, the prisoners being employed for working the mill and driving the bullocks.

(11) Small industries like hand paper making, making of covers and envelopes, coirmaking, etc., will be started in jails, where there are only short term prisoners.

(*Continued from page 4*)

for peninsular India. This plan was discussed at the Senior Forest Officers' Conference held at Dehra Dun in November 1946, but was rejected. This decision was intimated immediately to the Government for communication to the University.

The subject was again discussed at the meeting of the Board of Visitors of the Madras Forest College held in June last. A new approach to the problem was then made. A scheme for adopting a common University course for both Rangers and Officers was considered and accepted in principle by the Board of Visitors. If it is accepted, the difficulty of numbers to which reference has been made will be overcome.

It is receiving attention of the Government and the University and a decision is expected to be reached soon.

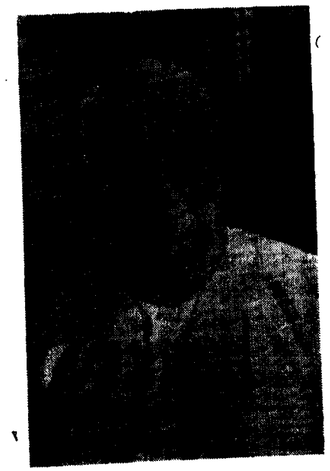
Films censored by the Madras Board of Film Censors (during 1st to 25th August 1947)

Serial No.	*Film.*	*Producer.*	*Order of the Board.*	*The number and date of certificate.*
2508	"Mahananda" (Kannada). 12,000 ft.	Triveni Films, Mysore.	Passed ..	2507, dated 1st August 1947.
2509	"Congress Session in Bangalore. 950 ft.	Sri T. Janakiram, C/o South Indian Film Chamber, Madras.	Do. ..	2508, dated 9th August 1947.
2510	"Thyagi" (Tamil). 12,700 ft.	Murthi Bros., No. 746, Triplicane High Road, Madras.	Do. ..	2509, dated 9th August 1947.
2511	"Thainad" (Tamil). 13,960 ft.	Chitrakala Movietone, Ltd., Madura.	Do. ..	2510, dated 11th August 1947.
2512	"Palnati Yudham" (Telugu). 15,181 ft.	Sree Sarada Production, Madras.	Do. ..	2511, dated 12th August 1947.
2513	"Sri Ramabrahma Nivyanam" (Telugu). 306 ft.	Do.	Do. ..	2512, dated 12th August 1947.
2514	"National Flag" (Tamil). 300 ft.	A.V.M. Productions, No. 27, Balajinagar, Madras.	Do. ..	2513, dated 14th August 1947.

Need for Intensive Procurement

Dr. Rajan's survey of the Food Situation

(A whirlwind campaign for intensive procurement is being undertaken by the Hon'ble Ministers who are now touring all the districts and trying to persuade producers to hand over their surpluses to the Government. The food situation in all conscience is grave, critical, but not hopeless, as is seen from the following survey given by Dr. Rajan at some of the meetings he addressed recently at Madras.)



Government have just now a little over 170,000 tons of foodgrains at their disposal. If this stock is not replenished they will come to a stage which has been calculated to be on or about October 1, 1947, when the stock will be almost nil.

The present state of affairs has been brought about by a combination of circumstances over which no one had any control. The crisis last year was tided over with the help of imported wheat, de-hydrated potatoes and other foodstuffs. As regards the current year, the failure of wheat crop in North India and the partial failure of rice crop in some parts of the Province have created a very difficult situation. Wheat is not available for distribution in this Province and Madras is left to make the best of its own resources.

The Government of India are not in favour of increasing the price paid to producers and Madras has introduced a system of bonus to stimulate procurement. Bonus is not an increase in price. It is not paid by the consumer. It is given by the Government in order to help the producer to meet the extra cost of production. It is proposed to recover half of this bonus from the consumer and to divide the balance between the Government of India and the Provincial Government. Even if the Government of India shared the expenditure, the Provincial Government will have to spend a little over 1·5 crores on account of the bonus As stocks dwindled it had been found necessary to rush supplies from one area to another and the cost of transport is becoming enormous. The Government have also made arrangements to make potatoes available at the price at which it is sold at Ootacamund. Apart from the staff employed in the Food Department, the Government will be spending between 3 and 4 crores of rupees on food subsidies this year.

At the beginning of the current kharif year the yield of rice in the Province was estimated at about 5·54 lakhs of tons more than in the previous year and on that basis the ration was increased from 10 oz. to 12 oz. But the procurement did not come up to expectations and so the rice portion of the ration had eventually to be reduced to the present rate of 8 oz.

The one silver lining in the cloud is that there is stock of rice in the surplus districts: the only thing is it should be procured. Every step is being taken by the Government to induce the hoarders to part with their stocks.

On a reasonable estimate the Government are still to get from the Circars at least 3 lakhs of tons. Similarly Tanjore and other surplus districts also have not delivered up their full quota. The targets fixed for these districts are not high and are based on the production statistics submitted by the district officials soon after the last harvest. The very fact that the present campaign is yielding good results in many places shows that the proquerement estimates are correct enough.

The recent widespread rains have been very beneficial to standing crops though they have interfered with transport of foodgrains.

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of August

Weather conditions and crop prospects.—There was light to moderate rainfall in almost all the districts. The level of water in the Mettur Reservoir was 81·6 feet on 15th August 1947 as against 119·75 feet on 15th August 1946.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in parts of Coimbatore, Madura, Ramnad and Tinnevelly districts and of dry crops in Coimbatore district. The out-turn was generally fair.

Market conditions and trend of prices.—During the fortnight there were slight increases in the price of rice possibly due to the passing on to the consumer of part of the bonus paid to the producers for deliveries of paddy. There was no perceptible change in the prices of other cereals and pulses. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil-seeds, oil-cakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change.—Gingelly oil, Gingelly oil-cake and groundnut oil-cake.

Rise.—Groundnut (shelled) (0·4 per cent), gingelly seed (0·8 per cent), copra (16 per cent) and cotton seed (0·7 per cent).

Fall.—Cocoanut oil (4·5 per cent) and groundnut oil (10·3 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured in the districts and the quantities of cereals and pulses imported from sources outside the Province.

(*a*) Local procurement during the fortnight ending 31st July 1947—

	TONS.	
Paddy ..	50,072	Together equivalent to 57,095 tons in terms of rice.
Rice ..	21,995	
Millets ..	6,988	

(*b*) Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 15th August 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	2,193
Millets	51
Wheat	Nil.
Wheat products.	Nil.
Pulses—	
Blackgram ..	816
Redgram ..	215
Greengram ..	Nil.
Bengalgram ..	1,067
Total (pulses).	2,098

(*c*) Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th August 1947—

Rice	Nil.
Millets	Nil.
Wheat	Nil.
Wheat products.	Nil.

Stock and supply position of principal foodgrains—Rice.—Procurement during the two weeks ending 14th August 1947 showed 59,102 tons as against 46,429 tons in the previous two weeks. The improvement cannot, however, be considered adequate as the stock position which is at present influenced solely by local procurement owing to the absence of the usual imports, has been deteriorating. While the Province had a stock of 183,780 tons in the beginning of August, the stock on 14th August 1947 was only 180,116 tons. The position in the deficit districts continues to be unsatisfactory. The stocks in Malabar and South Kanara districts are lower than even before and the districts are virtually on the verge of a breakdown. Most of the despatching stations in the surplus districts have been switched on to these districts. Even so, it is doubtful whether a breakdown can be avoided at some time or other in the near future unless further supplies are received through imports. The concentration of despatches to these districts even for a small period is likely to have an adverse effect on the stock position in the other importing districts like Coimbatore which are managing with very little stocks. Vizagapatam district which depends on imports from Eastern States and Orissa is also experiencing difficulty. It is estimated that it will require by way of imports 7,000 tons per month in September and October. The balance due to be supplied to this district from Orissa, Eastern States and Central Province is about 14,000 tons but it is unlikely that more than 7 to 10 thousand tons will be received in the next two months. As the Provincial sources are fully taxed, Vizagapatam may not be able to survive the next two months except with further assistance from outside.

Millets.—The stock of millets has slightly increased from 27,326 tons on 31st July 1947 to 27,579 tons on 14th August 1947. The off-take of millets in June 1947 was 11,399 tons. The off-take has now risen considerably as a result of the issue of 2 oz. millets to rice-eaters from the middle of July onwards. It is anticipated that the off-take of millets in August will be about 17,000 tons. The present stock of 27,000 tons is thus sufficient only for about 7 weeks' consumption. Apart from a small consignment of Australian millets which is being received by ex. S.S. "Madura" in August and small imports of Orissa millets, there are no further substantial imports in sight.

Maize and barley.—Maize stocks have fallen from 1,290 tons on 31st July 1947 to 974 tons on 14th August 1947. During the same period barley stocks have fallen from 348 to 285 tons. The rate of disposal continues to be satisfactory. No further imports are expected.

Wheat and wheat products.—The wheat and maida position continues to be unsatisfactory. On 14th August 1947 stocks of wheat in the Province were only 1,122 tons and stocks of wheat products were 379 tons. A shipment of 1,000 tons of Sind wheat is expected to arrive at Madras on the 24th of August by ex S.S. "Nurjahan". Stocks of maida are depleted so much that in some districts bakeries are being compelled to close down. In other districts wheat is being issued to bakers.

Pulses.—No snipments of pulses have arrived during the fortnight but the S.S. "Ormara" carrying 179 tons of Sind gram products and the S.S. "Jaya-brahma" carrying 678 tons of Sind, Jhind and Punjab gram products are expected during second fortnight of August. The pulses position is becoming unsatisfactory. Already a number of districts are almost complaining of shortage of redgram and a few districts are complaining of shortages of Bengalgram and blackgram too. Only a small portion of the reduced quota of 13,000 tons of Bengalgram is expected to be received in this Province. The Assistant Marketing Officer, Nagpur, is finding it increasingly difficult to purchase redgram in the United Provinces due to rise in prices. Under these circumstances, imports of Bengalgram, redgram and blackgram during the next three or four months are likely to be inadequate and the stock position in the Provinces by the end of the year will be unsatisfactory.

Miscellaneous commodities.—Supply of kerosene to the districts of Cuddapah and Kurnool was reported to be inadequate.

Stock of firewood was not adequate in the towns of Bezwada, Guntur and Coimbatore and in parts of Ramnad district. The Collectors are taking necessary action.

Scarcity for matches was reported to be felt in parts of Chingleput and West Godavari districts.

Land for Politicals

The Government have decided to assign isolated plots of land at the disposal of the Government to political sufferers and other classes of people including Harijans, backward classes and ex-service men including I.N.A.

The term political sufferers means persons who had gone to jail in the cause of the Indian independence as a result of taking part in movements inaugurated by the Indian national Congress or under its sanction. The Government, however, reserve to themselves the power to decide whether any one is a political sufferer or not. For the purpose of the assignments proposed, the year 1921 will be deemed to be the year in which these political movements started. If there are any persons who have partaken in the political movements earlier than 1921 their cases will be considered separately.

Persons who possessed five acres wet or ten acres dry land on 1st April 1946 will not be eligible for these grants. Individual assignments will not exceed 5 acres of wet land or its equivalent in any single case (two acres of dry land will be treated as equivalent to one acre of wet land except in cases where Government vary the rate after due enquiry into the relative value of dry and wet lands in the areas concerned). The political sufferers will be granted land free of market value. Families of those who died in these movements will also be eligible for these grants. Details will be published in due course.

MADRAS RECORD OFFICE 1-OCT 1947 MADRAS

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the fortnight ending 15th August 1947

The Government of Madras have appointed the following persons as Labour Officers under rule 9 (*a*) (1) of the General Rules for the Madras Provincial and Subordinate Services. They have been posted to the places shown below :—

Name.	*Headquarters.*	*Jurisdiction.*
1 SRI M. KRISHNAN NAIR, M.A.	Calicut	Malabar and South Kanara.
2 SRI D. K. PURUSHOTHAM, B.A.	Trichinopoly ..	Trichinopoly, Tanjore and South Arcot.
3 SRI K. V. PARTHASARATHY, M.A., B.L.	Anantapur ..	Anantapur, Bellary and Cuddapah.
4 SRI G. VENKIAH, B.A., B.L.	Guntur	Guntur, Nellore and Kurnool.
	Plantation Labour.	
1 SRI G. J. KATTICARAN, B.A., S.S.A.	Coonoor	Malabar and the Nilgiris.
2 SRI M. D. EDMONDS ..	Valparai	Coimbatore, Salem and Madura.

All the Labour Officers except Sri M. D. Edmonds joined duty at Madras on 12th August 1947.

The Government of Madras have appointed the Industrial Tribunals constituted under the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (Central Act XIV of 1947), to exercise within their respective jurisdictions the functions of an appellate authority under section 2 (*a*) of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 (Central Act XX of 1946).

The Government of Madras have instructed the Government factories and firms to allow holidays with pay on 15th and 16th of August 1947 in connection with the celebration of "Transfer of Power."

The Government of Madras have published the recommendations of the Court of Inquiry into the conditions of labour in beedi, cigar, tobacco, etc. industries and tanneries in the Province.

The Government have sanctioned the payment of interim relief to the State Transport Service, the Government Automobile Workshop and the Civil Supplies Transport Unit as per the Adjudicator's award accepted in G.O. Ms. No. 2304, Dev. lopment Department, dated 26th May 1947, in the dispute between the workers and the managements of Motor Transport Services and Motor Transport Workshops in the Province.

This does not apply to the clerical staff and the members of inferior services employed in the above Government institutions. The notice of strike issued on 10th July 1947 by the General Secretary of the Madras Motor Drivers Association has been withdrawn.

The General Secretary of the Madras Motor Drivers Association' issued a notice of strike to the management of the S.I.B.T. intimating that the workers of the company will go on strike after 19th August 1947, if the demand for the reinstatement of Inspector Manickam, and Conductor Ramakrishnan are not conceded. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter. The employees and the General Secretary of the Union have been asked to settle the dispute by direct negotiation on 16th August 1947 and to meet the Commissioner of Labour if necessary on 19th August 1947.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Madras Pencil Factory to Sri P. C. Sundaram Ayyangar, retired District and Sessions Judge for adjudication.

The motor workers of Hindupur have issued a notice of strike to the management of motor transport services intimating that they will go on strike after 19th August 1947, if their demand for increased wages and allowances, and reinstatement of workers are not conceded. The Labour Officer and District Magistrate, Anantapur, have been asked to settle the dispute and to advise the workers to await the result of the Court of Enquiry for Motor Transport Services and Transport Workshops.

About 50 workers of Sri Lakshmi Saw Mills, Limited, Kasaragod, South Kanara, struck work on 4th August 1947. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been instructed to advise the Union to call off the strike and to make representation to the Court of Enquiry appointed by Government for the Saw Mill Industry in Malabar and South Kanara districts. The Union has also been advised direct.

The Secretary, Bezwada Aluminium Workers' Union, Bezwada, wired on 1st August 1947 that the owners of 25 aluminium companies closed their establishments on 31st July 1947 on the refusal of the workers to accept the reduced wages paid by some factories in Rajahmundry. The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Madras, visited Rajahmundry on 8th August 1947 and Bezwada on 10th August 1947 and brought about a settlement of the dispute. The aluminium workers of Rajahmundry who have been on strike from 1st June 1947 and the aluminium workers at Bezwada, etc., resumed work on 11th August 1947. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute regarding standardisation of wages, and also scrap metal, etc., may be referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, for adjudication.

Out of 80 workers of the Aaron Handloom Factory at Pappinisseri, North Malabar, who struck work on 5th May 1947, 29 workers have resumed work so far. Further report of the Labour Officer, Calicut, is awaited.

The dispute between the workers and the management of Shanmuga Mills, Rajapalayam, has been settled on the lines of the terms suggested by the Assistant Commissioner of Labour during his visit to Rajapalayam on 18th July 1947.

As the Janakiram Mill, Rajapalayam, has not yet paid interim relief to their workers, the Sub-Magistrate, Ramnad has sanctioned the prosecution of the management. The Labour Officer, Madura, has been asked to furnish the particulars required by the Police. The result of the prosecution awaited.

suburban areas up to Tambaram. The neighbouring Panchayat Boards of Sembiam, Tiruvottiyur, Alandur and Villivakkam are being given bulk supply at 5,000 volts A.C.

The high and low tension distribution net work comprises around 275 miles of underground cables and 140 miles of overhead lines.

Load development

The growth of the undertaking in its various aspects from the commencement of supply in 1909, uptill now is indicated below: In 1909 the number of consumers was 358, the units generated were 0·5 million and the peak load was 220 K.W. In 1917, the number of consumers was 2,529, the peak load was 2,129 K.W. and the units generated were 8·2 millions. In 1925, the number of consumers was 5,445, the peak load was 4,300 K.W. and the units generated were 16·0 millions. In 1933, the number of consumers was 9,197, the peak load was 11,000 K.W. and the units generated were 37·0 millions. In 1940, the number of consumers was 15,912, the peak load was 15,400 K.W. and the units generated were 60·5 millions. In 1947, the number of consumers was 18,600, the peak load was 20,200 K.W. and the units generated were 81·93 millions (1946).

The gross annual revenue earned by the company in 1946 was about Rs. 58 lakhs.

Among the more important of the consumers served by the Madras Electric Supply Corporation are the Textile Mills of Messrs. Binny & Co., the M. & S. M. Railway Workshops, the S.I.R. Suburban electric lines, Madras, the Madras Electric Tramways, the Madras Corporation Street lighting and Water works, and the Madras Port Trust. These consumers account for 50 per cent of the load on the station, the rest being from the general domestic and industrial consumers. Messrs. Binny & Co. (Madras), Ltd., were the Managing Agents for the licensee for the greater part of the 42 years licence period.

Purchase by Government

The Government of Madras served in 1945 two years' notice on the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, intimating to them the decision of the Government to purchase the undertaking on the expiry of the three licences granted to them on the 28th of August 1947. To assess the purchase value of the property, the Government and the Madras Electric Supply Corporation have jointly appointed Messrs. Merz & McLellan, a firm of Consulting Engineers as common valuers. Pending the determination of the purchase value, the Government have made an initial payment on account of Rs. 133·33 lakhs subject to subsequent adjustment.

Staff

The management of the undertaking which will hereafter be called the Madras Electricity System will be under the control of a Superintending Engineer of the Madras Government Electricity department, assisted on the accounting side by a Chief Accounts Officer. Practically, all the existing Indian employees of the Corporation and 6 out of the 10 European officers have been retained in service under the Government for a period of one year pending permanent arrangements.

The present purchase, to be clear, does not include the Madras Electric Tramways, which has still a licence period of 7 years to run.

Government plans for development

The Government envisage a large demand for power for industries, suburban railway electrification and general use in the city and its environs in the coming years. They have planned to modernize the existing Power Station at Basin Bridge and expand it progressively to an ultimate capacity of 60,000 K.W. Their immediate plans are—(*a*) to install a new 15,000 K.W. set at Basin Bridge Power House, (*b*) Pending the commissioning of that set, to install forthwith two 2,500 K.W. transportable power sets at Basin Bridge to supply the immediate power demand, (*c*) to interconnect the Madras Thermal System and the Mettur Hydro System enabling intertransfer of power and mutual support in emergency, and (*d*) to modernize and expand the distribution network and gradually change over the whole of the D.C. area to A.C. supply.

Power Station extensions

The existing steam conditions in the Power Station, viz., 200 lb./sq.in. pressure and 600° F. temperature are uneconomical and obsolete for the size of the plant in view and they will be changed to 400 lb./sq. in. pressure and 750° F. temperature.

As a first step in the scheme of expansion, the Government sanctioned in 1945 the Madras Plant Extension Scheme with a capital outlay of Rs. 110·25 lakhs initially, rising to Rs. 244·0 lakhs in a ten-year period. Orders have already been placed for one 15,000 K.W. turbo-alternator set and three 80,000 lb./hr. capacity boilers. These extensions will be completed by 1949.

Transportable Power Station

In the meanwhile to meet the immediate demand for power, the Government are installing two 2,500 K.W. transportable power units in the Basin Bridge Power station at a cost of about Rs. 33 lakhs. These are composite turbo-alternator units supplied by oil fired steam boilers, generating steam at a pressure of 375 lb./sq. in. and a temperature of 750° F. The erection of these units is well under way and they are expected to be in service within two or three months.

Interconnexion with Mettur

The Mettur Hydro Station with an installed capacity of 40,000 K.W. has surplus power during the irrigation season of about 7 to 8 months in the year, but in the irrigation closure period of 4 to 5 months there is water shortage and Mettur needs power from other sources. A 110 K.V. interconnecting transmission line is being constructed to tie the Mettur Hydro and the Madras Thermal Stations for the purpose of exchanging power seasonally between the two systems and operating them as a Hydro-Thermal combination for mutual benefit. The capital outlay on the scheme is expected to be about Rs. 128·0 lakhs and the interconnexion will be effected in 1949.

Distribution network

The extension scheme makes provision for the progressive modernization of the distribution network, standardization of voltage at 11 K.V. for high tension supplies and 400V/220V A.C. for low tension supplies and the changeover from D.C. to A.C. for all consumers excepting the Tramways.

The Government Electricity department are already generating in their Hydro and Thermal Stations 78 per cent of all the power produced in the Province and with the acquisition of the Madras Electric Supply Corporation undertaking, they will become responsible for 98 per cent of the power produced. They have under execution a five-year plan of power development to meet the rapidly growing needs of the Province for industrial, agricultural and domestic requirements. Considerable difficulty, however, is being experienced in getting electrical plant and materials at present and as soon as the necessary equipment is got ready, considerable headway is hoped to be made in the direction of power development in the Province.

Cloth Position in Our Province

Cotton yarn

Subsequent to the last report complete figures of the All India Yarn deliveries upto April 1947 have been made available by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay. From them it is seen that the average of the total deliveries between November 1945 (when the October 1945 agreement came into operation) and April 1947, is practically the same as that taken for the purpose of the October Agreement and there is no justification whatsoever for the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, to propose a reduction in the yarn quota of this Province merely because there has been a temporary fall in yarn deliveries between January and April 1947. The Provincial Textile Commissioner has informed the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, accordingly. The Madras Government will also be addressing the Government of India in the matter.

2. As the present export obligations of this Province in yarn are too high, this Province is not getting the quantity of yarn to which it is entitled under the October Agreement. Unless and until the export obligations are reduced, there is no likelihood of this Province getting its full quota every month.

Handloom cloth

With a view to eliminate all bogus handloom, the Provincial Textile Commissioner has requested the Collectors to arrange for a census of looms with the help of the Village and Rationing Advisory Committees. As soon as the census is completed and a complete picture of the position regarding the existing number of handlooms in each district is available the District quotas will be revised suitably.

Mill cloth

October quota.—Out of a quota of 4,531 bales at Bombay 2¼ bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, and 2 bales are awaiting transport.

November quota.—At Bombay out of a quota of 4,780 bales, 9 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner.

December quota.—No allocation.

January 1947 *quota.*—The entire quota at Bombay and Ahmedabad has been purchased and despatched.

February 1947 *quota.*—32 bales out of a quota of 4,148 bales at Bombay have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 31 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad out of a quota of 2,234 bales 1,208 bales have been transferred to Bombay. Out of this, 24½ bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay. The balance of the quota at Ahmedabad has already been released and transported to this Province.

March 1947 *quota.*—At Bombay out of a quota of 2,122 bales, 23 bales have still to be released and 35½ bales are awaiting transport.

March special quota.—Out of a quota of 5,046 bales at Bombay, 278¾ bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner.

April 1947 *quota.*—98¾ bales out of a quota of 7,505 bales at Bombay have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 1,300¼ bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad the entire quota of 2,436 bales has been purchased and two bales are awaiting transport.

May 1947 *quota.*—Two hundred and ninety-six bales out of a quota of 2,564 bales from Bombay centre have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 1,322 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad the entire quota of 3,382 bales has been purchased and 70 bales are awaiting transport.

June 1947 *quota.*—At Bombay 2,381 bales out of a quota of 3,358 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 934 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad, 685 bales out of a quota of 4,577 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 2,343 bales are awaiting transport. At Baroda, the entire quota of 500 bales has been purchased and 259¾ bales are awaiting transport.

July 1947 *quota.*—Purchase Authorities have not yet been issued by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay.

A total quantity of 9,512¼ bales has been received from the Bombay surplus area in this Province and distributed during the period under review.

Week ending 7th June 1947 ..	2,545¼
Week ending 14th June 1947..	2,146
Week ending 21st June 1947 ..	3,276½
Week ending 28th June 1947..	1,544½
	9,512¾

3. Also a total quantity of about 3,915½ bales of South Indian Mill production has been received and distributed during the period under review.

4. The statement below gives the receipts and arrears of cotton cloth and yarn for June 1947 and May 1947 respectively:

	Arrears at the beginning of the month.	*Quota received*		*Total.*	*Arrears at the end of the month.*
Quota for the month.		*Out of the quota for the month.*	*Out of the arrears.*		
		..	9512¼	9512¼	8719½
June : 8685	9546¾	May 1947.			
		Yarn in bales of 400 lb.			
		(Not furnished by the Mills).		1915¼	8056
May : 21,574	5636				

Mills.—The Buckingham and Carnatic Mills reopened at about the end of June 1947 and are now working to their full capacity.

Enforcement.—The case against the Lotus Mills, Coimbatore, ended in acquittal in appeal before the District Judge, Coimbatore.

Rationing and distribution of Mill cloth.—During the month of June 1947 the Government have passed two important orders to smoothen the working of the Rationing Scheme. The first relates to the exclusion of certain varieties of cloth from the scheme and the introduction of the principle of quarterly lapses of rations not drawn, retaining the option to draw the full advance with the consumers. The second relates to the delegation of powers to issue special permits to routine case to Collectors. The working of these concessions is being watched.

The schemes for the overhauling of licences in several districts have been approved by the Government and communicated to the Collectors. They will soon be brought into force in all the districts.

The management of the New Bharat Match Works, Vilattikulam P.O., Tinnevelly district, report that about 79 daily paid workers out of 98 workers employed in their factory struck work at 8 a.m. on 11th August 1947, demanding increased rates of wages. The Labour Officer, Madura, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

The Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, reports that there is no change in the strike situation in the Scindia Shipyard, Vizagapatam. The representatives of the workers Union who went to Bombay to see if an amicable settlement of the issues in dispute could be brought about by direct negotiation with the head office of the company at Bombay have returned without coming to any settlement. The representatives of Labour have been instructed to advise the workers to resume work immediately as Government have prohibited the continuance of the strike and as the Adjudicator will commence his findings soon.

For the fortnight ending 31st August 1947

Almost all the factories and other commercial undertakings in the Province celebrated " Transfer of Power " day by flood-lighting their premises and declaring 15th and 16th August as holidays with wages. ' Independence-bonus ' was paid to the workers in some cases.

In their Order Ms. No. 4107, Development, dated 21st August 1947, the Government of Madras have (on an interim report of the Court of Enquiry constituted to go into all problems connected with the working conditions of labour in Motor Transport services, Motor Transport workshops, etc., in the Province) asked all the individual operators and companies who have not paid any bonus to their workers during the last twelve months to pay a bonus of one month's basic wages to the workers who have completed twelve months' service on June 30 and a bonus of 15 days' wages to the workers who have completed six months service but less than twelve months on that date.

In their Order Ms. No. 4160, Development, dated 25th August 1947, the Government of Madras have appointed a wage board for determining the wage structure and for preparing standardised occupational nomenclature in textile mills with the Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Madras, as sole member of the board with power to co-opt four assessors, viz., two representing employers and two labourers for each area as and when a study is made by the board in the area i.e., for Madura, Coimbatore and for Madras inclusive of other places.

The workers, drivers, conductors and cleaners, numbering about 350 of South Indian Bus Transport Limited, Madras, and the Automotive Sales and Service Company, Limited (S.I.B.T. workshops), struck work on 19th August 1947 demanding reinstatement of some discharged workers, supply of uniforms, bonus, etc. A settlement was brought about on 19th August 1947 between the management and the General Secretary of the Madras Motor Drivers' Association by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. The strikers resumed work on the morning of 20th August 1947.

The General Secretary, Motor Workers' Union, Uravakonda, Anantapur district, has given notice of strike to the management of U.B.S., Ltd., Uravakonda, intimating that the workers would go on strike on or after 20th August 1947 if the award of the adjudicator regarding interim relief was not implemented before that. The Labour Officer, Anantapur, has been asked to settle the dispute and to advise the workers to await the result of the Court of Enquiry.

The South Indian Silk Mills, Limited, Gudiyattam, which was closed on 29th March 1947, was reopend on 25th August 1947 and work resumed on the intervention of the Labour Officer, Vellore, and the Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

The management of the Sarada Mill, Coimbatore, closed the factory on 9th August 1947 on the allegation that the workers assaulted the General Manager of the mills. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the mill was reopened and work resumed on 18th August 1947.

Out of 395 workers, 341 workers of Sri Balasubramania Mills, Limited, Singanallur, Coimbatore district, staged a stay-in-strike from 7-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. on 22nd August 1947, demanding reinstatement of five temporary workers who were discharged for want of work, and reinstatement of nine reelers who did not turn up for work on the due dates after maternity leave, etc.

About 415 workers of the Brooke Bond Tea Company, Limited, Coimbatore, staged a stay-in-strike on 23rd August 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of a worker. Twenty-fourth was Sunday. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Coimbatore, the workers resumed work on 25th August 1947.

The management of Sri Ramachandra Spinning and Weaving Mills, Limited, Pandalapaka, have not yet lifted the lock-out of their mills in spite of the prohibition of continuance of the lock-out by Government. The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has addressed Government to issue instructions to the District Magistrate, Cocanada, to take action against the management.

In G.O. No. 4085, Development, dated 17th August 1947, and G.O. No. 4086, Development, dated 17th August 1947, the Government of Madras have accepted the awards of the Industrial Tribunal (District and Sessions Judge, West Godavari) in the disputes between the workers and the management of the Krishna Jute Mills, Ellore, regarding wages, dismissal of workers, bonus, provident fund, etc.

In their Order Ms. No. 4105, Development, dated 20th August 1947, the Government of Madras have directed that the adjudication proceedings in the dispute between the workers and the managements of Motor services in the West Godavari district be dropped consequent on the appointment of a Court of Enquiry into the conditions of the Motor Transport services and workshops in the Province (G.O. Ms. No. 697, Development, dated 22nd February 1947), as requested by the managements and the workers.

The workers of Sri Lakshmi Saw Mills, Limited, Kasaragod, South Kanara, who struck work on 4th August 1947, resumed work on 22nd August 1947.

The teachers of the Madura municipal elementary schools, Madura, who were on strike from 25th June 1947, resumed work on 14th August 1947 as a result of direct negotiations between the Municipal Commissioner, Madura, and the Teachers' Union. The period of their absence has been treated as leave without pay.

In their Order Ms. No. 4134, Development, dated 22nd August 1947, the Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Angu Vilas Scented Tobacco and Cigar Factory, Dindigul, to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication.

In their Order Ms. No. 3940, Development, dated 6th August 1947, the Government of Madras have accorded sanction for the acquisition of land for housing the workers of the Cannanore Spinning and Weaving Mills, Limited, Cannanore.

The N.V.G.B. Motor Workers' Union, Calicut, has given notice of strike to the management of the N.V.G.B. Motor Service, Calicut, intimating that the workers will go on strike if their demands for recognition of the Union, service conditions, etc., are not conceded. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been instructed to advise the Union not to precipitate a strike but to await the result of the Court of Enquiry.

The Chandrasekara Bharathi Weaving Mills, Rajapalayam, notified their workers on 20th August 1947 that the mills would be closed down from 21st August 1947 due to delay in the receipt of yarn allotment for July 1947. The Provincial Textile Commissioner has been requested to take necessary action in the matter.

The workers of the Cauvery Colour Press, Kumbakonam, have struck work from 8-30 a.m. on 20th August 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of a worker for failure to report for duty and for impertinent behaviour. The dispute was settled by the Inspector of Factories, Tanjore, and work was resumed on 23rd August 1947. It is now reported that the workers of this press and some smaller presses in Kumbakonam have struck work on 27th August 1947. The Labour Officer, Trichinopoly, has been asked to visit Kumbakonam and to settle the dispute.

Government Take Over Madras Electric Supply Corporation

A Retrospect and Prospect

On the eve of the taking over of the Madras Electric Supply Corporation, Limited, by the Government of Madras—a big step forward in the nationalization of the electric supply industry in this province—it is in the fitness of things that a retrospect and a prospect of the undertaking is given to the public.

The history of this undertaking dates back to 1905, when a licence was granted to Messrs. Crompton & Co., Ltd., in that year for the generation and supply of electricity in the City of Madras for a period of 42 years. (This period ended on the 28th of August 1947.) Messrs. Crompton & Co., Ltd., transferred the licence to the Madras Electric Supply Corporation (a joint stock company incorporated in England) early in 1906. In 1909 and 1910, licences for supply to the Madras Port Trust and the Madras Cantonment Areas respectively were also granted to the Corporation. The activities of the company started in a humble way with an initial generating plant comprising two 250 K.W. and three 500 K.W. D.C. generators and two 250 K.W. and two 500 K.W. Alternators operated at 5 K.W. 25 cycles 3 phase. These were driven by steam engines fed from five stirling water tube boilers.

Only two sub-stations were installed in the City, one at Egmore and the other at Mylapore with the necessary mains in the compulsory areas. With this limited plant, supply was commenced in April 1909. With the steadily growing demand for power in the City, the company made extensions to the generating and distribution systems from time to time and to-day the magnitude of the undertaking is as indicated below.

Power Station

The Power Station is located near the Basin Bridge Railway Station on a 30 acre piece of land and has the following plant and equipment: 3 turbo-alternators with a capacity of 1,500 K.W., one turbo-alternator with a capacity of 5,000 K.W., one turbo-alternator with a capacity of 6,000 K.W., one turbo-alternator with a capacity of 12,500 K.W., and one turbo-alternator with a capacity of 15,000 K.W. Generation is at 5,000 volts 50 cycles and 3 phase.

So far as Boiler Plant is concerned, the Power Station has the following equipment: 4 Boilers—15,000 lb./hr., 2 Boilers—40,000 lb./hr., 3 Boilers—60,000 lb./hr. The steam conditions are 200 lb./sq.in. pressure and 600° F. temperature.

Cooling water system

The cooling water for the condensers is supplied by a closed circulation system through three cooling towers. The natural draught tower is 164 feet high and is a landmark in the city.

Coal and ash conveyors

Coal is supplied to the overhead bunkers of the boilers by means of a semi-automatic bucket type conveyor of 20 tons per hour capacity, originally installed in 1914 and gradually extended.

The ash from the boilers is removed by means of an automatic ash conveyor installed in 1932 of capacity of 10 tons per hour.

Distribution

Supply to the consumers in the central areas of the City is at 440 volts D.C. for motors and 220 volts D.C. for domestic lighting, fans and small power. Consumers in the outlying areas like Mambalam, San Thomé, Adyar, Saidapet, Kilpauk and Rayapuram are afforded A.C. supply at 440 volts 3 phase and 250 volts single phase. The supply to the Tramways is at 500 volts D.C. There are 6 Rotary Convertor Sub-stations at Egmore, East Georgetown, Mount Road, Mylapore, Chetput and West Georgetown, with an aggregate installed capacity of 13,500 K.W. of converter plant. A.C. power at 5,000 volts 3 phase is transmitted through underground mains from the Power Station to the above sub-stations and converted into D.C. for supply to the consumers and the Tramways.

There are 4 Rectifier Sub-stations at Bells Road, Moore Market, Nungambakkam and China Bazaar with an aggregate installed capacity of 2,750 K.W. of rectifier plant. These sub-stations also convert A.C. power to D.C. but they supply only the lighting and power loads and not the Tramways.

For the A.C. areas there are 8 static sub-stations at Adyar, San Thome, Cooks Road, Mambalam, Saidapet, Kilpauk, P.W.D. Workshops compound and Rayapuram with an aggregate installed transformer capacity of 4,500 K.W. Besides, there are 63 pole mounted transformer sub-stations. At these stations 5,000 volts A.C. power is stepped down to 440/250V A.C. for supply to consumers.

Extension of the licence to Tambaram was sanctioned by Government in 1934 and a 33 K.V. transmission line from Kilpauk to Tambaram with outdoor 33 K.V./5 K.V. transformer sub-stations at Kodambakkam, St. Thomas' Mount, Mambalam, Pallavaram, Chromepet and Tambaram went into service in 1937 for supply in the

Administration Report on Certain Tribes

The following is a summary of salient features of the Administration Report for 1946 on Kallar, Korava, and Yenadi Reclamation and Criminal Tribes Settlements.

The salient features of the administration report on Kallar, Korava and Yenadi Reclamation and Criminal Tribes Settlements for the year 1946 are :

In the Madura North district, the number of Kallars removed from the Criminal Tribes Register on account of good conduct or other causes showed a marked increase during the year under review, being 4,489 in 1946 as against 306 in 1945. There was also a marked decrease in the number of persons kept under reporting. This number fell from 377 in 1945 to 104 in 1946.

In the Madura South district also, there was marked increase during the year under review in the number of Kallars removed from the Criminal Tribes Register on account of good conduct and other causes, and a corresponding decrease in the number on the rolls. The number removed from the register in 1946 was 12,027 against 1,884 in 1945. There was also a marked decrease in the number of persons kept under 'reporting.' The number fell from 45 in 1945 to 4 in 1946.

During the year under review the Government decided to repeal the Criminal Tribes Act in its application to this Province. Pending legislation on the subject, the Government directed that no person should be newly registered under the Criminal Tribes Act and that no fresh restrictions under the Criminal Tribes Act should be imposed on any Criminal Tribes member. Government have also ordered subsequently that restrictions under the Criminal Tribes Act should not be enforced against criminal tribes members outside the settlements.

Municipal Water-supply and Drainage Schemes

The progress of the work on water-supply and drainage schemes in the Province came perforce to a standstill during the years of the war. Not only had the available technical personnel to be engaged on essential works connected with the prosecution of the war, but also the paucity of building materials and the diversion of all plant and machinery for war works made it impossible to push through the execution of those peace-time schemes, whatever their stage of progress when the war broke out. Only the investigation and design of schemes was being proceeded with in a limited way such as was possible in the extraordinary conditions prevailing.

With the cessation of hostilities, the Provincial Government ushered in their Blue Prints for postwar plans, and drew up a provincial compendium of water-supply and drainage schemes for all towns and villages (with population exceeding 10,000 in the case of water-supply and 5,000 in the case of drainage schemes) arranged in the order of priority on public health considerations on a province-wide basis.

The investigation of schemes and the drawing up of plans and estimates has accordingly been taken up at as near the normal pace as is possible. The cessation of hostilities has brought in its wake unsettled conditions of labour, rising prices for materials, and keen competition for proprietary articles of local and foreign manufacture, i.e., cast iron pipes and specials, pumping plants and machinery, etc., such as would make normal resumption of activities on the design and execution of these schemes difficult even if the requisite finances were available. But the ever-growing cost of materials and labour adds to the complication.

In spite of these difficulties of the times and with paucity of technical and trained men continuing as ever before, tangible progress has been made in the investigation, design and execution of schemes, since the cessation of hostilities, as could be seen from the details below :

Investigation of schemes.—Six water-supply schemes (some of them joint schemes for two or more places) were investigated in detail and reports submitted. The estimated cost of the schemes investigated is about Rs. 88 lakhs, of which Mangalore Water-supply Scheme alone accounts for Rs. 51 lakhs.

Four drainage schemes were investigated, the rough cost of the schemes being about Rs. 10 lakhs.

Further investigations are in progress in different parts of the Province and a proposal is before Government to appoint two Assistant Engineers and two Supervisors additionally so as to get more schemes investigated speedily.

Design of schemes.—As many as 13 water-supply schemes have been handled. The work covered a few new schemes, and the revision of several previously sanctioned schemes for current rates, or for a higher population or for a higher per capita supply (following the Bhore Committee recommendations) or other modifications called for—total cost of the schemes thus handled being about Rs. 67 lakhs.

Six drainage schemes, costing about Rs. 30 lakhs were dealt with, at various stages of design.

As a special and urgent item of work, the water-supply and drainage schemes for the Tungabhadra Project colony were prepared in full shape and submitted. The work is in rapid progress now.

Execution of schemes.—The pace of execution is inevitably linked with the finances allotted for such works. It is here that the soaring prices of building materials, non-availability of controlled articles, and keen competition for and long delays in getting foreign plant and machinery, held up many a scheme at some stage or other in its progress. In the face of such odds, the completion of water-supply and drainage schemes held up for the period of the war is being steadily aimed at. Active steps here been and are being taken to procure the necessary controlled and proprietary articles, pumps, plant and machinery, etc., so that the schemes may be brought into service as soon as possible.

About 20 schemes (water-supply and drainage) have been restarted on the above lines and every endeavour is being made to bring them into fruition with the least delay under existing conditions. A provision of Rs. 28·3 lakhs is made in the P.W.D. Budget for 1947–48 towards grant and loan for these works. Among the major schemes under execution mention may be made of the Water Supply Schemes of Guntur, Salem, Trichinopoly, Madura, Calicut and Cochin and the Drainage Schemes of Coimbatore, Srirangam, Negapatam and Chittoor.

Tuberculosis and the Means to Combat the Disease

The following is a discussion between two medical men—Dr. K. Vasudeva Rao and Dr. A. Vasudevan, broadcast from the Madras Station of the All-India Radio.

Dr. A.V.—What is your impression about the position of Tuberculosis in our Presidency ?

Dr. K.V.—The population of the Presidency of Madras is about 49,341,810 according to 1941 census, out of which 225,000 die of tuberculosis of the lungs every year. For every case that dies from tuberculosis, there are at least 10 people who are suffering from the disease and yet are not resorting to hospitals for diagnosis and treatment. Thus, nearly 2,250,000 people in the whole presidency are suffering from tuberculosis.

Now taking Madras City alone, at the Tuberculosis Institute at Egmore we get at least on an average about 4 to 5 thousand cases—open cases of tuberculosis—or cases which are infectious. Thus you will see that Tuberculosis is very rampant all over the Presidency and in the City as well.

Dr. A.V.—The statistics are alarming. Certainly something must be done to combat this disease. This problem has to be tackled on the same lines as in the Western countries.

Dr. K.V.—For instance, the incidence of Tuberculosis in England before 1939 was about 93 per 100,000, Scotland about 100 per 100,000, Ireland 106 per 100,000, New York 64 per 100,000, New Zealand 32 per 100,000 and Madras 456 per 100,000.

Dr. A.V.—Doctor, how can you explain this appalling disparity ?

Dr. K.V.—In the West, an intensive anti-tuberculosis propaganda has been carried on for the last sixty years, the starting of this being in 1885 by Sir Robert Philip in Edinborough. From that time onwards, intensive propaganda has and is being done to combat tuberculosis and a comprehensive anti-tuberculosis scheme has been in existence with the establishment of dispensaries, hospitals, sanatoria and settlements.

The dispensaries should perform the following functions—a centre of examination and diagnosis, a centre of contact examination, a centre of sorting cases, a centre of medical education, a centre of propaganda and a centre of information bureau.

The hospitals and sanatoria receive all open cases that are sent over by the clinics, and the colonies or settlements take in ex-patients from sanatoria for some period till they become more and more acclimatized and their strength becomes stabilized so that they may be in a position to stand in competition with other healthy individuals. Ex-patients cannot stand competition with other healthy individuals the moment they are out of hospital, as the period of first two years after discharge from the hospital is the most vulnerable period for relapses.

Dr. A.V.—With the establishment of these institutions, practically every open case is segregated.

Dr. K.V.—Yes. In almost all Western countries, notably in Denmark, Norway and New Zealand, there is a large provision of beds. For every death that takes place, there is provision of 1½ beds in Denmark, 2 in New Zealand and 3 in Norway.

Hence the marked reduction in the death rate from tuberculosis in these countries.

Dr. A.V.—Has B.C.G. Vaccine any value in the reduction of tuberculosis mortality ?

Dr. K.V.—Of recent years, a great advance has been made in the prevention of tuberculosis by B.C.G. Vaccine, and the mortality from tuberculosis has been to a very large extent reduced in Norway by this method.

Dr. A.V.—You seem to emphasize the importance of contact examination ? What exactly is contact examination and what part does it play in the prevention of tuberculosis ?

Dr. K.V.—It is the examination of individuals who come in contact with open or infectious cases of tuberculosis. In the case of any individual suffering from open tuberculosis in a house, his relations and friends who come in close contact with him have every chance of catching the infection. It has been worked out that a certain percentage of the contacts actually get the disease by close association with the relations or friends suffering from this disease.

By means of this examination, the doctor is able to detect the presence of tuberculosis disease and compels the patient to seek advice at a hospital. This early diagnosis is very useful and important as it ensures a speedier recovery and shorter stay in an institution.

Dr. A.V.—Well, I entirely agree with you. This is a very important aspect in the prevention of the disease, but I wonder how far this is being done at Madras.

Dr. K.V.—Contact examination is being done at the Tuberculosis Institute, Egmore. There is one doctor and one health visitor who are solely engaged in this work. Every open case that is detected in the Institute is taken over by the Contact Doctor, a Contact Card is filled in giving particulars of his occupation, type of house, number of inmates, nature of ventilation, number of living rooms, drainage and sanitation, etc., and the patient is asked to bring as many of his contacts as possible to the institute for examination. If there are other tenants in his house, letters are sent to the heads of these tenants informing them of the presence of an open case of tuberculosis in that particular house and advising them to get themselves examined as a preventive measure. This examination is done free of all obligations, either at the institute or in the homes of the contacts. The tenants are requested to let the doctor know the exact time when he could visit them. During the last four months, the Institute doctor has visited nearly 360 houses and the percentage of contacts who showed symptoms of active disease was found to be nearly 3 per cent. This is almost three times the contact infection usually present in Western countries.

Dr. A.V.—As a practitioner in the City of Madras, I am not surprised at this. And I think we can easily explain the cause. I have found that living conditions in Madras are so bad—very ill-ventilated houses, insufficient accommodation, over-crowding with vicious atmosphere. For instance, in a place like Trichinopoly, we have what are called "Stores," with congested, ill-ventilated, over-crowded houses, which are breeding places of tuberculosis, and where a number of families live in very close contact, [illegible] sardines. The very [illegible]

conditions of the Province, resulting in under-feeding, low resistance and low calorific and poor nutritive value of the food, which is insufficient in quantity and quality is a potent factor.

Dr. K.V.—True, I agree with you, the economic conditions are very poor; out of 3,000 contacts examined at the Tuberculosis Institute, 2,820 had no income at all and the income of the remaining 180 was less than Rs. 35 per month.

Dr. A.V.—Thirty-five rupees is hardly enough for healthy lives to keep on and a tubercular patient requires more nourishment and good diet. It is no wonder that he has very little chance of recovery. And what happens to the other 2,820 who have no income at all and who are actually starving? Something should be done to ease this aspect of the problem.

Dr. K.V.—At present in Madras Presidency, we have no organized attempt made to combat tuberculosis in any aspect. In Western countries, every borough has got what is called an After-Care Committee, whose main function it is to give aid to patients, their families and who are in need of help either financial or in kind. For instance, for each bread-winner of the family who is an in-patient in a hospital, the After-Care Committee undertakes to look after the members of his family till such time as the patient comes out of the hospital well. This not only relieves the anxiety of the family but at the same time allows the patient peace of mind to continue the treatment for the required length of the time so that he may have a better chance of recovery than what he would have if he were worried about his wife and children. It is possible to have some committee like this in Madras.

Dr. A.V.—Another factor that is responsible for the said situation is the ignorance of the common man. Even the so-called educated people are ignorant of the nature—the infective nature of the disease. It is a pity that this should be so, and an intensive propaganda is very necessary to spread the knowledge of the nature of the disease and how best we can combat the disease and what to do when infected.

Dr. K.V.—Of course, the importance of propaganda in tackling the problem cannot be over-estimated. This is being done in the institute among the patients by distribution of pamphlets in all languages, by lectures in schools, cinema demonstrations and lantern-slides lectures. Whenever opportunity occurs, the propaganda is done by taking a stall in exhibition. This is not enough. More propaganda is necessary by popular lectures, by magic lanterns, cinema shows, so that more enthusiasm may be aroused among the public.

Dr. A.V.—You mentioned that sorting of cases is one of the functions of the clinic. Can you enlighten me as to what this means, and how it is done?

Dr. K.V.—In any tuberculosis clinic, as soon as cases are diagnosed, the cases which are found to be suitable for institutional treatment have to be sent to the institutions for further treatment. That is, cases suitable for hospital treatment are sent over to hospitals; cases suitable for sanatorium are sent over to a sanatorium and cases which are very early are treated in the dispensaries and cases which are far advanced, where nothing can be done, are treated at their own homes—this is what is called domiciliary treatment. The clinic doctor visits these advanced cases and tries to make their lives as comfortable as possible, till something happens to the patients. But the greater part of his attention is bestowed on the preventive aspect, that is, to see that infection is not spread to other inmates of the house.

Dr. A.V.—And that brings me to the most important question, viz., the adequacy of the accommodation for the treatment of tuberculosis patients.

Dr. K.V.—The present accommodation is very meagre indeed. For the whole City of Madras, we have one hospital at Royapetta with 62 beds and one Sanatorium at Tambaram with 100 beds, thus making a total of 162 beds for the whole City with a population of nearly 14 lakhs. The Corporation is building a Tuberculosis Hospital for 48 beds and it will probably be ready for occupation in two or three months. The number of people diagnosed to be suffering from tuberculosis at the Tuberculosis Institute every year is in the neighbourhood of 4 to 5 thousand. Both these institutions, hospital and sanatoria, put together cannot accommodate more than 300 patients, because no stay of less than six months has any useful effect on a tubercular patient and therefore each bed can accommodate only two patients in a year. Very many patients have to be refused admission into hospitals due to overcrowding.

Dr. A.V.—This is true of Madras. What about the districts?

Dr. K.V.—Attempts are being made to start Tuberculosis Hospitals and Sanatoria in the various districts of the Presidency. There is a Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Perundurai and a Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Trichinopoly recently opened by the Hon'ble Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar. I find that the Jail Sanatorium at Bellary has been taken over by the Medical department of the Government of Madras to be used as a Civil Sanatorium. Attempts are being made to start Sanatoria in Vizagapatam, in Kurnool, Ramnad and in Tanjore districts. In some of the Headquarters Hospitals a few beds are now available for the treatment of tuberculosis.

Because of the enormous inadequacy of institutional treatment, Her Excellency Lady Linlithgow made a nation-wide appeal in 1938, and as a result of the appeal nearly 85 lakhs were collected from the whole of India. Five per cent of this was retained by the Centre and 95 per cent was given back to the Provinces. Madras Presidency was able to get Rs. 4·7 lakhs. With the raising of the fund, a Tuberculosis Association of India was formed with Delhi as its centre and every Province has a Provincial Tuberculosis Association. Madras has got one such Association.

A comprehensive scheme has been drawn up for combating tuberculosis in the Presidency.

It is proposed to have one sanatorium for a population of four districts; thus there will be six sanatoria for the Presidency.

Education Department at work

Salient features for August 1947

General.—Sri T. P. Santanakrishna Naidu, B.A., L.T., District Educational Officer, has been appointed temporarily as a Special Officer to prepare the report on Public Instruction in the Madras Presidency during the quinquennium 1942–47.

Education—Special.—A Nursery Training Section has been started in the Lady Willingdon Training College, Madras, and a fresh batch of students is being admitted to training during the school year 1947–48.

Pandits' Training Classes.—The training section opened recently in the Teachers' College, Saidapet, for the training of Tamil Pandits has since been closed on account of its very poor strength.

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Local Administration Powers

The following is a discussion between the Hon'ble Sri Chandramowli and Mr. A. N. Sivaraman, broadcast from the A.I.R., Madras.

Mr. Sivaraman.—Good evening, Mr. Chandramowli. It is indeed a pleasure to be able to meet you and get some clarification of your plans for local administration?

Mr. Chandramowli.—Yes, I shall be only too glad to express my views. But the subject is so vast that I wonder whether we can finish it in the next few minutes.

Mr. S.—I can see your point, and I quite agree with you. May be, you would like to split the subject into various heads.

Mr. C.—I should think that it would be better if we take the subject under three heads, namely, powers of local bodies, their resources and franchise.

Mr. S.—Yes. That suits me quite well. Let us take up the first of the three tonight—powers. What powers would you assign to local bodies?

Mr. C.—Generally, I would like to give wide powers to the local bodies, so that the entire administration will run smooth, getting assistance and co-operation from the public.

Mr. S.—So, you are in favour of giving the maximum amount of power to local bodies?

Mr. C.—Yes.

Mr. S.—And when you say "yes", you of course mean, consistent with efficiency.

Mr. C.—Certainly. That goes without saying. A new Panchayat Act, granting a good deal of autonomy to village panchayats to manage their own affairs is at present under the active consideration of the Madras Cabinet.

Mr. S.—When we discuss the quantum of autonomy, I think we must study it alongside the question of structure, areas and functions of local bodies. So, before I ask you for elucidation in respect of powers . . .

Mr. C.—I know, you want to have an overall picture of the general set-up.

Mr. S.—Your guess is correct. What I wanted to ask you was this. Is it your intention to have panchayats in every village and town, and no other type of local self-governing body?

Mr. C.—Yes. Village panchayats for villages and municipalities for towns.



Mr. S.—So, you would take the village as the unit. Every village will be a unit and will have a local body for itself. Do you think of having some local body functioning for a group of villages?

Mr. C.—Barring cities, that is towns, where we will have municipalities, I don't want to have any intermediate body between the Government and the village administration.

Mr. S.—By village, you mean the Revenue village.

Mr. C.—Yes.

Mr. S.—Will you have a village panchayat even when the population is less than a thousand?

Mr. C.—In fact, I would like that each village having about 500 people should have a panchayat.

Mr. S.—Where the population is about 500, the number of houses may be somewhere near a hundred, and it may not be possible to vest in those villages any powers regarding education or what may be called public health, medical service and the like.

Mr. C.—The vesting of the power does not depend upon the area covered by local bodies, I mean the size. But I do understand that education comes under a special category. That is why I am of the opinion that the State should have control over education; but as far as public health is concerned, local bodies whether small or big can manage it. They can look after the health, sanitary conditions and other amenities efficiently.

Mr. S.—I was wondering whether you should not treat health and environmental sanitation as separate aspects. I think it is generally accepted by the Government that the term 'health' would include such items as vaccination, health survey, child-welfare centres, nursing staff, and all that. Do you not think that a village will be too small a unit to manage all this?

Mr. C.—So long as we have one hundred houses, I can't call it a small unit. It could have a doctor, a child-welfare centre, a vaccination and sanitary post. Of course in certain exceptional cases, some of the villages may be grouped or clubbed together for a specific purpose and can function jointly. For example, there are interconnecting roads in villages, and they have to co-operate and contribute their share proportionate to their size. That is how co-ordination will go in certain respects.

Mr. S.—But will there be no organizational set-up for such co-ordination?

Mr. C.—There need not be any special organizational set-up so long as we have officers over these bodies to supervise and check, and do other things.

Mr. S.—I see. I understand your point. But I still have this doubt, namely, having a nurse and a doctor, may cost about Rs. 3,000 a year, and I wonder if a village with a population of 500 will have enough revenue to bear this responsibility all by itself.

Mr. C.—That is why we want to increase the financial resources of local bodies, not depending upon the provincial Government for assistance. They will be authorized to levy certain local taxes, a portion of the village land revenues and other resources, such as cleaning of tanks and wells, grass sales, etc. Such things will fetch a fairly good amount of money and they can manage locally in this manner. There is the house tax, and they can have market tax, vehicle tax, water tax. Besides these local taxes, Government would also come to their assistance, when really needed. We are even collecting cesses.

Mr. S.—When you mention cess, I wonder if it is not something like an automatic tax. Could you tell me if the villagers will be allowed to decide the rate of that cess.

Mr. C.—Yes.

Mr. S.—And education will be outside their purview and the education cess will go to the provincial Government.

Mr. C.—Yes. Education must be compulsory and uniform and unless the State comes and takes up its control you can never liquidate illiteracy.

Mr. S.—Do you create any compulsory obligations on the village panchayat? Would you say that the panchayat shall provide such and such amenities, etc.?

Mr. C.—I won't say that we would compel them, but they have got to perform certain obligations, which, whether there is compulsion or not, any responsible body will do.

Mr. S.—Supposing the villagers decide that some particular amenity is superfluous and they don't want to tax themselves for that expenditure, will they have freedom of decision in that matter?

Mr. C.—No, they cannot have such freedom. Because, for example, if they decide not to have sweepers, they cannot be allowed to have rubbish in the streets, and expose the people to the dangers of insanitary conditions. In such cases, I would certainly wish that action is taken if they ignore such elementary and primary duties.

Mr. S.—But the villagers may think rubbish removal is looked after by the householders and may not be willing to tax themselves. I am sorry. I should not argue. My role is to get your views. What you mean is that the Government will have powers to change the decisions made by local bodies.

Mr. C.—The provincial Government will have powers of supervision and at times can take control.

Mr. S.—So the Government will have an officer for a group of villages to supervise and see that the panchayats perform their duties well.

Mr. C.—Yes, I do not want that the officers should interfere in every work, but they should supervise and see if the duties are discharged properly.

Mr. S.—So, your Inspectors will go to each panchayat and see whether there are proper arrangements of sanitation, repairs of irrigarion channels and other amenities.

Mr. C.—He must report to the Government, if there are no proper arrangements. In the first instance, he must instruct the panchayats to attend to the same. In case they do not, he will report to the Government.

Mr. S.—But the Government will have to verify through the same person?

Mr. C.—It won't be difficult to do this.

Mr. S.—So, the panchayat are to be in fact under surveillance.

Mr. C.—Not exactly. If each one of the panchayats shouldered the responsibility of taking care of their villages, they will have the advantage of health and prosperity. Their decisions will not be overriden every time. Matters of local interest may become State problems tomorrow. It is necessary for Government to have some control and supervision.

Mr. S.—What is the process by which Government's control is exercised?

Mr. C.—When the Panchayat Officers report against a panchayat the Government immediately calls for records, asks for their explanation and takes the necessary steps. The Government will then decide to give instructions to the panchayat concerned. If the panchayat does not take action, the Government will override it, and order them to act. Or the panchayat board will be dissolved and superseded. It may look arbitrary, but in the general interests of the people, this may have to be done. This is the control which the Government will have.

Mr. S.—There is only one person between the local body and the Government—the officer? So the officer is the sole judge of the requirements of the village.

Mr. C.—Not exactly.

Mr. S.—I was wondering if it is not better to have a democratic supervisory body between the Government and the panchayats. May be a taluk board, or a firka board. Would that not be a more democratic arrangement? They may also do the co-ordination work between villagers, who cannot afford to do certain things independently.

Mr. C.—One Panchayat Officer will be in charge of a group of villages. His responsibilities and duties are prescribed, there may not be any difficulty in running the routine.

And the Government is always there. If the officer is found to be not doing his duties properly, action will be taken against him, even by dismissing him. He is given certain duties and powers, and he has to go by them.

Mr. S.—So the Panchayat Officer will function as the eyes and ears of the Government? But again I have this difficulty. Freedom really means freedom to decide what is good for themselves. Do you propose to establish a panchayat in every village compulsorily? Or would you like them to decide whether they should have panchayat or not.

Mr. C.—When once the general principle is decided that it is good to have such bodies, for the welfare of the people, a legislation is necessary. Legislation means compulsion. I would like such sort of legislation or compulsion, whether the people like it or not.

Mr. S.—If the population of a village is only 500, the panchayat would compare with the parish councils, and the parish councils have very little work. The parish council mostly looks up to the rural district council firstly, and to the county council for the best part of the amenities that they need. Do you not think that in the absence of such set-up, the powers that we give to these bodies may not be operative.

Mr. C.—There must be some general sense of administrative possibilities in the people also. It will not become inoperative. Because, the parish councils in England have done more good to the people than Parliament itself.

Mr. S.—The good that they do is through close contact they keep with the rural district council and county council in regard to their particular needs. Their main functions are to bring to the notice of the rural district council and the county council what exactly their requirements are.

Mr. C.—In England they have more of city life, and here we have more of rural life. Ninety per cent of the population is in the villages. You cannot exactly copy that here.

Mr. S.—I agree that we cannot copy England. But would you want these 22,000 villages as isolated units looking up to Madras which is not within their geographical range of communication, enabling them to make personal contacts?

Mr. C.—But the villages can combine for certain purposes and have joint amenities. They will be given powers and resources. They need not approach the Government for everything.

Mr. S.—What exactly are the functions which you would make more or less obligatory for the panchayats?

Mr. C.—Irrigation facilities, canal clearing, cattle grazing; we are also giving them sanitation and other requirements. We would include charities too.

Mr. S.—When you talk about irrigation, do you not think it better to put the responsibility only on landowners. Why should those who own no lands be asked to contribute to the requirements of repairs of irrigation channels?

Mr. C.—In villages, practically most of the people will own lands. The man who owns a house pays tax; similarly owners of lands pay taxes. Most of the income comes from the lands, and most of the expenditure goes towards that.

Mr. S.—What other functions would you entrust with the panchayats?

Mr. C.—Generally, the local bodies will have every responsibility, civil, judiciary and even policing to a certain extent.

Mr. S.—So the obligations of panchayats would be maintenance of streets, repairing of irrigation channels, tanks, wells and looking after sanitation, as also health service. They will also manage local police and run village judicial courts. Am I right in summing up your ideas like this?

Mr. C.—Yes.

Mr. S.—There will be no panchayat court apart from village panchayat.

Mr. C.—No.

Mr. S.—Will there be appeals against the decision of panchayat courts to the stipendiary Munsif Courts and Criminal Courts?

Mr. C.—Yes.

Mr. S.—I have only one more question to ask. What will be the status of servants of village panchayats?

Mr. C.—Servants of the local bodies should be on a par with those of other government departments in status, position and pay.

Mr. S.—In pay too! Well, this and many other things that you have said will enable us to discuss the financial resources against the background of needs.

Mr. C.—Yes. I should think so.

Mr. S.—Thank you Mr. Chandramowli. Then I shall meet you again.

Nationalisation of Road Transport

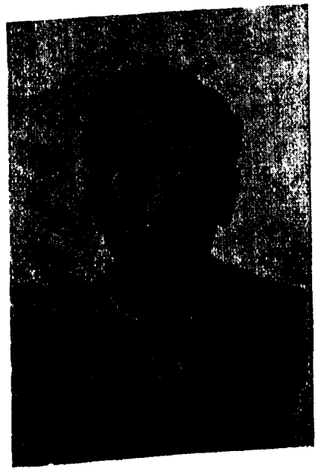
The following is a discussion broadcast by A.I.R., Madras, in which the Hon'ble Sri Daniel Thomas, and Messrs. Anantharamakrishnan and Sathe took part.

Mr. Anantharamakrishnan.—We have seen many reports in the daily press on the nationalisation of road transport in this Province. Government have also issued statements from time to time. But one does not seem to be able to get a clear picture of the Government's ideas on this subject. I am sure both the operators and public will welcome an authoritative and comprehensive statement from you on various points.

Mr. Daniel Thomas.—The question of nationalisation came up for consideration as early as last September and since then a Special Cabinet Sub-Committee has been at work to draw up a comprehensive plan. The subject covers diverse issues of great magnitude and it naturally took considerable time for decision. Government have reviewed the Cabinet Sub-Committee's report and have decided upon the broad basis of the nationalisation plan.

Mr. A.—What is the broad basis on which the Government have decided? Could we have an elucidation of the points?

Mr. Sathe.—The first principle accepted by the Government is that nationalisation is desirable in the public interests. The word "Nationalisation" is used rather vaguely, but its implications would be clear as we proceed to the actual scheme proposed for the whole province.



Railways, as the backbone of the transport system of any country, have been nationalised. The only other important mode of transport, apart from airways and water-ways, is the road transport. In the interest of perfect co-ordination between these two it is desirable for the State to take up the management of this means of transport as well.

Mr. A.—Who will be the owners of the road transport system after nationalisation—the Central Government, the Provincial Government or public bodies?

Mr. Thomas.—The ownership will be vested in a corporate body to be called the Provincial Road Transport Board. The Madras Government who should have the controlling voice, will contribute 51 per cent of the share capital and local bodies 20 per cent. The railways will contribute 15 per cent and the balance of 14 per cent will be offered to the existing operators.

Mr. A.—Is this not too small an allocation to the operator? After all, it was he that developed road transport over a long period of years and it is his business that is now to be taken away.

Mr. S.—The Madras Government should have a controlling or dominant voice and this can be realised only by their taking up the majority of the shares. Government have the difficult task of distributing the remaining 49 per cent among the three interests who are directly concerned. Road Transport cannot develop on healthy lines unless there is perfect co-ordination with the railways, who have therefore to be associated in the scheme and given representation commensurate with their importance. Local bodies also are interested in the transport facilities within their regions and as such they will have to be given some share. In fact in some provinces. local bodies have taken up the whole financial interest but here we have given them as much

share as was possible without encroaching upon the other two interested parties, namely, railways and the existing operators. Thus, it was not possible to allow the operators more than 14 per cent.

Mr. A.—If the operators do not wish to take up the share allotted to them, who then will be offered these shares ?

Mr. T.—The shares will be taken up by the Madras Government.

Mr. A.—The operators in the province are mostly individual owners, running a few buses each. Is it the intention of the Government to take over the operators' vehicles, or are the operators going to be allowed to operate their vehicles on other routes, which do not come under the nationalisation scheme ?

Mr. S.—It is not proposed to force the operators to give their vehicles to the Government, but if they have vehicles surplus to their needs, it is always open to them to ask for permits on routes not covered by the nationalisation plan for the time being. The Transport Authorities would consider these applications along with others who might apply for the same routes, and grant them according to the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

Mr. A.—Could you not show some preference, in granting these new permits, to the operators who have already shown their initiative and also gained experience in road transport ?

Mr. T.—It is not possible to state categorically that such operators, whose routes are taken over by the State, would be granted permits on other routes. But they have the chance to apply and fight their battle along with others and essentially the grant of permits depend on the merits of operator. It is upto them to prove to the Transport Authorities that with their experience they will be able to run the service better than others who may also apply.

Mr. A.—By what stages do you propose to take over the existing services ?

Mr. S.—It would be obviously impossible to take over all road transport services within a short time and hence a five-year plan has been drawn up for nationalisation by stages. After a very careful consideration, Government have finally decided that the State should take over one-fifth of the permits in each of the important districts in the first year commencing from about April next.

Mr. A.—Apart from this plan for gradual nationalisation have you any priority schemes in view ?

Mr. S.—Transport services in the Madras City area which have come in for constant public criticism, will be taken over in October of this year or as soon thereafter as possible. Similarly the two Ghat routes, namely, Madura to Kodaikanal and Coimbatore to Ooty as well as the town services in Madras and Coimbatore are to be taken over as soon as possible. These three items are being treated as separate units, apart from the five-year plan which commences from the next financial year.

Mr. A.—How does the Government propose to spread over the five years the nationalisation of other Bus Services in the Province ?

Mr. T.—Various alternatives were possible. One of these was to take over a few districts in the first year, some more districts in the succeeding year, and so on, till the whole province was covered. Administratively, this would certainly be more convenient, but the operators themselves represented to Government that if this system is followed starting from Madras, the districts away from Madras would be at an advantage over others. Thus, the operators, in Madras and other districts like Chingleput, etc., would lose their business all by one stroke in the first year, whereas their counterparts in remote districts such as Vizag, Malabar, would be left free to go on with their business for two, three, or four years more. Hence the Government have decided to take over only 20 per cent of the permits in each of the bigger districts in the first year and to continue the process year after year until all the districts are taken over.

Mr. A.—One is bound to ask as to how Government can cope even in the first year with the stupendous task of organising the transport service simultaneously in several districts Is it not getting to be very difficult for Government to take over transport service in so many districts at the same time ? Can you maintain efficient service if you start operations in all districts simultaneously.

Mr. S.—There are about five thousand permits in the whole Province covering 25 districts, the average comes to about 200 permits per district. 20 per cent of this would be about 40 and I reckon that an efficient service first could be operated with 40 buses. I find this would be a satisfactory economic unit. It may happen that in some districts there are only 30 buses in which case, the 20 per cent quota is too low a figure. In such districts it is not proposed to take over the services in the first year but commence the nationalisation in the second year, taking over 40 per cent of the permits, thus giving the Government a good unit to operate upon.

Mr. A.—Even a unit of 40 buses might prove uneconomical if it is spread over a large district.

Mr. S.—In the districts taken over, it is proposed to concentrate the activities of State Transport over a very compact area, radiating from the district headquarters. Thus, Government will operate a sufficient number of houses over a concentrated area, making it possible to run efficient service. Year by year this compact area would be expanded so that in five years' time, the whole district is covered, completing the whole scheme.

Mr. A.—What about the thousands of men that are now employed by the operators in the transport service ? Is it the intention of the Government to take over the services of these men ?

Mr. T.—The success of the State Transport depends essentially on the availability of trained personnel. Such men are available with the existing operators, and Government will endeavour to take over as many workers and employees as possible from their previous employers, as and when those particular services on which they are employed are taken over by the State.

Mr. A.—The Public, in recent years, have been clamouring for a better standard of comfort in road transport service. Are the Government going to bring in any new double-decker buses, with better seats ?

Mr. S.—One of the primary objects of nationalization is to provide better transport facilities, not only in numbers, but also in quality. It is hoped to provide better seats, better accommodation and more comfortable travel with better attention in every respect. It is also proposed to obtain a few of the latest buses from abroad, so that it will be possible for our local coachbuilders to copy them at a later stage. It may not be possible to bring in a sufficient number of such vehicles due to the existing import restriction but the deficiency will be made up by the coaches available locally and construction of coaches on a standard plan. The main object will always be to make bus travel a real comfort. It is proposed to start Diesel buses in

Madras but with a few buses only in the first instance and increase the number after some experience has been gained. This will also relieve the petrol position to a certain extent. The feasibility of running double-deckers in the City is also being examined.

Mr. A.—At the same time bus travel is to be made cheaper too, I presume.

Mr. T.—With the existing conditions of labour and availability of materials, it is doubtful if bus travel can be made cheaper than it is today. But if we can provide better services at existing rates, it would be an additional attraction for the plan.

Mr. A.—The general impression in the public mind is that Government have never run any commercial enterprise successfully or efficiently. Is nationalized road transport going to be an exception to this rule ?

Mr. T.—Government is aware of a certain amount of public opinion in this regard. Most departments like Post Office and Railways are efficiently run by the Government and bring in considerable revenues. Owing to its somewhat inelastic nature, a Government department as such may not be fully able to cope with the demands made by a commercial undertaking of this nature. It is therefore proposed to set up a Road Transport Board which will be in entire charge of the administration. This Board will be comparable more or less to the Board of Directors in a commercial firm. There will be no Government interference in the working of this Board in its day-to-day administration and every care will be taken to see that Government 'red tape' does not impede the working of the transport service.

Mr. A.—The success or failure of an organization does not depend solely on the system but also on the men who work it.

Mr. S.—I entirely agree. The Board will consist of men who have experience of transport and in the management of large transport agencies. There would be as General Manager, an expert on the general transport administration side, assisted by a qualified automobile engineer on the technical side and a person experienced in commercial audit on the financial side. With this nucleus of practical commercial experience and with complete powers over day-to-day administration, it is proposed to eliminate the inherent defects associated with State management.

Mr. A.—There will be hundreds of questions arising in each district which will have to be decided quickly. How do you propose to provide for this ?

Mr. S.—The Provincial Board would lay down the general policy with regard to organization of transport, maintenance of central workshops, purchase of standard vehicles, construction of coachwork at a central depot, appointment of superior staff, stocking of spare part and so on. The actual administration in the mufassal would be entrusted to the District Manager directly working under the General Manager, assisted by a qualified engineer and an auditor. The district staff would be responsible to run the vehicles efficiently and maintain the district workshops as well as operate the services throughout the district.

Mr. A.—You have covered most of the points. What about labour ? Labour has been clamouring for better terms of service. I presume they will get better terms when the road services are taken over.

Mr. T.—Dealing with labour would be regulated by the usual procedure laid down under the Trade Union Act. Recently, Government have constituted a Court of Enquiry to advise them on the conditions of service of labour in private transport undertakings and the position would be reviewed in light of the recommendations made.

Mr. A.—What are the arrangements you propose for taking over the vehicles from the operators and paying them compensation ?

Mr. T.—Government will work on the principle that they should not force any operator to give up this vehicles or equipment. Government also realize that as the State takes over the services, the vehicles previously running over those routes would no longer be of any use to those operators. A valuation committee will therefore be set up in each district on which the operators will also be represented. This committee will proceed to enumerate the vehicles, equipment and other property, which the operators are prepared to sell to the State Transport Service. Every item in the list would be valued by this committee, generally on the principle of cost price minus depreciation. If the figures of cost price are not available, the current market price would be taken as the basis. Government would thus offer the owners what may be called a fair price.

Mr. A.—Are you restricting in any way the type of vehicles that you would purchase if offered ?

Mr. S.—As far as possible. For an organization of this size, it would always be advantageous to standardise on a few makes. But Government realise that operators whose services are taken over, would find their vehicles redundant and thus a liability. In consideration of this fact, Government will normally purchase all vehicles so long as they are not more than four years old at the time of acquisition and are in a road-worthy condition. As far as equipment and workshops are concerned, Government will offer to pay the valuation as determined by the valuation committee and it will be open to the operators to accept it or not.

Mr. A.—Does this plan for nationalization cover all public road transport ?

Mr. T.—The scheme of nationalization as envisaged now covers only the passenger transport services and the five-year plan applies only to buses. Taxis are not included in this scheme. The principle of State management of goods transport has also been accepted but it is not proposed to initiate the scheme till the passenger service is completely nationalized.

Index numbers of import and export prices for the Province of Madras for June 1947.

1. The index number of declared values of foreign imports advanced by 67 points to 313.

2. The index number of declared values of foreign exports declined by 3 points to 257.

3. The index number of declared values of coastwise imports advanced by 26 points to 311.

4. The index number of declared values of coastwise exports declined by 48 points to 314.

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The Government have nominated Sri M. S. Ramaswami Ayyar, President of the Potato Merchants Association, Mettupalayam, as a member of the Potato Advisory Committee. The Potato Control Officer, Ootacamund, and the Deputy Potato Control Officer have also been included in the Committee. The latter will be the Secretary of the Committee.

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Subscriptions from the Province towards National Savings Certificate for the period from 1st April 1947 to 9th August 1947 amount to Rs. 54,22,915. The figure for the week ended 19th August is Rs. 31,37,745.

List of Temples thrown open to Excluded Classes

Tanjore district

1. Sri Thiagarajaswami temple, Tiruvarur.
2. Sri Sattanathaswami temple, Shiyali.
3. Sri Prasanna Krishnaswamy temple, Kummathi Thidal, Mannargudi taluk.
4. Sri Akshayalingaswami temple, Kivalur, Negapatam taluk.
5. Sri Singaravelar temple, Sikkil, Negapatam taluk.
6. Sri Neelathakshiamman temple, Negapatam taluk.
7. Sri Amirthagateeswarar temple, Thirukkadayar.
8. Sri Venkatachalapathy temple, Pulivalam, Negapatam taluk.
9. Sri Kodandaramaswami temple, Vaduvoor, Mannargudi taluk.

Ramnad district

1. Sri Mayuranathaswami temple, Rajapalayam.
2. Sri Peria Mariamman, Srivilliputhur.
3. Sri Visalakshiamman and six other temples.
4. Sri Nachiar Temple, Srivilliputur.
5. Sri Subrahmanyaswami koil, Paramakudi.
6. Sri Kumbahareeswarar temple, Thirupavanai.
7. Mayuranathasawmi Sri Venkatachalapathy, Sri Visalakshiamman, Sri Sivasubramanyasami, Sri Badrakaliamman, Sri Mariamman, Sri Venkatachalapathisami, Sri Karuppanaswami and Sri Amman Koil, Sivakasi.
8. Sowmyanarayanaperumal temple, Thirukoshtiyur.
9. Kaleswarar, etc., at Kalayar koil, Sivaganga Samasthanam.
10. Sri Karunellinathaswami and Ninranarayanaperumal temple, Thiruthangal, Sathur taluk.
11. Sri Kottaivasal Vinayagar, Kothendaramaswami and Sri Sokkanathaswami temples, in Ramnad Samasthanam.

Tinnevelly district

1. Sankararameswaraswami and Sri Vaikuntapathi, Tuticorin, Tinnevelly district.
2. Sri Thirumalai Kumaran Shrine, Panpolli.
3. Sri Soundarapandiswarar and Sri Kumarar temples, Karichangulam village, Melananguneri taluk.
4. Sri Subrahmanayaswami temple, Tiruchendur.
5. Sri Muthukrishnaswami and Sri Kothandarameswarar, Kayattur.
6. Sri Ramaswami Avudiammal Vaidyanathaswami, Sermadevi.
7. Sri Papavinasaswami, Vikramasingapuram, Ambasamudram.
8. Sri Kasinathaswami, etc., Ambasamudram, Ambasamudram taluk.
9. Sri Krishnaswami, etc., temples Ambasamudram town and taluk.
10. Sri Veerasikamani Rajagopal Mannarkoil, Sankaranainarkoil.
11. Sri Kothandaramaswarar, Kayathar.
12. Sri Kumarar temple, Panpolli.
13. Sri Nalliappar Devasthanam, Tinnevelly.
14. Sri Poovananatharswami temple, Koilpatti.

Coimbatore district

1. Bhuvaneswaraswamy, Satyamangalam.
2. Sri Subramanaswamy and Sri Marimman, Pollachi.
3. Sri Pettai Visweswaraswamy, Coimbatore.
4. Sri Ammankovil, Thirupur.
5. Sri Ranganathaswamy, Sri Bhimeswaraswamy.
6. Sri Malamman temple, Kodumudy, Erode taluk.
7. Sri Maginteswaraswamy temple, Kodumudi, Erode taluk.
8. Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, Karamadai, Avanashi taluk.

Salem district

1. Sri Sugavaneswara, Salem town.
2. Sri Veerabhadraswamy temple, Royachoti.

Nilgiris district

1. Sri Subramanayaswami temple, Coonoor.
2. Sri Rama Balasubramanyaswami temples, Wellington.

Cuddapah district

1. Sri Chennakesavaswamy, Polladri, Proddatur taluk.
2. Sri Rama temple, Aalamkhanipalli.
3. Sri Chennakesavalu, Proddatur.

Nellore district

1. Sri Udayakaleswaraswamy, etc., temples, Gandagaram, Kovur taluk.
2. Sri Venugopalaswamy, Moolapet, Nellore.
3. Sri Kirshnadharmaraju temple, Moolapet, Nellore.

Trichinopoly district

1. Sri Thayumanaswami temple, Rock Fort, Trichinopoly town and district.
2. Sri Uthamarkoil, Bikshandarkoil village, Lalgudi taluk.
3. Sri Saptharishiswarar temples, Lalgudi town and taluk.
4. Kadambavaneswarar temple, Kadambarkoil village, Kulittalai taluk, Trichinopoly district.
5. Sri Vedanarayanaperumal temple, Thirunarayanapuram, Musiri taluk, Trichinopoly district.
6. Sri Panjavarneswarar and Kanthimathiamman temples, Urayur.
7. Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, Srirangam.

Madura district

1. Sri Srinivasaperumal temple, Dindigul town.
2. Sri Abiramaniamman temple, Kalahasteeswarar temple, Dindigul.
3. Sri Andavar Subramanyaswamy temple, Tirupparankunram, attached to Sri Madura, etc., Devasthanams.
4. Sri Meenakshi Chockanathaswamy temple, Tirumangalam town and taluk and Sri Prasanna Venkatesa Perumal temple, Madura town and taluk.

North Arcot district

1. Sri Marghabandhu Eswarar, Virinjipuram.
2. Sri Arunachaleswarar temple, Tiruvannamalai.
3. Sri Pooniamman temple, Vaniyambadi.

South Arcot district

1. Sri Pataleeswarar, Thiruppappuliyur.
2. Sri Veeratiswarar temple, Thiruvathigal, Cuddalore taluk.
3. Sri Kumarar Koil, Cuddalore Old Town.
4. Sri Thiruvikramaswamy temple, Thirukoyilur town and taluk.
5. Mayavendipillayar and Droupadhiamman temples, Nellikuppam.
6. Pralayakaleswarar temple, Pennadam.
7. Thekaleeswaraperumalkoil, Thirukoilur.
8. Sri Vaithiyanathaswamy temple, Tittagudy and Sri Ranganathar temple, Vasistapuram, Vriddachalam taluk.

Madras City

1. Sri Kandaswamy temple, Park Town.
2. Sri Arunachaleswarar and Sri Varadarajaperumal temple, Tiruvellore
3. Sri Anjaneyaswamy temple, Angalamman Koil Street, Perambur Barracks, Choolai.

4. Sri Meenakshi and Easwarar temples, Komaleeswarpet.
5. Sri Agastheeswarar and Prasanna Venkateswaraperumal temples, Nungambakkam.

Chingleput district

1. Sri Devarajaswami temple, Conjeeveram town and taluk.

Coimbatore district

1. Sri Ranganathaswamy temple, Satyamangalam.

Chittoor district

1. Kalahasteeswarar temple, Kalahasti.
2. Sri Subramanyaswamy temple, Tiruttani.

Kurnool district

1. Sri Anjaneyaswamy temple, Bollavaram.

Bellary district

1. Sri Kothandaramaswamy temple, Bellary town.

Anantapur district

1. Sri Lakshminarasimhaswamy temple, Kadiri town and taluk.

Visagapatam district

1. Sri Varahalakshmi Narasimhaswamy temple, Simhachalam.

List of Temples permitted to be thrown open to the Excluded Classes

Ramnad district

1. Sri Venkatachalapathy, Sattur, Sattur taluk.
2. Sri Viswanadhaswamy, Sivakasi, Sattur.
3. Sri Vaidyanadhaswamy, Madhavar vilagam, Srivilliputhur.
4. Sri Anjukoil Devasthanams at Kunnakudi, comprising of Piranmalai, Tiruppattur, Kunnakudi, Tirukolakudi and Thenakshiamman temple and sub-temples at Chadurvedamangalam, Kunnakudi, Tiruppattur.
5. Temples (83) under the management of the Rajah of Ramnad.
6. Sri Subramanyaswamy temple, Sivakasi, Sattur taluk.
7. Sri Navaneethaswamy temple, Virudhunagar, Sattur taluk.
8. Sri Kuppuswamy temple, Sivakasi, Sattur taluk.
9. Sri Chockanadhaswamy temple, Virudhunagar, Sattur taluk.
10. Sri Shenbagalingaswamy temple, Eluvani, Thirupurnam, Aruppukottai taluk.
11. Sri Mariamman temple, Prukkangadi, Sattur taluk.
12. Sri Koppudayar temple, Karaikudi, Tiruppattur taluk.

Tinnevelly district

1. Sri Ekandalingaswamy, Kandiswaram, Srivaikuntam taluk.
2. Sri Kallapiran, Srivaikuntam, Srivaikuntam taluk.
3. Sri Renganadhaswamy, Perur, Srivaikuntam.
4. Sri Mayakoothar, Perungulam, Srivaikuntam.
5. Srivaikuntapati, Tuticorin, Srivaikuntam.
6. Sri Tiruvaluthiswarar, Perungulam, Srivaikuntam.
7. Sri Mahara Nedunkuzhai Kathur temple, Thenthirupperai, Srivaikuntam taluk.
8. Sri Kasiniventhaperumal, Thirupuliangudi, Srivaikuntam.
9. Sri Vijayasthaperumal Nathan, Srivaikuntam taluk.
10. Sri Marthandeeswarar, etc., Karungulam, Srivaikuntam taluk.
11. Sri Veerapandiswarar, etc., Kongarakuruchi, Srivaikuntam taluk.
12. Sri Navaneethakrishnaswami, etc., Manakkarai, Srivaikuntam taluk.
13. Sri Varadarajaperumal, Seitunganallur, Srivaikuntam taluk.
14. Sri Vaithamanithiperumal, Tirukallur, Tiruchendur taluk.
15. Sri Adhinadhalwaar, Alwarthirunagari, Tiruchendur taluk.
16. Sri Sankaranarayanaswami, Sankarankoil.
17. Sri Chintamaninadhaswami, Vasudevanallur, Sankarankoil.
18. Sri Palvannanathar, Karivalamvandanallur, Sankarankoil.
19. Sri Ammanadhaswamy and Ramaswami, Shermadevi, Ambasamudram taluk.
20. Sri Ilanji Kumarar, Ilanji, Tenkasi taluk.
21. Sri Varadarajaperumal, Kalakad, Nanguneri taluk.
22. Sri Satyavahiswaraswamy, Nanguneri taluk.
23. Sri Ramalingeswaraswamy, Panagudi, Nanguneri taluk.
24. Sri Varagunapandeswarar and Kalyaniammal, Radhapuram, Nanguneri taluk.
25. Sri Sundarajaperumal temple, Viravanallur, Ambasamudram taluk.
26. Sri Vilwanadhaswamy temple and Kalyanaiamman, Kadayam, Ambasamudram taluk.
27. Sri Subramanyaswamy temple, Valliyur, Nanguneri taluk.
28. Sri Kailasanathaswamy temple, Gangaikondan, Tinnevelly district.
29. Sri Bhoominathaswamy, etc., temples, Veeravanallur.
30. Sri Swami Nelliappar and Kanthimathiamman temples, Tinnevelly.
31. Sri Subramanyaswamy devasthanam, Kalugachalamurthy temple, Kalugumalai, Koilpatti taluk.
32. Sri Ramaswami, etc., temples, Pappankulam, Ambasamudram taluk.

South Kanara district

1. Sri Durgaparameswari Bappanadu, Mangalore.

Chittoor district

1. Sri Subramanyaswamy temple, Tiruttani town and taluk.
2. Sri Kalahasteeswaraswamy temple, Kalahasti.
3. Sri Venkateswaraswamy temple, Tiruttani town, Chittoor district.

Salem district

1. Sri Thentuneeswarar temple, Belur, Salem.
2. Sri Ardhanareswarar and other temples, Tiruchengode town and taluk.

Chingleput district

1. Sri Devarajaswamy temple, Conjeeveram.

Madras City

1. Sri Anjaneyaswamy temple, Perambur Barracks, Madras.
2. Sri Arunachaleswarar and Varadaraja Perumal temples, Paliappan street, Georgetown, Madras.
3. Sri Agastheeswaraswamy, etc., temples, Nungambakkam, Madras.

Visagapatam district

1. Sri Venugopalaswami, Bobbili village and taluk.
2. Sri Ramalingaswami temple, Bobbili village and taluk.
3. Sri Venugopalaswami Varu, Sitanagaram, Bobbili taluk.
4. Sri Sitaramaswami, Titarampuram, Palakonda.
5. Sri Rajagopalaswami, Rajam, Palakonda.
6. Sri Ramalingaswami, Rajam, Palakonda.
7. Sri Varahalaxmyharaseimhaswami temple, Simhachalam, Vizagapatam.

Cuddapah district

1. Sri Virabhadraswami, Rajachoti village and taluk.

Station.	Variety.	Price.
	5. *Cholam*—cont.	
Tiruppur	Vellai or white cholam.	Not quoted.
	Manjal cholam ..	Do.
Guntakal	White	7·00
Anantapur ..	Yellow	No stock.
Tadpatri	White	Do.
	Yellow	Do.
	6. *Cumbu.*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	No stock.
Vizianagram ..	....	Do.
Guntur	....	Do.
Cuddapah	....	Do.
Cuddalore	....	Do.
Salem	....	7·42
Erode	....	7·25
Coimbatore ..	....	7·59
Trichinopoly ..	....	7·54
Turicorin	....	No stock.
Anantapur ..	....	Do.
Chittoor	....	6·37
Virudunagar ..	....	No stock.
	7. *Ragi.*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	No stock.
Vizianagram ..	....	Do.
Nellore	....	Do.
Vellore	....	Do.
Conjeeveram ..	....	Do.
Salem	....	7·01
Erode	....	7·04
Coimbatore ..	....	7·06
Tiruppur	....	7·65
Chittoor	....	9·49
	8. *Greengram Dhall.*	
Madras	....	Not quoted.
	9. *Redgram Dhall.*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	25·09
Nandyal	....	29·39
Bellary	....	28·70
Vellore ..	First sort	Not quoted.
	Second sort	Do.
Trichinopoly ..	....	42·47
Madras	....	Not quoted.
	10. *Blackgram Dhall.*	
Tanjore	....	Not quoted.
Madras	....	Do.
	11. *Bengalgram.*	
Cocanada	....	No stock.
Coimbatore ..	....	12·87
	12. *Blackgram.*	
Cocanada	....	No stock.
Tinnevelly ..	....	32·62
	13. *Chillies.*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	47·73
Vizianagram ..	....	No market.
Cocanada	....	49·38
Rajahmundry ..	....	46·09
Guntur	....	52·67
Nandyal	....	51·50
Tinnevelly ..	(*a*) Samba	66·10
	(*b*) Potha	Not quoted.
	(*c*) Calcutta	Do.
Tuticorin	(*a*) Samba	64·77
	(*b*) Potha	Not quoted.
	(*c*) Calcutta	61·62

Station.	Variety.	Price.
	13. *Chillies*—cont.	
Mangalore	Kumta	70·01
	Local	67·59
	Kasaragod	52·90
	14. *Pepper.*	
Calicut	Nadam	64·68
	Wynaad	65·86
	Vatakkan	64·68
Tellicherry ..	Country	64·84
	Wynaad	64·84
	Northern	64·84
Mangalore	....	63·18
	15. *Cardamom.*	
Mangalore	Mysore	271·84
	Coorg	235·11
Virudunagar ..	....	86·00
	16. *Potatoes.*	
Madras	....	16·28
Mettupalaiyam ..	Rasi	15·00
	Great Scot ..	Not available.
	17. *Tamarind.*	
Anantapur ..	....	11·90
Chittoor	....	12·00
Calicut	....	14·11
	18. *Turmeric.*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	34·74
Vizianagram ..	....	No market.
Guntur	....	35·88
	19. *Cane Jaggery.*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	13·26
Vizianagram ..	(*a*) First sort ..	13·48
	(*b*) Second sort ..	10·68
Cocanada	(*a*) First sort ..	15·42
	(*b*) Second sort ..	13·78
Rajahmundry ..	....	13·83
Adoni	....	13·99
Bellary	(*a*) Superior ..	14·00
	(*b*) Distillery ..	No stock.
Cuddalore	(*a*) First sort ..	13·66
	(*b*) Second sort ..	12·35
Vellore	(*a*) First sort ..	14·16
	(*b*) Second sort ..	12·51
Salem	....	14·48
Erode	Cubes	15·80
Coimbatore ..	(*a*) Balls	13·50
	(*b*) Cubes	15·50
Trichinopoly ..	(*a*) First sort	14·10
	(*b*) Second sort ..	12·34
Mangalore	....	14·91
Chittoor	(*a*) First sort	14·40
	(*b*) Second sort ..	13·72
Station.	Variety.	Price per cwt.
	20. *Sugar.*	
Madras	Nellikuppam	32·14
	Champatia	Not quoted.
Tuticorin	Nellikuppam	27·56
	Calcutta	Not quoted.
Calicut	Cawnpore	32·31
Cochin	Do.	35·05

Station.	Variety.	Price per imperial maund.
	21. *Palm jaggery.*	
Rajahmundry ..	....	8·56
Ellore	....	9·88
Tinnevelly ..	....	Not quoted.
Tuticorin	....	19·07
	22. *Groundnut (unshelled).*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	16·04
Vizianagram ..	....	15·93
Guntur	....	16·42
Nandyal	....	17·01
Adoni	....	17·14
Bellary	....	17·14
Cuddapah ..	....	14·81
Vellore	....	17·10
Salem	....	17·09
Erode	....	16·46
Coimbatore ..	....	10·80
Guntakal	....	7·71
Hindupur	....	15·92
Tadpatri	....	17·57
	23. *Groundnut (machine-shelled).*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	No stock.
Vizianagram ..	....	24·08
Guntur	....	22·55
Nandyal	....	22·32
Adoni	....	23·25
Bellary	....	22·32
Cuddapah	....	20·46
Madras	....	22·86
Cuddalore	....	23·25
Vellore	....	23·25
Salem	....	23·25
Erode	....	22·78
Coimbatore ..	....	22·71
Guntakal	....	11·78
Hindupur	....	20·14
Tadpatri	....	23·93
	24. *Gingelly seed.*	
Vizagapatam ..	Punasa	No stock.
	Pyra	Do.
Vizianagram ..	Punasa	28·60
	Pyra	23·58
Cocanada ..	....	32·10
Rajahmundry ..	Punasa	No stock.
	Pyra	27·26
Ellore	....	28·75
Cuddalore	....	27·77
Salem	....	30·42
Trichinopoly ..	....	29·62
Tinnevelly ..	....	28·92
Tuticorin	....	29·86
Station.	Variety.	Price.
	25. *Castor.*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	No stock.
Vizianagram ..	....	21·57
Guntur	....	23·58
Nandyal	....	22·15
Bellary	....	13·63
Cuddapah	....	No stock.
Anantapur ..	....	20·20
Hindupur	....	16·27

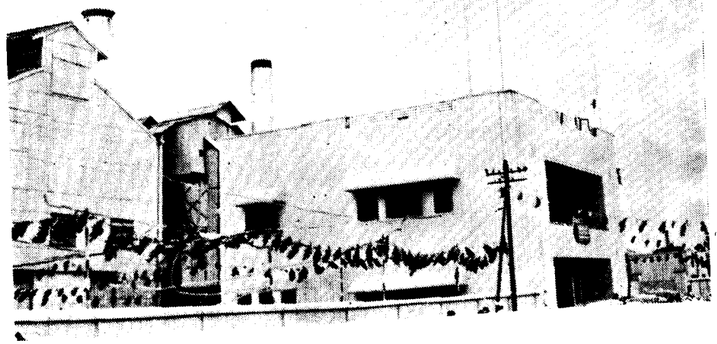
Station.	Variety.	Price per 1,000 coconuts.
	26. *Coconuts.*	
Cocanada	Husked	150·00
	Unhusked	Not quoted.
Rajahmundry ..	Husked	150·00
Calicut	Do.	135·00
	Unhusked	140·00
Tellicherry ..	Husked	125·00
	Unhusked	135·00
Mangalore	Husked	200·00
	Unhusked	220·00
Station.	Variety.	Price per imperial maund.
	27. *Copra.*	
Rajahmundry ..	....	49·38
Calicut	Office	44·69
	Madras	52·92
	Ross	44·69
	Dilpars	45·27
Mangalore	Office	55·82
	Divi	No stock.
	Dilpasand	Do.
	28. *Coconut oil.*	
Cocanada	....	67·01
Rajahmundry ..	....	79·87
Madras	....	64·00
Kumbakonam ..	....	68·57
Negapatam ..	....	No stock.
Calicut	....	68.21
Mangalore	....	74·94
	29. *Groundnut oil.*	
Guntur	....	51·84
Nandyal	....	50·50
Madras	....	51·85
Cuddalore ..	....	51·15
	30. *Ghee.*	
Guntur	....	164·57
Madras	Coimbatore	241·37
Tadpatri	....	Not quoted.
Tiruppur	....	162·40
Station.	Variety.	Price.
	31. *Groundnut oil-cake.*	
Vizianagram ..	....	3·10
Guntur	....	3·11
Nandyal	....	3·12
Salem	....	3·78
Madras	....	No report.
Coimbatore ..	....	3·82
	32. *Gingelly oil-cake.*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	No stock.
Cocanada	....	15·42
Salem	....	9·88
Madura	....	11·52
	33. *Castor oil-cake.*	
Anantapur ..	....	No stock.
Guntur	....	4·94
Nellore	....	No stock.
Salem	....	Not quoted.

Station.	Variety.	Price per dozen. RS. A.
	34. *Eggs.*	
Madras	Grade A	1 6
	Do. B	1 4
	Do. C	1 2
Station.	Variety.	Price per 100.
	35. *Oranges.*	
Madras	Kodur, size mixed ..	Not quoted.
Station.	Variety.	Price per imperial maund.
	36. *Coir yarn.*	
Calicut	(*a*) Fine—Unsoaked.	15·88
	(*b*) Beypur	19·99
	(*c*) Quilandy	24·49
	37. *Cotton kapas.*	
Guntur	Cocanadas	16·40
Nandyal	White—Northerns ..	18·62
	Red—Northerns ..	18·13
Adoni	Westerns—Mungari ..	16·79
	Jowari ..	7·35
	Farm ..	18·88
Bellary	Westerns—Mungari ..	No stock.
	Jowari.	Do.
	Farm ..	19·70
Salem	....	14·48
Erode	Cambodia	No stock.
Coimbatore ..	Do.	24·69
	Karunganni ..	23·96
Tiruppur	Cambodia	24·25
	Karunganni	23·81
	Do.	20·32
Tuticorin	Tinnevellies	17·49
Guntakal	....	10·41
Tadpatri	Westerns	18·00
Virudunagar ..	Cambodia	Not quoted.
	Tinnevellies	19·32
	38. *Cotton lint.*	
Guntur	Cocanadas	39·83
Nandyal	White—Northerns ..	40·18
	Red—Northerns ..	41·15
Adoni	Westerns—Mungari ..	31·48
	Jowari ..	21·04
	Farm ..	41·92
Bellary	Westerns—Mungari ..	32·04
	Jowari ..	33·07
	Farm ..	42·01
Salem	....	30·42
Erode	Cambodia	No stock.
Coimbatore ..	Do.	57·67
	Karunganni	53·43
Tiruppur	Cambodia	56·18
	Karunganni	51·45
	Nadam	36·75
Tuticorin	Cambodia	Not quoted.
	Karunganni	Do.
	Tinnevellies	Do.
Guntakal	....	54·05
Tadpatri	Westerns	41·98
Virudunagar ..	Cambodia	Not quoted.
	Tinnevellies	45·14

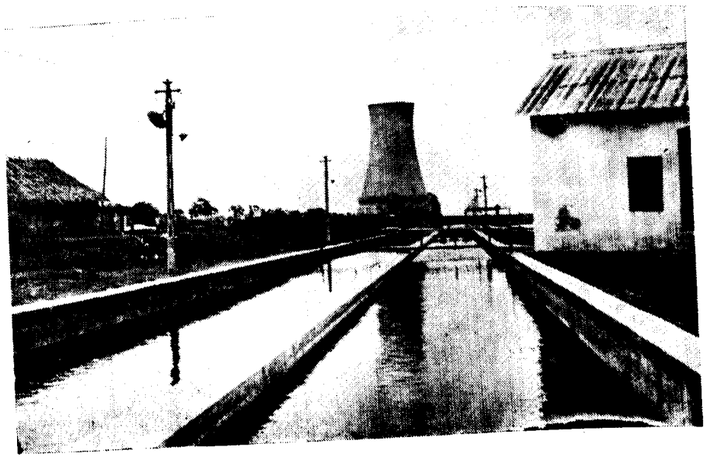
Station.	Variety.	Price per imperial maund.
	39. *Cotton seed.*	
Guntur	Cocanadas	13·17
Nandyal	....	13·37
Adoni	....	10·21
Bellary	Mungari	9·47
	Hingari	11·11
Erode	....	11·11
Coimbatore ..	Cambodia	10·29
	Karunganni	12·84
Tiruppur	Cambodia	11·11
	Karunganni	12·51
Madura	....	13·02
Tinnevelly ..	....	13·72
Tuticorin	....	12·99
Anantapur ..	....	Not quoted.
Hindupur	....	13·37
Tadpatri	....	12·88
Virudunagar ..	....	11·75
	40. *Tobacco.*	
Vizagapatam ..	....	No stock.
Vizianagram ..	Desavali Pataku ..	52·57
Guntur	Virginia (Flue-cured).	60·90
	Do. (Rack-cured).	17·28
	Local (Do.).	16·46
Mangalore	Chewing	124·90
	Snuff	198·37
Erode	Air-cured	39·56
	Meenampalayam chewing.	55·38
	Erode—Cigar ..	39·56
Tiruppur	Air-cured	42·71
	Pit-cured	26·90
Station.	Variety.	Price.
	41. *Arecanuts.*	
Mangalore	Husked	80·33
Station.	Variety.	Price per 1,000.
	42. *Arecanuts.*	
Mangalore	Unhusked	20·00
Station.	Variety.	Price per imperial maund.
	43. *Cashewnut.*	
Cocanada	....	No stock.
Mangalore	....	13·61
Station.	Variety.	Price per lb.
	44. *Tanned cow hides.*	
Madras	Bangalores 8–8½ lb.	2·13
	Up-countries 8–8½ lb.	2·06
	Coasts 7–7½ lb. ..	2·03
	45. *Tanned goat skins.*	
Madras	Good	4·63
	Fair	4·50
	Common	4·38
	46. *Tanned sheep skins.*	
Madras	Good	6·63
	Fair	6·00
	Common	5·38



Necessary documents connected with the taking over of the M.E.S.C. by the Government on 29th August 1947 are being signed



India's National Flag flying over the Power House building



Cooling Pond with tower

Guntur district

1. Sri Bhavanarayanaswami temple, Ponur, Bapatla.
2. Sri Agastheeswaraswami, Mamillapalli, Bapatla.
3. Sri Venugopalaswami, Brahmanakodur, Bapatla taluk.

Nellore district

1. Sri Talapagiri Ranganathaswami, Nellore Ranganayakulupet, Nellore taluk.
2. Sri Moolasthaneswaraswami, Nellore Moolapet, Nellore taluk.
3. Sri Chennakesavaswami, Peddapettedu, Kovur.
4. Sri Siddheswaraswami, Peddapettedu, Kovur.

South Arcot district

1. Sri Vriddhagiriswarar, Vriddhachalam town and taluk.
2. Sri Thillaiamman, Chidambaram town and taluk.
3. Sri Subramanyaswami, Mailam, Tindivanam taluk.
4. Sri Lakshminarayanaperumal and Sri Sundareswaraswami (or Azhageswaraswami temple), Siruvanthadur, Villupuram.
5. Sri Kamakshiamman temple, Kasiviswanathar, Cuddalore.
6. Sri Laxminarayanaperumal temple, Kodukur, Villupuram taluk.
7. Sri Meshapureeswarar temple, Ulundurpet, Tirukkoilur taluk.

North Arcot district

1. Sri Lakshminarayanaperumal, Vellore, Vellore taluk.
2. Sri Soundareswaraswami, Vellore, Kosapet, Vellore taluk.
3. Sri Arunachaleswarar temple, Tiruvannamalai taluk.

Tanjore district

1. Sri Sundareswaraswami, Tirumailadi, Shiyali taluk.
2. Sri Vaithinathaswami, Vaitheeswarankoil, Shiyali taluk.
3. Sri Sivalogathiagarajaswami, Achalapuram, Shiyali taluk.
4. Sri Mullavananathaswami, Tirumullavasal, Shiyali taluk.
5. Sri Swetharanyeswaraswami, Tiruvengad, Shiyali taluk.
6. Sri Vanchinathaswami, Srivanchiyam, Nannilam.
7. Sri Swayambhunathaswami, Peralam, Nannilam.
8. Sri Nadeeswaraswami, Puducheri, Negapatam taluk.
9. Sri Navaneetheswarar, Sikkil, Negapatam taluk.
10. Sri Thiagarajaswami, Tirukuvalai, Negapatam taluk.
11. Sri Naganathaswami, Negapatam.
12. Sri Ranganathaperumal, Keelayur, Negapatam.
13. Sri Arunachaleswarar, Keelayur, Negapatam.
14. Sri Nadiamma, Pattukottai village and taluk.
15. Sri Thuraikattumvallalarswami, Vilanagar, Mayavaram taluk.
16. Sri Veerateeswarar, Parasalur, Mayavaram taluk.
17. Sri Dharmapureeswaraswami, Dharmapuram, Mayavaram taluk.
18. Sri Kasiviswanathaswami, Mayavaram, Mayavaram taluk.
19. Sri Vadhanueswaraswami, Vallalarkoil, Mayavaram taluk.
20. Sri Ukthavedeswaraswami, Kuttalam, Mayavaram taluk.
21. Sri Sundareswaraswami, Manakudi, Mayavaram taluk.
22. Sri Sakthipureswaraswami, Karuguyil, Nathampettai, Mayavaram taluk.
23. Sri Laxmipureeswaraswami, Tirunayur, Mayavaram taluk.
24. Sri Veerateeswaraswami, Korukkai, Mayavaram taluk.
25. Sri Kutramparuthiswaraswami, Thalanayar, Mayavaram taluk.
26. Sri Thanthoniswarar and Rajagopala Perumal, Akkur, Mayavaram.
27. Sri Kumbahareswaraswami, Tirubuvanam, Kumbakonam taluk.
28. Sri Arunajateswaraswami, Tirupanadal, Kumbakonam taluk.
29. Sri Sakshinathaswami, Tirupirambiam, Kumbakonam taluk.
30. Sri Panchanatheswarar, Tiruvadi, Tanjore district.
31. Sri Agastheswaraswami, Palayangudi, Tiruthuraipoondi taluk.
32. Sri Kalahastheswaraswami, Karambiyur, Tirutturaipoondi taluk.
33. Sri Soundareswaraswami, Muthupet, Tirutturaipoondi taluk.
34. Sri Kothandaramaswami temple, Vaduvoor, Mannargudi taluk.
35. Sri Kailasanathaswami temple, Sambiamahadevi, Negapatam taluk.
36. Sri Masilanathaswami, Sri Balasubramanyaswami and Sri Payyatha Pillayar temples, Tranquebar, Mayavaram taluk.
37. Sri Parimalaranganathar temple, Tiruvilandur, Mayavaram.
38. Sri Anandana Pillayar temple, Poravacheri, Negapatam taluk.
39. Sri Devapureeswaraswami temple, Tevur, Negapatam taluk.
40. Sri Kamakshiamman temple, Kumbakonam.
41. Sri Koneeswaraswami and Subramaniyaswami temples, Kodavasal, Nannilam taluk.
42. Sri Mantrapureeswarar temple, Kovilur, Tiruthuraipoondi taluk.
43. Sri Kasiviswanathaswami temple, Kumbakonam town and taluk.
44. Sri Viswanathar, etc., temples, Porayur, Mayavaram taluk.
45. Sri Tirumoolanathaswami temple, Kadalangudi, Mayavaram taluk.
46. Sri Gnanapureeswarar and Ranganathaperumal temples, Tirukottai, Mannargudi taluk.
47. Sri Adikumbeswaraswami temple, Kumbakonam town and taluk.
48. Sri Rajagopalaperumal temple, Anandamangalm, Mayavaram.

Coimbatore district

1. Sri Sangameswaraswami, Bhavani, Bhavani taluk.
2. Sri Palamalai Ranganadhaswami, Nayickanpalayam, Coimbatore district.
3. Sri Venugopalaswami, Satyamangalam, Gopichettipalaiyam taluk.
4. Sri Pariyurkondathu Kaliamman temple, Gopichettipalaiyam taluk.
5. Sri Mariamman temple, Pollachi town and taluk.
6. Sri Subramanyaswami temple, Pollachi town and taluk.
7. Sri Pateeswaraswami temple, Perur, Coimbatore taluk.

Nilgiri district

1. Sri Vinayagar, Coonoor village and taluk.

West Godavari district

1. Sri Malleswaraswami, Pali, Tanuku.
2. Sri Visweswaraswami, Minaviluru, Tadepalligudem.

Madura district

1. Sri Gowmariamman, Veerapandi, Periyakulam taluk.
2. Sri Kailasanadhaswami, Natham, Koilpatti, Melur.
3. Sri Soundararajaperumal temple, Vadamadurai, Dindigul taluk.
4. Sri Meenakshi Chokkanathaswami temple, Tirumangalam.
5. Sri Gowmariamman temple, Periakulam, Madura taluk.

Malabar district

1. Sri Lokamalyarkavu, Memunda, Kurumbranad taluk.
2. Sri Narayanapuram temple, Panangad, Ponnani taluk.
3. Sri Kottakurussi temple, Kottakurrussi, Walluvanad taluk.

Trichinopoly district

1. Sri Kalyanapasupathiswarar, Karur village and taluk.
2. Sri Balasubrahmanyaswami, Woraiyur, Palayan Bazaar, Trichinopoly taluk.
3. Sri Subramanyaswami temple, Kumaravayalur, Trichinopoly taluk.
4. Sri Prasanna Venkatachalapathi, etc., temples, Thuraiyur, Musiri taluk.
5. Sri Samavediswarar temple, Tirumangalam, Lalgudi taluk.
6. Sri Darugavaneswarar temple, Tiruppalathurai, Trichinopoly taluk.

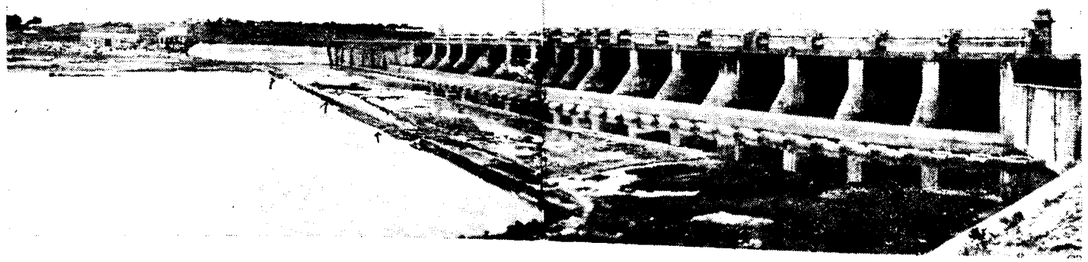
Wholesale Prices of Commodities Prevailing on 23rd August 1947

[All prices are in rupees per imperial maund of 82-2/7 lb. (equivalent to 3,200 tolas) except where otherwise stated.]

Station.	Variety.	Price.
	1. *Paddy, first sort.*	
Vizianagram	Gunupur sannam, first quality.	No stock.
Cocanada	Krishnakatukulu	Do.
Rajahmundry	Kichili samba	7·13
Ellore	Do.	5·89
Bezwada	Vankasannalu	6·44
Masulipatam	Delhibogam	No report.
Guntur	Atragadda	5·68
Nellore	Molagolukulu, first quality.	6·63
Cuddalore	Garudan samba	6·38
Vellore	Chinna samba	6·58
Chidambaram	Sirumani	5·33
Trichinopoly	Nellore samba, fine	5·92
Kumbakonam	White sirumani	5·92
Negapatam	Do.	5·77
Tinnevelly	Anaikomban	6·17
Mangalore	Mascathi	7·05
Anantapur	....	No stock.
Hindupur	....	Do.
Conjeeveram	....	6·59
Chittoor	....	9·94
Virudunagar	....	No stock.
	2. *Paddy, second sort.*	
Vizianagram	Gunupur sannam, second quality.	No stock.
Cocanada	Punasa	5·45
	Konamani	5·45
Rajahmundry	Do.	6·38
Ellore	Do.	5·46
Bezwada	Atragadda	5·88
Masulipatam	Akkulu	No report.
Guntur	Pinnakusuma	5·68
Nellore	Eswari	No stock.
Cuddalore	Vadan samba	6·01
Vellore	Do.	6·43
Trichinopoly	Nellore samba, coarse.	Not quoted.
Kumbakonam	Do.	5·60
Negapatam	Kattai samba	5·63
Madura	Arai samba	6·48
Tinnevelly	Kar	Not quoted.
	Poombalai	6·17
Mangalore	Guddu	6·55
Anantapur	....	No stock.
Hindupur	....	Do.
Conjeeveram	....	6·26
Chittoor	....	8·81
Virudunagar	....	7·75
	3. *Rice, first sort.*	
Vizianagram	Gunupur sannam, first quality.	No stock.
Cocanada	Krishnakatukulu	Do.
Rajahmundry	Kichili samba	9·85
Ellore	Do.	8·45
Bezwada	Vankasannalu	9·41
Masulipatam	Delhibogam	No report.
Guntur	Atragadda	8·36

Station.	Variety.	Price.
	3. *Price first sort*—cont.	
Nellore	Molagolukulu, first quality.	10·06
Cuddalore	Garudan samba	10·07
Vellore	Chinna samba	Not quoted.
Trichinopoly	Nellore samba (fine), raw rice.	9·11
Kumbakonam	White sirumani	9·47
Negapatam	Do.	9·53
Tinnevelly	Anaikomban	10·54
Mangalore	Mascathi	11·25
Anantapur	....	No stock.
Hindupur	....	Do.
Tadpatri	....	Do.
Conjeeveram	....	10·12
Chittoor	....	14·00
Virudunagar	....	14·33
	4. *Rice, second sort.*	
Vizagapatam	Bayakunda, third quality.	No stock.
Vizianagram	Gunupur sannam, second quality.	Do.
Cocanada	Punasa	9·41
	Konamani	9·41
Rajahmundry	Do.	8·47
Ellore	Do.	7·82
Bezwada	Atragadda	8·03
Masulipatam	Akkulu	No report.
Guntur	Pinnakusuma	8·36
Nellore	Eswari	No stock.
Cuddalore	Vadan samba	9·42
Vellore	Do.	Not quoted.
Trichinopoly	Nellore samba	8·87
Kumbakonam	Do.	9·12
Negapatam	Kattai samba	9·18
Madura	Arai samba	10·16
Tinnevelly	Kar	Not quoted.
	Anaikomban	9·51
Mangalore	Guddu	10·77
Anantapur	....	12·37
Hindupur	....	11·85
Tadpatri	....	11·22
Conjeeveram	....	9·50
Chittoor	....	13·23
Virudunagar	....	No stock.
	5. *Cholam.*	
Guntur	....	7·45
Nandyal	Patcha jonna	6·50
Adoni	Do.	8·25
	Tella jonna	No stock.
Bellary	Patcha jonna	8·35
	Tella jonna	No stock.
Cuddapah	Patcha jonna	5·76
	Tella jonna	6·14
Nellore	....	No stock.
Salem	....	7·04
Erode	White	6·95
Coimbatore	....	6·32

Registered No. M-4767.



The Poondi Reservoir Regulator

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

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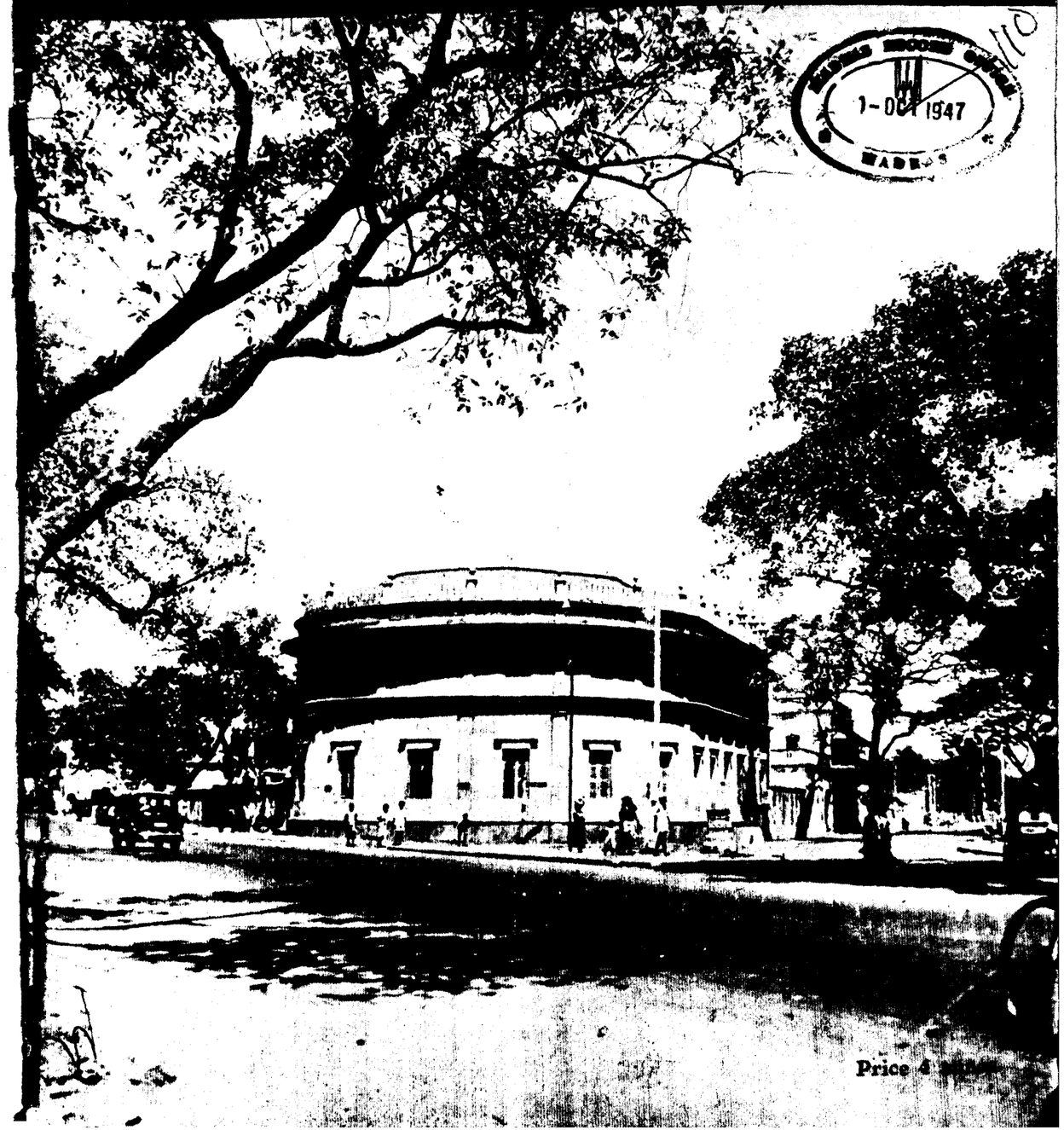
SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited from candidates for one appointment by direct recruitment as temporary overseer in the Photo-Zinco Press of the Central Survey Office, Madras, in the Madras Survey and Land Records Subordinate Service. The scale of pay of the post is Rs. 120—5—150. The candidates should be holders of a degree in Chemistry and of not more than 30 years of age. The latest date for receipt of the applications is the 15th September 1947. For full particulars please see the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 2nd September 1947.

C. A. RAMAKRISHNAN, I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary, Board of Revenue.

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MADRAS INFORMATION



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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

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Development

Industrial dispute

An industrial dispute arose between the workers and management of the Commonwealth Tile Factory, Feroke. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication. After enquiry, the Tribunal has submitted its award.

The Tribunal says that the workers are not bound by the settlement arrived at between them and the management on 28th January 1947, but that the cent per cent dearness allowance agreed to in the settlement is fair. Workers who have a service of six months in 1946 shall be paid a bonus equivalent to twenty-five per cent of their total basic earnings (including production bonus) for that year. The managements should provide chappals and gloves of coarse stuff, canvas, for instance, to the workers in the hot chambers. Very few workers have taken advantage of the benefit fund started by the company and the management need not make an equal contribution until the workers join the fund in large numbers. The factory is closed for ten days for adults and for fourteen days for children as a regular measure, and therefore the workers need not be given holidays when they desire to have them. No worker was dismissed and the question of reinstatement does not arise. The period of unemployment from 16th April to 11th May 1947 was involuntary. The workers who were unemployed from 16th to 30th April 1947 should be paid seventy-five per cent of their basic wages and dearness allowance subject to a minimum of fifteen annas and from 1st to 11th May 1947 fifty per cent of their basic wages and dearness allowance subject to a minimum of ten annas.

All the skilled workers should be paid the existing time wages varying from Rs. 42–4–0 to Rs. 61–12–0 for a month of twenty-six working days with an attendance bonus of four annas a day. The unskilled workers should be paid Rs. 1–8–0 daily with an attendance bonus of four annas a day instead of two annas and those who were not getting attendance bonus till now will get a bonus of two annas a day. Semi-skilled workers in the kiln department should be paid a basic wage of twelve annas and dearness allowance of twelve annas with an output bonus. The semi-skilled workers in the press department will get a basic wage of ten annas and dearness allowance of ten annas with output bonus. The unskilled workers who are now on piece rate will get a basic wage of eight annas and dearness allowance of eight annas with output bonus. In addition, the unskilled workers who have put in a service of two years on 1st July 1947 will get a bonus of two rupees per mensem and those who have put in a service of five years will get a bonus of four rupees per mensem.

Bonus and compensation must be paid within one month of the publication of the award. The revised scales of wages will come into effect on 1st July 1947 and remain in force for one year. The Government accept the recommendations of the Tribunal and enforce them on the parties for a period of one year from 1st July 1947.

Permission for New Rice Mills

The Government have cancelled the orders issued on 8th January 1947 prohibiting the issue of licences for the opening of new rice mills, in respect of the areas in the Province outside the firkas selected for intensive rural reconstruction. The ban will, however, continue to be in force in the selected firkas till the end of December 1947, when the matter will be considered again and further orders issued.

It may be recalled that with a view to encourage the hand-pounding of paddy and the consumption of hand-pounded rice, the Government prohibited in their order referred to the issue of licences for the opening of new rice mills. At the time the order was issued, they had before them a proposal to manufacture and supply a large number of Japanese type of hullers called "Rama Hullers" for the purpose of converting paddy into rice as these hullers produced rice comparable in quality with hand-pounded rice. It has, however, since been found that the cost of manufacture of these hullers is high and that they are of doubtful economic value. The proposal to manufacture these hullers has, therefore, been given up.

It has also been represented to the Government that in the absence of facilities for manufacturing hand-pounded rice on the required scale, the ban on the licences of new mills operated as a great handicap, as hand-pounding was not an economic proposition owing to the scarcity of labour and high wages and as the number of existing mills was not sufficient to cope speedily with the work of conversion into rice.

Provincial Firka Development Board

The Government have constituted a Provincial Firka Development Board to formulate and frame schemes for speeding up intensive rural reconstruction work, improvement of the cottage industries and development of Khadi in the selected firkas and centres. The members of the Board are the following :—

(1) The Hon'ble the Prime Minister (*Chairman*).
(2) The Hon'ble Minister for Rural Development.
(3) Sri Gollapudi Sitarama Sastri.
(4) Sri N. S. Varadachari, M.L.A.
(5) Sri M. Bapineedu, M.L.A.
(6) Sri Kelappan.
(7) Sri N. Ramakrishna Ayyar.
(8) Sri R. R. Keithan.
(9) Sri Mothey Narayana Rao, M.L.C.
(10) Sm. T. S. Soundaram Ramachandran.
(11) Sri Manikonda Satyanarayana Sastri.
(12) Sri A. Vedaratnam Pillai, M.L.A.
(13) Sri Tekkuri Subrahmanyam.
(14) Sri K. K. Subbanna Gounder, M.L.A.
(15) Prof. G. Ramachandra Rao.
(16) Sri S. Ramaswami Naidu.
(17) Sri Pangal Lakshminarayana Naik.
(18) Sri Annam Kanniah.
(19) Dr. Gurubadam.
(20) Sri R. Guruswami.
(21) The Chief Engineer (Highways).
(22) The Chief Engineer (Electricity).
(23) Director of Agriculture, Madras
(24) Provincial Textile Commissioner, Madras
(25) Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras.
(26) Joint Secretary, Board of Revenue (Land Revenue and Settlement).
(27) Assistant Secretary to Government, Public (Firka Development) Department.
(28) Provincial Firka Development Officer (Secretary).

(*Continued on page 27*)

Miscellaneous

Pudukottah student for Medical College

The Government have decided that ut of the 50 seats in the College of ndian Medicine, Madras, one seat may e reserved every year for a candidate rom the Pudukottah State, qualified or admission into the College.

Oath of Allegiance for Local Boards

The Government have prescribed revised form of Oath of Allegiance o be taken by newly elected members f the Municipal Councils and Local Boards as well as Councillors and Alderen of the Madras Corporation. The evised form is only provisional, pendng amendment of the Madras District Municipalities and Local Boards Act nd the Madras City Municipal Act so s to alter the form of Oath in order o make it an affirmation of allegiance o India and the Constitution of India. The Oath need be taken by members nly at their option and need not be aken by the existing Councillors and Aldermen of the Corporation of Madras and members of Panchayats.

Petrol coupons

It has been brought to the notice of Government that several owners of motor vehicles deposit their petrol coupons with petrol dealers with the object of drawing petrol as and when needed. This is an offence under clause 27 of the Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941. Petrol dealers and owners of motor vehicles are informed that any violation of the clause will result in the prosecution of both the petrol dealers and the owners of such vehicles and that the rations of the vehicles will be reduced or stopped.

Vacancies for war service candidates

Under the orders now in force, 66-2/3 per cent of all substantive vacancies and certain kinds of temporary vacancies in Provincial and Subordinate Services arising up to 31st March 1947 and which should be filled by direct recruitment have been reserved for candidates who have rendered war service. The Government have had under consideration the question whether any vacancies arising after that date should be reserved for such candidates. They have now decided that the policy of reserving vacancies for war service candidates need not be continued beyond 31st March 1947. In order however to facilitate the absorption of such candidates in non-reserved vacancies arising on or after 1st April 1947, the Government are issuing orders permitting them to exclude the period of their war service in computing their age for appointment. Such candidates will also be exempted from payment of application fees.

Elementary School Teachers

Government have permitted unqualified teachers in Lower Elementary Grade who were in service on 17th June 1946 and who have to their credit six years' of satisfactory service to serve in aided elementary schools and assessed grants without being exempted.

Britain's export drive

The July issue of 'The Commonwealth and Empire Review,' contains, among other things, two articles on the export trade of Britain which may be of interest to Indian business firms and importers. The article on 'This Year's British Industries Fair' (which is being held annually since 1915 and is now established as the World's Greatest Trade Fair) gives a bird's-eye view of the British inventions and the achievements of British enterprise, especially during war time. Many of the exhibits at the Fair belong to the category of goods suitable for export. It may be noted that they are available for immediate delivery.

National Savings

Subscriptions from the Province towards National Savings Certificate during the week ended with 16th August 1947 amount to Rs. 2,10,260. The total collection for the period from 1st April to 16th August 1947 is Rs. 56,33,175. Madras has shot up to the first place in point of collections.

Women's Civil Corps

The Government have appointed Dr. (Mrs.) Soundaram Ramachandran as Chairman of the Provincial Executive Committee of the Indian Women's Civil Corps with effect from 24th July 1947.

Exemptions from Paper Control Order

The Provincial Paper Controller has exempted certain varieties of imported paper from the provisions of clauses 12, 20 and 24 of the Madras Paper Control Order in order to enable dealers to sell them up to one ream at a time to non-card holders. These varieties are: (1) Tissue paper, (2) Butter paper, (3) Cellophane paper, (4) Vegetable Parchment paper, (5) Blotting paper, (6) Manifolding paper, (7) Flint paper, (8) Cheque paper, (9) Marble paper and (10) Kraft paper.

This concession is only provisional and is liable to be withdrawn, should the stock position require such a step.

Art paper for Journals

Representations were received from proprietors of journals printed on newsprint for permission to use art paper for cover pages. The Government of India have carefully considered the representations and have decided to make general relaxation of clause 3 (3) of the Newsprint Control Order (No. 2) so as to enable journals to use art paper for the cover pages without permission from the Government. This concession however applies only to cover pages. As regards the use of art paper for inside pages of journals printed on newsprint, permission of the Government continues to be necessary.

Control of Dyes: Payment of licence fee

In connection with the control of dyes required for cotton textiles, time was given to all licensees and permit holders up to 31st August 1947 to remit the licence and permit-fees, and it was mentioned that those who failed to remit the licence and permit-fees by the said date would not be allowed to continue their business thereafter.

It has been represented to the Textile Commissioner that the time allowed for payment of licence fees and permit-fees is short and might be extended In view of this, the Textile Commissioner has permitted those who have not remitted the fees by the fixed date to remit them by 20th September 1947. Those who fail to remit the fee even by that date would not be allowed to continue their business.

Sites for student camps

The Government have constituted a Committee consisting of the Chief Inspector of Physical Education, the President, Headmasters' Association, Madras, a representative of the Boys' Scouts Association, and Mrs. Mary Clubwalla, to inspect vacant sites which are said to be suitable for consideration for use as camps for school and college students and scouts. The members may elect one among themselves as the Chairman of the Committee.

The Committee will make recommendations to Government on the extent of land to be taken over for use as camps, the number of camps to be developed, the manner in which the camps should be administered and other details relating to the scheme.

Flood Relief

The Government have sanctioned a sum of rupees two thousand for the relief of distress caused by the floods in Kasaragod taluk, South Kanara district, on 16th August 1947.

Tuberculosis by contagion

It was brought to the notice of the Government that a number of medical students and nurses contract tuberculosis during the period of their study and training With a view to preventing this, the Government have instituted a system of thorough annual medical examination of medical students as well as nurses. The Superintendents of the hospitals attached to the Medical Colleges have been given detailed instructions to this end.

Cost of Living Index

The following table shows the cost of living index numbers for low-paid employees at the different mofussil centres in the Province of Madras for the month of August 1947 :—

Vizagapatam ..	289·0
Ellore	359·7
Bellary	311·1
Cuddalore	296·7
Trichinopoly ..	299·3
Madura	295·5 *
Coimbatore ..	304·8
Calicut	358·3

* 295·46 to two decimal places.

Index numbers of import and export prices for the Province of Madras for July 1947—

(1) The index number of declared values of foreign imports declined by 106 points to 207.

(2) The index number of declared values of foreign exports advanced by 19 points to 276.

(3) The index number of declared values of coastwise imports advanced by 4 points to 315.

(4) The index number of declared values of coastwise exports advanced by 46 points to 360.

(Continued from page 5)

The Board is authorized to co-opt such additional members and on such terms as it may decide from time to time. It may also invite Heads of Departments and others to attend its meetings whenever required.

The Headquarters of the Board will be in Madras and it will meet ordinarily once a quarter or oftner if necessary.

SITUATION VACANT

Applications are invited from candidates below the age of 25 for three appointments by direct recruitment as temporary Assistant Inspector of Survey and Land Records in the Survey and Land Records Subordinate Service. Two of the posts will be filled by Andhra candidates (one Non-Brahman Hindu and the other Muslim) and the third by a Tamil Non-Brahman. The scale of pay of the post is Rs. 100–7½/2—115—10/2—125 plus dearness allowance according to rules. The candidates should possess the B.A. or B.Sc. degree of a University in the Province. The latest date for receipt of applications is 10th October 1947. For full particulars please see the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated the 23rd September 1947.

Board of Revenue,
19th September 1947.

C. A. RAMAKRISHNAN, I.C.S.,
Joint Secretary.

Zamindari Abolition Bill Explained

Revenue Minister's Statement

The following statement was issued on the 16th September by the Hon'ble Revenue Minister in connection with the Zamindari Abolition Bill :—

As there appears to be some misapprehension about the implications of the Madras Estates (Repeal of the Permanent Settlement and Conversion into Ryotwari) Bill, 1947, published in the extraordinary issue of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 13th September 1947, the general scheme underlying the Bill and the provisions thereof are explained below.

2. *Scheme of acquisition.*—The Bill applies to all estates governed by the Madras Estates Land Act, 1908. To begin with an estate which the Government propose to take over will first be notified by the Government under section 1, sub-section (3) of the Act. With effect on and from the notified date, the consequences mentioned in section 3 will ensue. The estate including all communal lands or porambokes, waste lands, forests and other non-ryoti lands, mines and minerals and irrigation works and buildings used exclusively as offices in connection with the administration of the estate will vest in the Crown free of all encumbrances. The estate will cease to be an estate and become a ryotwari area in law.

3. *Interim administration, survey and settlement.*—A manager will be appointed generally to manage the estates till the ryotwari settlement is effected, to collect the land revenue on ryotwari lands in the estate and to make arrangements for the incorporation of the estate in due course as part of the ryotwari area of the district. The estate will be run more or less on ryotwari lands but as a separate entity to start with. If the estate has not already been surveyed a survey will be made. If it has been surveyed already, the new survey will be limited to what is necessary for the introduction of the ryotwari settlement. The cost of survey or re-survey (excluding the cost of survey marks or boundary pillars) will be borne by the Government. After the survey has been made a settlement on ryotwari principles will be conducted at the cost of the Government. The rates of assessment set out in the resettlement notification of the district will be fixed for the lands in the estate.



Sri Kala Venkata Rao

4. *Interim payments to proprietors, landholders, etc.*—Till the ryotwari settlement is completed, interim payments will be made every year to the proprietors and other persons having interests in the estate. The total amount of the interim payments will be that which is, on a rough calculation, equal to the basic annual sum for the estate which will be determined after the ryotwari settlement has been made.

The interim payments will be apportioned between the proprietor and under-tenure holders by a Special Tribunal consisting of a Sub-Judge, an Advocate of the High Court of not less than ten years' standing and a Deputy Collector.

5. *Determination of compensation.*—After the ryotwari settlement has been completed, the compensation payable to the proprietors and other persons having interests will be determined. The gross annual ryotwari demand of the estate will first be computed, by taking ryotwari assessments fixed for cultivable lands in the estate (other than private lands) by the ryotwari settlement and adding to it the gross income derived by the Government from the estate in respect of forests, fisheries, mines and minerals during the complete fasli year immediately succeeding the notified date.

In the case of *estates other than whole-inam villages*, one-third of the gross ryotwari demand so arrived at will first be taken and from it the following deductions will be made :—

(*a*) 8-1/3 per cent on account of establishment charges, and

(*b*) 5 per cent on account of the cost of maintaining irrigation works.

The resultant sum will be the basic annual sum for the compensation.

The reasons for taking one-third of the gross ryotwari demand in arriving at the basic annual sum are the following.

The land revenue payable by the ryots in estates represents the "rajabagam" to which, from time immemorial, the ruler in India has been entitled. At the time of the Permanent Settlement the total land revenue payable on all the lands in the estate was worked out from the average of the preceding few years, based on such village accounts as were available or on other material. Approximately two-thirds of the figure thus arrived at was fixed as the peshkash. This proportion was slightly varied in individual cases with reference to special features like the possibilities of development, the unproductiveness of the soil, the zamindar's ability to pay, etc. The balance of one-third was left to the landholder as recompense for the trouble of collecting the land revenue. It was also laid down that all income from extension of cultivation should belong to the landholder. As against this, he had to maintain a staff to make collections and to look after administration generally; he had to maintain irrigation sources in good repair and he was also entrusted with the responsibility of improving the well-being of the ryots under him. In ryotwari areas the "rajabagam" is represented by the ryotwari assessment. It will be generally conceded that the ryotwari system is fairer to the ryot and more systematic in its incidence than the level of rents in estates. When the zamindari system disappears, there is no alternative except to settle the lands on a ryotwari basis which is the system obtaining in two-thirds of the province. Therefore the principle underlying the scheme of compensation in the Bill is to superimpose on the results of a ryotwari settlement the rule that was generally adopted at the time of the Permanent Settlement, viz., to divide the gross demand in the ratio of 2 : 1 between the State and the landholder. Accordingly Government consider it equitable that the zamindar should not get anything more than one-third of the demand under a ryotwari settlement.

The basic annual sum for purposes of capitalization computed as aforesaid will come to 1/3 or 33-1/3 per cent *minus* 13-1/3 per cent or 20 per cent of the gross ryotwari demand, i.e., 20 per cent of the ryotwari assessments fixed by the ryotwari settlement for cultivable lands (other than private lands) in the estate *plus* 20 per cent of the gross income derived by the Government in respect of forests, fisheries and mines and minerals for the fasli year immediately succeeding the date on which the estate is taken over.

In the case of *whole inam villages*, the gross ryotwari demand will first be computed and from it the following deductions will be made :—

(*a*) 8-1/3 per cent on account of establishment charges ;

(*b*) 5 per cent on account of the cost of maintaining irrigation works ;

(*c*) the actual annual quit rent and other payments of a like nature.

One half of the resultant sum will be the basic annual sum for whole inam villages for the purpose of capitalization.

6. *Sliding scale for payment of compensation.*—The compensation will be paid according to the sliding scale specified in section 6 (*d*) of the Bill. The multiple in the sliding scale varies from 12½ to 25. A larger multiple of the basic annual sum is allowed to estates in respect of which the basic annual sum arrived at is small and a smaller multiple for estate in respect of which the basic annual sum is big.

7. *Apportionment of compensation.*—After the amount of compensation payable for the estate has been finally computed, it will be apportioned between the landholder, and under-tenure holders by the Special Tribunal referred to in paragraph 4 above.

8. *Mode of payment.*—The rules under the Act will lay down the form and manner in which the compensation will be paid to landholders. The amount of compensation payable to any landholder will be deposited in the District Court. The landholder, the members of his family claiming any interest in the compensation amount and his creditors if any will have to apply to the District Court within six months from the date of deposit of the amount of compensation in the Court. The District Court will then consider the claims of all these persons, determine the amounts payable to them and make payments.

9. *Tribunal to examine history of private lands.*—A Tribunal will be appointed to examine the history of all lands claimed by the proprietor of the estate as his private land and decide which of them are his private lands. This Tribunal will consist of three members, a Deputy Collector appointed by the Government, a non-official appointed by the proprietor and another non-official appointed by the ryots of the estate.

10. *Existing estate staff.*—Existing estate staff will as far as possible be absorbed in Government service. They will be put into a special cadre and rules will be made to govern their services.

11. *General provisions.*—Once an estate is notified, the proprietor or other landholder will not be entitled to collect any rent from the ryots. All arrears of rent and all proceedings taken for the recovery of such arrears shall be deemed to have been discharged. All arrears of rent will stand transferred to, and be enforceable, by the Crown. The arrears will be collected by the manager who is placed in charge of the estate. If a ryot pays the arrears of rent due for the two complete faslis immediately preceding the notified date, all arrears of rent due from him in respect of any prior fasli will be deemed to have been discharged. The peshkash due from the proprietor shall cease to be payable from the end of the fasli year immediately preceding the notified date.

Any claim or liability enforceable on the notified date against the proprietor or other landholder will be enforceable only against the interim payments or the compensation paid to him.

An officer with the necessary staff will be appointed to give effect to the provisions of the Act, to superintend the taking over of estates, to survey and settle the estates, and to make arrangements for their administration, etc.

Bill Defended : Reply to Criticisms

In another statement, the Hon'ble Sri Kala Venkata Rao, Minister for Land Revenue, answers certain criticisms.

I have read with interest Mr. Prakasam's statement criticising the provisions of the Bill for the abolition of the zamindari system in this province. His central argument regarding compensation is that the zamindar being only an assignee for the collection of revenue, no compensation need be paid to him at all when that function is taken away from him. He also contends that if any compensation is paid at all, it need be paid purely as a matter of grace and that the basis for it may be one-ninth or one-tenth of the total revenue of the estate at the time of the Permanent Settlement plus the revenue from lands brought under cultivation after 1802.

2. Extremely divergent views have been expressed on this very difficult question of discovering a basis on which compensation should be paid to zamindars when estates are abolished. These views have ranged from an assertion on the one hand that no compensation should be paid at all, to a claim on behalf of the landholders that they should be paid compensation on land acquisition principles based on the present market value of their estates. The policy of the Congress in this matter is to pay equitable compensation. And discussion in different Provinces in India has centred round the question as to what equitable compensation is. The logic behind the Madras proposal on this question is as follows :—

The land revenue payable by the ryots in estates represents the "rajabagam" to which, from time immemorial, the ruler in India has been entitled. At the time of the Permanent Settlement, the total land revenue payable on all the lands in the estate was worked out from the average of the preceding few years, based on such village accounts as were available or on other material. Approximately two-thirds of the figure thus arrived at was fixed as the peshkash. This proportion was slightly varied in individual cases with reference to special features like the possibilities of development, the unproductiveness of the soil, the zamindar's ability to pay, etc. The balance of one-third was left to the landholder as recompense for the trouble of collecting the land revenue. It was also laid down that all income from extension of cultivation should belong to the landholder. As against this, he had to maintain a staff to make collections and to look after administration generally ; he

had to maintain irrigation sources in good repair and he was also entrusted with the responsibility of improving the well-being of the ryots under him. In ryotwari areas the "rajabagam" is represented by the ryotwari assessment. It will be generally conceded that the ryotwari system is fairer to the ryot and more systematic in its incidence than the level of rents in estates. When the zamindari system disappears, there is no alternative except to settle the lands on a ryotwari basis which is the system obtaining in two-thirds of the province. Therefore the principle underlying the scheme of compensation in the Bill is to superimpose on the results of a ryotwari settlement, the rule that was generally adopted at the time of the Permanent Settlement, viz., to divide the gross demand in the ratio of 2 : 1 between the State and the landholder. From the landholder's share so ascertained deductions amounting to 13⅓ per cent are to be made for expenses of administration and the cost of maintaining irrigation sources—both liability cast on him by the Permanent Settlement. Thus the net result is that he will get only the capitalized value of one-fifth of the ryotwari income as compensation. It is therefore clear that the scheme of the Bill, for this purpose, is to treat the zamindar only as an agent for the collection of revenue and to compensate him for the rights he has acquired in that capacity over a long period. The Bill does not concede any property right in the the estate to the proprietor. Mr. Prakasam's illusory argument that compensation is intended for potential value of land, forests, fisheries, etc., has no place in this Bill. He must have misunderstood the scheme of compensation embodied in the Bill and has raised a ghost for nothing.

3. Mr. Prakasam has not chosen to explain why compensation should be paid on the basis of either one-ninth or one-tenth of the total revenue in addition to the revenue from lands brought under cultivation after 1802. As far as I can discover, there is no logical basis for this one-ninth or one-tenth. As for revenue derived from extensions of cultivation, it will be impossible in the case of most estates to discover the limits of cultivation at the time of the Permanent Settlement and the area which has since come under cultivation. It is obvious that in the case of many estates these extensions will be considerable in area; and to award compensation on the basis of total revenue derived therefrom will be to put up the total compensation considerably.

4. Mr. Prakasam urges that the "unalterable" rates of rent fixed in 1802 will serve as a better basis for awarding compensation. In the first place, it is a moot point whether the rents fixed in 1802 are "unalterable." While the argument may have validity in respect of money rents, it certainly does not apply to grain rents. And grain rents prevailed in most estates at the time of the Permanent Settlement. To put rents back to the 1802 level would be to ignore completely the course of events during the last 145 years, including changes in the value of money and in agricultural economy generally. As far as the argument that some "unascertained rate of rent of the neighbouring Government jiraiti land is proposed to be fixed as rent payable by the ryot," I leave it to the public to judge, whether the existing levels of ryotwari assessment are likely to prove more satisfactory than the hypothetical rates of rent which prevailed in 1802 and which in most cases it will be impossible to ascertain at this distance of time. It is significant in this connection that the demand of the zamindari ryots has always been that for rent and for other purposes they should be put on a par with ryotwari pattadars. Sri T. Prakasam and some of us who supported him previously on the proposition of the 1802 rents did so because it was the only alternative at that time to total abolition, which we thought we could not achieve in the political set up at that time.

5. Mr. Prakasam criticises the provisions in the Bill regarding payment of compensation in respect of forests, mines, fisheries, etc. The scheme of the Bill is to take over an estate lock, stock and barrel without assessing compensation separately for various items like forests, fisheries, etc. The position is that the gross annual income from these sources for the first year after Government take over the administration will be added on to the assessment from cultivable lands and that one-fifth of this total will form the basic annual sum for purposes of compensation. The proposals in Mr. Prakasam's Bill of 1947 were to vest forests, minerals, etc., in village communities. Forests, minerals, fisheries, etc., are valuable national assets and the proposal to let village communities exploit huge forests and big mines would have been unworkable in practice besides being injurious to the welfare of the community as a whole. The present Bill seeks to put them in the same position as forests, mines, etc., in the rest of the Province, and I am certain the public will regard this arrangement much more satisfactory. To seek to mislead the public over this matter is really unjust on his part.

6. Mr. Prakasam says, "Whatever the zamindars demanded in the memorandum submitted by them in regard to the basis and method of calculation of compensation are adopted bodily in the present Bill." This is simply not true. Reduced to bare essentials the Bill seeks to pay compensation to the zamindars on the basis of one-fifth of the annual income under a ryotwari settlement. Zamindars, to my knowledge, have never even suggested that such a basis should be adopted. On the other hand the zamindars have always claimed compensation on the basis of their present net income. Mr. Prakasam cannot deny knowledge of the fact that the one-third ryotwari basis was partly worked up by my Honourable predecessor-in-office Sri Karanth.

7. Mr. Prakasam refers to the disparity in the rates of assessments obtaining in the different districts and says that it is meaningless to levy the resettlement rates of assessment on lands in zamin areas. I am quite unable to follow this criticism. If there are disparities as between districts and as between the people who pay the land revenue the matter will certainly be set aright in my next legislative measure which seeks to codify land revenue law for the whole province and will introduce progressive taxation methods.

8. Mr. Prakasam says that an acreage amounting to more than one-fourth of the total area in the zamindaris will go to waste by the application of the ryotwari assessments. I am unable to follow this criticism either. Some marginal land held on ryotwari tenure may remain fallow every year but it is quite unlikely that ryotwari land which is now cultivated will go out of cultivation because of a ryotwari assessment which will be generally lower than the rent now paid by estate ryots. On the other hand more land in estates is likely to come under the plough after conversion of the estates to ryotwari. Further, speedy repair of irrigation works in zamindari areas which will follow abolition will surely very much increase and never decrease the extent of cultivation. His argument about bonus to cultivators has no bearing on this question at all.

(Continued on page 15)

Resources of Local Bodies

[The following is the second part of a discussion between the Hon'ble Sri Chandramouli and Mr. A. N. Sivaraman, broadcast from the A.I.R., Madras. The first instalment appeared in the previous issue of "Madras Information."]



Mr. S.—Good evening, Mr. Chandramouli. Before we begin to discuss the resources of local bodies at present and as envisaged in the new set up proposed, it is perhaps useful to restate the main features of the general picture of local administration you gave me the other day.

Mr. C.—Of course. It is certainly good to recapitulate what we discussed earlier before we proceed further.

Mr. S.—I recollect six main points which you raised regarding the future of local administration. Firstly, it is your intention compulsorily to constitute a village panchayat in every revenue village irrespective of its area. Secondly, in your scheme there will be no taluk boards or district boards. Thirdly, the panchayats will be charged with the obligation of the maintenance of streets, the repair of irrigation channels and tanks, looking after the sanitation and the maintenance of some of the local services. Fourthly, you also propose to give these panchayats a good deal of autonomy to manage their own affairs subject to the supervision and control of the Provincial Government through Inspectors of Panchayats. Fifthly, the panchayats will be empowered to levy taxes in order to be able to discharge their new obligations. The Provincial Government will collect land cess for the panchayats, and lastly you said that the employees of these panchayats will be on a par with those of the other departments of the Government in status, position as well as pay.

Mr. C.—Yes, that is a fairly accurate summary of what I have said in the course of the previous interview.

Mr. S.—Well, now what do you think will be the financial implications of your proposal to abolish the district boards?

Mr. C.—If the district boards are abolished, the whole of the land cess now given to them may be apportioned to the panchayats. The grants made to district boards under the heads of sanitation, medical facilities, etc., may also, at least partly, be allotted to the panchayats as long as they run some of the rural dispensaries and make general arrangements for the upkeep of sanitation and other health measures such as maternity and child welfare. Half grants may also be given for laying and maintaining village roads just as they are being given at present. Some of the panchayats may also run their own markets, cottage industries and other remunerative enterprises, thereby adding to their resources. As such, the financial implications of the proposed abolition of the district boards do not seem to be a very serious problem. By the way, I even feel that the people as well as public workers will appreciate the elimination of one more election and the incidental expenses.

Mr. S.—In your proposed structure of rural autonomy the village panchayat will be in charge of a number of functions connected with rural well-being. Do you think the resources you say you will put at the disposal of these panchayats will be sufficient for an efficient discharge of the allotted functions?

New sources of Revenue

Mr. C.—Of course. New duties as I said will be supported by new sources of revenue. Here I propose to digress and discuss the new taxation policy that has to be borne in mind in our country which is now free from foreign domination. In the past the system of Government taxation itself was not based on principles beneficial to the people in general. After the achievement of Independence and with the people's representatives wielding power, policies and schemes are being enunciated and initiated to reshape the basic principles of State taxation. Taxation by local bodies is very closely connected to and dovetailed with the taxation levied by the Central and the Provincial Governments. Local bodies have to be given new sources of income particularly of a non-tax type. Though local bodies exercise "Governmental" as well as "private powers", in the field of taxation the local bodies can only touch those resources not tapped by the State.

Mr. S.—Is it your view that there are still some sources of revenue left to the local bodies after exhausting the sources already tapped by the States?

Principles of Taxation

Mr. C.—Of course. As I have already stated there has to be a reorientation in the very principles of taxation adopted in this country. For instance, in France, local self-government is part of the general administrative system. It is a limb of the State. Even so, the local bodies are not permitted to encroach into the taxes levied by the Government. In India, where the system of taxation is now in the melting pot, the system of taxation by local bodies is also necessarily in that stage. On account of the different social and other customs every province in India is adopting its own methods in this respect, and a system has been followed also in our Province. At present in our Presidency only 300 major panchayats and some minor ones levy house-tax. The remaining 7,000 and odd minor panchayats rely only on the meagre land cess which is doled out by the Government to each one of them. The large majority of them get only a few hundreds annually from this source and are not able to maintain any public service worth the name. On the Continent and in England and America, local bodies are running public utility services like hotels and restaurants and transport. These sources serve to augment the income of those bodies. Many local bodies of sea-side towns and health

resorts make money by openly encouraging tourists to visit them for sightseeing. These local bodies have devised various ways of extracting as much money as possible from tourists. Some such methods and means may be employed by our local bodies to augment their resources. I envisage one important source of revenue in future for these panchayats and that is the promotion of local industries. The panchayats can subsidize important industries with the ultimate aid of making them remunerative enterprises. This will also give a fillip to cottage industries and give them a new lease of life. It is also a matter for consideration whether as long as Government assign certain Governmental functions to local bodies, and direct them to discharge these functions, some portion of the general revenues of the State should be allotted to each local body to enable it to discharge these functions efficiently and satisfactorily This will finally mean a reorientation of the present financial canons of Provincial Governments The other sources for panchayats, as I have already pointed out, include cesses, land revenue, fish and grass sales, house-tax, etc. Here I may add one optimistic note. A great deal depends upon the public spirited attitude for the future villagers, who, I expect, will ere long rise to the same standards of philanthropy as in Western Countries. In the West, a number of public utility institutions like hospitals and schools are endowed by the public and run by local bodies. I expect the Indian citizen will, in due course, come up to the same level of public spirit.

Mr. S.—In what respect does your enumeration of resources differ from the present list of resources enjoyed by the minor panchayats ?

Mr. C.—Except, perhaps, the addition of land revenue and more Government grants, there does not seem to be any difference.

Rate of Taxation

Mr. S.—I suppose the panchayats will have the power to determine the rate of taxation ?

Mr. C.—The general rule everywhere is that only the local body should determine during budget time the total amount to be raised by local taxation. It necessarily follows that only the local body should determine within the law the actual rate of taxation annually. In all countries in the West as well as in the East, no local authority has the power to determine the kind of taxes that shall be levied by it. That is decided only by the State legislature. Similarly in Madras, whether under tax or non-tax resources, a local body can derive income only under the items allowed by Government enactments. In fact, even the limits of such taxation are only determined by the Government and variations from them proposed by each local body should have the prior approval of the Government. As remarked elsewhere, when a people's Government is in charge, such limitation imposed for the benefit of the general population cannot be normally described as a restriction.

Mr. S.—In 1945, the Government were collecting a cess of 2 annas in the rupee out of which 6 pies went to the panchayat and 18 pies to the district boards. When you abolish the district boards, are you going to give the village panchayats the entire cess of 2 annas in the rupee ?

Mr. C.—That is the idea. It is difficult without working out the full details of the future income and the needs of the panchayats commensurable with their size, how much share exactly they need get. But it is proposed, in the new set up, to concede to the panchayats which in fact cater to the needs of the basic administrative unit of the country, a decent share of the income derived from its area from as many sources as possible

Mr. S.—Over and above the land cess, do you propose to allot any portion of the land revenue also to the village panchayat ?

Mr. C.—I have just answered that question in a general way. Land revenue is one of the sources of revenue of Government derived from areas in the country which are essentially covered by panchayats in the new set up. As such, a portion of this is also to go to the panchayat. In the new legislation there is a proposal that at least one-fourth of the land revenue should be allotted to the panchayats. One important point to be borne in mind in relation to the principle of rural autonomy is that the emphasis in a Free India will be more on the rural than on the urban development. It has for a long time been a complaint in our economy that the rural parts are being exploited for the advantage of the development of the urban area. The principal object of rural autonomy is to root out this exploitation.

Mr. S.—One of the objects sought to be achieved by the institution of Local Government should be to decentralise the Governmental functions in respect of local amenities. Do you think your scheme will achieve this object ?

Mr. C.—Certainly. Units of local administration in England and America have a very large number of subjects of local importance which they can administer. For instance, a local body in England is in charge of the health of the people. It administers its highways and transport. It is also in charge of housing, civic planning and the local schools. For instance, the local body in Huddersfield maintains a well-known polytechnic in which certificates from primary course to degrees of Ph.D. are awarded. The local bodies run public libraries and art galleries. With some aid from the State, they maintain a police force and look after the public safety of the local people. They run public utility services and arrange relief for all the poor. Although our local bodies in the Madras Presidency are unable, under the present circumstances, to arrange such important and vital amenities, it is not too much to hope that in the near future quite a number of these subjects would be looked after by them. A mofussal municipality in the Madras Province, under the present Act, can only administer a restricted number of subjects. It is our aim to model our municipalities on the lines of some of the most modern countries in the world.

Municipalities

Mr. S.—But, Mr. Chandramouli, my question was about panchayats of the average population; the average village has only about 2,500 people. All that you say may apply to municipalities but not to villages. But anyway let me not argue. Let me ask you about municipalities. What do you think would be the resources of municipalities to run the public services which you have just mentioned ?

Mr. C.—The municipalities in Madras now rely mostly on the taxation on properties to derive their revenues. They tax not only buildings but also the land appurtenant to it. This item of revenue constitutes about 60 per cent of the total income on an average municipality. Though the cost of materials and the expenditure on the civic services have risen abnormally high, it can be safely said that the above rate of property tax has not kept pace with the growing needs and expenditure for every town. Many municipalities now rely a good deal on Government grants to keep up their administration. Various taxes on factories, dangerous and offensive trades, construction of building, etc., bring in an appreciable income. The income under public and private markets is also considerable. We have festivals attended by pilgrims. Levies are made under the Public Health Act to meet part of the expenditure on the conservancy arrangements necessary for the occasion. In certain places, with the previous approval of the Central Government, a pilgrim tax is levied on railway passengers, either on festive days or throughout the year according to the importance of the pilgrim centre. There is one other point. The Government have already moved to nationalize motor transport. In this, municipalities and other self-governing bodies are allotted 20 per cent of the financial interest. The income on this will be a fair source of revenue to the municipalities. Besides this, the Corporation of Madras and the bigger Municipalities may be allowed to operate motor transport and tramways. Proposals are also now under consideration to permit municipalities to levy a tax on advertisements and to municipalize all private markets and cart-stands. In one town in this Presidency a market built in pre-war time at a capital cost of about 3 lakhs of rupees is now yielding an annual revenue to the municipality of one lakh of rupees. It is also under consideration whether a separate higher scavenging tax shall be levied.

Mr. S.—But you would agree that most of what you said now cannot be true of the village panchayats ?

Mr. C.—Yes. If you are seeing only the present village. I am visualising a new people and a new villages, which will have the advantage of cheap electric power, education and a better public spirit.

Mr. S.—Do you consider that the undertaking of public utility services by municipalities will considerably augment their resources ?

Mr. C.—Well, it is hoped but it has yet to be seen. If what we are contemplating is to materialise and is to be put into operation no Municipality need suffer financial insufficiency. On the other hand, with the increased resources and the determined efforts of the people much progress can be achieved within a short period in providing many more public facilities than at present envisaged.

Mr. S.—May I take it that Government have given full consideration to the financial and administrative implications of the abolition of District Boards and of having no territorial local self-governing body other than panchayats and municipalities ?

Mr. C.—As I have made it clear at the outset, the whole matter is under active consideration of Government. We have been discussing only some of the possibilities and I have given you the general picture of some of the aspects of the problem. The entire scope of the proposed legislation will, I assure you, be reconsidered in the light of the many useful points you have raised. In particular, the question of a territorial local-self-governing body will be reconsidered. After all this, the proposed Bill, I am sure, will be far in advance of the measures in other Provinces.

Mr. S.—Well. I have just one more question. What exactly is it, Mr. Chandramouli, that makes you contemplate changing the existing organisational set up in respect of local bodies ?

Mr. C.—It has to be confessed, taking all aspects into consideration, the powers and the financial position of all the three categories of local bodies in this Presidency are in a perilous and unsatisfactory state. With patriotic and selfless workers at the helm of affairs, desirous of doing their best for the common man of the urban as well as rural areas, it is but fit that a fresh and orginal approach is made to the problems of local administration. But this will naturally take some time as the State itself has got to re-adjust its vision in the new era of Independence.

Affiliation of Ceded districts and Chittoor to Andhra University

Public opinion invited on Committee's report

In March 1947, the Government constituted a Committee to consider the question of bringing in the Rayalaseema Districts under the jurisdiction of the Andhra University. The Government have received the Committee's report in May 1947. The Government have also received a minute of dissent from two members of the Committee. Objections and proposals to include the Rayalaseema Districts within the jurisdiction of the Andhra University have also been received from various quarters. The Committee's report is of two parts, one referring to the matter of the affiliation of the Ceded Districts and the district of Chittoor to the Andhra University and the other referring to certain facilities which the Committee would like to give to the Ceded Districts. These two are separate matters not necessarily dependent upon each other. The Government desire to elicit public opinion on the main point in the report, i.e., on the matter of affiliation of the Ceded Districts and Chittoor to the Andhra University and accordingly the report of the Committee is published. All communications of opinion on the report may be sent to the Secretary, Education and Public Health Department, Fort Saint George, Madras, so that they may reach him not later than one month from the date of publication.

Text of the Report

Section I

This Committee was appointed under G.O. Ms. No. 594, Education, dated the 24th March 1947.

The members of the Committee as originally constituted were :—

Sri C. R. Reddy, Vice Chancellor of the Andhra University, Chairman, Sri T. Viswanatham, M.L.A., Secretary, Sri L. Subba Rao, B.A., B.L., Cocanada, Sri N. Ranga Reddy, M.L.C., Sri Kaluri Subba Rao, M.L.C., Sri T. Subramanyam, Bellary, Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddi, M.L.A., Hon. Sri H. Sitarama Reddy, M.L.A., and S. M. K. Beyabani Sahib Bahadur, Kurnool, Members.

Subsequent to the constitution, Hon'ble Sri H. Sitarama Reddy withdrew his membership on his becoming a Minister. At the same time three other members, namely,—

Sri B. Anantachar, M.L.A., Hospet, Sri S. Nagappa, M.L.A., Kurnool and Md. Raza Khan Sahib Bahadur

representing the Muslim Constituency, Chittoor, were added.

The first meeting of the Committee was held at Madras on the 22nd April 1947. Sri C. R. Reddy, Hon. Sri B. Gopala Reddy, Md. Beyabani Sahib Bahadur, Md. Raza Khan Sahib Bahadur, Sri T. Subramanyam and Sri T. Viswanatham, Secretary, were present.

The second and final meeting of the Committee was held on the 15th May 1947 at Waltair. All the members excepting Sri B. Anantachar and Tekkur Subramanyam were present. Sri B. Anantachari sent a telegram that he could not come as there was derangement of train service. Sri T. Subramanyam intimated first that he would be coming but, however, he sent a telegram later regretting that he would not be attending the meeting. The Registrar of Andhra University was present by invitation.

The tentative conclusions arrived at at the first meeting at Madras were considered at the meeting at Waltair and final decisions were taken. The Chairman was authorized to sign the report on behalf of the Committee and forward to Government for early consideration and action.

Section II

At the first meeting the Chairman referred at the outset to the fissiparous tendencies that were prevalent in the country and emphasized the supreme importance of the Andhras setting an example as to how they could get over the small difficulties and illustrate the higher principles of life, by uniting themselves. He then read out for the benefit of the member a copy of the proceedings of the Senate of the Andhra University held on 3rd December 1937 which had been previously circulated among the members of the Committee in connexion with the question before the Committee. After discussion and clearing of the ground certain tentative conclusions were arrived at, so that the picture in concrete form might be presented in order to take together the abstract and realistic aspects for consideration before a decision is arrived at on the questions, under reference, before the Committee.

Section III

As already mentioned above, all members excepting two were present at the second meeting at Waltair on the 15th May 1947. They had arrived at Waltair on the 14th instant. The Principal, Professors and the Registrar took the members round the various departments of the University explaining in detail the special features of the Research in Physics, Chemistry Geology, Technology and Industrial departments which the Andhra University has been carrying on. Prof. Baghavantam, Head of the Department of Physics, gave a demonstration of weather recording by sending up a balloon which could lift a weight of 30 lb. and explained the working of the radio transmission and receiving apparatus in it developed during war-time and took the members to the Metereological Department of the University to study the record of the flight. The other professors also explained in detail the working of their departments both on the curricular and on the creative sides.

On the 15th instant the Registrar took the members to a visit round the Scindia Ship-building Yard, Harbour and the Aerodrome. These visits were considered necessary, as there was an intimate connexion between these institutions and the expanding departments of study in the University in the basic Sciences underlying Marine and Aeronautical Engineering. The University Faculty Club met the Committee in the evening.

Section IV

The Committee met at 8-30 a.m. on the 15th May and considered at first a letter from Mr. Bhima Rao, M.L.C., addressed to the Hon. Minister for Education and which the Chairman passed on to the Committee, recording his protest against the inclusion of Bellary in the Andhra University area. After due deliberation the Committee recorded its opinion as follows :—

The Committee is of opinion that until the division of the Bellary district into Kannada and Andhra parts has been duly effected, Bellary district must be treated as an entity belonging to the Madras Presidency and to the Andhra University area thereof; and that for purposes of the present project of re-amalgamation, his protest could not be valid.

But the Committee would place on record its opinion that when such bifurcation takes place the colleges organized in the Kannada area of the Bellary district thus separated away from the Madras Presidency, would be quite welcome to join a Kannada or any other University.

In instance whereof it may be pointed out that the Andhra University not only did not raise any objection to the exclusion of the Kalikota and Parlakimedi colleges from its jurisdiction and their attachment to the Utkal University but has been helping the Utkal University by conducting examinations for these two colleges on its behalf.

The following facts might be recalled in this connexion :—

That in the original Act, Bellary district was included in the area academic and administrative, of the Andhra University; and even now it continues to be administratively connected by having two representatives on the Andhra Senate."

The Chairman then took up the tentative conclusions arrived at, at the last meeting and threw them open for discussion clause by clause. Following are the proposals in their final shape :—

Proposals

1. Government should be urged to see that an equitable number of students from Western Andhra are admitted to their professional colleges in Madras and Andhra Universities. As far as possible districtwar quotas might be adopted. This will apply to pass courses and professional institutions.

2. In the Andhra University for Honours and Post-Graduate course preference should be given to candidates from Western Andhra, other things being about equal; and as a further inducement certain scholarships should be made available for them with the aid of grants from Government for this purpose. Government should give special grants to the University for instituting two scholarships in every department of the University, for Graduate, Masterate and Doctorate courses at progressively higher rates for the three courses, the period of the courses being prescribed by the University.

3. From an academic point of view it is necessary that there should be two sets of developments. At Waltair sufficient funds must be given to increase the number of admissions in the Honours branches and in the Post-Graduate courses to amplify the facilities now available and to institute higher specialities not yet organized.

4. A Residential Girls' College with domestic sciences on a highly scientific scale as its speciality should be organized with the least possible delay and this college should be a general one comprising Intermediate in Arts, Intermediate in Science, B.Sc., Honours, D.Sc. and other higher grades.

In regard to the admission for Intermediate and the pass courses in the Girls' Colleges, seats should be reserved for girls hailing from Western Andhra.

5. (*a*) The Tirupati Oriental College should be transformed into a big Institute of Indology to be conducted in affiliation with the Andhra University.

(*b*) That research sections in Deccani history and Islamic culture be organized in the University.

6. The Anantapur College should be developed so as to have pass courses in B.A., B.Sc. and B. Com., on an up-to-date scale and it should be made possible for distinguished Bs.A. and B.Sc.s' of the Anantapur College to take up Honours and Post-Graduate courses at Waltair.

7. In addition, a Teachers' College should be organized for Western Andhra and this should be in addition to the Teachers' College now functioning at Rajahmundry.

8. It is understood that there is an Agricultural Farm at Nandyal. The Committee feels that the most important development in this line is research in the various products of Rayalaseema and the discovery and propagation of crops suited to the climatic conditions, such as, temperature and rainfall of this tract. Such a Research Institute should be started by highly qualified graduates in Agriculture and it should aim at something more than the work of broadcasting and exhibiting knowledge or carrying on minor experiments, though these should not be neglected.

9. (*a*) It is of the highest importance that in each of the districts of Western Andhra an Intermediate College should be established which will coach in Science with Laboratory and Workshop practice and applied sciences like Agriculture, Surveying, Secretarial methods and such other things that are provided for in the University regulations.

(*b*) Such institutions have to be further developed into Intermediate Polytechnics which will prepare students either for direct entry into livelihood or into the higher course of the graduate grades.

10. A Law College of the Andhra University functioning as a three year post-intermediate as well as a two year post-graduate institution be located at Anantapur. Such a college now exists and is temporarily located at Masulipatam, with the preliminary year working at Waltair.

11. The Engineering College now sanctioned for the Ceded districts and functioning at Guindy should be shifted to its prescribed headquarters at Anantapur.

12. The Committee thinks that for the full development of the Rayalaseema it is desirable that a Medical College should be organized and located preferably at Madanapalle.

13. The number of senators returnable by the registered graduates be increased to 22 of whom 10 shall be reserved for candidates having their domicile in the Western Andhra districts.

14. The Committee is also of opinion that one of the statutory meetings of the Senate should be held at Anantapur.

15. The present weightage given to Western Andhras in the matter of representation from the local bodies be retained.

The Chairman then suggested that the question of the basic principle of re-affiliation be taken up on the understanding that the above mentioned proposals and considerations would be given effect to; and for facility of discussion he put it in the form of a draft resolution. The Committee had a general discussion. The final form of the recommendation unanimously arrived at by the Committee after full deliberation is as follows :—

Recommendation

"This Committee is of opinion that to maintain and consolidate the natural unity of Andhras and in the best interests of higher education in the entire Andhradesa including the Western Andhra areas popularly known as Rayalaseema and Chittoor and the Coastal districts, the re-amalgamation of the Western districts to the Andhra University is desirable and necessary and that in such re-affiliation, the proposals made by the Committee supra with a view to meeting the concrete educational problems of the areas concerned and to provide educational facilities for the Western districts to reach the requisite levels in higher education and to play a due part in the administration of the University be given effect to by Government with the least possible delay."

Mr. Ranga Reddi speaking for himself and others from Rayalaseema was of opinion that though at first he was opposed in principle to the re-amalgamation, he would in view of the concrete proposals now presented be prepared to change his opinion provided these recommendations generally speaking, are accepted by Government as a statutory obligation. Amongst these recommendations he would urge as specially important and immediate the organization in the districts concerned the type of Intermediate Colleges adumbrated in these proposals.

The Chairman observed that an assurance from Government ought to suffice.

At this point the question was raised whether these colleges should be entirely financed by Government or whether the districts concerned should find a moiety of the expenditure.

It was argued that Government were maintaining five colleges outside Madras City in the Southern districts and Malabar and so these colleges might be full Government Colleges. The Committee hopes that the people also will come forward with donations.

(*Continued from page* 8)

9. Lastly, Mr. Prakasam says that under the Estates Land Act, when the Zamindar instead of cultivating his private land by himself or by hired labour, chooses to let it out to tenants, the lands automatically cease to be his private lands and become ryotwari lands and that the present Bill enlarges his rights. This is quite inaccurate. At present the Zamindar pays no assessment on his private lands. After abolition he will have to do so. This is certainly not enlargement of his rights. Moreover private lands which have ceased to be such by conversion into ryoti will become ryotwari lands registered in the name of the ryots and not of the land-holder. A Tribunal will estimate all his false claims.

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The Government have accepted the offer of the Committee of the Poorman's Depot, Namakkal, to donate a sum of Rs. 865-8-5 and any additional sum required, for the purchase and installation of a shadowless lamp and a ceiling fan in the operation theatre of the local Government Hospital.

* * *

The Government have sanctioned an allotment of rupees twenty thousand towards the relief of the distress caused by the floods of Budameru river in the Kistna district.

Industrial Planning Committee's Recommendations

Summary of the Interim Report

The Industrial Planning Committee constituted by the Government of Madras has submitted an interim report on some of the problems of industrial planning. In the light of the reactions of the public to this report, it is proposed to prepare the final report in due course. By that time the political set-up will have assumed a more definite shape, and the authority of the Provincial Governments in the industrial field is expected to be more clearly defined.

The interim report does not cover the entire range of subjects referred to the Committee, but only the broad outlines of industrial policy and the conditions necessary for rapid industrialization.

Progress of Planning

Planning has been in the air for a long time now, and a large volume of literature, official as well as non-official, has been produced on this subject. And in these publications the term 'Planning' is defined variously. According to the Committee, planning means the establishment of an authority within the State with powers to dictate production programmes which various industries must undertake, and as ancillary thereto, the power to control the location of industries and to canalise savings of people into financing of schemes for the development of the country. Until we decide to socialize all industries, private initiative should be largely responsible for the development of industries, except in the case of those which the Government may, for strategic or for other sufficient reasons, decide to own and control. The problem of planning, considered in that light, is to ascertain in what ways the State can help the industrialist. The concentration of economic power along with political power in the hands of politicians will result in creating an authority which cannot be curbed except by other powers of equal or greater magnitude.

To recapitulate, planning in India should be confined to control over production and location of industries. The first objective involves the licensing of industries and the issuing of directions regarding output and standardization of goods to be produced. By these means the State will be able to equalize demand and supply and maintain price levels. The control over the location of industries will enable the State to avoid concentration of industries in urban areas with its attendant evils and will ensure the proper distribution of industries throughout the province.

While the State should assist production in the manner mentioned above, the distribution of industrial products should normally be left in private hands.

Political Assumptions in Planning

Planning, especially industrial planning, is compatible with any form of Government. Planning is quite consistent with cent per cent private ownership, though in course of time it might irresistibly lead towards State ownership. It is, however, essential before attempting planning, to decide whether it should have any particular bias towards socialism. The Committee assumes for the purpose of its industrial plan that the future Government of India will be a democratic Government with a bias towards socialism.

Nationalization of Industries

It is essential to bear in mind the distinction between nationalization of industries and State ownership of industries. Nationalization implies that a class of industries within a specified area becomes state-owned and no scope is given to private industries of that class to exist within that area. In other words, the State assumes monopolistic control of a branch of industry within that area. In the event of the State's owning an industry, it does not necessarily mean that the scope for private enterprise is cut off from that branch of industry, but the State becomes just another competitor in that branch of industry.

In the immediate future it may not be possible to initiate a policy of nationalization on a large scale. The difficulties in the way of nationalization are many. To mention only the chief among them, the administrative departments of the Government have not been organized to undertake the management of industries.

For the purpose of considering the question of nationalization, the Committee thinks it desirable to classify industries under the following four heads :—

1. Defence industries.

2. Industries connected with the generation of power.

3. Industries connected with Transport and Communication.

4. Industries essential to the general economic well being of the people.

The Committee is unanimously of the opinion that the industries grouped under the first head should be completely nationalized. In regard to the industries falling under the heads 2 and 3, the majority of the Committee is of the opinion that, though there is a strong case for their nationalization, considering the difficulties which exist in the way of the Government assuming the management of these industries, the scope for private enterprise should not be ruled out in the event of the State not taking the initiative to start them. The Chairman and Dr. B. V. Narayanaswamy Naidu, however, feel that the trend of recent thought is that the responsibility for the development of these industries is on the State and they, therefore, consider that it is essential that these industries should also be exclusively owned and controlled by the State in the same way as Defence Industries. With reference to the industries falling under the fourth head, the Committee is unanimously of the opinion that full scope should be given for private enterprise as these industries require a greater degree of technical skill and managerial ability for their development than other industries. But, wherever there is reluctance of private capital or absence of private initiative, either to undertake them or to expand them, Government may step in, promote these industries and may own them either completely or partly or render State aid.

Examining the constitutional aspects of the question, the Committee expresses the view that the provincial legislatures should have the power of legislation regarding incorporation of companies with provincial objects, and to control the operations of companies within the province though they are incorporated outside, provided in the latter case the provincial laws are not repugnant to any provision in the Central legislation. Powers similar to these are granted to the federating units under the Canadian Constitution, but not under the Government of India Act, 1935. The Provincial Legislatures should also have power to legislate in respect of local works and undertakings within the respective provinces, which are not considered essential for the Centre to control.

Control by the Centre of the Provinces

The question whether planning should be done by the Centre or by the provinces has been debated both by the Advisory Planning Board and the Reconstruction Committee of Council. Both bodies seem to incline towards Central planning. The Advisory Planning Board has enumerated 21 industries which should be made the subject of Central Planning. They are—

(1) Arms and Munitions of War; (2) Coal; (3) Iron and Steel—Primary Production; (4) Prime Movers; (5) Automobiles and Tractors; (6) Aircraft; (7) Ship-building and Marine Engineering; (8) Other heavy machinery; (9) Electrical machinery; (10) Machine tools; (11) Heavy chemicals, Fertilizers, Pharmaceuticals and Drugs; (12) Electro-Chemical industries; (13) Non-ferrous metal industries; (14) Rubber manufactures; (15) Manufacture of telephone, telegraph and wireless apparatus; (16) Power and Industrial Alcohol; (17) Motor and Aviation fuel, kerosene and crude oils; (18) Cotton and woollen textiles; (19) Cement; (20) Sugar; and (21) Vanaspati.

This grouping is too wide and leaves but few industries for development by the provinces. The Committee is of the view that all industries other than those it has recommended above for nationalization should be subject to planning by the provinces.

The Committee points out in this connection that much can be said in favour of a uniform planning policy for the whole of India, but there is much to be said against it also. There are factors which either mitigate the possible evils of provincial planning or make it difficult to operate plans evolved by the Centre. In the first category may be included the fact that India is not a country which has reached the optimum of industrial production. For another decade at least, there is no danger of overproduction resulting in trade depression and fall in prices. In the second category may be included the fact that India is a vast country, a subcontinent, where enormous distances intervene between province and province. Planning in India should be concerned not so much with the distribution of industries among the provinces, as with their distribution among the different regions in a province. A planning policy which contemplates distribution of goods to deficit areas over long inland routes will be to the disadvantage of the consumer.

The Committee feels that the present system of planning by the Centre is not satisfactory. What the Government of India do is to allocate to the provinces their quota of future production in the various industries. It is left to the provinces to invite applications from industrialists to establish as many units of industries as possible within the limits of the quota permitted.

There are three serious defects in this procedure—

(a) The attempt made by the State to determine the future demands for specific classes of goods within the next five years, especially in the present unsatisfactory state of our statistical intelligence, can only be more or less arbitrary.

(b) While the Central Government, in assigning the quotas, do not pay adequate attention to the various factors which a private enterpreneur thoroughly investigates before he decides on starting an industry in a particular area, the whole procedure gives to the industrialist an impression that all relevant investigations have been made by the Government and he simply has to apply to them. The incentive to start an industry should spring from the industrialist and the Government may control the development by a system of licensing. Industrial surveys and propaganda should be undertaken by the Government only to assist industrialists and not for arriving at final decisions.

(c) In some cases it may so happen that the industrialists do not consider the circumstances favourable for the starting of an industry, and then the quota allocated to the province may be lost to India as a whole, since the quota is not availed of in the quota-holding province and is not usually re-allocated to other provinces.

In short, if the present policy were to be pursued, it means that the provinces will not assume any responsibility for the industrialization of their territory. This should not be. Provincial administrations should be entrusted with the responsibility for industrialization and industrial planning. Only then will they be able to develop an industrial outlook. There is no danger of inter-provincial conflict in this. Even if there is any such conflict, it can be solved through *ad hoc* Conferences. And then there is the moral authority of the Centre which no province will dare flout.

Location of Industries

The problems connected with the location of industries have been examined by the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India and a memorandum prepared by the Office has been published. The Committee is in full agreement with the policy recommended in it for adoption, which is as follows :—

"Broadly speaking, in a country like India, it will be extremely dangerous for the State to arrogate to itself the right to determine the location of individual undertakings. The successful conduct of industry from the business point of view is of primary importance if India is to achieve the desired industrial progress. The factors which determine this are of such everchanging character that, as the Barlow Commission point out, 'There is no reason to suppose that so far as the profitability of industrial enterprise is concerned, the State, if it should take on itself unduly wide and autocratic powers of regulation and control of industrial location will be likely in general to prove any wiser and to make more far-sighted or enlightened choice, from the point of view of industry, than the generality of those who guide individual undertakings.' The majority of the witnesses examined by the Barlow Commission were, however, in favour of some regulatory action being taken by the State on national lines and in the national interest."

It is, however, essential to bear in mind a few points in considering the location of industries. The distinction is often forgotten between centralization of industry and the size of industrial units. In sanctioning an industry the Government should take care to see that the unit sanctioned is an economic unit capable of competing against similar industries.

Again anxiety to see that every class of industry should be represented in every district should be discouraged. The dispersal of industries among the various districts must be made on the merits of each district in relation to the industry.

Another point to be noted is that the relatively great importance that is being attached to the location of raw materials or of markets as the

justifiable. With the development of transport these factors have ceased to play an important part in the location of industries in Western Countries.

Some of the difficulties experienced at present in the way of starting industries may be traced to the non-availability of data about the potentialities of particular localities. The Committee has recommended in this connection the establishment of a Bureau of Information in the department of industries where such information will be available to the public. But more important than the collection of such materials is the need to impress upon municipalities and panchayats the desirability of preparing handbooks regarding the potentialities of industry within their areas. The Committee recommend that the District Industries Officers may undertake this work in conjunction with the authorities. However much the Government may plan, its success can only be assured if people become industrially conscious. The local plans will, of course, have to be scrutinized and co-ordinated from the provincial, regional and national angles.

Licensing of Industries

Arising out of their recommendations that all other industries except those connected with Defence, Communications, and generation of power should be planned and controlled by the province, the Committee states that the Provincial Government should introduce necessary legislation for taking power for licensing the starting and expansion of industries. The definition of "Industries" in such legislation, must be restrictive rather than too wide. It should not include cottage industries or small-scale industries, say, enterprises requiring less than one lakh of rupees of capital or involving the employment of less than fifty workers. The term "expansion" should be confined to the addition of unit intended to increase the output of the main product of the industry concerned, and not any addition for the purpose of improving the process or for the utilization of by-products. Six Regional Boards of Industries should be constituted, one each for the following six regions into which the Province may be divided :—

1. Vizagapatam, East Godavari and West Godavari.
2. Kistna, Guntur and Nellore.
3. Kurnool, Cuddapah, Bellary, Anantapur and Chittoor.
4. Chingleput, South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore and Nilgiris.
5. Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Tinnevelly and Ramnad.
6. Malabar and South Kanara.

The strength of the Regional Advisory Boards may be between five to seven members. They should be nominated by the Government from among persons representing industrial, financial and labour institutions within the region. The District Industries Officer of the district where the Office of the Regional Board is located shall be the Secretary of the Board. The functions of the R.A.B.I., will be to receive applications for the starting of industries in their area and to forward them to the Provincial Advisory Board for Industries together with a memorandum embodying their reasons for or against granting of the licence. It should be distinctly understood that the R.A.B.I. shall not have the power to withhold transmission of an application received by them under any circumstance. The Provincial Advisory Board will be located at Madras. All the members of the P.A.B.I. should be nominated by the Government. It should consist of not less than eleven members, of which six shall be persons representing each of the six regions ; two officials of the Government—one, the Director of Industries and another not being an official of the Secretariat ; three other members representing financial, industrial and labour interests respectively, who should be residents of Madras. The functions of the P.A.B.I. will be as under :—

1. To assume the same functions as the Regional Advisory Boards in respect of Madras City.

2. To consider all applications transmitted to it by the various Regional Boards, and make their recommendations thereon to the Government.

3. To advise the Government on any question of industrial policy that may be referred to them.

The P.A.B.I. shall have power to co-opt one or more members who are experts in any particular branch of industry to assist them while considering applications relating to such industries. All proposals received by the P.A.B.I. from the R.A.B.Is should be forwarded to the Government together with their recommendations for or against the granting of a licence. To ensure the speedy disposal of these applications, and also to eliminate canvassing, the Committee suggests that the Government shall have only the power to withold the grant of a licence, but not the power to issue a licence to an applicant who has not been recommended by the P.A.B.I. It is also desirable to specify a period of time within which licences should issue from the Government.

Control over production

The Committee recommends that Legislation will also be necessary in order to secure standardization of products manufactured. The industries which immediately call for some measure of control by the Government are : Textiles, cement, sugar, vanaspati and building materials industry. The aim of the Government should be to see that as far as possible goods required by the masses are produced in preference to luxury articles. Production Boards should be immediately instituted under suitable legislation for each of the industries mentioned above and later on extended to other industries. They should decide the quantity and quality of goods to be produced.

Mineral Resources of Madras Province

It is too early yet to say whether under the new constitution, control over Mineral Development will be with the Centre or with the provinces.

Whatever that be, it may be noted that the development of mining industry in this Province has so far been on very unhealthy lines. No serious attempt has been made to refine the minerals, and methods of exploitation are primitive. This kind of haphazard growth will make scientific and systematic mining at a later stage difficult. In view of these circumstances, the Committee makes the following recommendations :—

(1) *All essential minerals should be nationalized.*—This should only mean that mining operations which are being undertaken by owners or lessees should be undertaken by the Government. The processing or refining of the mineral or metal may be done by State or private enterprise. In the latter case, as in the case of exports the State will only assume the role of sellers of the ore.

(2) *All strategic minerals, viz., coal, lignite, Petroleum, mica, beryl, chromite, ilmenite, silliminite, manganese ore, monazite, rare earth minerals, all uranium and thorium bearing minerals and Piezo quartz, should be wholly left to the control of the Centre for development.*—Their mining and utilization will be a matter for negotiation between the Provinces and States on the one hand and the Central Government on the other.

(3) *All other minerals including sulphur, gypsum, gold, copper, lead and silver ores will be under the control of the Provinces and States.*—This should not mean that each province should be free to follow its own line of development which may not fit into a general pattern considered desirable for India as a whole. For this purpose, the Committee suggests the formation of a Central Co-ordinating Board of Mineral Development, in which not only the Centre but also the provinces and states will be represented. The co-ordinating authority will have power to decide on the assistance to be given to the provinces or states in the matter of mineral development. Such assistance may be technical or financial. In the latter case, their decision will be recommendatory in the first instance, until it is accepted by the Central Government. The Co-ordinating Authority *will advise* on the mineral policy to be pursued by the provinces and states and will endeavour to achieve a certain measure of uniformity in respect thereof.

(4) *Branches of units of the Geological Development of India should be set up in every province with the necessary equipment and personnel to be able to take up survey and investigation of mineral resources.*

(5) *Provincial laboratories should be established where analysis of ores could be undertaken and researches conducted.*

(6) *The Provincial Governments and States should be free to employ foreign Geological experts and technicians to supplement any survey to undertake investigation of particular minerals in their area.*

For the recommendations to be implemented, it will be necessary to hold a conference of Provincial Government with Central Government representatives. Unless some measure of agreement on these matters is found impossible, the Committee do not recommend the adoption by the Madras Government of an independent mineral policy.

Labour and Industry

After referring to the epidemic of strikes witnessed by the post-war period and to the economic causes underlying industrial unrest, viz., rise in the cost of living and the widening gap between the income of the worker and the capitalist, the Committee takes the view that the future policy of the Government in this country will tend towards the establishment of industrial democracy which has been defined as "control of industry by workers and the management . . . . under the general supervision of the Government as a whole".) If that ideal is accepted, the aim of organised labour as well as of Government should be to maintain for the workers a standard of living consistent with the national economy. The wage level, the price level and the flow of money are all linked together. It is possible to raise the wage level to some extent by cutting down profits. But, if the wage level is sought to be raised still further, the price level must inevitably rise, and this may lead to closure of industrial establishments and unemployment. Hence there must be sanity in wage demands. Moreover in a poor country like India the largest consumers of common goods are the poor and increase in price is therefore, harmful.

The policy of linking up wages with the cost of living index is a workable solution, but it has its limitations. A general wage policy can be based only on the conditions prevailing in the industrial field as a whole. The aim of the Government should be to secure for the worker a greater real wage than a higher money wage. This is possible only if the Government assume responsibility for providing such social amenities as education, medical relief, insurance, housing, etc. Some such legislation as the Central Government's "Coal Mines Labour Welfare Fund Act" (32 of 47) must be undertaken by the Provincial Government also in respect to industries in general. The cost of such measures should be met by levying a cess on industries themselves.

In the industrial organisation there exists a rigid line of differentiation between management, executive and Labour. Consequently there is also some measure of hostility towards each other among these three groups. This hostility must go, co-ordination and co-operation among them should be established, and transfer from the lower grades to the higher grades should be possible in the case of really deserving men. One of the pre-requisites to make such transfers practicable is the provision of educational facilities to the worker. Work councils and profit-sharing will also go some way in creating cordiality between workers and managements and in producing a genuine interest among the workers in the institutions in which they work.

Financing of Industry

It is now becoming recognised that if industrial development were to take place according to plan, private capital by itself would hardly be sufficient. In fact Madras realised this as early as 1923 and passed the "State Aid to Industries Act," which was amended in 1941 so as to include cottage industries also within the scope of the Act. However, it cannot be said that the Act has helped to any appreciable extent the process of industrialisation in the Province. The conditions required to be satisfied under the Act for the grant of aid scared away many potential applicants. The procedure prescribed for getting aid involves long delays. Therefore these objectionable features, especially section 4 of the Act, should be immediately removed. Even then the Act should have no application to industries other than cottage industries.

To finance industries the Committee states that what is wanted in every Province is an Industrial Finance Corporation on the lines of the institution proposed to be established by the Government of India for the same purpose. Considering the probable demand for assistance from the Government, the Provincial Corporation for Madras Province should have a share capital of at least Rs. 2 crores, and it should be permitted to borrow ten times its paid-up capital.) It will be better to establish the Corporation under a special Act of the Legislature rather than under the Indian Company's Act, unless the required legislation cannot be passed without any delay. The Government should own 51 per cent of the share capital. Any danger of unbusiness-like bureaucratic atmosphere and procedure setting in may be obviated by restricting the number of officials on the Board of Directors. It is desirable that the holding of the remaining shares in the Corporation should be as widespread as possible, subject to the condition that the shareholder is a subject of Madras Province. The maximum number of shares a person or institution can hold may be fixed. Binami holdings should be prevented.

The Corporation should be a sort of autonomous body free from Government interference in the day-to-day routine. Management should rest with people who have financial and, or, business experience. Except when huge sums, say Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 lakhs, are involved, the Corporation should be the final authority in the granting of loans.

(The loans raised by the Corporation should be in the shape of debentures, the principal and interest on them being guaranteed by the Government,

The possibility of attracting foreign capital should not be overlooked either.

Re-organization of Government Departments

Many are the difficulties which a person has to face before he can get a concern going these days. He has to go from one Department of the Government to the other, and often there is no co-ordination between the various departments. This involves avoidable delay, hardship and loss.

The Committee after examining the question say that, proper planning would require assumption of more and more powers by the Provincial Governments than they possess now, and hence there are urgent and imperative needs to re-organize the Government Departments in such a manner as will ensure co-ordination of work. There is no need for having separate departments to deal with Industries and Industries Planning. These subjects can be dealt with, with advantage, by the same department and the same Secretary. The same Hon'ble Minister should be in charge of both subjects.

Industrial Education

Referring to the question of industrial education, the Committee say that "our educational system has not seriously attempted to visualise the needs of our industry for trained workers, technicians and executives. A proper system of apprenticeship in industrial craft, perhaps on the lines adopted by United States of America is an imminent and imperative necessity in this country. Legislation should be introduced to institute a Provincial Apprenticeship programme, which should provide for a Central Authority to determine the standards of apprenticeship training to be given to each class of worker. The Central Authority should constitute committees consisting of workers and management for each class of industry and all the details regarding apprenticeship training should be left to these committees.

Separate Note

Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao and Sri B. S. Sanjeeva Reddy, Members, have appended a note emphasising the importance of the Industrial Finance Corporation and the need for special Government help to backward areas like the Rayalaseema, in order to develop the industries in those areas.

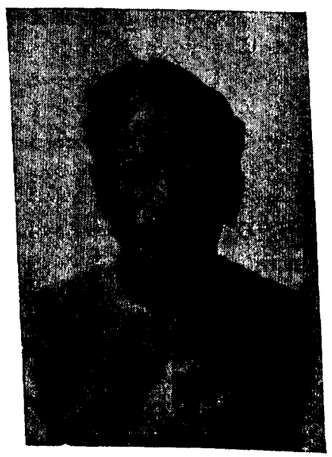
The Committee places on record its appreciation of the valuable services rendered to it by the Secretary Mr. A. S. Naik, I.C.S.

The public are requested to send their views on the preliminary report of the Committee to the Secretary, Industrial Planning Committee, Fort St. George, Madras, on or before the 20th of October 1947.

Prohibition

By MR. DANIEL THOMAS, Minister for Prohibition

Drink is an evil which has afflicted humanity for ages past. The manufacture and the drinking of intoxicating liquors seems to have been prevalent from the earliest times known to history in all countries of the world. The particular kinds of liquor and the various ways of manufacturing them have varied from place to place and time to time. With the advance of civilization in modern times the manufacture of strong liquors like brandy, whisky and arrack has become a big industry and the evil has taken its root and hold in every country and in every nation. Side by side with these strong liquors there have been local and subsidiary forms of intoxicating juices in various parts of the world, including India, such as toddy. This evil of drink is eating into the very vitals of people all over the world and one of the great problems which has to be faced in the post-war reconstruction is to eliminate this evil from society. Readers of this journal know very well that some years ago an attempt was made in the United States of America to prohibit the manufacture of liquor and thereby prevent the people of the States from indulging in strong drink. This was tried for some years but the regulation was so widely defied that it practically became a dead letter and finally



it had to be given up altogether. The reasons for the failure are given out differently by different people. Some people say that it was not possible to enforce prohibition as public opinion was unfavourable and therefore it failed; others say that at least in some of the States of America it was a definite success, but it was abolished because of the manipulations of vested interests connected with the drink trade.

Congress Policy

In India, the Congress Party is pledged to a policy of prohibition. Mahatma Gandhi is vitally interested in the welfare of the people in all villages and he is convinced with a burning conviction that in order to uplift their lives and to rescue them from the grips of poverty, destitution, dirt and disease it is absolutely essential that we should implement a policy of prohibition throughout the length and breadth of the country. Shortly after the Congress assumed office in the Madras Province in 1937, Sri C. Rajagopalachariar, the Premier was keen and enthusiastic in introducing prohibition in the province. As a beginning it was introduced in the district of Salem and it was subsequently implemented in Chittoor, North Arcot and Cuddapah. The scheme was planned to be extended to the other districts of the Province as quickly as may be possible, from the point of view of finance and administration. The general sales tax was introduced by the Congress Ministry specially for the purpose of meeting the deficit which would be caused by the abolition of excise revenue After the outbreak of the war, the Congress Ministry, resigned in 1939. The Advisers' regime went back on this programme and gave it up in 1944. After the recent elections, the Congress Party again came into power and shortly after the assumption of office by the last Ministry in April 1946, both the Ministry and the Legislature Congress Party as well as the Congress Party throughout the province were keen and eager to resume the introduction of the prohibition programme. This feeling was so keen and high that there were even proposals that prohibition should be introduced in all the 24 districts simultaneously. This was found financially and administratively impossible and prohibition was introduced in 8 districts in October 1946. The programme is to introduce prohibition in 8 other districts in October 1947 and to complete the introduction of prohibition all over the province by October 1948.

The programme of prohibition has been in actual working in our province in the 8 districts of North Arcot, Chittoor, Salem, Coimbatore, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantapur and Bellary for the last 9 months. It may be useful now to review the general working of prohibition during the six months.

The total revenue for the province of Madras from excise is 17 crores. But the excise revenue of 17 crores is only a fraction of the actual money spent by the people on drink. The total expenditure on drink may roughly be estimated to be 4 times the revenue, namely 68 crores of rupees. The total population of the province is about 50 millions and we may roughly estimate about 10 per cent of the people to be addicted to drink. This works out that 5 million people spend nearly 70 crores of rupees on drink and the majority of these 5 millions are the people belonging to the working classes who are least able to afford to spend money on drink and throw away on this evil of drink money which is necessary for the better living of themselves and their families.

Success of scheme

At the outset it may be said with fair certainty that as a result of the introduction of prohibition in these 8 districts, between 75 and 90 per cent of the people who had been addicted to toddy are now free from this evil and are thereby enabled to live more decent and more happy lives, spend more money for food and clothing and generally rise to a higher level of living. Side by side with the introduction of prohibition, the Government have also introduced various activities in these villages to improve the general level of the life of the villagers. In these 8 districts about 5,800 gramasangams have been formed and the activities of these sangams are directed to various aspects of the life of the village communities. Village games like Chadugudu and folk-dancing and singing are played by selected groups of the young men of the villages drawn from all classes and communities. Co-operative societies for various purposes are also formed to improve the economic life of the village communities. Thrift societies have been formed to help people to save money for building houses, for buying cattle and such useful and necessary purposes. Prohibition is, after all, a negative programme and side by side with prohibition there should be a positive programme for all-round village uplift. This is being carried out under the guidance and direction of special Ameliorative officers who have been appointed in all these 8 districts.

Public co-operation

It must be admitted that we are face to face with a number of real problems as regards the successful working of the prohibition policy. The first problem is the problem of securing wide-spread public co-operation. Unless every man and every woman in villages and towns of the prohibition areas makes himself or herself personally interested in this policy, prohibition cannot be worked with complete success. There are men who are out to make money out of the present situation and who are manufacturing illicit liquor and selling it to the ex-addicts at very high prices. This problem is intensified by the contiguity of wide areas, such as Mysore, Hyderabad and some minor States in the Rayalaseema area; but Mysore has already adopted a gradual policy for implementing prohibition and I believe that in the course of a few years not only the Province of Madras but all the adjoining Indian States will also go completely dry. The difficulty therefore of checking illicit distillation and sale is more or less a temporary difficulty which we could overcome in course of time. The prohibition laws are also being tightened up in order to make drunkness by itself an offence under the law. This will greatly help the suppression of illicit manufacture and sale of liquor, but greater co-operation between the people, the village officials and Government servants is necessary for the complete eradication of illicit distillation.

Eight more districts to go try

On the 1st October 1947, the Government will implement Prohibition in 8 more districts: Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Nellore, Guntur, Malabar, South Kanara and the Nilgiris. It is proposed to celebrate this great event in these districts in a fitting manner including public meetings, processions and the free distribution of tea and sweets.

The Madras Government have launched upon a big experiment for the general and social uplift of the people of this province by this policy of prohibition. I would particularly appeal to all the readers of this journal and also to the people at large to give their best thought and aid in support of this policy of prohibition and help thereby to increase the health, happiness and prosperity of the people of this province.

INDEX NUMBERS OF RURAL PRICES

The index numbers of rural prices for the month of August 1947 with the year ending 30th June 1936 as base or 100 were as follows for the several centres in the Province:—

District.	Rural centre.	Rural price index.	Variation when compared with the index for the previous month.
Vizagapatam	Adivivaram	398	A rise of 4 points.
	Thettangi	369	A fall of 1 point.
West Godavari	Alamuru	367	....
	Madavaram	421	A rise of 6 points.
Bellary	Puliyur	305	A rise of 4 points.
South Arcot	Agaram	316	A rise of 5 points.
	Thulayanatham	396	A rise of 5 points.
Trichinopoly	Eriodu	331	A rise of 1 point.
Madura	Gokilapuram	354	....
	Kinathukadavu	336	A fall of 17 points.
Coimbatore	Koduvalli	433	A rise of 13 points.
Malabar	Guduvancheri	348	A rise of 2 points.
Chingleput	Kannathur	348	A rise of 2 points.

Proposals for the Reorganization of Co-operative Movement

Deliberations of the Provincial Co-operative Conference

The Provincial Co-operative Conference convened by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to evolve a plan of integrated development of the Co-operative movement in the Province was held on the 12th and 13th of September 1946, at the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank, Esplanade, Madras. The Hon'ble Sri. K. Chandramouli inaugurated the Conference.

The following persons attended :—

(1) Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas; (2) Sri P. L. Narasimha Raju, M.L.A., President, Co-operative Central Bank, Vizianagaram; (3) Sri N. Satyanarayana, President, Alamuru Rural Bank and Director, Ramachandrapuram Co-operative Central Bank, Alamuru; (4) Sri B. Venkataratnam, M.L.A., President, The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union and President, Ramachandrapuram Co-operative Central Bank, Ramachandrapuram; (5) Sri M. Viyyanna Pantulu, B.A., President, Co-operative Central Bank, Ellore; (6) Sri K. V. Ramaniah Naidu, B.A., B.L., President, Kistna Co-operative Central Bank, Masulipatam; (7) Sri K. Balaviraraghaviah, President, Viziavada Co-operative Central Bank, Bezwada; (8) Sri G. Simhachalam Pantulu, Narasaraopet; (9) Sri D. Srimannarayana Chowdri, B.A., B.L., President, Guntur District Co-operative Central Bank and Guntur Co-operative Central Stores, Guntur; (10) Sri R. Dasaratharama Reddy, B.A. (Hons.), LL.B., President, Nellore District Co-operative Central Bank, Nellore; (11) Sri Rao Bahadur G. Guruvappa Naidu, President, Co-operative Central Bank and Co-operative Central Stores, Chittoor; (12) Sri Rao Bahadur P. Narayana Reddi, B.A., B.L., President, Cuddapah District Wholesale Stores, Cuddapah; (13) Sri M. Malli Reddy, M.A., M.L., President, Anantapur Wholesale Stores, Anantapur; (14) Sri M. Somappa, Vice-President, Madras Handloom Weavers' Provincial Co-operative Society and President, Yemmiganur Weavers' Co-operative Society, Yemmiganur; (15) Sri N. Venkatasubbiah, M.L.A., Nandyal; (16) Sri C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliar, B.A., M.L.C., President, Sriperumbudur Producers' *cum* Consumers' Co-operative Society, Nazarathpet, via Poonamallee; (17) Sri K. Sitarama Reddy, B.A., B.L., President, South Arcot Co-operative Central Bank, Cuddalore; (18) Sri P. Rajagopal Naidu, B.Sc., B.L., President, North Arcot District Co-operative Central Stores, Vellore; (19) Sri K. A. Nachiappa Gownder, M.L.A., President, Salem District Co-operative Central Bank and District Co-operative Wholesale Stores, Salem; (20) Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, B.A., B.L., M.L.A. (Central), President, The Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank and President, Coimbatore, Nilgiris Co-operative Central Bank, Coimabatore; (21) Sri Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar, C.I.E., President, Madras Central Land Mortgage Bank, Limited, Madras; (22) Sri O. A. Narayanaswami Ayyar, Vice-President, Tanjore Co-operative Central Bank, Tanjore; (23) Sri L. M. Paramasivam Pillai, President, District Co-operative Wholesale Stores, Trichinopoly; (24) Sri T. Narayana Pillai, B.A., B.L., Vice-President, The Madura District Co-operative Central Bank, Madura; (25) Sri P. S. Kumarasami Raja, M.L.A., Rajapalayam; (26) Sri J. L. P. Roche Victoria, M.L.C., President, The Tinnevelly District Co-operative Wholesale Stores, Tuticorin; (27) Sri M. Shiva Rao, President, The South Kanara Co-operative Central Bank, Mangalore; (28) Sri E. Vasudevan Nair, President, Producers' *cum* Consumers' Society, Quilandy; (29) Sri M. M. Kunhiraman Menon, B.A., B.L., President, Malabar District Co-operative Central Bank, Calicut; (30) Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu, M.L.A., President, The Madras Co-operative House Construction Society, Limited, Madras; (31) Sri S. K. Yegnanarayana Ayyar, M.A., 'Kumari', Teynampet, Madras; and (32) Sri V. Viyyanna Pantulu, B.A., B.L., President, South India Co-operative Insurance Society, N. S. Bose Road, Madras.

The following suggestions were agreed to by the Conference :—(1) The scheme already formulated by the Registrar for separation of Audit from Administration and placed before the Conference may be approved subject to the observation that the auditing of the bigger societies should be undertaken by the Regional Auditor contemplated in the scheme. The salient features of the Government scheme are given below :—

In order to improve the efficiency and quality of audit, it is proposed to separate audit from administration and to constitute the entire audit staff into a branch distinct from the administrative branch at all stages except in the person of the Registrar, who will be the head of both the branches. Such a separation was proposed by the Madras Committee on Co-operation in 1939–1940. It was also recommended by the Co-operative Planning Committee and was endorsed by the 7th All India Co-operative Conference and the 15th Registrar's Conference held at Madras in May 1947. The increase in the volume of transactions in co-operative societies and the growing complexity in the nature of their accounts, particularly non-credit societies, make it imperative that the quality of co-operative audit should be considerably improved. The separation of audit from administration will render audit more efficient and independent. It will also relieve the district officers of an important item of statutory duty and enable them to devote greater attention to the development of the movement than at present.

Details of the Proposal

The details of the proposal are explained below :—

One of the Joint Registrars styled as the '*Chief Auditor*' will be in charge of audit and will work under the control of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. He will attend to the issue of audit certificates of provincial institutions and co-operative central banks, make arrangements for the timely completion of audit, review the progress of audit from time to time and generally control the work of the audit staff through Regional Co-operative Audit Officers. In addition to audit, he will also exercise statutory functions like arbitration, execution and liquidation and dispose of appeals relating to these.

There will be *four Regional Co-operative Audit* Officers of the grade of Deputy Registrars under the Chief Auditor. These will check and issue the audit certificates of all central institutions (other than the Provincial Institutions and Central Banks) and the bigger non-credit societies. They will also test audit a percentage of these societies. In addition, they will control the work of the District Co-operative Audit Officers in their jurisdiction and be generally responsible for the efficiency and the timely completion of audit in their circles. They will be in charge of the appointment, postings, grant of leave, etc., of the audit staff under them. These Regional Co-operative Audit Officers will have a small office staff consisting of 2 Senior Inspectors, 2 Junior Inspectors, 1 Lower Division Clerk, 1 Typist, 1 attender and 3 peons to assist them.

In each district (including the Kumbakonam and Chicacole circles) a Co-operative Sub-Registrar styled as the *District Co-operative Audit Officer* will be in charge of audit. He will check and issue audit certificates of all rural credit societies and the smaller urban banks and non-credit societies and also test audit a percentage of them. He will regulate and control the work of the audit staff of Senior Inspectors and Junior Inspectors in the district. He should also test audit accounts relating to departmental revenues in the district and submit his report to the Registrar through the Regional Co-operative Audit Officer. He will have a separate office. He can take from the existing staff of the Deputy Registrar's office one Junior Inspector, clerk now in charge of audit section and will have in addition a Senior Inspector, a Junior Inspector, a typist, a Lower Division Clerk and 3 peons. Heavier circles will be given an additional Junior Inspector to cope with the work.

Under the above proposals, the audit staff is constituted into a watertight compartment and will be free from the administrative control of the District Officer at all stages. This will make for greater independence and efficiency. The staff working in the audit branch and the administrative branch should be made interchangeable; otherwise departmental efficiency will go down and varying prospects of promotion in the different branches may lead to discontent. But to prevent dislocation in work, this interchange will be provided at the stage of promotion from Junior Inspectors to Senior Inspectors, and from Senior Inspectors to Co-operative Sub-Registrars grades. Interchangeability at the Co-operative Sub-Registrars' and the Deputy Registrars' grades need not be restricted. No distinction will be made in regard to promotion between the staff in the audit and the administrative branch and both should be treated alike.

2. The proposal for the formation of rural banks as an experimental measure may be dropped.

3. Wherever a rural Co-operative Credit Society proposes to discharge additional functions other than credit as provided in its by-laws and employs a qualified paid manager, the Government should bear half the cost of maintaining such a manager. The provision for the payment of honorarium under by-laws 30 and 50 of Co-operative Credit Societies to the Secretaries of such institutions may be deleted.

The supervisory staff employed by the Central Banks in every district should be strengthened so as to provide at least one supervisor for every fifteen societies, and two supervisors should be kept as leave reserve. The total cost of supervision arising from the implementation of this resolution will have to be met by the Government in full for the first five years.

The distribution of controlled articles like manure and agriculturists' requirements like cart-tyres, iron and steel, etc., should be transferred from the Agricultural Department to the Co-operative Department and the allotment should be regulated by the Co-operative Department. Messrs. Ramalinga Chettiar, B. Venkataratnam and K. V. Ramanaiah Naidu are authorized to wait on deputation on the concerned Ministers for this purpose.

4. For an intensive organization of cottage industries including weavers' societies, there should be an additional Joint Registrar assisted by field staff to study localities, organize societies, and arrange for their working. A Provincial Council to lay down the policy and guide the work is necessary. All the expert staff working in the Industries and in the Development Departments should be brought under this scheme. Women Officers should be appointed to organize cottage industries societies for women. Local Advisory Committees may be formed in districts to assist these officers.

5. The exemption from audit fees enjoyed by the agricultural credit societies should be continued in the future also. Those societies which can afford may continue to have their own auditors in the future also. As regards the other societies, the existing concessions regarding the payment of audit fees to certain types of societies should continue subject to the condition that the societies which can afford to pay audit fees after declaring 3 per cent dividend should be charged at the present scales for audit done by the Government.

6. The Government should continue to guarantee the debentures issued by the Central Land Mortgage Bank, and the question of withdrawing this guarantee should be dropped. These debentures should be treated on a par with Government securities in regard to floatation and grant of loans.

The question of the recovery of the cost of the 3 Deputy Registrars and their staff from the Land Mortgage Bank should be re-considered by the Government and no such recovery should be made from the Bank. The question of the recovery of the cost of Co-operative Sub-Registrars lent to Land Mortgage Banks may be taken up in 1950.

7. The Co-operative Milk Supply Societies and Unions should be completely exempt from Sales Tax for the following two reasons :—

(*a*) The other milk suppliers are not taxed.

(*b*) The levy of Sales Tax will retard the growth of those societies and unions which deserve to be encouraged by all means.

8. Lorries owned by Co-operative Societies should be given public carrier permits in order to enable them to undertake private work when they do not have any work to do.

9. The proposals of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for efficient marketing of agricultural produce on a co-operative basis deserve to be given a trial. These proposals envisage construction of godowns, etc., and involve per year an expenditure of 10 lakhs of rupees by the Government, out of which 50 per cent will be given to Co-operative Societies as grant and 50 per cent as loan.

10. The proposals of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies for the development of cattle breeding and milk supply in the province through a scheme, to be tried first in Madras and later on extended to the other suitable areas in the province, should be given effect to.

11. While there is need for the formation of a Provincial Wholesale Society at Madras, in view of the various control orders and the scarcity of consumer goods, the registration of such a wholesale society may be deferred.

12. As an experimental measure a suitable scheme for co-operative farming may be tried in one or two centres in the Province.

Mr. Chandramouli on Co-operative Commonwealth

Inaugural address at the Provincial Co-operative Conference

"I am very happy to welcome you to this Conference. It is a Business Conference intended to decide on the ways and means of expanding and developing the Co-operative Movement in this Province. Therefore, it was considered necessary to make it as small as possible restricting invitations in such a manner as to give representation to each district, and to the important Provincial Co-operative Institutions. I hope that many more who could have been invited will not take it amiss, if it has not been possible to include them as well in this Conference. A great deal of co-operative thought was released only recently at Madras at the 7th All-India Co-operative Conference and the 15th Co-operative Registrars' Conference, and what is needed now is to give a concrete shape to some of the important decisions reached at these conferences, and to get a move on towards the development of the Co-operative Movement in this Province.



The Hon'ble Sri K. Chandramoulı delivering the inaugural address at the Provincial Co-operative Conference

It has been the ideal of many people, Co-operators and non-co-operators, Congressmen and non-Congressmen, that the economic life of this great country should be built on new foundations, preferably on the basis of co-operation. The ideal of a Co-operative Commonwealth has been mooted in many quarters, and has received support from all those who have the well-being of the masses at heart. It is a great ideal, which as practical men, we should admit cannot be attained in a day. But with the political independence which we acquired last month, progress towards this ideal can be quick and we shall be failing in our duty if we do not accelerate its pace and promote economic independence in the wake of political Independence.

Largest good of the largest number

In a land of villages like India, economic independence has to be founded in the villages. Therefore it is that the agenda for this Conference is almost entirely framed with reference to the needs of the villages. There has been some controversy of late as to whether the co-operative unit in a village should be a Rural Credit Society perating in the village or whether it should be a Rural Co-operative Bank operating over many villages. It will be your function to advise which of the two organizations would be more suited for the promotion of the well being of the largest number of the rural population; for, what is needed is not large institutions benefiting a few people but institutions benefiting many people.

On the non-credit side the co-operative unit dealing with villages is expected to engage in the supply of agricultural requisites like seeds, manures and implements and the sale of agricultural produce like food and commercial crops. It is also expected to help in the distribution of articles of consumption such as sugar, kerosene, matches, etc. It is generally agreed that all these functions should be discharged by the co-operative unit operating in the village although much dust has been raised over the question by the employment of the over-worked name "Multipurpose Co-operative Society." The Madras system of making the Rural Co-operative Unit fit into the Mandy unit of the sale society or the wholesale unit of the co-operative store has found favour with the recent Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies and it will be the business of this Conference to concert measures for extending and improving the system expeditiously.

Cottage Industries

Cottage Industries provide occupation for a section of the population which is smaller in numbers only to the agricultural population of the country. They, therefore, deserve your next attention. One of the ways in which they could be promoted was indicated by the All-India Co-operative Planning Committee and by the Registrars' Conference as promotional agencies for suitable regions. In pursuance of this suggestion you are being asked to consider whether District organizations and a provincial organization may not be set up for the purpose. Industries which have a survival value have alone been selected for attention in the initial stages and it will be the function of the organizations proposed to investigate into the prospects of each in their respective districts and to organize them into co-operative units wherever possible.

Both agriculturists and people engaged in cottage industries require a part-time occupation in which they can employ themselves profitably. Milk supply is one such profitable part-time occupation and various schemes in this behalf are already under the consideration of Government. Your views on these schemes will be helpful to Government.

For urban areas Housing Schemes and Co-operative Stores are widely acknowledged as being of permanent utility. Some problems connected with these are therefore placed before you for your advice.

A people's movement

Taking an overall view of the volume of work that lies ahead of us on the road towards a co-operative commonwealth, three important considerations arise. The first is the organization of the Co-operative department in such a manner as to equip it to cope successfully with the programme of expansion. There is no doubt that the co-operative movement is first and last a people's movement. Yet it will be admitted that when the State endeavours to push forward the progress of this popular movement the machinery which can do it should itself be strengthened, not to rule and direct but to help and foster. The department has grown considerably in recent years. It is now time that we consolidate its present strength, add to it wherever necessary and reconstitute it on a scientific basis separating for instance, audit from administration, producers' societies from consumers' societies, etc.

The second over-all consideration relates to co-operative education; knowledge, they say, is power; and co-operative knowledge is co-operative power. Therefore, if co-operation is to develop on healthy and strong lines, workers in the field, both paid and honorary men should be energized by a wealth of co-operative instruction and propaganda. Suggestions in this direction from the Conference will be welcomed.

The third over-all consideration is the question of finance. Some of the items in the Agenda seek to involve Government on pretty large expenditure. I consider that where it is proved that the expenditure proposed is for the welfare of the masses, a popular Government should do its best to find money for the purpose. At the same time it cannot be forgotten that the co-operative movement is one, founded on the principle of self-help and mutual help, and I hope that you will also help with your own funds wherever possible and to the extent feasible. With these few words, Gentlemen, I declare this Conference open."

MADRAS KUCHERY 1-OCT 1947 MADRAS

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Food Situation in the Province

Report for the Second Fortnight of August 1947

Weather conditions and crop prospects.—The rainfall during the fortnight was moderate to heavy in the Circars, on the West Coast and in the Kurnool district, and light to moderate in the other districts. In Kistna district, the rains were particularly heavy as a result of which there were temporary dislocations in communications and lands to an extent of about 25,000 acres were submerged. The extent of damage was not yet been assessed.

The level of water in the Mettur lake was 107·1 feet on 30th August 1947 as against 122·35 feet on 31st August 1946.

The condition of the standing crops was generally fair except in parts of East Godavari, Bellary, Madura and South Kanara districts.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in parts of Madura and Ramnad districts and of dry crops in the districts of Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Ramnad. The out turn was generally fair.

Market conditions and trend of prices.—There were no marked changes in the prices of principal foodstuffs. The position regarding the prices of oils, oilseeds, etc., was as follows :—

No change.—Gingelly oil cake and groundnut oil cake.

Rise.—Gingelly seed (0·3 per cent), gingelly oil (7·3 per cent) and cotton seed (0·5 per cent).

Fall.—Groundnut shelled (1·3 per cent), crop (0·3 per cent), cocoanut oil (2·6 per cent) and groundnut oil (0·2 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured in the Province and the quantities of cereals and pulses imported from sources abroad :—

(a) *Local procurement during the fortnight ending 15th August 1947*—

	TONS.	
Paddy ..	50,289	Together equivalent to 60,690 tons in terms of rice.
Rice ..	25,108	
Millets ..	4,497	

(b) *Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 31st August 1937*—

	TONS.	
Rice ..	5,111	
Millets ..	94	(79 tons of ragi and 15 tons of maize from Orissa).
Wheat ..	1,000	(From Sind).
Wheat products.	Nil.	
Pulses—		
Blackgram.	223	
Redgram.	79	
Greengram.	..	
Bengalgram.	856	
Total ..	1,158	

(c) *Imports from Overseas during the fortnight ending 31st August 1947*—

	TONS.	
Rice ..	..	
Millets ..	224	(From Australia).
Wheat and products.	..	

Stock and supply position of principal foodgrains—Rice.— Procurement during the two weeks ending 28th August 1947 dropped to 27,205 tons from 59,102 tons in the previous two weeks. As a result, the total stock in the Province on 28th August 1947 reached the very low figure of 153,378 tons which shows a steep decline compared with 180,116 tons on 14th August 1947 and is less than the stock at the end of August 1946 by about 134,000 tons. A new provincewide procurement drive has been launched recently. There are indications that with a greater appreciation of the gravity of the food position the producers in the surplus districts will offer their surpluses to the Government more freely. The stock position in the deficit districts continues to be unsatisfactory. The stocks in Malabar are still at a low level. The situation in South Kanara became extremely critical, the district having only about three days stock towards the close of the fortnight and supplies were rushed from Madras, North Arcot and Tanjore.

Millets.—The stock of millets in the Province fell from 27,599 tons on 14th August 1947 to 23,653 tons on 28th August 1947. Shortage has been reported from the districts of North Arcot, Trichinopoly and the Nilgiris. Acute scarcity has been reported from Guntur district. Supplies to Guntur as also to the other needy districts are being arranged. The allotment of 1,000 tons of Milo from Coimbatore to Malabar district, which was ordered some time ago, has since been reduced to 500 tons with a view to safeguard the stock position in the former district. Difficulty is also being felt in arranging for the supply of millets to railways and to rice-eaters against the non-rice portion of their ration. The present stock, including the expected procurement of 18,750 tons in the last three days of August and in September and October 1947 and the expected total imports of 1,300 tons up to the end of October 1947, is expected to last till about the end of the first week of November next.

Maize.—The stock has dropped from 974 tons on 14th August 1947 to 749 tons on 28th August 1947.

Barley.—The stock has fallen from 285 tons on 14th August 1947 to 218 tons on 28th August 1947.

Wheat.—The closing stock on 28th August 1947 was 951 tons as against 1,122 tons on 14th August 1947. With the addition of 1,000 tons of Sind wheat which arrived on 29th August 1947, the stock at the end of the fortnight may be taken as 1,951 tons. With reference to the offtake of 1,008 tons in July the stock may be expected to last for about two months.

Maida.—The stock of Maida on 28th August 1947 was 272 tons as against 379 tons on 14th August 1947. This stock will last about a month. There was practically no stock in many districts and no transfer of stocks was found possible.

Pulses.—The stock position of redgram, blackgram and bengalgram is poor in almost all the districts and unless imports are received from other areas within the next one or two months there is likely to be scarcity for pulses and grams in the Province.

Rationing.—The Government have permitted the serving of groundnuts, boiled grams, fruits and drinks to more than 30 children on occasions of 'Play Days' and 'Play Festivals' organized in elementary schools under local bodies.

Subsidiary foodstuffs—Milk.—In view of the deterioration in the food

(*Continued on page 29*)

Pages 27 – 30 Missing

Commodities.			IMPORTS. Foreign.	Coastwise.	Total.	EXPORTS. Foreign.	Coastwise.	Total.
				T. CWTS.				
24. Hides, raw	.. ..	Tons.	7	8 7	15—7	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
25. Skins, raw	.. ..	,,	7	12	19	147	Nil.	147
26. Hides and skins, tanned or dressed.		,,	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	1,893	65	1,958
27. Cotton, raw	.. ..	,,	821	5,201	6,022	268	Nil.	268
28. Cotton twist and yarn	..	Lb.	2,865	Nil.	2,865	Nil.	18,000	18,000
29. Cotton piecegoods	..	Yds.	88,705	795,439	884,194	1,649,659	1,515,683	3,165,342

II. *Statement showing the Imports and Exports of principal commodities by sea into and from Madras Province during June 1947*—cont.

Railway Earnings

I. South Indian Railway

Additional trains and extension to existing trains to the extent of 546 miles per day were introduced during August 1947. The train miles run in August 1947 as compared with August 1946 are as follows :—

Public train miles.	*August* 1946.	*August* 1947.
Coaching ..	552,696	870,038
Goods	221,788	284,681
Total ..	774,484	1,154,719

The increase over August 1946 is due to the introduction of additional trains and also due to the restricted passenger service during the strike period of August 1946.

Details of traffic both coaching and goods carried during the month of August 1947 as compared with the previous month and the corresponding month of last year are given below :—

Coaching traffic.	*August* 1946.	*August* 1947.	*July* 1947.
Number of passengers ..	8,141,044	12,356,401	13,126,769
Earnings in rupees ..	49,53,674	71,76,753	72,79,348
Goods traffic.			
Weight in tons ..	446,603	497,550	500,875
Earnings in rupees ..	41,46,846	46,00,793	48,90,035

The earnings under both coaching and goods traffic during August 1946 were low as there was very restricted train service due to strike during the last week of the month with consequent reduction in the previous week. Compared to the traffic during the previous month, i.e., July 1947, passenger traffic during this month shows a decrease. This is due to the fact that the marriage season continued till about the end of last month. Decrease in goods earnings is due to the less movement of grains and pulses, oil-seeds, cotton and other goods.

III. *Statement showing the figures of import of paddy and rice into the Madras Province by Sea from foreign countries during June and July 1947.*

Month.	Quantity imported. TONS.
June 1947	Nil.
July 1947	Nil.

IV. *Statement showing the imports of rice by Rail into the Madras Province for June, July and August 1947.*

Month.	Quantity in tons.
June 1947	2,492
July 1947	1,635
August 1947	1,172

V. *Statement showing the Coastwise imports of paddy and rice into the Madras Province for June 1947.*

Month.	Paddy. TONS.	Rice. TONS.
June 1947 ..	Nil.	1,187

II. M. & S.M. Railway

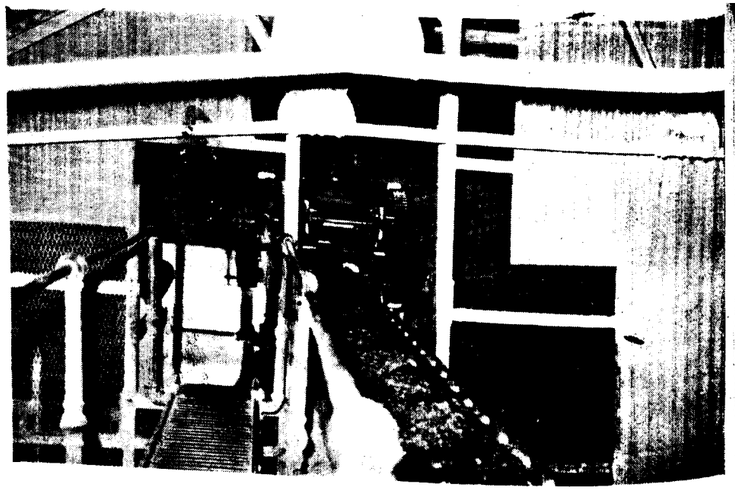
The approximate Earnings are as under :—

	June		*July*	
	1946.	*1947.*	*1946.*	*1947.*
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Coaching Traffic ..	82,94,000	81,24,000	84,55,000	91,00,000
Goods Traffic ..	74,14,000	64,89,000	77,65,000	74,63,000
Miscellaneous ..	2,32,000	2,65,000	2,21,000	2,98,000
Total ..	1,59,40,000	1,48,78,000	1,64,41,000	1,68,61,000

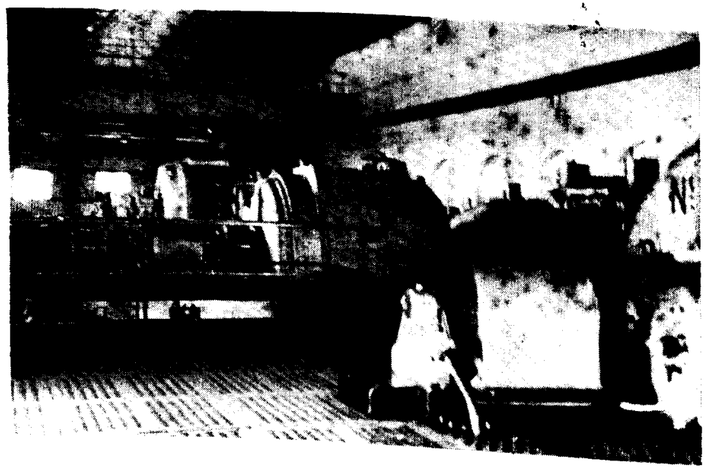
The approximate volume of Passenger and Goods traffic are as under :—

	June		*July*	
	1946.	*1947.*	*1946.*	*1947.*
Number of passengers (all classes).	6,979,000	6,604,000	6,336,000	6,770,000
Goods traffic (in tons) ..	486,000	436,000	510,000	463,000

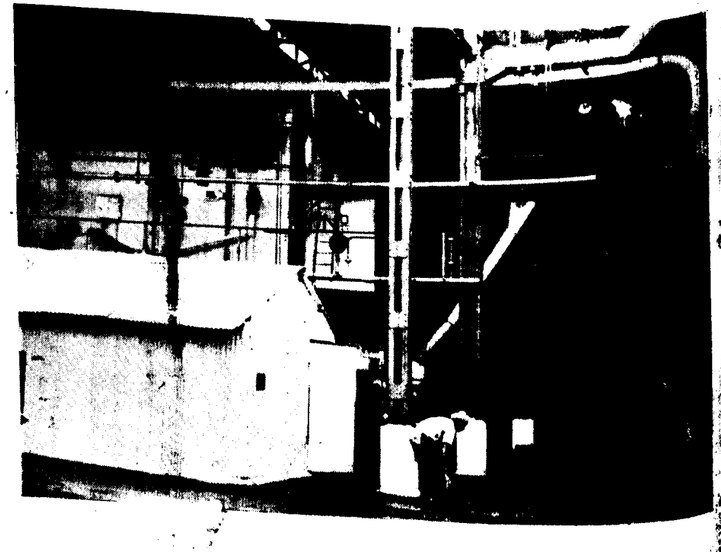
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Coal Conveyor

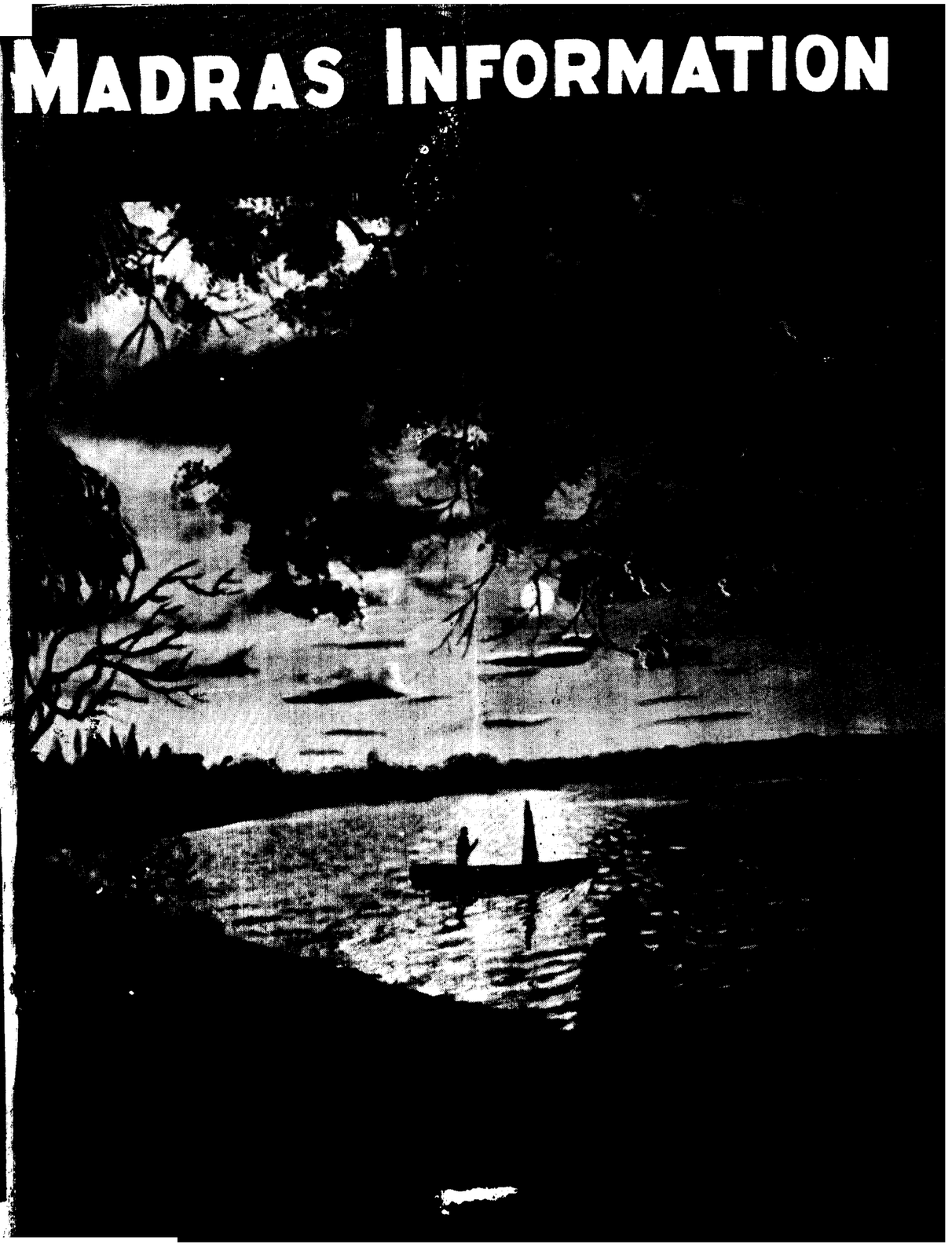


Engine's room with generator

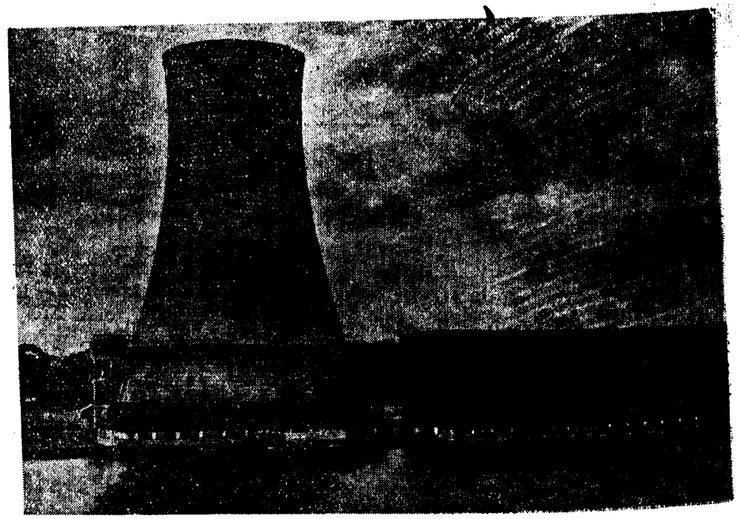


Main boiler house

MADRAS INFORMATION



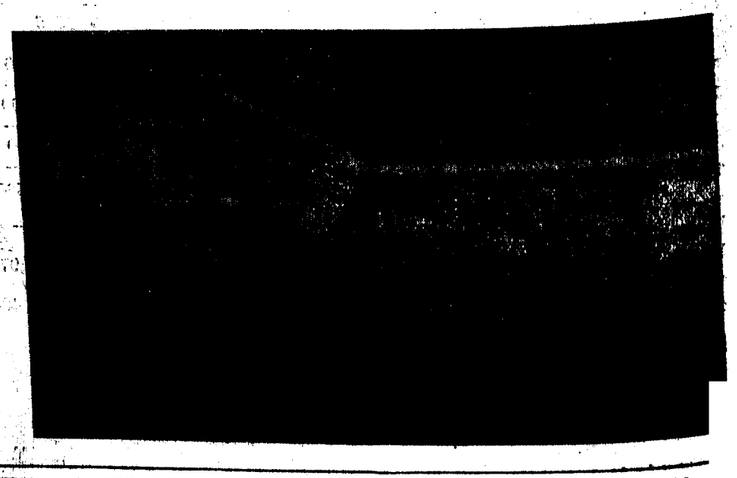
Pictures of M.E.S. Plant & Equipment



Full View of Cooling Tower.



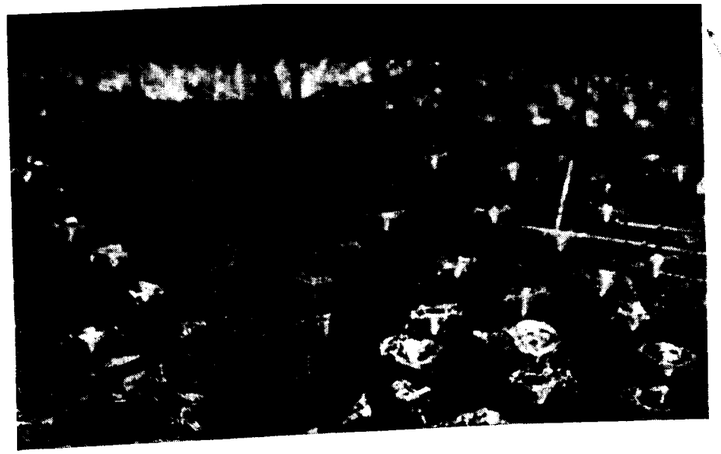
Cooling Tower Pump-room.



Inside of Force Draught Tower.

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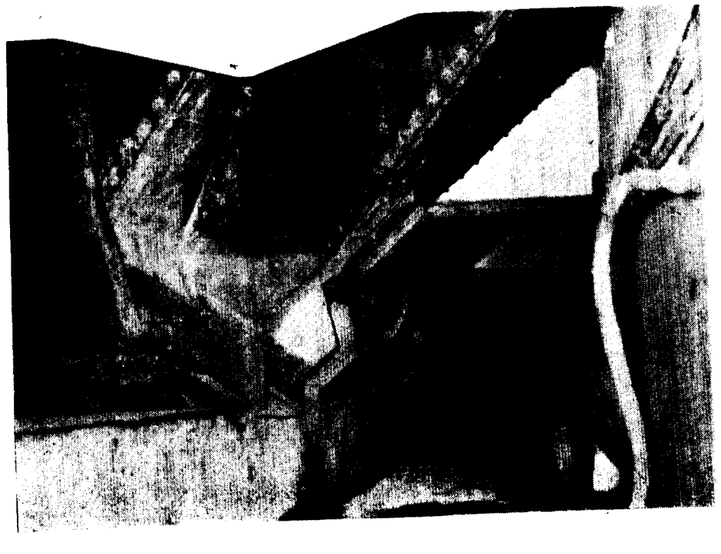
Inside of Natural Draught Tower





Ash Conveyor

Ash Conveyor Hoppers



Outside Cover Page	.. .. ..	Rs.	150
Inside ,,	.. .. ..	,,	125
Other Pages	.. .. ..	,,	100
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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

Madras Information

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Vol. I, No. 22 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" October 11, 1947

Extension of Prohibition

On October 1, 1947, Prohibition was extended to eight more districts, two in the Andhra area, Malabar, South Kanara and four in Tamil area bringing the total number of 'dry' districts in the province to 16. These represent roughly two-thirds of the area of the province, the biggest compact area in the country, as a whole in which prohibition of liquor making, liquor selling and liquor drinking are officially enforced. It has been said before, but it bears repetition, that in no other province in India has so extensive a programme of prohibition, one of the most important items on the constructive programme of the Congress, been implemented so far. Complaints are heard that the Madras Government are going ahead rather too hastily in this respect in contrast to the cautious manner in which other provincial Governments are proceeding. There are also complaints that the Government are wilfully sacrificing revenue to the tune of Rs. 17 crores annually very badly needed for ameliorative and nation-building purposes in pursuit of a socio-political experiment. To these critics the answer is that when once it is granted that prohibition is a good and beneficient measure and is justified by its own intrinsic merits, the Government are perfectly justified in going ahead with a reform of such proved and unquestionable benefit. Again the argument that extension of prohibition would result in curtailing funds essential for nation-building activities ignores the consideration that preventing people from being victimised to the dangerous, unhealthy and wasteful habit of drinking liquor and getting intoxicated is in itself an outstanding nation-building activity, the effects of which on the promotion of the general well-being of the poorer sections of the population in the rural parts cannot be considered insignificant.

Drawbacks noted

The fundamental basic principle implicit in prohibition being accepted, the next important thing is to bend all efforts to see that the reform is an unmitigated success and that loopholes which have made themselves manifest in the course of its working so far are eliminated. Some of these loopholes which require immediate tackling may be mentioned. First, there is the problem of illicit distillation; secondly, we have the problem of finding suitable employment for the toddy-tappers, who lose their means of livelihood by the prohibition of tapping; thirdly, there is the question of prohibiting drunkenness which is a part and parcel of the problem of prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors. The Government are fully alive to these drawbacks and loopholes in the execution of the prohibition programme and have already taken or are taking steps to eliminate or tackle them. The problem of stopping illicit distillation is, of course, a difficult and formidable one, and can be effectively solved only by unceasing vigilance on the part of the enforcement staff and imposing deterrent punishments on those who resort to it on the one hand and by the active co-operation and assistance of the public in the detection of cases of illicit distillation on the other. When public opinion asserts itself and every case of illicit distillation is brought to light, the distiller and the bootlegger will find their trade gone and if side by side deterrent punishments are awarded to these clandestine manufactures of intoxicants, the success of the campaign is assured. The Government have already taken steps to put a check on would-be drunkards trekking into non-prohibition areas for a drink by prohibiting the opening of liquor shops within a range of 5 miles of the prohibition area and by demarcating a further belt area extending over another 5 miles beyond. They have also decided to bring in legislation to amend the Abkari Act to make drunkenness itself an offence. Lastly, they have sought the co-operation of neighbouring States like Mysore, Hyderabad, Travancore and Pudukkottai to enforce the intentions of the Prohibition policy pursued by them. Similarly legislation is also under contemplation, as stated by the Hon'ble the Prime Minister, to impose collective fines on villages which report a large number of prohibition offences like illicit distillation.

Ameliorative measures

Thus every effort is being made to tighten up the loose strings and to cover up the loopholes so far discovered in the working of prohibition. Side by side, the Government are undertaking a number of measures intended to provide counter-attractions to the

drink habit to which villagers are addicted, to rehabilitate the families of erstwhile drunkards, to provide healthy recreation to the villagers and to encourage thrift and the habit of saving. A detailed statement of the ameliorative measures, which have been formulated and are being enforced in the prohibition districts, prepared by Mr. V. N. Kudva, Prohibition Commissioner, is published elsewhere in this issue. If the villagers take the fullest advantage of these measures and systematically practise thrift and economy, they will find that a new life has come to them. Government officials entrusted with the working of ameliorative measures will help them in all possible ways to achieve this better life and enable them to go along the road to prosperity and family peace and harmony. Lastly, the problem of usefully employing toddy tappers in alternative occupations like jaggery manufacture is engaging the serious attention of the Government.

Prohibition has come to stay in the province; and as the Hon'ble Mr. Baktavatsalam is reported to have said in one of his speeches in the Trichinopoly district, there can be no going back upon it now. The loss of revenue on account of prohibition is unavoidable; but the present loss will be a potential gain if the people for whose benefit the reform is introduced respond to the call of abstinence and give up an age-old habit which has been continuously sapping their physical vitality, encouraging them to commit crimes and misdeeds against fellow human beings and reducing them to pauperism and economic misery. When the standard of life of the people improves on account of giving up a deleterious habit and realization of the advantages of thrift and saving and taking to other kinds of productive work, their taxable capacity will also improve and the loss of Governmental revenue can be made good at least in some measure.

Madras Government Press Notes

Agriculture

Area under ginger

The area under ginger up to 31st August 1947 is estimated at 10,900 acres in Malabar and 800 acres in South Kanara, as against 11,400 acres in Malabar and 800 acres in South Kanara, estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year. The condition of the crop is reported to be fairly good and the yield per acre is expected to be normal.

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Scheme for control of pests

As part of the Five Year-Plan of Food production relating to the Agricultural Department, the Director of Agriculture has prepared a comprehensive scheme for the control of pests and diseases of crops. The expenditure anticipated in the current year on this account is estimated at Rs. 1,00,000 recurring, for purchase of fungicides, and Rs. 55,000 non-recurring, on capital cost for the purchase of sprayers.

It may be mentioned that the Government have been receiving reports about the considerable damage caused to standing crops in the Tanjore district by rats.

They have in that connection approved the Director of Agriculture's proposal to extend the operations for combating rat pest in that district by using cynogas, and sanctioned the scheme for a period of one year in the first instance at a cost not exceeding Rs. 14,000 non-recurring and Rs. 16,000 recurring. A nominal fee of three pies per every rat hole treated with cynogas subject to a maximum of annas four per acre is proposed to be levied.

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Pepper

Up to 25th August 1947, the area under pepper in the districts of Malabar and South Kanara is estimated at 95,000 acres—86,000 acres in Malabar and 9,000 acres in South Kanara, as against 99,300 acres estimated for the corresponding period in the previous year and a finally recorded area of 97,008 acres. The condition of the crop is fair and the yield per acre is expected to be normal.

Wholesale prices of pepper per imperial maund, as reported from the important market centres on 6th September 1947 were Rs. 69–13–0 in Tellicherry, Rs. 67–7–0 in Calicut and Rs. 66–2–0 in Mangalore.

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Dam across the Bhavani River

The Government of Madras have approved an expenditure of Rs. 7 crores, including direct and indirect charges and omitting arrears of simple interest or Rs. 8·79 crores on the construction of a dam across the Bhavani river, near Satyamangalam in Coimbatore district, together with the connected distributary canals.

A betterment tax of Rs. 100 per acre will also be levied from the owners of the lands who are benefited by the project.

The Board of Revenue has been asked to submit along with the detailed report, the revenue aspects of the Betterment Tax.

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Distribution of Manure

The Government have now decided to supply manure to the full value of the food bonus coupons presented by the ryots. These coupons will be supplied to ryots shortly. They must be presented before the Agricultural demonstrators who are entrusted with the distribution of manures, says a Press Note issued by the Government of Madras.

In the instructions issued to the producers in connection with the paddy bonus scheme, the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies) stated that in purchasing manure, against the food bonus coupons, the ryots should pay to the dealer one half of the value in cash and the food bonus coupons will be accepted only for the other half of the value of the manure supplied. The Government have now decided to supply manure to the full value of the food bonus coupons presented by the ryots. These coupons will be supplied to ryots shortly. They may be presented before the Agricultural demonstrators who are entrusted with the distribution of manures. Supply of manures (i.e., groundnut cake, chemical fertilizers and green manure seeds) against the food bonus coupons will be subject to availability of stocks. The producers are also informed that the supply of manure against the food bonus coupons will *not* be in addition to the quantity for which permits have been issued to them by the village committees but will be only against the quantity mentioned in the permits. Ryots should therefore produce the permits issued to them by the village committees before the Agricultural Demonstrator along with the food bonus coupons when claiming delivery of manures.

Agriculturists' Relief Act

The number of cases under the Agriculturists' Relief Act disposed of by civil courts in the Province for the quarter ending 30th June 1947, is 210. For the period between 22nd March 1938 (when the Act came into force) and 30th June 1947 (covering 112 months) the number of cases disposed is 207,307.

The amount involved in applications disposed of under sections 8, 9, 13, 18 (1), 19, and 19-A of the Act for the quarter ending 30th June 1947 is Rs. 2,72,711. The amount involved in such applications for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th June 1947 stands at Rs. 9,77,24,340.

The amount scaled down by the courts on applications of indebted agriculturists for the quarter ending 30th June 1947 is Rs. 1,84,983. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th June 1947 the amount scaled down stands at Rs. 4,69,74,695.

The amount of reduction by scaling down of debts for the quarter ending 30th June 1947 is Rs. 87,728. For the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th June 1947 the amount of reduction by scaling down debts is Rs. 5,07,49,645 and the percentage of reduction is 52.

The number of cases pending at the close of the quarter ending 30th June 1947 and that for the period between 22nd March 1938 and 30th June 1947 is 401.

The figures given above exclude the number of cases voluntarily settled by parties without recourse to courts.

Development

P.C.C. Societies in Malabar

Representations are being received by the Government that the producers-cum-consumers societies in Malabar district are not working properly and that an enquiry committee may be constituted to examine the working of the societies.

The Government consider that it is not necessary to constitute a committee to enquire into their working. They however desire to make it clear that the producers-cum-consumers societies in Malabar are not above criticism and that they are not exempt from the ordinary measures of control which the Collector and supply staff are entitled to enforce under the rules.

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Building Conditions in Factories

The designs of buildings and layout of machinery in many existing factories are not satisfactory. Unsatisfactory design and construction result in trying working conditions and make subsequent alterations necessary for securing the health, safety and welfare of workers, difficult and often impossible. Proper arrangements for the disposal of industrial and trade wastes are also lacking in many factories with the result that the sanitation of the area is affected. With a view to remedy these defects, the Government of India have under consideration the revision of the Factories Act. The Act when amended will provide—

(*a*) that plans, designs and specifications of new factory buildings or extensions to existing factory premises and the proposed layout of plant and machinery should be submitted to the Chief Inspector of Factories before construction is undertaken and

(*b*) that adequate arrangements should be made for the disposal of industrial and trade wastes.

When the Act is amended, the Government intend to enforce these provisions strictly. If the Inspectorate should find that the buildings are not so constructed or the layout is not such as to provide adequately for the health, safety and welfare of workers, factory owners would be required to undertake alterations or in extreme cases even demolition of buildings found unsuitable. This would entail loss. The Government would therefore invite the attention of those who intend to put up new factories or extend existing capacity to the proposed amendment and advise them that it would be in their own interest to submit the plans, designs and specifications of buildings in the first instance to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Madras, before plans are submitted to the executive authorities of local bodies as required by section 194 of the Madras Local Boards Act and section 250 of the Madras District Municipalities Act. The Chief Inspector of Factories will give the necessary advice with due expedition. As regards the proper disposal of industrial and trade wastes, the Director of Public Health, Madras, should be consulted.

Compensation to M.E.S.C. undertaking

Sri T. R. Venkatarama Sastriar, in his statement to the Press criticising the proposed legislation for the abolition of zamindaris, has remarked that in the case of the Madras Electric Supply Company, Limited, taken over by the Government, compensation was paid at 3 per cent rate, that is, 33 times the annual income. Under section 7 (1) of the Indian Electricity Act, 1910, under which the M.E.S.C. undertaking was purchased, the purchase price payable to the company was the fair market value at the time of purchase. As the law on the subject stands at present, there is no other basis on which the transfer from the company to the Government could be effected. The Government and the M.E.S.C. have appointed Messrs. Merz and McLellan as common valuers for the undertaking. The Government have entered into agreements with the M.E.S.C., and the valuers, according to which the undertaking should be valued in accordance with the statutory provisions in the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. The Government have paid the company a sum of Rs. 133·33 lakhs on account on 29th August 1947 when they took possession of the undertaking, pending the valuation by the valuers. If the valuers finally assess the market value of the concern, at a figure greater than the amount already paid to the company, the Government have undertaken to pay the company interest at 3 per cent on the balance of the total amount awarded by the valuers as the [illegible]

market price. In case of dispute, there is provision for appointing a common arbitrator or arbitrators whose decision will be binding on both parties. It is not correct to say that the Government have valued the concern on the basis of capitalizing the present income of the company. The present income or profit of the company will not be taken into consideration at all in arriving at the fair market value. The Government would therefore point out that it is grossly incorrect to say that Government are paying M.E.S.C. 33 times their annual income or profit.

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An Industrial dispute

An industrial dispute arose between the workers and management of the East Asiatic Co., Ltd., Madras. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred for adjudication. During the enquiry, the parties compromised their differences and on the request of both parties the Tribunal has passed a compromise award. According to the terms of the award, all the workers who were on the rolls on 31st March 1947 will be taken back at Rayapuram oil mills on the same terms and conditions of service as before. Such of the permanent workers who have been working at Tondiarpet will be paid basic wages and dearness allowance at the same rate as they were getting at Rayapuram Mills on 31st March 1947. Overtime and night shift work will be paid in accordance with the Factories Act. The management will request the Committee appointed under the Provident Fund Rules to take steps for the extension of Provident Fund benefits to all permanent workers irrespective of their basic wages. The management will provide, as before, uniforms to permanent workers only. In the event of the management taking in permanent workers in future, preference will be given to such of the temporary workers then on rolls in accordance with seniority and skill. In computing the period of service of a permanent worker, his service previous to the suspension of mill business in 1945 shall be taken into account. The management will make a consolidated payment of one month's basic wages to all permanent workers on rolls on 31st March 1947 and agrees to pay basic wages only during the period permanent workers have not been employed, that is, from 7th June 1947 till 9th July 1947 and Independence Day bonus of fourteen days' basic wages will be paid to all permanent workers.

The existing rate of dearness allowance is to continue. This arrangement is to be in force for one year from the date, the award is accepted by the Provincial Government. The Union undertakes to furnish the management with the by-laws of the Union now in force and furnish amendments made thereto from time to time and on being satisfied that such by-laws are in conformity with the provisions of the Trade Unions Act and in conformity with all other provisions of law, the management will recognize the Union. The workers have no further claim under the order of the Provincial Government, dated 9th July 1947. The question of bonus for the year 1947 excepting the Independence Bonus alone is left open. The parties should put up suggestions, if any, for the revision of these terms by the first week of June 1948 and as far as possible settle the matters raised before 1st September 1948.

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A Trade Dispute

There was a dispute between the workers and management of the Presidency Transport, Limited, Madras, in respect of certain matters. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to Sri P. Markandeyulu, as Industrial Tribunal, for adjudication. After enquiry, the Tribunal has submitted its report and made the following recommendations:—

Conductor Subramanyam should be reinstated in his appointment on his signing the entry in the punishment register.

Inspector Radhakrishnan should be reinstated in his appointment on his submitting an explanation to the management for his absence from duty on the 2nd and 3rd of May 1947.

Driver Habibulla should submit a written apology to the Managing Director within a fortnight from the date of the publication of this award for not having signed in the log-sheet and for having created a scene in the Managing Director's office on 4th June 1947, and on his doing so, he should be reinstated in his appointment with effect from the date of which the apology is tendered. He is entitled to his pay and allowance up to and including 4th June 1947 but not for the subsequent period.

Driver Ali Hussain is not entitled to be reinstated, but should be paid his pay and allowance up to and including 8th June 1947.

Conductor Rajagopal will be reinstated in his appointment on condition that he hands over to the Managing Director within 15 days from the date of the publication of this award, a letter of apology for having quarrelled with Ansar on 9th May 1947. He will be entitled to pay and allowances up to and including 9th May 1947 but not to the pay and allowances between that date and the date of his reinstatement.

Conductors as well as drivers should be given a holiday every week with pay.

One more uniform should be supplied, within a period of two months from the date of publication of this award, to every driver and conductor who have been supplied with a uniform after this dispute was referred for adjudication. To those who have not been supplied even with one uniform, two uniforms should be given within the same period including those who have been reinstated during the course of this enquiry as well as those who are directed to be reinstated by this award.

The company should run 18 buses in route No. 1 (Triplicane to Parry's Corner and back) from morning till night and two sets of drivers and conductors should be employed in each bus, one set in the morning and the other in the evening. No extra or special buses should be run in route No. 1, except with the specific permission in writing of the Police or the Road Traffic Board or some other department of the Government having jurisdiction over this matter. If such permission is obtained, and if it is found necessary to employ the same set of drivers and conductors both in the morning and in the evening, then the inconvenience or the disadvantage should be distributed equally and impartially among all the drivers and conductors.

The hours of work for a motor driver and the interval of rest that he should have shall be regulated by the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act of 1939 and the rules framed under the Act.

No conductor of a bus shall be asked to work for more than ten hours a day against his will.

Every employee of the company shall, within two months from the date of the publication of this award, be provided with a copy of the Standing Orders and the rules regulating the Provident Fund on payment of one anna per copy.

Concessions to State Transport Workers

Towards the beginning of August 1947 the Transport Commissioner brought to the notice of the Government that there was a feeling of discontent among the State Transport Workers, that representations had been made on their behalf for the immediate grant of certain concessions and that the decisions of the Government might be made known to them as soon as possible. The Government after carefully considering the representation have allowed the following concessions :—

(1) That checking inspectors and time-keepers in the State Transport Service be paid batta at the rate applicable to conductors with effect from the dates of their employment ;

(2) that the batta granted to the drivers and conductors be paid retrospectively from the dates of their employment in the State Transport Service ;

(3) that the workers in the State Transport Service, the Government Automobile Workshop and to Civil Supplies Transport Unit be paid temporary extra pay at the same rates as the interim relief awarded by the Court of Enquiry constituted to investigate the conditions of service of employees in motor transport organizations ; and

(4) that the members of the traffic staff of the Government Bus Service be allowed two holidays in rotation according to convenience in connection with the Independence Day.

The Government do not consider it desirable now to pursue the question of increasing the rates of batta allowed to the drivers and conductors in the State Transport Service as the whole question of their emoluments may have to be reviewed in the light of the recommendations that will be made by the Court of Enquiry.

The Government do not consider that there is any justification for complying with the request of the State Transport workers for the grant of a bonus of two months' pay, when employees of other Government business undertakings and departments are not given any bonus in connection with the Independence Day celebrations.

The Government have also permitted the Transport Commissioner to carry on correspondence relating to the workers of the State Transport Service with Messrs. Seetharama Naidu and P. Ranganathan, Joint Secretary and President respectively of the Government Transport and General Workers Union until the Union is registered and recognized.

Food

Import of semolina

In Press Note No. 158, dated 28th June 1947, it was announced that from 1st August 1947 the Government would recommend to the Chief Controller of Imports, New Delhi, applications for the import of semolina from overseas, only from those who possess a licence under the Madras Foodgrains Control Order to deal in wheat products. In view of the acute food position in the Province, the Government desire to encourage the import of as much semolina as possible from overseas by private trade. They have therefore decided to recommend up to 31st October 1947 all applications whether the applicants possess a licence under the Madras Foodgrains Control Order or not provided non-licensees give an undertaking, while sending their applications, that they will not ask for a temporary licence and that the imported stocks will be disposed of only through the licensees under the Madras Foodgrains Control Order, after giving due intimation to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies.

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Bengal-gram Supply Reduced

Originally the Government of India allotted under the Rabi plan for 1947-49 33,000 tons of Bengal-gram to the Madras Province. As the gram position in India deteriorated and the actual surplus was found to be only one-half of the surplus originally estimated, the quota to the Madras Province has been reduced to 17,000 tons, which has to be procured from Sind, the Rajputna States and Bahawalpur. As a result, it has become necessary for the Government to reduce from 1st October 1947 the scale of supply of Bengal-gram ration in the Madras City from 3/8 to ¼ of the total pulses ration.

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Bajra for Trichinopoly

A consignment of 1,556 bags of bajra received at Tuticorin has been allotted to Trichinopoly for distribution in the district. The bajra will be released for sale at the locally prevailing prices.

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Allotment of Rice

According to information now available it is likely that 7,000 tons of rice from overseas and 2,000 tons of rice from Orissa will be received during October 1947, and these have been tentatively allotted as follows :—

(1) Vizagapatam district—2,000 tons of Orissa rice and 4,000 tons of rice from overseas ; and

(2) Malabar—3,000 tons of rice from overseas.

A quota of 12,000 tons of rice has been allotted to Coimbatore district. Of this only 8,000 tons will be the quota for October and the balance of 4,000 tons is intended for November 1947. The Government have directed that the quotas allotted to Tinnevelly, Coimbatore and Malabar from the Tanjore area may be supplied either as rice or paddy, whichever is available.

The following rice quotas have been fixed by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies for October 1947 for the deficit districts as follows :—

		TONS.
1	Vizagapatam	8,000
2	Kurnool	500
3	Bellary	1,500
4	Anantapur	500
5	Madras	13,000
6	Tinnevelly	500
7	Coimbatore	12,000
8	Malabar	10,000
9	Nilgiris	2,000
10	S. I. Railway	1,350
11	M.S.M. Railway ..	1,696
12	Sandur	30
13	Banganaplle	65
14	Pudukottah	500

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Export of Jaggery

The greater part of the jaggery quotas exported from this Province to places in India outside the Province was usually exported only by established dealers, i.e., dealers who have been in the jaggery trade for a considerable time. However, as it was represented to the Government that conditions in the Chittoor district are peculiar, there being only a very few established dealers in that district, the Government have on the representation made by producers issued orders to the effect that out of the quotas allotted for export from Chittoor district to places

in India outside the province permits should be issued as shown below :—

To established dealers—Up to 37½ per cent of the total quota.

To producers—Up to 37½ per cent of the total quota.

To dealers who are new entrants—Up to 25 per cent of the total quota.

In order to guard against the possibility of the quota ear-marked for export by producers not being moved sufficiently quickly, the Government have had to stipulate that in case the producers are not able to export their quota of 37½ per cent within a reasonable time to be fixed by the Collector of Chittoor the balance should be allotted to the dealers. The Government are anxious at the same time that the producers of the Chittoor district should take full advantage of this concession. Producers of jaggery are therefore advised to approach the Collector of Chittoor for export permits in respect of the 37½ per cent of the quota ear-marked for them. The question of increasing the producers' quota will be considered if they are able to move the quota already allotted to them.

Paddy Prices

The Government have decided that a slightly lower price should be given to all varieties of short term paddy, which were classified under the third sort, but for which rates were fixed as per II sort paddy till the end of November 1947, than the rates applicable to paddy classified all along as II sort. They have directed that all such paddy in the districts of Tanjore, Chingleput, Trichinopoly and South Arcot, be paid for at the following rate at the village site up to 30th November 1947 :—

	PER MAUND. RS. A. P.
Tanjore	4 13 0
Chingleput	5 3 6
Trichinopoly ..	4 15 9
South Arcot	4 15 4

In other districts the short term paddy raised to II sort should be paid for at the rates appropriate to the II sort. The bonus sanctioned by the Government in July 1947 will be granted for deliveries of the short term paddy made before 31st October 1946 in addition to the increase in prices resulting from the up-grading of III sort paddy into II sort.

The decision has been arrived at in view of the representations made to the Government that in the case of certain varieties of short term paddy, now raised to II sort, the percentage of outturn or rice from paddy is lower than that obtained from the varieties originally classified under II sort, and that therefore millers will be put to loss if they have to purchase these varieties of paddy at the usual II sort rates and supply rice at the F.O.R. price fixed for II sort.

Miscellaneous

Petrol coupons

In a Press Note, dated 13th March 1947, the Government had stated that as the petrol quota allowed for the Province was inadequate to maintain the existing services no guarantee could be given to intending purchasers of army vehicles regarding the issue of petrol to such vehicles. A large number of vehicles had already been purchased by the public from the army surplus stocks and it would have been a great hardship to refuse the issue of petrol to all of them. The Provisional Rationing Officer has therefore allowed up to now a number of such vehicles to run on petrol. Although these ex-army vehicles are allowed only a restricted quantity of petrol, the grant of petrol to such a large of number additional vehicles has seriously affected the petrol position and it is now found difficult to maintain the existing services. Government therefore desire to bring to the notice of the public that no allowance of petrol will be made to ex-army vehicles registered after 1st September 1947 and in the case of such vehicles which are permitted to run on petrol, no petrol, will be allowed on transfer of ownership unless the new owner satisfies the Provincial Rationing Officer that the vehicle is absolutely necessary for him in the public interest.

Persons who have been granted new route permits for vehicles to run as buses are warned that the Government can give no guarantee of issue of petrol for vehicles acquired by them. They are therefore advised to go in for vehicles which will run on diesel oil.

Belt Areas for prohibition districts

The question of creating "belt areas" round prohibition districts has been engaging the attention of the Government for some time past. Experience has shown that the creation of such belts is necessary in order to make the enforcement of prohibition water-tight. Government have, therefore, ordered the creation of five-mile shopless belt areas round the Prohibition districts, wherein no toddy shops will be permitted as also other abkari and opium shops, except those of certain categories.

New Municipal Councillors

The Government have directed that the Councillors of all Municipal Councils in the Province, except those of Gudivada, Guntur, Tenali, Tirupati, Hindupur, Cuddalore, Madura and Trichinopoly, elected at the ordinary elections now in progress should enter upon their office on the 2nd of October 1947. Separate orders will issue as regards the Councillors of the excluded municipalities referred to above.

'A and B' Classes in L.I.M.

As a result of the re-examination of the question relating to the distinction between "A" and "B" class practitioners of Indian Medicine, the Government have directed that the distinction between the two classes of practitioners should be maintained as before, subject to such orders as Government may pass from time to time regarding the qualifications which practitioners should possess for inclusion in the two classes "A" and "B".

Firewood Ration

In the Press Note issued on 14th August 1947 the Government announced a 25 per cent cut in the normal scale of firewood ration in the City of Madras from the third quarter of August 1947 to 30th September 1947. As the supply position of firewood in the City has not yet improved, the Government have decided to continue the cut from 1st to 31st October 1947.

The term 'Razaka'

In Press Communiqué No. 24, dated the 24th April 1947, the Government invited the opinion of the members of the washermen community in this Province on the representation of the Razaka Zana Seva Sangam, Amalapuram, that the term *Razaka* should be adopted in Government records to indicate the washermen community to the exclusion of all other names. From the replies received from individuals and organisations of members of the community the Government find that there is a diversity of opinion in this matter and opposition to the community being designed as "*Razaka*". The Government have therefore decided that the existing name of the community need not be changed.

Compilation of cost of living index

The question whether, under the present rationing arrangements of mill cloth, the prices of mill cloth or handloom cloth should be recorded for calculating the cost of living index for low paid employees was recently taken up for examination by the Board of Revenue (Civil Supplies). The Board consulted the Provincial Textile Commissioner in the matter and after an examination of the statistics of mill and handloom cloth available for civil consumption he stated that the vast majority of the low paid employees has to depend only on handloom dhoties and sarees on account of the scarcity of mill cloth. He, therefore, recommended that for the compilation of cost of living indices for low paid employees for urban centres, the prices of dhoties and sarees in handloom cloth and of shirting, upper cloth, the petticoat in mill cloth might be adopted. For the compilation of the rural price indices he recommended the adoption of the prices of handloom dhoties and sarees and mill-made upper cloth. The Provincial Textile Commissioner's proposals were approved by the Government and given effect to from the first week of September 1947.

As a result of the adoption of the prices of cloth in the manner indicated above, the cost of living index for most of the urban centres have risen approximately by one to seven points.

Corporation Councillors' Term Extended

Government have issued orders directing that the term of office of the Councillors and aldermen of Corporation of Madras which, at present extends up to 1st November 1947, shall extend instead, up to 1st May 1948.

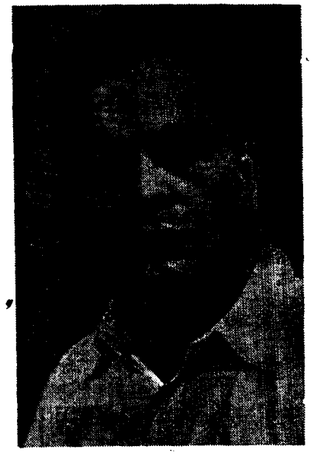
The decision was arrived at in response to the request of the Corporation Council that the electoral rolls of the Corporation should be revised before the elections are held to the Corporation. The Government have considered the request and have decided to extend the term of office as stated above.

Cinema Operator's Licence

The Government ordered on 5th August 1947 the enhancement of the fees for the Cinema Operator's Licence issued by the Chief Electrical Inspector to the Government from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6. The public are informed that this enhancement will not apply to applications prior to 5th August 1947 which will be charged only at the old rate of Rs. 4.

Collective Subscriptions from Villages

In 1943 the Government laid down that the collective subscriptions from villages with accrued interest would be spent after the war on some beneficial work in or about the villages concerned. The scheme was closed down in February 1946. The total amount of such subscriptions for the entire Province was Rs. 2,34,521 of which Rs. 1,84,851 has been placed at the disposal of the Collectors concerned for utilisation on suitable beneficial works. The Government have also indicated the purposes for which the amounts are to be spent. These include, among others, construction or repair of village schools, sinking or repair of wells, construction or improvement of roads, purchase of radio sets, repair or construction of temples, planting of trees, free distribution of medicine, purchase of books for libraries, erection of lamp posts, construction of culverts, repairs to cart tracks and sinking of bore wells. Collectors have now been instructed to see that the amounts placed at their disposal are spent as early as possible and before the close of the current year on the objects for which are allocated.



Mr. K. Ramanni Menon, I.C.S.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Madras.

National Savings

Subscriptions towards National Savings Certificates for the week ended 23rd August 1947 amount to Rs. 4,06,390. Madras stands first with Rs. 1,65,705 and Madura comes next with Rs. 40,970. The entire collections for the period from 1st April to 23rd August 1947 total Rs. 60,39,565.

Indian Pensioners of Macao Police Force

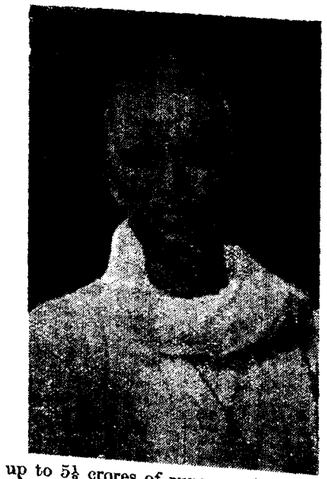
In a Press release dated 28th July 1947 it was pointed out that in future Indian pensioners of the Macao Police Force (Macao is a Portuguese colony in the coast of South China) should produce for inspection there every two months properly certified copies of life certificates with photographs. Since then the Government of India have been informed that as from 1st July 1947, the pensioners of the Macao Government should submit photographs before the expiry of six months, i.e., before 31st December 1947. The photographs should be sent through the Provincial Government to the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations, New Delhi, for transmission to Macao.

Public must co-operate to make Prohibition successful

Premier's Spirited Call

The great Tamil Poet Tiruvalluvar in one of the stanzas of his sacred 'Kural' says that drunkards are like the sleeping and the dead in that they lose their consciousness and like the poison drinkers in that they die prematurely.

This brings home to us the fact that all toddy drinkers are in fact drinkers of poison. Toddy instantaneously affects the brain, makes the man lose his senses and indulge in evil mischief. If toddy, which contains 8 per cent of alcohol can work so much havoc it is needless to mention the great evils that are caused by taking brandy, whisky and other liquors which contain 45 per cent of alcohol. Drinking saps the physical energy of man, clouds his senses and degrades him to the level of an animal. The drunkard loses the power of discriminating right from wrong, and under the influence of drink is led on to commit with impunity, murder and theft and other lustful acts. Senseless prattle, filthy language and falsehoods come to him very easily. He has no respect for anybody, and, besides himself becoming physically wrecked, he sadly neglects his family and his other responsibilities. He gets involved in various disputes and finally finds himself hauled before the court. Drink is thus responsible for the ruin of many families. It is to save the countless families being thus ruined, Mahatma Gandhi propagated the creed of Prohibition. The Congress has ever since been preaching this gospel. Our Government have now taken up the responsibility of implementing this scheme of Prohibition, as one of their many schemes for the amelioration of the people.



Loss in Revenue

The excise revenue, at present, in this Province amounts to 17 crores of rupees. The revenue from the ryotwari, zamindari and inam lands amounts only to 10 crores of rupees. The excise revenue comes mostly from the labourers and the poor. The poor thus becomes still poorer having dissipated their meagre earnings, in such evil ways as drink. In 1900 the excise revenue in our Province amounted to Rs. 1 crore and 45 lakhs. Before the Second Great World War the excise revenue of this Province rose up to 5½ crores of rupees. At present the income has increased to 17 crores. Thirty-five lakhs of gallons of liquor are being sold in this Province. This is three times the quantity consumed in the pre-war days. The evil of drink is more rampant in our Province than in the other Provinces of our country. Besides the money actually spent on drink, if the expenses incurred in disputes and quarrels and bickerings, incidental to drink, are taken into consideration it will be realized that 50 crores of rupees are being wasted in this way.

Way to Prosperity

The independence of the country can be cherished and safeguarded only if the citizens realized and discharged them dutifully. Any country that is being eaten away by poverty and disease and where people forgetful of their responsibilities lead a demoralized life can have no moral strength to retain its independence. The introduction of Prohibition involves a loss of 17 crores of rupees for this Government. The Government is nevertheless prepared to bear this loss in the hope that the introduction of Prohibition will help the people to lead a life of peace, happiness and prosperity, thus ultimately enriching the wealth of the country.

Last year complete Prohibition was introduced in 8 districts of our Province. Thereby the Government incurred a loss of 5½ crores of rupees. The Government have decided to enforce Prohibition in 8 more districts with effect from 1st October. This involves an additional loss of Rs. 5 lakhs. In these 8 districts 9½ lakhs of gallons of liquor are being consumed.

Our Duty

The successful working of Prohibition depends on the willing co-operation of all sections of the people such as Government officials, Congressmen and the general public. Public opinion should be mobilized in favour of Prohibition and the social, economic, and moral benefits of Prohibition should be brought home to all. Officials should not regard this merely as a mercenary work but should take it wholeheartedly; proud of being given an opportunity to save the people. It is the duty of the public to advise those who are addicted to drink to give up that evil habit. It is also their duty to give information to the Government about illicit manufacture of liquor. The social consciousness should be roused in order to put down the illicit manufacture of liquor and the consumption thereof. The Government will for this purpose constitute a village committee consisting of three or four of the village officers and that committee will be responsible for successful working of Prohibition in that village. If the committee discharges its duties consciously it will be a sure foundation for the prosperity of the people. The question of levying collective fines on villages where Prohibition offences are committed is under the consideration of the Government. I however expect that there will be no necessity for such punitive action.

The sage Thayumanavar says that those who keep their hands away from murder and theft and are free from drink alone are entitled to be blessed with God's love. Let the Almighty therefore bless the efforts of the officials, the public, the Congress volunteers, M.L.As. and others in this noble task of making man give up the beast in him, and manifest the divinity that is latent in every man.

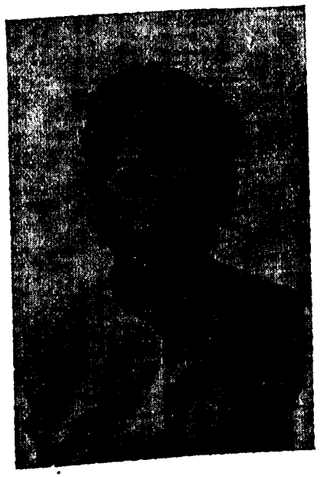
Deliberations of the Prohibition Conference

Discussion with Representatives of Border States

A meeting of the representatives of the Indian States adjoining Madras Presidency and the Collectors and Prohibition Officers of the 'dry' districts was held on the 13th September 1947 at the Council Chamber, Fort St. George. The Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, presided.

The following persons were present:—

Khan Bahadur Kalifullah Sahib Bahadur, Diwan of Pudukkottah; Khan Sahib Syed Imam Sahib, Diwan of Banganapalle; Sri J. Durgappa, Headquarters Assistant to the Excise Commissioner in Mysore, Bangalore; Monsieur H. Norgues, Head of the French Revenue Department, Pondicherry; Sri D. S. Hanumantha Rao, Political Member, Sandur State; Sri G. Narayana Rao, Inspector of Excise, Excise Intelligence Bureau, Mysore; Sri V. N. Kudva, Commissioner of Excise, Board of Revenue, Madras; Mr. Underwood, Inspector-General of Police; Khan Bahadur Munzoor Hussain Sahib Bahadur, Assistant Secretary, Board of Revenue; Rao Sahib M. Rangappa Bangara, Collector of Kurnool; Sri R. Koteswara Rao, Collector of Anantapur; Sri A. Dorairaj, Collector of Guntur; Mr. F. W. A. Morris, Collector of Coimbatore; Mr. J. F. Saunders, Collector of South Kanara; Sri K. N. Anantaraman, Collector of Bellary; Mr. H. C. M. McLaughlin, Collector of Tanjore; Sri Ramavarma Raja, Collector of Madura; Mr. J. C. Griffiths, Collector of Malabar; Sri G. E. Muthirulandi, Personal Assistant to the Collector of Salem; Sri T. N. Krishnamurthi, District Prohibition Officer, Cuddapah; Sri E. Subba Rao, District Prohibition Officer, Kurnool; Sri R. Seshagiri Rao, District Prohibition Officer, Bellary; Sri A. Venugopal Rao, Special Development Officer, Bellary; Rao Sahib S. Nityanandam, Special Development Officer, Coimbatore; Rao Sahib K. Muthu Krishna Naidu, Special Development Officer, Cuddapah; Sri M. Sanjivi Pillai, Special Development Officer, Salem; Sri G. Chandrasekaran, Special Development Officer, Anantapur; Sri P. L. N. Naidu, Principal, Prohibition Training School, Bellary; and Mr. P. S. Viswanatha Ayyar, Joint Secretary to Government, Revenue Department.



Problems to be faced

The Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas in his opening remarks said that during the 1937 Congress Ministry prohibition was introduced in four districts. The Advisers' Government which came into being after the Ministry resigned office in 1939, gave up prohibition after a few years. When the Congress Ministry again came into power in 1946, they re-introduced Prohibition in eight districts. After October 1947 eight more districts went dry, which meant that two-thirds of the Province came under prohibition on that date. It was programmed to make the whole Province completely dry by 1st October 1948.

Proceeding, the Hon'ble Minister said that complete success in a policy like Prohibition might not be possible at present. There were bound to be violations and breaches of the Prohibition Law and Rules just as there were breaches and violations of the ordinary laws of the land. But taking the problem as a whole, if they were able to implement the Prohibition policy with a reasonable measure of effectiveness, there could be no doubt about the resultant economic, social and general uplift of the large percentage of the people of the Province. Drink addicts formed about 10 per cent of the population of Madras. There were three classes among them, namely, (1) those who took toddy, (2) those who went in for arrack, and (3) the so-called higher section who went in for foreign liquors like whisky, gin, etc. So far as he was able to gather from a tour of the Prohibition districts, he could tell them, with some certainty, that most toddy and arrack drinkers had abstained from drinking; at any rate 70 to 80 per cent of them had abstained, either by choice or by compulsion. There were, however, some people who seemed to think that life would be worth nothing if they could not get some drink in some form or other, by some means or other, or in some place or other. Taking advantage of this, some people manufactured arrack clandestinely and supplied it to those men at exorbitant rates. This illicit manufacture of arrack could be prevented only by effective co-operation on the part of the people and the officials.

Border Areas

Coming to the more immediate problem of introducing Prohibition in the districts bordering on the Indian States and French Settlements, the Hon'ble Minister said that this could be done effectively only with the active co-operation of the authorities concerned. On the general desirability of Prohibition, the Province and the States were all agreed. Bombay had adopted a certain plan and Mysore Government had a scheme for gradual restriction of drink and other Provinces also were implementing Prohibition in some way or other. In Cochin State also, some taluks were to go dry in October 1947. But the schedule of dates, and the ways and means adopted for introducing Prohibition differed from place to place. Therefore, it was necessary for this Government to secure the co-operation of the States before they introduced Prohibition in eight more districts to be taken up this year. A five-mile belt area surrounding the boundary of the dry districts was quite necessary for the success of Prohibition. Apart from this, in a belt area of about 10 miles restrictions should be imposed on the number of shops to be kept open, the number of trees to be tapped, etc. This would facilitate to maintain the *status quo* in the adjoining States and prevent any extraordinary demand for drink in those wet areas. There was again the question of illicit [illegible]

of liquor from one territory to the other. All these things could be attended to efficiently if the States and the Government worked in active co-operation with each other.

In conclusion, the Hon'ble Minister invited also the Collectors of Prohibition districts to give their views on the points he had mentioned. He requested the representatives of the States to inform him of the Prohibition measures they had taken in their respective States, the measure of success they achieved, and the extent of the areas where they had introduced Prohibition. All suggestions that would facilitate co-ordinated effort were welcome.

Policy of Mysore Government

The representative from the Mysore State stated that the policy of the State was to introduce Prohibition within a period of five years, by stages. The State had already cut down the supply by 20 per cent this year, and as a consequence, the number of shops which totalled over 3,000, had been reduced by 611. The Mysore Government had already fixed a belt area of 5 miles from the Madras Provincial border and the Mysore officers were frequently exchanging views with the Madras Government officers in the border districts of Kurnool, Bellary, etc., with a view to establish the maximum of co-operation between the two Governments. In the nine taluks of the Mysore State which adjoin South Kanara, Malabar and the Nilgiris, out of the 500 odd shops that existed before, only a few remain working. The Mysore Government would certainly consider whether the number of shops in the border areas could not be cut in a greater degree, within the 20 per cent fixed for the year; but that could be done only from the next year as the shops had already been leased out on 1st July. As regards illicit distillation, they had a special mobile staff for detection purposes, in addition to the usual staff.

Cochin's Stand

The Commissioner of Excise, Cochin, who represented the State said that in Cochin, the Prohibition Act was practically the same as the Madras Act. The State's policy was to introduce Prohibition in stages and they had decided to begin with Chittur taluk. This taluk consisted of two bits, one of which was completely enclosed by Coimbatore and Malabar, and the other was bounded by Malabar on three sides. He thought complete Prohibition could be achieved in four or five years. He did not know what kind of co-operation was expected from his State. The Chairman desired to know if, in case Prohibition was introduced in British Cochin, the State would be prepared to consider the idea of making Mattancheri, the adjoining State territory in the same island, also dry. The representative replied that he would place the proposal before his Government for their decision.

The Collector of Coimbatore said that not many difficulties were experienced in the working of Prohibition in his district. There was a certain amount of transborder visiting of Mysore by addicts from Kollegal. The Travancore border consisted of thick jungle, and there was no such problem there.

The Diwan of Banganapalle State stated that his State also was taking definite steps for restricting the consumption of drinks. Before the war, the consumption in the State was 600 gallons, but after Prohibition was introduced in the Kurnool district, the quantity rose to 2,000 gallons; the State however had recently taken steps to bring it down to 1,000 gallons. As regards belt area, Banganapalle was so small in extent that it would be difficult to give a belt area of 3 miles, but they were considering whether a two-mile belt area could not be created. The State was also trying to cut down the number of shops, and to put down illicit distillation.

The representatives of the Sandur State stated that the excise revenue of the State was Rupees one lakh in 1945–46 before Prohibition was introduced in Bellary and the present revenue was between Rs. 1½ lakhs and Rs. 2 lakhs; and this figure included revenue from ganja, opium, etc. It was therefore an exaggeration to say as had been said by some persons, that the revenue of the State had gone up by leaps and bounds as a result of Prohibition in Bellary district. The factors contributing to an increase in the revenue were the re-opening of the manganese factory, the large number of labourers employed by the tobacco factory and the change over on the part of some drinkers from toddy to arrack because of the stoppage of import of toddy from Kudligi taluk. The State authorities themselves wanted to introduce Prohibition in the State; he had already assured the Collector of Bellary and he gave the assurance once again to the Madras Government now, that the ruler would co-operate to the utmost extent possible in seeing that Prohibition in Bellary was made a success. Before Prohibition was introduced in Bellary the quantity of toddy imported into Sandur from Kudligi taluk of Bellary was 1,500 gallons and there was no manufacture of arrack in the State. Three hundred and twenty gallons of arrack were being supplied to the State by the distillery at Bellary from the year 1907. In 1945–46 the State authorities requested the Government of Madras to increase the quantity to 600 gallons and this was done. And after the introduction of Prohibition in Bellary the quantity had gone up to 900 gallons; but, as he said, the reason for the increase was to be found in the re-opening of the manganese factory and the employment of coolies by the tobacco factory. To a question from the Chairman whether the State could not bring down the quantity to the original level of 320 gallons, the representative said that as the question depended more on the ways and means of making up the consequent loss of revenue he would place the matter before the State authorities for consideration.

Mr. K. N. Anantaraman, Collector of Bellary, pointed out that as regards the Sandur State, the increase had been from 320 gallons of arrack to 1,050 gallons. Something must be done to bring the figure down. He understood that the Hyderabad State proposed to have a belt area of 3 miles. In his opinion, at least a five-mile belt area was necessary if Prohibition was to be effective.

Position in Pudukottah

The Diwan of Pudukottah remarked that if the conference had been convened some six months ago, the State would have been better able to see that Prohibition in the border districts was a success; but as it was now late in the year, nothing much could be done as regards the location of shops in the border areas. The Pudukottah State had in fact for the past few years been controlling arrack, and would give the assurance that the quantity would be kept at the same level. As regards toddy, he had no objection to limit the number of trees and also to shift the border shops beyond a three-mile belt area. As regards the policy, however, he regretted he could not agree to complete Prohibition. His State had an idea of limiting drink to the people who were drinking at present, avoiding issue to women and children and also of limiting the quantity, by adopting system of rationing. That, he thought, would be a more effective method of achieving prohibition in a period of, say, fifteen years, which was not a long period in the history of a nation. On the whole he was ready to co-operate with the Madras Government to the maximum extent possible.

French India's Support

The representative from French India whose speech was translated by an interpreter said that there was a proposal to cut down drink by 50 per cent coming up for consideration before the French India Assembly at Pondicherry on the next Monday (15th). He requested the Madras Government to address his Government officially and also to depute some officer there to explain the Madras proposals, so that the Assembly might consider the subject and come to a decision. To a question from the Chairman whether it would not be better to make Karaikal totally dry when prohibition was introduced in Tanjore, and also make Mahe dry when Malabar was to have prohibition, and to make up by a smaller cut in Pondicherry itself, the representative replied that those were questions to be examined by the Assembly which was commencing its session on 15th September 1947. He requested that a representative of the Madras Government be deputed for explaining these proposals to the Assembly after due intimation of the date of his coming.

Collectors explain conditions

The Collector of Malabar, Mr. Griffiths, was of the view that unless the Cochin State co-operated fully, it would be practically impossible to enforce prohibition in British Cochin. He also thought that the belt area should be at least five miles. He also stated that the shops in Mahe had already been sold for the current lease.

The Collector of South Kanara, Mr. Saunders, said his problem was mainly one of illicit distillation and illicit tapping. The district was full of jungles and enforcement was no easy matter.

The Collector of the Nilgiris, Mr. T. S. Ramachandran, made the following suggestions, viz., (1) that arrack should be completely abolished in all the Tamil districts including South Arcot, Ramnad and Tinnevelly; (2) that an alternative use for arrack should be found by using it for manufacture of power alcohol; (3) that in the matter of prohibition, as was suggested by Mahatma Gandhi in regard to cow-slaughter the Madras Government should proceed more by way of persuasion and education; (4) that in the prohibition and non-prohibition districts, a prohibition pledge should be taken by all officers and that in every weekly shandy, people should be asked to take or renew the pledge, and by collecting statistics of the number of people who so take the pledge, adopt the method of gradually reducing the quantity of liquor and the number of shops, in proportion to the number of those who had not taken the pledge; and (5) lastly, to find out alternative uses for the toddy. He was told that it had good fertilizer value.

Sri R. Bangara, Collector of Kurnool, could not understand why, when the Hyderabad State was willing to give a five-mile belt area (as he understood from the Commissioner of Hyderabad) the Madras Government were asking only for a three-mile belt area.

As regards Banganapalle State he stated that the distillery which was formerly at Tadpatri had now gone over to Banganapalle; and that the quantity also had gone up from 600 gallons to 3,000 gallons. He also suggested that the Sub-Inspector whose services had been lent to the State might be given power to have some control over the distillery in the State.

The Diwan of Banganapalle promised that the points raised by the speaker would be duly examined by the State authorities.

Rao Sahib K. Rama Varma Raja, Collector of Madura, pointed out that within the belt area of five miles from Madura border, there were four or five shops in the Travancore side. Those shops should be removed to the interior. Hon'ble Minister observed that the Travancore Durbar should be addressed, after a list of the shops was obtained from the Collector of Madura.

The Collector of Tanjore, Mr. McLaughlin, said that of all the Prohibition districts, Tanjore was likely to give the biggest headache. There was the Pudukottah State and also Karaikal; and there was also the smuggling from Ceylon. He knew that at present there was an international smuggling gang whose activities had been going on for some years, who were handling opium, cocaine, etc., between Tanjore and Ceylon, and taking rice from Tanjore. He understood the smugglers had a regular intelligence service too. They had half a dozen motor launches and a good staff; and they also seemed to hold a licence from the Ceylon Government. Unless something was done to tackle the question, he was afraid prohibition in Tanjore could not be made a success. Mr. Saunders agreed with Mr. McLaughlin and said that the Government of India had been addressed to provide coastal patrol launches. Mr. Underwood, Inspector-General of Police, said that these launches to be effective should be based on Mandapam and not on Madras. The Government of India could be addressed.

Sri Dorairaj, Collector of Guntur, pointed out that so far as his district was concerned, there was likely to be smuggling of liquor by ferries from Hyderabad, across the Kistna river. The Collector of Cuddapah, Mr. R. S. Malayappan, said his problem was a purely internal one.

Encouraging Response

The Chairman, in winding up the proceedings, said that he was greatly encouraged by the deliberations of the Conference; public opinion was an uncertain factor; it varied with persons and places. There had been a good deal of criticism recently of the Madras Government's prohibition policy, especially with regard to the eight districts in which it had been originally introduced, that it had not been a complete success. As he had already said, there was no question of a cent per cent success for this measure. A certain leakage was inevitable, due to local conditions and human nature. Even allowing for such reasonable leakages, the question was whether there had been sufficient progress in implementing prohibition.

One great difficulty experienced in the course of the administration of prohibition was the contiguity of 'wet' areas in Indian States and the importation of illicit liquor from those areas into the Madras dry districts. There was a proposal to tighten the Act by providing that people who go from dry to wet areas and come back drunk should be penalized. While he agreed there would be difficulty in working such a provision he thought it was a necessary provision, if prohibition was to be made more effective in the present dry areas.

In his opinion, the next important thing was to get greater co-operation from the Indian States. It was practically unanimously agreed that prohibition as a policy was a sound and wholesome one, and it was also agreed,

he thought, that there would be difficulties in its practical working. The success of the measure therefore depended a good deal on public co-operation and also the co-operation of the different state and provincial authorities.

India—One and indivisible

One of the important results of this Conference was that they had begun to understand each other. The Madras officials had placed their difficulties before the State representatives and the State representatives had given assurances of co-operation and support in the carrying out of our policy. After all, India was one and indivisible and when we were all working for the common good of the country, it was necessary that we should stand shoulder to shoulder in implementing any policy for the good of the people. They had all come to some understanding by which he hoped prohibition could be enforced more effectively in the future than in the past. When therefore this Government introduced prohibition in eight more districts from the 1st October 1947, he was sure there would be less of difficulties encountered and more of smooth working of prohibition.

He was glad that the Collectors of some of the districts had attended the Conference and heard the assurances given by the States representatives. He was also glad that the French India representative had come and given the assurance that the French India Assembly would co-operate with us in enforcing prohibition in the border districts. He therefore earnestly hoped that in the period 1st October 1947 to 30th September 1948, some of the difficulties experienced in the past would be surmounted and there would be greater and greater co-operation between the officials and authorities concerned. Thus they would be able to move onward and achieve a greater amount of happiness and well-being of a larger and larger number of fellow beings.

After the Chairman had once again expressed his gratefulness to those who had attended the Conference, the conference terminated.

Working of Prohibition

Report for the month of July 1947

The following report on the working of the Prohibition Act in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot during July 1947 is published for information.

Enforcement

Cases detected.—The total number of cases detected in the districts during the month was 2,256 as against 2,192 in June, 2,132 in May and 2,059 in April.

The total number of illicit distillation cases was 1,015 as against 905 in June. There was, however, a marked decrease in North Arcot district from 288 to 174, due partly to the rounding up of several gangs of distillers as a result of vigorous drives organized during the two previous months.

The number of cases of illicit tapping detected decreased from 36 to 7. A large number of cases of smuggling of arrack from Hyderabad and Banganapalle States was reported, the total number of cases of smuggling of liquor being 80 as against 57 detected during the previous month. The number of cases relating to intoxicating drugs showed a slight increase from 168 to 169. The Railway Police of Bellary junction reported two cases of smuggling of ganja from Bombay Province involving 162 tolas. Of the 33 cases reported from Anantapur district the quantities involved in eight cases were large, ranging from 80 tolas to 230 tolas.

Border problems.—Border petrols continued to be active. A large number of addicts in Prohibition districts visited border shops for drink. Smuggling of liquor from Banganapalle, Sandur and Hyderabad continued. No case of smuggling of liquor from Mysore State was reported during the month though there were cases of smuggling of ganja. Cases of smuggling of liquor from Cochin State to Coimbatore district were also reported during the month.

Assistance by officials of other departments and by non-officials.—As usual the Police in the Ceded districts gave very satisfactory co-operation in the detection of crime. The work done by the village officers continued to be good in North Arcot district. In Chittoor district also they did good work. There was a slight improvement in the work done by Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees during the month.

General.—The preventive work during the month was on the whole satisfactory.

Ameliorative Work

Substitute for drink.—There was a further increase in the number of tea and coffee stalls except in Kurnool and Cuddapah districts. They were well attended by ex-addicts who seemed to have reconciled themselves to changed conditions and taken to non-alcoholic drinks.

Rural recreation.—The forty-four Rural Recreation Officers who were working during the month visited 796 villages and organized rural games in 777 of them. Firka tournaments were held in 20 villages and Taluk tournaments in 10 villages.

Bhajanas, Harikathas or kalakshepams.—Bhajanas, Harikathas or kalashepams were held in 1,700 villages during the month. In 345 villages, folk-dances, dramas or cinemas were held at the instance of the Development staff. The grant of subsidies by Government to deserving dramatic troupes to provide entertainment to the public has infused enthusiasm in the villages and a large number of amateur troupes has been formed especially in the districts of Chittoor and Anantapur.

Ballad singers.—The thirty ballad singers who were working during the month visited 402 villages, organized community songs in 166 of these villages and trained more than 1,000 villagers in community songs.

Propaganda vans.—The vans in the Prohibition districts visited 163 villages. They were also used by the Indian Women's Civic Corps for doing propaganda among women in places where there are branches of the Corps.

Grama sanghams.—Six thousand eight hundred and thirty-six Grama sanghams have been organized. They engaged themselves in various ameliorative measures. The Village Betterment Committee at Kristipadu in the Anantapur district collected Rs. 400 for installing a public radio on Independence Day. In the North Arcot district, the Pullur Grama Sangham opened an Elementary School after constructing a building at a cost of about Rs. 500 and the Kilkodungalur Sangham raised Rs. 1,000 for constructing a village library. In the Coimbatore district the Guthialathur Sangham collected Rs. 1,200 for opening a dispensary and three other Sanghams collected donations amounting to Rs. 6,000, Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 1,500 for putting up buildings for schools in their villages.

Promotion of thrift.—The amount saved in hundi boxes during the month was Rs. 17,113 in all the districts except North Arcot, figure for which are not available. The Hon'ble Minister for Prohibition launched the thrift campaign in two co-operative societies during his visit to the Anantapur district.

Uplift of women.—The instructress and other workers of the Indian Women's Civic Corps in the Salem town carried on ameliorative work in 18 villages. The branch at Arkonam and the Development Staff in the North Arcot district carried on propaganda work among the womenfolk of ex-addicts suggesting how to make the homes pleasant and happy to the men when they return after the day's toil.

Co-operative jaggery manufacturing societies.—In the districts of Salem, Chittoor, Coimbatore and North Arcot 188 co-operative societies have been formed and 17,689 licences issued. The value of jaggery produced up to the end of July was 13·17 lakhs.

Beneficial results of prohibition.—The reports received from the Collectors and Special Development Officers reveal that the ex-addicts have improved their economic condition by solving a part of their income and purchasing utility articles. The womenfolk of ex-addicts and their children are particularly happy. A calm and peaceful atmosphere prevails in the villages with the disappearance of street-brawls and domestic quarrels. In short, prohibition is having a salutary effect on the general, social and economic life of the entire community.

Counter-attractions to Drink

Ameliorative activities of the Government Explained

(*By* V. N. KUDVA, ESQ., I.C.S., Commissioner of Irrigation, Excise and Prohibition, Madras.)

1st October 1947 will be a red letter day for the districts of Guntur, Nellore, Tanjore, Trichinopoly, Madura, Malabar, South Kanara and the Nilgiris. From this day onwards Government have prohibited all alcoholic drinks in these districts as they did in last October in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Anantapur and Bellary.

Though drink has been recognized all over the world as a social evil and is condemned by all religious and by all classes of people, it has somehow taken a strong root for years past in all countries and among all classes of people. It has been estimated that in India nearly 10 per cent of the population are addicted to drink. There can be no doubt that this evil is the cause for unhappiness in many homes especially among the poorer classes and is eating into the very vitals of the people. The eradication of this evil from society is therefore a very important step in the programme of uplift of the masses from several points of view, moral, social and economic. India has achieved political independence. She has now to fight for her economic independence, i.e., to make her people free from want and to raise the standard of their living. What India wants to-day is better manhood and better womanhood. The prohibition of the evil of drink is a necessary step towards the attainment of this goal.

The enforcement of prohibition involves the changing of the habits of a large section of the people. For the success of this reform, propaganda and ameliorative work among the ex-addicts are as important as the prevention of offences and the punishment of offenders under the Prohibition Law. With a view to make the change over as easy as possible, Government have introduced various ameliorative measures alongside the enforcement of prohibition by employing special staff for the purpose. There are in each of the 8 prohibition districts, one Special Development Officer and Assistant Development Officers at the rate of one for each revenue division, besides Rural Recreation Officers and village guides at the rate of one each for every taluk and ballad singers at the rate of one for each revenue division. Government have also sanctioned staff on the same basis for the 8 districts in which prohibition is to be extended in October 1947. The Special Development Officers who are recruited from Deputy Registrars of Co-operative Societies assist the Collectors in the ameliorative activities.

The broad lines on which ameliorative work is carried on in the prohibition districts are indicated below.

Provision of substitutes for drink

To most drinkers the toddy shop or the arrack tavern is a place of resort in the evening and a means of escape from the tedium of life after a day's hard toil. Lest the abrupt closure of these shops should deny the drinkers this means of escape, arrangements are made by Government to provide substitute drinks to the addicts in or near the places where toddy shops were working prior to the introduction of prohibition. These refereshment stalls are proposed to be set up in about one half of the total number of toddy shops in the districts for about three months to provide the ex-addicts with suitable substitute drinks like tea, buttermilk, *panagam* as well as eatables. Actually 1,478 stalls were opened last year in the 8 prohibition districts. The drinks were provided free of cost in the initial stages and at concessional rates later on. Government sanctioned a subsidy of Rs. 100 for each stall and this was supplemented by donations raised locally. As was anticipated, private stalls have been coming into being at several of these places where the Government stalls functioned. In view of the utility of these stalls, Government have sanctioned the proposal to open 1,900 refreshment stalls in the new 8 districts on the introduction of prohibition in them in October 1947. Arrangements are under way for the establishment of these stalls.

Counter-attractions

The most effective counter-attractions to drink are rural sports and games,

folk dances, kathaprasanghams, kalakshepams, harikathas and village dramas. Entertainments of various kinds have been organized to divert the minds of the ex-addicts. The most popular games such as Chadu-gudu, pillayar-pandu, killi-thattu, tug-of-war, etc., and bhajanas, harikathas, street dramas, folk dances and dramas by professionals and amateurs are encouraged. For this purpose, Government have sanctioned one Rural Recreation Officer for each taluk and persons specially trained in rural games and rural uplift work in the Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education are appointed to these posts. The Rural Recreation Officers assisted by Village Guides (one for each taluk) organize rural recreation clubs, teach various games to the villagers, arrange for tournaments and create popular interest in these activities. The organization of rural recreation serves not only to provide relaxation to the former addicts but prepares the ground for a greater rural uplift drive. The ballad singers appointed at the rate of one for every revenue division, provide entertainment to the people, teach community songs to the villagers, coach the amateurs in street dramas wherever facilities exist and generally organize counter-attractions to drink. These ballad singers are provided by Government with musical instruments at a cost not exceeding Rs. 100 for each singer. With a view to encourage local talents in preference to professionals from outside, in the matter of providing entertainment to the villagers in the prohibition districts, Government have sanctioned subsidies for dramatic troupes in prohibition districts. Folk dances, street dramas, boys scouts' displays, magic lantern shows, etc., are some of the other forms of entertainments provided as alternative attractions to drink. Government have also provided each district with a propaganda van equipped with a cinema outfit and public address system. These vans are provided with gramophone records and films and they are useful not only for propaganda but also for providing effective counter-attractions to drink.

One other effective counter-attraction to drink is the community radio receiving set. Local boards and private bodies in the prohibition districts have been exhorted to instal radios under the Government of India Scheme. But as the number of radio sets available under the scheme is very limited, a proposal is under consideration according to which gramasanghams, local boards and others would collect and contribute the capital cost of the installation of community radio receivers, the maintenance charges of these sets for one year being borne by Government.

Promotion of thrift

Prohibition is but a means to an end, namely, the uplift of the villagers. Part of the money formerly squandered on drinks will be available to the ex-addicts for expenditure on necessities of life, viz., food and clothing. Still they will be left with a balance which can be saved for a future contingency. A thrift campaign through home-safes and hundi boxes has, therefore, been launched in the prohibition districts through co-operative societies. Villagers including ex-addicts are encouraged to lay by their savings. Thrift days are celebrated by the co-operative societies selected for introducing the scheme of savings. The total amount of savings effected up to the end of June 1947 through hundi boxes in the existing 8 prohibition districts is Rs. 95,605. Savings under the National Savings Scheme are also encouraged by the ameliorative staff. Similar thrift campaign through co-operative societies will be launched in the new prohibition districts.

Formation of Gramasanghams

As the ultimate object of prohibition is to promote the well-being of the poorer classes, full use is made of the opportunity for organizing rural uplift work. Village Betterment Committees or gramasanghams are formed in villages to promote rural uplift activities. Paid officials are associated with these committees. The gramasanghams organize rural recreation and village uplift activities like thrift, village sanitation, street cleaning and lighting, village communications, introduction of better seeds, manure, encouragement of cattle breeding, poultry farming, fostering of cottage industries, etc. There were on 30th June 1947 more than 6,500 gramasanghams in the 8 prohibition districts. The ameliorative staff organize and guide the gramasanghams in these activities. The sanghams constitute a sort of community organization for maintaining a general uplift drive in the villages.

Rural uplift schools

To train young men in the methods of promoting rural welfare and to acquaint them with the facilities offered by the various Government departments for this purpose, rural uplift schools are conducted in select centres one for each quarter in the prohibition districts. About 50 young men with an aptitude for rural work are trained in the schools for a month. Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,000 for each school for this purpose and this includes stipends to the students at Rs. 12 each. At these schools, training is imparted to the students in rural games, and other recreational activities as also in rural uplift work. The instruction on rural uplift is imparted by the officers of the various nation building departments of Government. The students going out of these schools are expected to be useful village guides establishing liaison between the villages on the one hand and officers of Government on the other. The best of the students are appointed as wholetime village guides as part of the ameliorative staff. These schools will be conducted in the new districts also.

Co-operative societies for ex-addicts

As the ultimate object of the introduction of prohibition is to improve the economic condition of the people, steps are being taken to augment their income by the formation of co-operative societies for the pursuit of cottage industries. For example, at Rajampet in Cuddapah district, a co-operative society for leather goods manufacture has been organized and started for the chucklers. At Bojjayapalli, in the same district the cartmakers have been organized into a co-operative society for the manufacture and sale of country carts. Government have given financial assistance to these two societies. There is a proposal to form a basket makers' co-operative society at Vellore in North Arcot district. It is hoped that a network of such societies will be formed in all the prohibition districts before long.

Employment of toddy tappers

Government have taken steps to absorb the tappers thrown out of employment consequent on the introduction of prohibition in alternative occupations. So far as the existing 8 districts are concerned, the total number of ex-tappers thrown out of employment was about 21,000 and the tappers have generally adjusted themselves to the changed conditions either by emigrating to the neighbouring wet districts or States or by seeking employment in agricultural and other work. In the districts of Coimbatore, Salem, North Arcot and Chittoor Government have permitted the tapping of sweet juice from palmyra trees for the production of jaggery and co-operative societies have been formed for the purpose. There were on 30th June 1947, 185 societies and 17,666 licences had been issued to the tappers. The societies handled 186,204 maunds of jaggery valued at Rs. 13·12 lakhs. Government have sanctioned Senior Inspectors of Co-operative Societies for the supervision of these societies.

Separate cottage industries societies for the benefit of the tappers have also been formed at certain centres. At Ayothianpatnam in Salem district, a carpet weavers' co-operative society has been organized and started on its work. At Ambur in North Arcot district, a co-operative milk-supply union with a half-a-dozen feeder societies in and around Ambur have been organized. Government have provided financial assistance to these two societies in the shape of free grants and loans and have also sanctioned a Senior Inspector free of cost for attending to their work. Proposals for settling some of the tappers in land colonies are also under consideration. Similar steps will be taken in the new districts. The tappers can be absorbed in agriculture, jaggery manufacture and the suitable cottage industries.

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'Prohibition' Drama

The Madras Secretariat Party staged "Manodhidam" in Tamil on the night of the 20th ultimo at the Sri Gopalakrishna Talkies, Madura, under the presidency of Sri Rao Sahib K. Rama Varma Raja, Collector of Madura. The play depicts vividly the evils of drink and how change over to total abstinence is possible by a sense of determination on the part of the public to give up this evil habit. The value of propaganda among the people in order to make prohibition a success is emphasized. The play was attended by a large gathering of the public in Madura town and from the mufassal and was appreciated. At the end, the Collector and Sri Rao Sahib A. Palaniappa Mudaliyar, Deputy Commissioner of Prohibition, thanked the Madras Secretariat Party for having given the performance in aid of the District Prohibition and Amelioration Fund.

Genesis of the Present Food Crisis

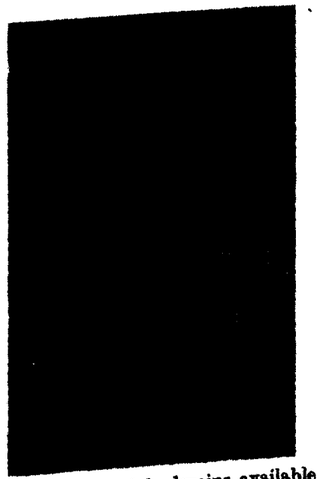
Dr. Rajan's statement in Madras Legislature

The Hon'ble Dr. Rajan in this statement sums up the causes, provincial, national as well as international, which have led to the present food crisis. It will be seen from this statement that forces have been at work which were, and are, beyond the control of the Provincial Government. Added to all this is the fact that in certain areas public co-operation has not been forthcoming in as abundant a measure as the Government had a right to expect in a grave situation. However, there is no need to be desperate. In the past few weeks procurement has somewhat improved, and if the improvement could be maintained we should be able to pull through.

At the end of May 1946, in moving that the food and the cloth situation be taken into consideration, the Hon'ble Sri Prakasam gave a detailed review of the food position of the province and the steps taken since 1942–43 by the Government to handle the problem. It is therefore unnecessary for me to cover the same ground again now. I propose therefore to place before you only a few salient facts which will show how our food resources have been steadily dwindling leading to the present crisis.

Always Deficit

2. The Madras Province has been even in normal times deficit in foodgrains and has been dependent largely on imports from Burma and other eastern countries to make up its deficits. The net average annual imports were about 451,000 tons of rice and 10,000 tons of millets. The average annual production of the four pre-war fasli years 1935–36 to 1938–39 was about 4·6 million tons of rice and 2·9 million tons of millets. The average annual imports for the same period were 381,000 tons of rice, 12,000 tons of millets and 64,000 tons of wheat and wheat products. Deducting seed requirements, the quantity of cereal foodgrains available for consumption annually amounted to about 7·7 million tons.



War Years

3. 1939–40 to 1944–45 were the war years. During the first three years of the war this province was not seriously affected and there was no food problem as such. There was, of course, a rise in the price of foodgrains; but the rise was not very great and foodgrains were available to consumers at reasonable prices. The fall of Burma towards the end of 1941 deprived not only Madras but also other parts of South India (Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin) as also Ceylon of the usual source of imports. In the first half of 1942, these areas bought in Madras to the extent of about 155,000 tons of rice for their immediate needs. Thus, Madras for the first time became a net exporter of rice though as I have said above it has always been deficit in rice and a net importer. The assistance to the adjoining areas was continued in 1942–43 also; the net exports during that year amounted to about 262,000 tons. Towards the end of the year, the Government of India took over the control of the distribution of foodgrains from surplus to deficit areas under their Basic Plans and Madras was relieved of the demands from her neighbours. In 1943–44 and 1944–45, the Government of India gave some assistance to our province. The net imports of rice in 1943–44 were 56,000 tons and in 1944–45 about 130,000 tons. These quantities do not compare with the normal pre-war annual import of

451,000 tons; but were no doubt of great help. The Grow More Food Campaign showed an increase of area under foodcrops and a reduction in the area under non-foodcrops. But the effects of the campaign were neutralized by the bad seasons and there was no substantial addition to the food resources of the province. The position of the province in the last three years of the war was as follows :—

Name of the foodgrains.	Average annual production.	Net imports.	Quantity available for consumption deducting seed.
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
Rice	4,866,667	(a) (—) 76,713	4,632,362
Milets	2,652,000	22,666	2,616,896
Wheat and wheat products ..	1,730	60,436	62,033
	7,520,397	6,389	7,311,291

(a) Net exports as explained above.

It will be noticed from the above that the average quantity available for consumption in the last three years of the war decreased to 7·3 million tons from about 7·7 million tons pre-war. This was partly due to the prevalence of famine in the ceded districts which affected the millet yield but chiefly due to the decline in imports. It must be remembered that all this while the population has gone on increasing at the rate of one per cent or nearly five lakhs of persons per year. But no scarcity was actually felt as the normal carry-over was being used up.

First post-war year—Inauspicious beginning

4. We thus began the first post-war year 1945–46 under very difficult conditions. I must explain that the year referred to here and in what follows is the kharif year commencing on the first November. This has been adopted because the Government of India adopt the kharif year for their distribution plans of rice and millets to suit the all-India conditions. We had practically exhausted all our reserves and had to rely entirely on current production supplemented by imports for current consumption. Both the monsoons were in defect and the cyclone did great damage to the crops ripe for harvest in parts of the Circars. The estimated production of rice was 5,241,000 tons against the average of 4,866,667 tons for the previous three years and 2,127,000 tons of millets against the average of 2,652,000 tons for the same period. The year was a bad year for rice and millets all over India, particularly South India. A famine was apprehended and plans were made to mitigate its effects.

5. Though the war had ended, normal imports could not be resumed, for the countries used to export rice to India were devastated by war and conditions all over were very unsettled and sufficient shipping was not available. Besides there were many other countries which had suffered during the war and were claimants for such surplus rice as was available. The Allies set up a body called the I.E.F.C. (International Emergency Food Council) at Washington to pool the available resources and distribute them equitably. The Government of India had to convince this body of the justness of the claim of India and as several political and economic considerations swayed the decisions, the assistance given fell short of India's requirements. In any case, there was not enough rice to go round and the Government of India had to accept wheat, maize, barley and such other foodgrains, which are not in ordinary use in South India, to make up the quota. From out of the imports and from what could be secured from other parts of India, the Government of India supplied 603,000 tons of foodgrains made up of 268,612 tons of rice, 184,631 tons of wheat and wheat products, 149,757 tons of millets, maize and other unfamiliar grains.

Reduction of rations to 12 oz.

6. At a conference held at Bangalore in February 1946, presided over by His Excellency the Viceroy, it was agreed that, whatever assistance might be forthcoming from abroad, the country should husband its resources carefully, and the decision was taken that the over-all ration in all rationed areas in the country should be reduced to 12 ounces. Immediate effect was given to this decision in this province. The province had naturally to make the best use of its own resources before it could convince the Government of India of its needs and obtain the required help. Statutory rationing and monopoly procurement were already in force in the district of Malabar from 1944. Rural rationing and the system of procuring the entire surplus with the producers on Government account which were in force in six other deficit districts were extended to all the remaining districts in the province, including the surplus areas.

Fixation of prices

7. It has been the practice to fix the prices of rice and millets at the commencement of each kharif year and keep them unchanged during the year. The prices prevailing at the end of 1944–45 were left unchanged for 1945–46 as it was expected that the season would be normal and that the wages for labour would go down consequent on the closure of military works at the end of the war. Neither of these expectations turned out to be correct and it became necessary to encourage the cultivation of short-term crops and to stimulate procurement by means of bonuses. A bonus at the rate of Rs. 15 per acre was offered for the area brought under foodcrops in March and April 1946. A bonus at the rate of Re. 1 per maund of paddy and 12 annas and 8 annas per maund of major and minor millets respectively were given for deliveries made during the 1st June and 15th August 1946. Another bonus of Re. 1 per maund of paddy and 8 annas per maund of millets was given for the short-term crops delivered in the months of September to November 1946. An additional bonus of Re. 1 per maund of paddy was given for paddy delivered between 16th September and 31st October 1946, the most critical period. These inducements produced the desired effect and procurement was very successful. Against a target of 1,402,500 tons of rice, the quantity procured amounted to 1,354,766 tons. The millets procured amounted to 120,887 tons against the target of 409,000 tons. Incidentally I may add that these inducements were too successful in that they brought out whatever resources that remained and emptied the granaries. The quantities of rice procured and the rice imported were not however enough to maintain the 12 oz. ration. The ration of the rice-eaters was first reduced to 10 oz. of rice and 2 oz. of other foodgrains, and then in August 1946 to 8 oz. of rice and 4 oz. of other foodgrains. Besides foodgrains, foodstuffs like dehydrated potatoes, sweet potatoes, groundnut, toffee and milk powder were imported and sold at subsidized rates. The crisis was tided over, but it cost the Government on the relief measures taken about ten crores of rupees.

Popular Committees and Co-operative Schemes

8. I must also refer to two new institutions set up during the year as they have a bearing on the food situation during the current year. With a view to associate the non-officials with the food administration and to obviate complaints of high-handedness on the part of food officials, Village, Taluk and District Food Committees were formed. In regard to procurement, they were authorized to scrutinize the demand lists prepared by the officials and settle the quantities to be collected from individual producers and from each village. As you are fairly familiar with the functions and duties of these committees, it is unnecessary for me to go into greater details. The second institution set up was the Producer-*cum*-Consumers' Societies with the aim of eliminating middlemen and blackmarkets and securing the largest benefits to the producers and consumers alike. The scheme was first tried in the district of Malabar where it worked with a fair amount of success. It was then extended to the delta taluks of East and West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur districts, and the societies were in the course of organization at the end of the calendar year 1946.

9. The year 1946–47 started well. The rainfall in the two monsoons was adequate and there would have been a normal and even a bumper crop but for the heavy rain in December and January. The yield of paddy was in consequence reduced in some districts and millets were affected in several districts. Taking due account of this damage, the yield of rice has been estimated at 4,795,000 tons, that is, 554,000 tons more than the yield in the previous year, and of millets at 2,114,000 tons, about 13,000 tons less than in the previous year. As the prospects thus seemed more favourable, and in the belief that the Government of India would be able to continue their help to the extent required, the rice portion of the ration of rice-eaters was raised to 10 oz. from the midlde of December, and the decision was being given effect to in the districts as stocks were built up. In December, it became known that the Government of India would not be in a position to supply any wheat or wheat products or maize to this Province for some time to come and there was no other grain that could be given for the balance of 2 oz. to make up the 12 oz. In January it was therefore decided to raise the rice content of the ration to the full 12 oz. But this order could not be introduced in some districts or kept in force for long in other districts as procurement was not proceeding according to expectations and in view of the subsequent intimations that the help the Government of India could render was problematical.

Procurement Slows Down

10. As usual the question of fixing prices for 1946–47 was considered in September 1946 and the recommendation of an *ad hoc* committee that the price of paddy should be raised by a rupee a maund was sent up to the Government of India for approval. The arguments that the prices of foodgrains in Madras were the lowest in India and that the prices had not been allowed to rise to the same extent as in other parts of India were not disputed. But the Government of India decided against any increase in any Province as a matter of all-India policy. They were also against the grant of any bonus either, as it was considered to be a way of getting round the decision against price enhancement. There was great disappointment among producers who considered that they did not have a fair deal since nothing was being done to check the rising costs of cultivation, or the soaring prices of consumers' goods. The grant of the bonuses in the previous year had roused expectations which were rudely quenched by this decision. Procurement did not in the circumstances make a good start and gather momentum as usual. Producers in general refused to give up all hopes of either price increase or bonus later in the year despite frequent denials by the Government and were slow in making deliveries.

11. There were other causes too that retarded procurement. The Village Committees in general showed themselves incapable of considering the needs of areas outside their own villages and invariably underestimated the surpluses for procurement. They increased the strain on rice by freely reclassifying millet-eaters, as rice-eaters whenever there was the slightest difficulty in supplying millets. There was a general failure of millets in the upland areas of the Circar districts and rice was smuggled to those areas and sold at very high prices. People in those areas could afford to pay heavy prices as they were making large sums of money by raising industrial crops like tobacco. It is not possible to say how much rice was lost for Government procurement in this way, but there is no doubt that it was considerable. This black-market is reported to continue to flourish in spite of official vigilance for want of public support. Last, but not the least, the newly formed Producers-*cum*-Consumers Societies in the Circars were not pulling their weight in procurement as they were new to the business, and were in the throes of organization battling with the vested interests which they were intended to supplant. As the following figures show, procurement by the societies in the districts of East and West Godavari was not bad, it was unsatisfactory in Kistna and most disappointing in Guntur :—

PROCUREMENT FROM JANUARY TO MARCH.
(Figures in tons.)

	January to March 1945–46.	January to March 1946–47,		
		By millers.	By societies.	Total.
East Godavari	15,605	16,790	11,501	28,291
West Godavari	83,939	20,620	30,421	51,041
Kistna	52,004	46,400	9,410	55,810
Guntur	57,619	10,807	4,060	14,867

This would not have mattered if the deficit districts could have afforded to wait but they were working with very low stocks and were in need of replenishment.

India Government's Warning

12. The Government of India had their own difficulties. The millet crop in other parts of India was below normal. The wheat crop over a large part of Central India extending from Hyderabad almost to the foot of the Himalayas was affected by rust and the yield was negligible. The allotment of rice to India for the first half of 1947 was about 400,000 tons and 200,000 tons for the second half of the year. But as the chief source of supply is Burma where conditions are unsettled, receipts were uncertain; only a little over 200,000 tons were actually delivered during the first half of the year. Whatever wheat was imported was required for the wheat importing provinces in North India and the Government of India could spare none for Madras from January onwards. A tentative allotment of 160,000 tons of rice both from internal and external sources was made to this province for the Kharif year, but we were told that deliveries

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of September 1947

Weather conditions and crop prospects.—There was light to moderate rainfall during the fortnight.

The level of water in the Mettur Reservoir on 15th September 1947 was 119·1 feet as against 120·8 feet on 15th September 1946.

The condition of standing crops was generally fair except in parts of East Godavari, Kistna, Kurnool, Bellary, Chittoor, Madura and South Kanara districts.

Harvest of paddy was proceeding in parts of Tanjore, Madura, Ramnad and Malabar districts and of dry crops in the districts of Vizagapatam, West Godavari, Bellary, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. The outturn was generally fair.

Market conditions and trend of prices.—There were no perceptible changes in the prices of cereals and pulses. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil-seeds, oil-cakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change—Gingelly oil, gingelly oil-cake and groundnut oil-cake.

Rise—Cotton seed (1·9 per cent).

Fall—Groundnut (shelled) (1·3 per cent), gingelly seed (0·3 per cent), copra (0·6 per cent), cocoanut oil (3·7 per cent) and groundnut oil (3·7 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured in the Province and the quantities of cereals and pulses imported from sources abroad :—

(*a*) Local procurement during the fortnight ending 31st August 1947—

	TONS.	
Paddy ..	28,800	Together equivalent to 31,464 tons in terms of rice.
Rice ..	11,482	
Millets.	4,628	

(*b*) Receipts from other Provinces and States during the fortnight ending 15th September 1947—

	TONS.	
Rice ..	3,598	(Orissa—11 tons : Eastern States—360 tons : Central Provinces 3,227 tons.)
Millets ..	72	(35 tons of jowar and 37 tons of ragi from Orissa.)
Wheat and Products.	..	
Pulses—		
Blackgram.	1,547	
Redgram.	39	
Greengram.	..	
Bengalgram.	585	
Total ..	2,171	

(*c*) Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th September 1947—

	TONS.	
Rice ..	2,079	(Ex S.S. "Empire Conrad.)"
Millets	..	
Wheat and products.	..	

Stock and supply position of principal foodgrains.—Rice.—As a result of the intensive drive started in August, procurement in the recent weeks has shown some improvement as indicated by the following figures :—

Procurement during week ending—

	TONS.
21st August 1947 ..	13,316
28th August 1947 ..	13,889
4th September 1947 ..	18,355
11th Septmeber 1947 ..	21,737

This however was not sufficient to check the decline in the Provincial stock which registered a further fall from 153,378 tons on 28th August 1947 to 144,995 tons on 11th September 1947. The position in the deficit districts, particularly Malabar and South Kanara, continues to be unsatisfactory.

Millets.—The stock of millets in the Province fell from 23,653 tons on 28th August 1947 to 19,753 tons on 11th September 1947. Shortage was felt during the fortnight in the districts of Vizagapatam, Guntur, South Arcot, Trichinopoly, the Nilgiris and in Madras City. Supplies to the City and the other needy areas have been arranged and in some cases the stocks are in transit. As, however, the present stock in the Province is barely sufficient for one month and as the offtake is increasing (at a rapid pace in some districts), much difficulty is experienced in arranging timely supplies. A shipment of 8,000 tons of milo, if received before the end of this month, will help to ease the situation.

Maize.—The stock on 11th September 1947 was 777 tons as against 749 tons in 28th August 1947.

Barley.—The stock dropped from 218 tons on 28th August 1947 to 158 tons on 11th September 1947. The present stock is expected to be sold out in a month.

Wheat and wheat products.—The stock of wheat in the Province was 1,491 tons on 11th September 1947 as against 951 tons on 28th August 1947. The present stock will last till about the third week of October 1947.

The stock of wheat products fell from 272 tons on 28th August 1947 to 227 tons on 11th September 1947. The present stock is expected to last only till the end of this month. The position may improve slightly after the receipt of the 500 tons allotted to this Province recently.

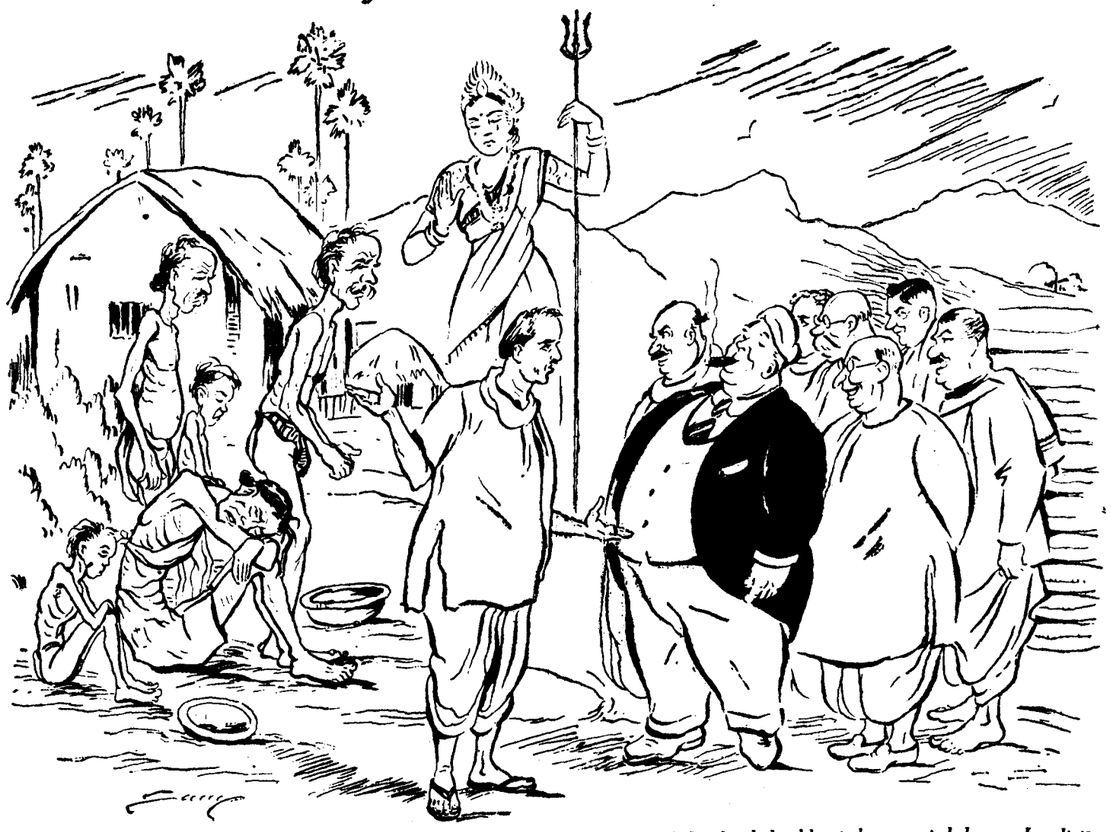
Pulses.—The pulses position in general, and particularly with regard to blackgram and redgram, has not been satisfactory. Shortage of one or more varieties of pulses has been reported from the following districts :—

Nilgiris ..	Blackgram and greengram.
Guntur ..	Bengalgram
Nellore ..	Redgram and blackgram.
Chingleput.	Redgram, blackgram and greengram.
Tanjore ..	Redgram, dhal and bengalgram flour.
Trichinopoly.	Redgram.
Bellary ..	All pulses, particularly bengalgram and toor dhal.
Madura ..	Greengram and blackgram.
Anantapur.	Bengalgram and redgram.

Miscellaneous commodities.—Stock of firewood was not adequate in parts of Guntur district and in the towns of Coimbatore, Villupuram, Bezwada and Masulipatam.

Scarcity of matches was felt in parts of Chingleput district.

They are Flesh of Our Flesh



"You know 3 million people died of starvation in Bengal. A situation of that kind should not be repeated here. I solicit your wholehearted co-operation in the noble task of feeding the people of the Province.

—The Hon'ble the Prime Minister in his speech at Kumbakonam on September 4, 1947.

No Death Due to Starvation

Allegations Refuted

During the food debate on the 25th instant, allegations were made on the floor of the Legislative Assembly that 14 persons died of starvation in the Agency tract of the East Godavari district. Immediately the Collector of East Godavari was contacted on the phone and his reply that there was absolutely no death in the area due to starvation was conveyed by the Hon'ble Minister for Food to the Legislative Assembly on the same day. Later in the day, however, Mr. T. Prakasam read out the names of the 14 persons who were alleged to have died from starvation. These names were communicated immediately to the Collector of East Godavari and he was asked to report in the matter. On the 26th, the Collector replied on the phone that of the 14 names read out, one was still living and that the other 13 were really dead but the cause of death was not starvation but something else. The names of the persons who were alleged to have died of starvation with the real reasons for death in the case of those who were dead are given below :—

Village ; name ; age ; real reason for death as reported by Collector through phone.

(1) Rampa ; Kokuri Tirupatamma ; 40 ; pleurisy.

(2) Rampa ; Pampireddi Surayya; 35 ; tuberculosis.

(3) Rampa ; Pampireddi Chinnamma ; 25 ; abnormal delivery. (Died a month ago.)

(4) Rampa ; Korukonda Jaggayya ; 10 ; malaria and anæmia.

(5) Marrivada ; Singotu Butchayya ; 60 ; beri-beri ; suffered for five months.

(6) Sripuram ; Chollam Suranna ; 35 ; aged 50 and not 35 ; died of gastric ulcer.

(7) Bendapalli ; Sundam bullimmi ; 50 ; aged 90 and not 50 ; died of old age.

particularly of rice from overseas was uncertain and depended on actual arrivals. As the availabilities were so uncertain and varied from month to month, the Government of India started the practice of holding a monthly conference of the officers of the deficit provinces and States and distributing what could be fairly depended upon to arrive during the next month among the deficit areas so as to leave them at the end of the month the same proportion of stocks with reference to their commitments. This distribution is equitable as far as it goes; but places the Province in a disadvantageous position owing to universal rationing. In other administrations people in rationed areas, if stocks run out, could go out to non-rationed areas and buy what they can afford to; specially because products are not rationed. The consequence of failure of supplies will therefore be more serious in Madras than elsewhere. The prospects of imports for the second half-year steadily deteriorated and the Government of India warned us that we should rely mainly on our own resources and make the best use of them. If they can, they will help, but it would be most imprudent to base our plans on their help. The quantities imported up to 28th August 1947 are 121,970 tons of rice, 56,210 tons of wheat and wheat products and 35,073 tons of millets. The Government of India have made an allotment of 7,500 tons of overseas rice and 500 tons of wheat and flour for the month of September and about 6,000 tons of rice are due from Central Provinces and Sind against the quotas previously allotted. It is hoped that these allotments will materialize in time. It seems very unlikely that the Government of India can supply any more rice till the commencement of the next Kharif year on 1st November 1947, but they may be able to spare some wheat and milo from October onwards when it begins to arrive from America.

Beginning of crisis

13. When I took charge as Minister for Food along with other Ministers forming this Government at the end of March 1947, procurement had stopped in Guntur district and there were reports that there were only about a week's stocks in the statutorily rationed towns and that rural rationing had broken down; this in a district surplus in rice. As the situation was serious and brooked no delay, the agency for procurement entrusted to the producers-*cum*-consumers societies was suspended and handed back to millers and dealers. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies was deputed to make a special investigation and he reported that restoration of millers was necessary in the districts of Guntur and Kistna and though the societies had not done badly in East and West Godavari districts, millers could have done better. As the stocks in the deficit districts were dropping steadily, it was considered unsafe to continue the experiment of the societies and the procurement agency was restored to the millers in the other three districts also. Other impediments were also removed. Collectors were asked to instruct their officers to fix the targets for procurement for villages themselves based on the performance of last year and the yields this year respective of the village committees. They were also authorized to remove co-operative organizations which had been entrusted with procurement in several districts where they found them inefficient and substitute other suitable agencies to do the work. These measures had some effect and procurement improved slightly; but the main grievance of inadequate prices remained. The best that we could do, consistent with the price policy of the Government of India, was to raise the village-site prices by 4 annas a maund of paddy by adjustments of the margins to the wholesalers and millers. But this was not considered adequate by the producers. The stocks on hand and the future prospects did not warrant the hopes of being able to continue the overall 12 oz. ration and it was reduced to 10 oz. in all districts with effect from 25th May 1947.

14. The Hon'ble Minister for Food and Agriculture (Dr. Rajendra Prasad) visited this Province in May to study the conditions for himself and the Hon'ble Prime Minister and myself had several discussions with him particularly on the question of prices. He found himself unable to agree to any price revision; but promised to consider if a scheme for assistance in the shape of manure was sent up. Procurement was again slowing down, and it became evident that very drastic and urgent steps were necessary if the situation was to be saved. The composition of the ration was readjusted to reduce the demand for rice; it is now 8 oz. rice and 2 oz. of millets (milo), etc., for rice eaters; 1 oz. of rice and 9 oz. of millets, etc., for millet eaters and 3 oz. of rice and 7 oz. millets, etc., for mixed diet eaters; and if they forego rice altogether they may take 12 oz. of millets, milo, maize, etc. The bonus scheme was also sanctioned with retrospective effect, under which for every maund of paddy delivered, half a rupee would be paid in cash and half a rupee will be given as a bonus coupon exchangeable for manure or other accessories of production. The scheme in the light of criticism has been slightly modified to make it more tempting. Assuming 1½ million tons of rice are procured during the year, this scheme will cost approximately six crores of rupees; it is proposed to recover half from the consumers, and the Government of India and this Government bear the other half in equal shares. The cost to this Government will be at the least a crore and half of rupees.

15. As the ration, particularly the rice ration, is very meagre, the Government have arranged for the sale of potatoes in all ration shops at the same rate as it is sold on the Nilgiris, the Government bearing the cost of transport. This subsidy is expected to cost about five lakhs of rupees. Rice imported from other parts of India is sold at the same rate as rice grown in this province to avoid hardship to consumers. As working stocks are low, they have to be frequently transferred from one place to another to avoid a breakdown and the Government bear the transport charges in the interest of consumers. The Government will thus have to spend from 3 to 4 crores of rupee this year also on food subsidies apart from the large staff employed in the Civil Supplies Department.

Recent Improvements

16. Procurement has of late shown some improvement, but still falls short of expectations. Against a target of 1,787,600 tons of rice, the quantity procured up to 31st August 1947 amounted to 1,204,303 tons, and 87,638 tons of millets have been procured out of the target of 148,560 tons and there are only 2 months left. I will not trouble you with detailed figures for districts, but would invite your attention to the procurement in the usually heavy rice surplus districts.

District.	TONS.	
East Godavari	83,686	Actual procurement from 1st November 1946 to 31st August 1947.
West Godavari	172,264	
Kistna ..	128,950	
Guntur ..	49,065	
Nellore ..	43,468	
Tanjore ..	212,254	

Details of procurement for the last Kharif year 1945–46 were as follows :—

Districts.	Production of rice.	Target fixed for procurement of rice.	Actual procurement in 1945–46.
	TONS.	TONS.	TONS.
East Godavari.	313,000	135,458	120,735
West Godavari.	309,000	210,925	227,454
Kistna ..	272,000	215,684	180,167
Guntur ..	191,000	114,074	117,581
Nellore ..	109,000	48,439	63,741
Tanjore ..	572,000	295,626	283,492

It will be observed from the above that the northern surplus districts have had a better crop in 1946–47 and all the districts except Tanjore have still considerable quantities to deliver.

The variations in the target fixed for procurement and the actual procurement in 1945–46 are due to the fact that the target had to be revised thrice during 1945–46 for the following reasons :—

1. There was a cyclone about October 1945 which caused a lot of damage to the crops in the Circar districts. As a consequence the target had to be lowered.

2. On account of the failure of the Mettur Dam the *thaladi* (second crop) in Tanjore district was similarly affected.

3. In May-June 1946, the yield of *Dalwa* crop in the Circar districts was much higher than was anticipated with the result our target was also raised, and the procurement made according to the target figure.

17. The requirements for the rest of the Kharif year on the present revised scales of rations have been estimated as follows :—

	Rice.	Other grains (millets, wheat, etc.)
	TONS.	TONS.
August 28th to 31st.	14,500	1,820
September	141,800	17,800
October	138,600	17,400
One month buffer stock.	140,000	17,500
	434,900	54,520
Stocks on 28th August 1947 under Government control.	153,378	25,843
Additional quantity required.	281,522	28,677

The stocks on hand represent nearly five weeks' requirements, but they are very unevenly distributed. Thus Kistna, West Godavari, Tanjore, with reference to their rationed requirements have stocks for about 12 weeks, 20 weeks and 14 weeks respectively, while Malabar, South Kanara, and Coimbatore and Madras have stocks enough for 2 weeks, under a week, 3½ weeks and 2 weeks only. The danger of a breakdown in the deficit districts if supplies do not reach them promptly and regularly is evident. As I have said above, the Government of India are not likely to be able to give any more rice beyond the 13,500 tons referred to above during the rest of this year and the other grains they may spare are not likely to be considerable. It is therefore imperative that if a breakdown and possibly starvation are to be averted, the Province must raise another about 268,000 tons of rice from its own resources. This will have to be done as soon as possible, as the ensuing months are rainy months when processing of rice is likely to be impeded for days and communications are likely to break down. This is our immediate task. We should address ourselves to it with a will. I have visited several districts already and propose to tour as many more as possible to explain the seriousness of the situation and enlist the support and co-operation of the public. My colleagues have also undertaken to do the same and if there is adequate response, we should pull through.

Arrangements for Future

18. The next Kharif year is not far off, and it is necessary to think of the arrangements for the next year. As the Hon'ble Members are aware, a Provincial Food Council consisting of representatives of all interests was recently constituted and it held its first meeting on 11th August 1947. All the outstanding problems were discussed by that body and I am very grateful for its valuable suggestions. A sub-committee of the Council has been set up to go into the question of prices and suggest suitable prices to be paid for the new crop. As soon as its recommendations are received and examined by the Government, they will try their best to persuade the Government of India to agree to the fixation of prices which, while bearing the interest of consumers in mind, do justice to the producers.

19. The experiences of 1945–46 and 1946–47 serve to show that the Government have taken on themselves a very heavy responsibility by embarking on universal rationing. I compare below the resources for last year and this year :—

	1945–46. TONS.	1946–47. TONS.
Production of rice ..	4,241,000	4,795,000
Production of millets.	2,127,000	2,114,000
Imports	603,000	213,253 (Up to 28th August 1947).
Total ..	6,971,000	7,122,253

The resources in the year 1946–47 are slightly more than in the previous year. Last year, the overall ration never went below 12 oz., this year the maintenance of rationing even at 10 oz. is in grave doubt. The truth is that people are getting tired and impatient of the never ending demands on behalf of the Government. It seems therefore sufficient if the Government limit their responsibilities to areas which need protection, such as towns, industries, deficit parts of districts. It has therefore been suggested that rural rationing may be discontinued except in Malabar and statutory rationing be given up in towns in surplus districts as the crops of the next year are harvested. After all the Government cannot undertake indefinitely the direct feeding of the people and steps should be taken some day, the sooner the better, to restore, as far as may be, the normal channels of distribution.

Long range Aspect

20. Before I close, I wish to refer to the long-range aspect of the food problem. Statistics show that, whatever the results of the Grow More Food campaign may have been, the area under paddy and the yield are almost stationary during the last decade while the area under millets has decreased and the yield has gone down by barely a million tons. The population keeps on increasing inexorably in geometric ratio of about 1 per cent per year, thus widening the gap between the resources and the demand for food. In the last two years the Government have been spending about 14 crores of rupees on food subsidies alone and the Government cannot afford to continue to do so indefinitely. With all its vast resources of land and rivers, Madras has been lining up in a queue begging of other areas for food; it has not been able to buy enough and will not be in the near future able to do so, particularly to feed its increasing population. If the humiliations, anxieties, sufferings and expenses of the last six years are to be avoided, this Province should grow food to provide its population with at least enough for subsistence, if not enough to satisfy the nutritional standards. There should be a reorientation of the Grow More Food Policy and it should be pursued with vigour and with top priority over all other post-war schemes. Else, all talk of progress will come to naught and we shall be in peril.

(8) Mulapadu ; Karamu Papudamma ; 25 ; abnormal delivery. (Died three days after delivery.)

(9) Chilakamamidi ; Enbukula Chinna Reddi ; 25 ; still living. Hale and healthy. He is the village munsif

(10) Chilakamamidi ; Kundla Balayya Reddi ; 40 ; diarrhœa.

(11) Chilakamamidi ; Vadugula Chinnayya ; 50 ; malaria.

(12) Chilakamamidi ; Kathula Ramayya ; 36 ; diarrhœa.

(13) Chilakamamidi ; Boyna Balayya ; 75 ; tuberculosis.

(14) Chilakamamidi ; Boyna Chilakamma ; 45 ; beri-beri.

This answer of the Collector of East Godavari was read out to the Press, and the Legislative Assembly by the Hon'ble Minister for Food on the afternoon of the 26th September. The Collector was asked by the Government officially to investigate the allegations made in the petition of Mr. M. V. Somasundaram from whose letter the 14 names were read out by Mr. T. Prakasam and report about the facts. The Government have now received the report of the Collector. It shows that detailed enquiries into the allegations were made by the Revenue Divisional Officer, Rajahmundry. The allegations of death by starvation were first made by one Kommana Veerabhadra Rao, son of Gavarayya, bamboo merchant, Rampa Chodavaram, to Sri M. V. Somasundaram, Advocate, Rajahmundry. It would appear that on the basis of this information Mr. Somasundaram wrote a letter to a certain M.L.A., who passed it on to Mr. Prakasam. During his enquiry the Revenue Divisional Officer, Rajahmundry, who was accompanied by the two informers referred to above obtained sworn statements from them. These sworn statements are published below for the information of the public :—

Copy of sworn statement of Kommana Veerabhadra Rao, son of Gavarayya, bamboo merchant, Rampa Chodavaram.

On the information given to me by Vantikula Chinna Reddi, village munsif of Chilakamamidi, I informed Sri M. V. Somasundaram, Advocate, Rajahmundry, on 18th September 1947 at Rajahmundry that 12 persons in Rampa Chodavaram and other muttas died of starvation. I have not verified whether the information is correct or not. The very same Vantikula Chinna Reddi now says before all of us that the deaths were due to chronic diseases and diarrhœa and not due to starvation. The Press representatives of *Hindu*, *Andhra Patrika* and *Indian Express* were present when I informed Sri M. V. Somasundaram, Advocate, Rajahmundry, about the deaths on 18th September 1947.

(Signed) Kommana Veerabhadra Rao,
Organizer, Yuvajana Congress, and Secretary, Taluk Congress, Rampa Chodavaram.

Taken down by me, read over, interpreted and admitted to be correct.

(Signed) B. Venkatarathnam,
Revenue Divisional Officer, Rajahmundry.

24th September 1947.

Sworn statement of Sri M. V. Somasundaram, Advocate, Rajahmundry.

On 18th September 1947, Sri Kommana Veerabhadra Rao of Rampa Chodavaram came to Shraddanandaghat, Rajahmundry, and informed me and the press representatives of *Hindu*, *Andhra Patrika* and *Indian Express* that 12 persons in Rampa Chodavaram taluk died of starvation. I directed him to furnish me with the list of persons that died. He sent me this list (Exhibit A). I accompanied the Revenue Divisional Officer, Rajahmundry, and the Deputy Tahsildar, Rampa Chodavaram. On verification, the persons interviewed assert that no body died of starvation. I am satisfied that the situation is not so serious as reported.

(Signed) M. V. Somasundaram,
Advocate and President, District Youth Congress.

24th September 1947.

Taken down by me, read over and admitted to be correct.

(Signed) B. Venkatarathnam,
Revenue Divisional Officer, Rajahmundry.

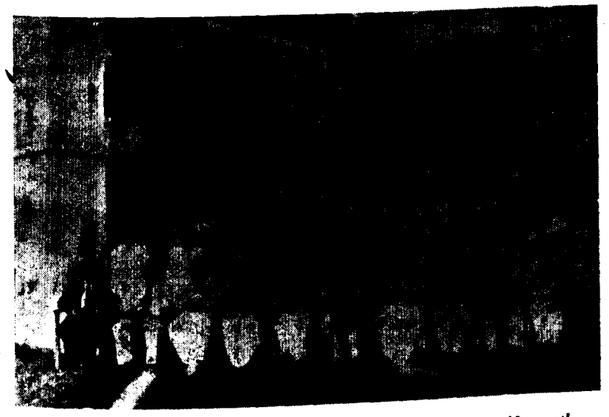
24th September 1947.

The Revenue Divisional Officer had also obtained sworn statements from the village munsifs of Chilakamamidi, Bandapalli, Mulapadu and Rampa, the presidents of the village food committees of Rampa Chodavaram and some important ryots. All these statements go to prove that there was absolutely no case of death on account of starvation in the area as alleged and there was no lack of foodstuffs. In a telegram received by Government from Sri M. V. Somasundaram referred to above, it is stated that the deceased persons had no food for days, that they resorted to eating leaves, palmyra fruits, tamarind seeds, kanji, causing diarrhœa and deaths. The Revenue Divisional Officer's enquiry also revealed that all the deceased persons were living on rations supplied by the Government supplementing it with samai, korra, gunta, ragi, leafy vegetables, tender roots of bamboos, etc., and also Ambalai prepared out of the tamarind seeds as it has a cooling effect on the system and that these diets are not unusual for the people in the Agency. The Medical Officer at Rampa Chodavaram and also the Health Inspector of the place who have visited all the villages in the taluk have certified that to their knowledge no cases of death due either to starvation or mal-nutrition have come to their notice though they had particularly been on the lookout for such cases and that the people in the area have been living on Government rationed rice which is being distributed, supplementing it by leafy vegetables, etc. The Medical Officer has also stated that he treated some cases of diarrhœa due to overeating of beef and palmyra fruits which these people take ordinarily as food. From the facts stated above, the public will readily understand that there have been no cases of death due to starvation in the area and that the allegations to the contrary are false. The Government also understand that the persons who set the rumour afloat had a grouse against the local supply officers on account of the detection by the latter of certain illegal activities on their part and that Mr. Somasundaram merely made use of the information given by them without verification.

The Government have examined the question whether the concession in the shape of exempting stage carriages from payment of the tax leviable under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, in respect of standing passengers, should be continued. They have decided that it should be continued only in respect of stage carriages exclusively used on the roads in the Madras City and that it should be withdrawn as soon as the vehicles are taken over by the State. In respect of stage carriages which are used on roads outside the City of Madras and which are permitted to carry standing passengers, additional tax will be levied for each standing passenger at one-third of the rate leviable for each sitting passenger under the Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation Act, 1931, with effect from the quarter commencing with the 1st October 1947.

Save for Yourself—And the Nation

National Savings Drive to be Intensified



Group photo of the Third National Savings Officers' Conference held recently in Madras

The Third Conference of Assistant National Savings Officers was held in Madras from the 11th to the 13th of September 1947, to discuss measures to intensify the Savings Drive. The Provincial National Savings Officers presided over the Conference.

It was emphasised that the successful working of the scheme required the whole-hearted co-operation of officials, social workers and the public. A plan for intensive development, to enlarge the existing societies by increasing the number of members, and amount of contributions, and a plan for extensive expansion by starting new societies were discussed. It was also pointed that village panchayats could be helpful in the formation of Savings groups.

The continued rise in recent months in the index of prices of essential commodities and foodgrains has been standing in the way of the middle and lower class people buying National Savings Certificates in large numbers. Again, in the last half-year the intensive collections for share capital for producer-cum-consumers' co-operative societies in Northern Circars, and the offering of shares by a number of new industrial concerns in South India were mainly the reasons for large encashment in the Northern Circar districts and in Salem. These large encashments themselves have helped to increase the sale of savings certificates as the confidence among the public in the safety of these investments has since improved considerably.

The working of the scheme in the prohibition districts in particular was studied. The proposal to supply hundi boxes to ex-addicts has had to be given up, in view of the enormous cost involved. It was also pointed out that the savings scheme could not make much headway in prohibition districts within a short period because the initial savings of the ex-addicts will naturally be spent on their immediate wants, which must have been suffering neglect for a long time ; only when they were able to pass over this phase could a satisfactory response be expected from them.

The Conference then proceeded to consider how far labour was taking advantage of the scheme. Till a short time back, the scheme was not received favourably by the workers. Of late, the response is better, and there is now much scope for propaganda and work among them.

The need for an active publicity campaign was stressed. Sanction has been obtained, in the first instance, for a station waggon fitted with a microphone, magic lantern and a cinematograph.

The Province has been divided into eight areas, for this work, with the City of Madras as a separate unit. On 1st January 1947, 3,435 persons had been enrolled in groups, and the total amount agreed to be subscribed was Rs. 8,470–5–0. On 31st July 1947, no less than 15,930 persons had been enrolled in groups, and the amount agreed to be subscribed reached Rs. 56,425–4–0. This is an index of the growing popularity of this scheme, which built on sound principles is bound to play a great part in the nation-building activities that await us.

Labour Situation in the Madras Province

Report for the First Fortnight of September 1947

The Government have authorized the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, to notify the Employment Exchanges of the illegality of strikes or lockouts and direct them to submit workers to fill vacancies on account of illegal strikes or lockouts.

The Government have directed that the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (Central Act XIV of 1947), shall apply to all partially excluded areas in the Province of Madras subject to the modification that section 1 (3) thereof shall be omitted.

The Government have directed transport by boats in minor ports to be public utility services for the purpose of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, for a period of six months.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the managements of the Aluminium Factories in Vizianagram, Rajahmundry, Bezwada, Ellore and other places in Vizagapatam, Godavari (East), Godavari (West) Kistna and Guntur districts in respect of the rates of wages to be paid to different classes of workers in the industry to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, for adjudication.

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal in the dispute between the workers and the management of the City Motor Service, Limited, Madras (referred for adjudication in G.O. Ms. No. 2568, Development, dated 11th June 1947) regarding reinstatement of 27 workers and payment of bonus to 14 workers.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Gnanambika Mills, Coimbatore, to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication regarding victimisation of certain workers.

The National Engineering Works, Cocanada, was closed from 25th June 1947 to 31st August 1947. The Secretary, The Cocanada Iron Foundry Workers' Union, Cocanada, has reported on 4th September 1947 that the management of the National Engineering Works propose to close the factory from 17th September 1947 on the plea of want of raw materials.

The Jayaram Mills, Rajapalayam, Madura, have closed the spinning section on 30th August 1947 without notice. Sri P. S. Kumaraswami Raja, M.L.A., intervened and brought about a settlement of the dispute.

The Government of Madras have directed the District Magistrate, Madura, to prosecute the management of the Mahalakshmi Textile Mills, Limited, Pasumalai, Madura, if the awards of the adjudicators have not yet been implemented.

The workers staged a strike on 11th September 1947, as a protest against the failure of the management to pay interim relief as required in the adjudicator's award. The management have declared a lock-out. The mangement have been asked to lift the lock-out and the workers to call off the strike pending settlement of the dispute.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute regarding bonus between the workers and the management of the Mahalakshmi Textile Mills, Limited, Pasumalai, Madura, to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication

The management of some Cigar factories, Badagara, closed their factories from 6th August 1947. The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, visited Calicut and met the representatives of the workers and some of the factory owners. The workers' representatives complained of frequent dismissals and non-implementation of adjudicator's award. The owners said that they were working at a loss and hence closed down the factories but were prepared to pay 14 days' wages as compensation. The Commissioner has asked the Labour Conciliation Officer, Calicut, to proceed to Badagara and to persuade the owners to implement the terms of the award before 15th September 1947 on pain of prosecution. In cases where owners have closed down their establishments the Labour Conciliation Officers has been asked to see that the factory owners pay compensation to the workers.

Eighteen out of 46 workers of the Calicut Cotton Mills, Limited, Calicut, struck work without notice at 10–15 a.m. on 25th August 1947 demanding bonus for the year ending 30th June 1947. They were paid 2 weeks' wages with allowance as advance to be recovered in due course. They resumed work the same day.

The workers of the Standard Cotton and Silk Weaving Company, Limited, Calicut, staged a stay-in-strike at 4–30 p.m. on 27th August 1947 demanding advance for Onam. Later on they resumed work when the management agreed to allow them to draw 90 per cent of the welfare amount as advance.

About 50 workers of the Lakshmi Saw Mills, Kasargod, were locked out on 2nd September 1947. The Labour Conciliation Officer, Calicut, has been instructed to settle the dispute and to advise the management to allow the workers to resume work and to await the result of the Court of Inquiry for Timber and Saw Mills.

The Chirakkal Taluk Handloom Weavers' Union, has wired on 2nd September 1947, that the management of the Lakshmisahaya Weaving Factory, Alavil, Cannanore, have declared a lock-out. The Labour Conciliation Officer, Calicut, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

The strike notice given by the N. V. G. B. Motor Workers' Union, Calicut, has been withdrawn consequent on an agreement reached between the parties on 4th September 1947.

The General Secretary, The Mettupalayam-Nilgiris Motor Workers' Union, Coonoor R.S., has issued a notice of strike to the Managing Director of the M.C.S. Limited, stating that their workers will go on strike from 19th September 1947 if their demands for interim relief, regular payment of wages, batta for extra trips, etc., are not conceded before then. The Labour Conciliation Officer, Coimbatore, has been asked to bring about an amicable settlement of the dispute.

The management of the Hindustan Construction Company, Limited, Vizagapatam, have reported that their workmen have resorted to stay-in-strike from 4th September 1947 during the pendancy of the proceedings before the Industrial Tribunal and so they have notified them that disciplinary action will be taken against them if they do not end the strike at once. The Industrial Tribunal is proceeding with the inquiry into this dispute and the dispute in Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Vizagapatam, and is expected to submit its awards to Government soon.

Activities of the Education Department

Salient features for September 1947

Education—University.—The Government have passed orders for the taking over by the Government of the Municipal Women College at Guntur.

Basic Education.—Two new Basic Training Schools have been opened, one near Chidambaram (South Arcot district) and another in the Madura district.

These bring the number of Basic Training Schools in the Province to eight including the one at Seethanagaram (East Godavari district).

General.—The Government have constituted a committee to advise them on the question how the main elements of "Scouting" can be introduced in the schools of this Province as part of the school curricula so that all boys and girls may have the benefit of that training.

The Government have also constituted a Committee to inspect vacant sites in certain taluks of Chingleput district which are said to be useful for consideration for use as camps for school and college students and scouts.

* * *

Subscriptions to the National Savings Certificates received from the Province for the week ended 30th August 1947, total Rs. 2,69,555. Madras continues to hold the first place in the list of collections while Tanjore comes second and Coimbatore, third. The total contribution for the period from the 1st of April 1947 up to 30th August 1947 amounts to Rs. 63,09,120.

Madras Government's Plans for Refugee Relief

The public are aware that the Madras Government have agreed to receive about 10,000 refugees from the distressed areas in the Punjab, Sind and the North-West Frontier Provinces and to accommodate them here until the conditions in the North are eased. It may be made clear that the Government have not undertaken any responsibility for the permanent rehabilitation of these refugees though it will be open to the latter to secure jobs on their own initiative and efforts. What they have done is to place Sri K. Kodandapani Pillai, Special Officer and Protector of Emigrants, who has had considerable experience in dealing with evacuees from Burma and South East Asia, in general charge of the arrangements for the reception of the refugees with a Deputy Collector to assist him. Lieutenant Colonel Gill, Inspector-General of Prisons and President of the Local Punjab Association, is also assisting in the arrangements. It may be recalled that at a public meeting held at the Banqueting Hall on 11th September 1947, the Hon'ble Prime Minister and others appealed for public co-operation and funds and an influential committee has been formed with the Sheriff of Madras as Chairman to collect funds.

So far 45 persons in six families have arrived and they are put up at Kilpauk and another batch of nine refugees is accommodated at Saidapet. A special Executive Engineer has been appointed to go round the province and inspect the military camps that have been vacated recently and select a few sites with water-supply, electrical connections and other amenities which could be made habitable without much cost. The intention is to spread evenly these several refugee camps throughout the Province, lest concentration of large numbers of them in a particular area should create special problems. The Government of the Malayan Union have agreed to lend the Avadi Emigration Depot for the use of the refugees. The military authorities have agreed to place at the disposal of the Government, the Saidapet Holiday Home. They have also been asked to render assistance in the form of transport, equipment, etc., and they have, in addition, provided a military officer to maintain liaison with the Special Officer and Protector of Emigrants.

The Government have made a contribution of rupees one lakh for relief work, out of which Rs. 10,000 has been sanctioned for the feeding of the refugees. In addition to giving an allowance of Re. 1–4–0 for the first adult in each family, Re. 0–15–0 for each additional adult and Re. 0–10–0 for each child (under 12), a sum not exceeding Rs. 5 per head per mensem will also be paid for sundry expenses. The Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society has been asked to open a rationing shop for the refugee camp in Lutteral Gardens and one at Avadi Emigration Depot to enable refugees to purchase their provisions and other necessities. The provision of a minimum amount of clothing for the refugees has also been undertaken by the Government and a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been sanctioned for this purpose. Two sets of clothes are proposed to be supplied to each of the refugees and Provincial Textile Commissioner has directed wholesale dealers to sell the required quantities of cloth to the Protector of Emigrants, who in turn will make the supplies to the refugees. In the meantime such of the ready-made garments and bedding as are available with the Protector of Emigrants from the old stock transferred to him from the A.R.P. and other sources are being utilized to meet the urgent requirements of the refugees.

The Central Refugee Committee, Delhi, has been asked to inoculate all persons against cholera and revaccinate all refugees before they are despatched to Madras. If this is not done the Corporation Health Staff and the Health Staff of the Director of Public Health will carry out the inoculations and re-vaccinations as soon as these refugees arrive. The Government of India are being requested to accept liability for all expenditure in connection with the refugees to set apart, provisionally a sum similar to the contribution of the Provincial Government.

The Government trust that, in the humanitarian task of helping the distressed refugees, they will have the full co-operation and sympathy of the public in general. Such a sharing of distress and troubles of other provinces will not only exalt this province in the estimation of others but is also calculated to promote inter-provincial harmony, which is such an indispensable requisite, especially in the present day state of affairs.

BOARD SCHOOL TEACHERS' SCALES REVISED

The Government have reconsidered the question whether teachers in the service of district boards and municipal councils should not also be given weightage for their service in the scales existing prior to 1st January 1947 as in the case of Government servants and have decided that weightage should be given to district board and municipal employees in respect of such service. They have now decided that the initial pay of teachers employed in elementary schools under the district boards and municipal councils shall be refixed in the revised scales in accordance with the following provisions :—

(*a*) The pay of a teacher shall be fixed in the revised scale at the stage next above the aggregate of his pay in the existing scale and his temporary additional pay, if any, whether such aggregate represents a stage in the revised scale or not ;

(*b*) If such aggregate is less than the minimum of the revised scale, his pay shall be fixed at such minimum ;

(*c*) After his pay is fixed under clause (*a*) or (*b*) as the case may be, he shall be granted advance increments in the revised scale as specified below :—

(i) for a service of 4 years and more but less than 8 years in the existing scale—*One advance increment.*

(ii) for a service of 8 years and more but less than 12 years in the existing scale—*Two advance increments.*

(iii) for a service of 12 years and more but less than 16 years in the existing scale—*Three advance increments.*

(iv) for a service of 16 years and more in the existing scale—*Four advance increments.*

(*d*) where an employee is granted any advance increment or increments under clause (*c*), only service from the date on which such advance increment or increments are given, shall count for further increments in the revised scale.

(*e*) An employee not eligible for any advance increment under clause (*c*) shall be allowed to count service in the existing scale of pay for increments in

the revised scales of pay up to a maximum of one year.

(*f*) If the aggregate of his pay in the existing scale and his temporary additional pay is higher than the maximum of the revised scale, his pay shall be fixed at such maximum and he shall draw the excess as personal pay.

(*g*) Except in cases falling under clause (*f*) the pay fixed for an employee in the revised scale shall in no case exceed what would have been admissible had he been in service in the revised scale from the beginning of his service.

(*h*) An employee whose pay in the existing scale of pay is affected adversely on account of the operation of clause (*g*) by his electing to enter the revised scale, shall have his pay fixed with reference to Fundamental Rule 22 and service rendered at the present stage of pay in the existing scale which has not been counted for increment shall count for increment in the revised scale up to a maximum of one year.

It may be recalled that in their orders, dated 10th May 1947, the Government sanctioned the introduction of revised scales of pay of teachers in elementary schools and local bodies as from 1st January 1947. It was ordered that the pay of each of the existing incumbents should be fixed in the revised scale at the stage next above the aggregate of his pay in the existing scale and his temporary additional pay or personal pay, if any, whether such aggregate represents a stage in the revised scale or not. If such aggregate is less than the minimum of the revised scale, his pay should be fixed at such minimum.

It has been represented to the Government that these orders have not benefited appreciably teachers who have put in long service in local bodies.

Questions and Answers in the Legislature

In answer to certain questions by Mr. R. Suryanarayana Rao in the Legislative Council about the distribution of rationed as well as controlled articles, the Hon'ble Minister for Food said :—

(*a*) Before the introduction of the scheme of Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies, distribution of rationed and controlled articles in the Presidency was generally through private agencies and co-operative societies. Since the introduction of the scheme in Malabar, the work of distribution of certain rationed articles such as rice, sugar and kerosene has been entrusted to the Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies, while other controlled articles still continue to be distributed through private channels. In the four Circar districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur, the work of distribution of rationed and controlled articles was intended to be entrusted to the Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies.

(*b*) In Malabar the distribution of rationed articles has been partly entrusted to the Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies. In the Circars only a few societies were able to take over the distribution work from the previous agencies before orders staying such transfer were issued by the Government.

(*c*) In Malabar, most of the retail traders were employed by the Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies. In the Circars, the question does not arise as only very few societies could take over ration shops and even in those cases previous retail traders were employed as far as possible under the instructions of the Government.

(*d*) In view of the answer to clause (*c*) above, the question does not arise in the Circars. In Malabar, each case was examined on its merits and co-operative societies which had a democratic constitution and had a good business reputation were allowed to carry on the work of distribution of controlled articles.

(*e*) There is no iniquity in the orders of the Government regarding the new arrangements. Private merchants and a few co-operative societies whose business in rationed articles was taken over by the new societies have naturally complained about the loss involved, to them. It is in order to meet such complaints that instructions were issued that the retail dealers and their employees who were ousted from business should be absorbed by the new societies as far as possible and that existing co-operative societies with good business reputation may be allowed to continue to do distribution work.

(*f*) Representations have been received only from Harijans for the retention of retail shops now run by them. The Government have issued a general stay order in respect of the transfer of retail ration shops to the Producers-cum-Consumers' Co-operative Societies in all the four Circar districts. In view of this, the question of allotment or re-allotment of ration shops to the Harijans or Muslims does not arise at present.

(*g*) The Government do not consider that the present system of distribution or agency for distribution is inefficient. Inefficient agents are eliminated and substituted by others. As regards the Producers-cum-Consumers Co-operative Societies in the Circars, the Government have set up a Committee which will make recommendations about their future.

* * *

Answering a question on the new scheme for subsidising the sinking of wells, the Hon'ble Minister for Revenue said in the Council that the new scheme provided for the grant of subsidies in South Kanara not only for the construction of new irrigation wells and tanks but also for repairing old irrigation tanks, and that the same provision had been made in the new scheme for Malabar also and subsidies would be granted in that district for constructing new irrigation tanks and repairing existing irrigation tanks. There was no proposal to grant subsidies in the other districts either for the construction of new tanks or for repairs to old tanks.

* * *

In answer to certain questions about the Madras Secretariat, the Hon'ble the Prime Minister said that the number of departments in the Secretariat in 1939 and in 1947 was 9 and 10 respectively, and the cost of the staff was Rs. 11,97,375 and Rs. 21,64,202 respectively. The Hon'ble the Prime Minister added that the Government had appointed a Retrenchment and Reorganization Committee to look into the question of reorganization of departments and of effecting economi in expenditure.

The Language Problem under the New Dispensation

(*By* DR. C. ACHUTHA MENON, PH.D. (Lond.), Malayalam Department, University of Madras)

Introductory

The dawn of Indian Freedom is now spreading its lustre all over the land. It brings with it, as usual, new life and activity that lay dormant in the darkness of the struggle waged before. The fight for independence is characterized with intensive concentration on the goal and consolidation of efforts and outlook. When that motive force disappears, it leaves a vacuum to which minor issues rush in for recognition and attention resulting in temporary chaos and confusion. It is then we realize that problems of peace are more difficult to tackle than problems of war in which the desire for victory provides the necessary impetus for speedy action and achievement.

The division of India into two major dominions as Indian Union and Pakistan has in a way minimised their problems inasmuch as the cultural background of both has been thereby definitely and precisely demarcated. Otherwise the clash of Hindu-Muslim interests on many a question will be a perpetual source of conflict and disturb the harmony which is sought to be achieved by an attempt at synthesis. The controversy over Hindi or Urdu as a common language is thus closed for ever. Indian Union may unanimously vote for Hindi and Pakistan for Urdu.

The Language Problem of India

But the general language problem of India does not admit of such an easy solution. Now that the two political languages as I would call Hindi and Urdu have settled down in their respective domains, other major languages may now press their claims for recognition. Their multiplicity is by itself a staggering problem and no politician or administrator can afford to ignore this fact. The language experts are able to count ten major languages in the North and five in the South; leaving aside the uncultivated languages of aboriginal tribes living on mountains and other uncivilized areas. Calculating at the rate of at least ten distinct dialects for each major language, the total will easily reach in the neighbourhood of one hundred and fifty. Each language represents a cultural entity eager to nourish or perpetuate its peculiar characteristics. All language groups of the world which philologists are never tired of enumerating—Indo-Aryan, Indo-Iranian, Mongolian, Scythian, Dravidian the latest addition, so on and so forth—have all their representative branches in India. We have also to remember that as a country that cherished one of the earliest civilizations of the world, India has attracted many nations from far and near from primitive times and has been the meeting place of many races and cultures, some of them opposed to each other in fundamental concepts and beliefs. Attraction developed into attachment which culminated in aggression in modern times. Even the steam-roller drive of the Muslim invasions in middle ages has not been able to wipe out any of them completely. They have survived every shock though somewhat mutilated at every turn. After facing invasion after invasion the Indian civilization seems to have grown stronger and stronger to captivate even the conqueror. It is not an uncommon phenomenon in Indian History that a victor when he lays down his arms, sits down to listen to the philosophy of the conquered. A few years after the invasion of Alexander the Great we hear of the first international marriage, or to put it in modern parlance, diplomatic alliance between an Indian King and a Greecian Princess. Several centuries earlier, Solomon the Wise contacted South India to collect gold, peacock, etc., from Beypore-Chaliyam in Greek records (south of Calicut, Malabar). Hindu-Muslim unity was the ideal of Akbar the Great. It is this heterogenous nature, the absorbing power of the Indian civilization that resulted in the cultural deposits in different parts of this continent represented by various languages. The variety of its physical aspects has also helped this process of cultural and linguistic distribution.

The Lingua Franca

It is against this background we have to discuss the language problem. The idea of a common language presupposes the unity of India. It is for the promotion of that ideal that Hindi was for long recommended for adoption as a common language for India. There was strong opposition from the South which has for several centuries—much earlier than that of the Aryan invasion of the North—cultivated a group of languages that have nothing in common with the languages of the North. Almost all the Northern languages come under the category of Prakrit languages that could be traced to Sanskrit, the parental language. The South Indian Languages form a distinct group by themselves and strike an entirely different note in grammatical structure and other features. Though Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam have in modern times borrowed considerably from Sanskrit, their innate Dravidian genius still remains intact except for the addition of a large number of Sanskrit words towards their vocabulary. A sound scholar in any of these three languages may be able to follow Sanskrit to a certain extent even without studying it as a separate language, while a Sanskrit scholar pure and simple may not be able to understand these spoken languages. This is a clear indication that Sanskrit admixture has not interfered with their independent development but has only enriched their vocabulary rendering their power of expression more pliable and comprehensive. But, Tamil, the premier language of the Dravidian group, stands on an entirely different footing. The Sanskrit words it has borrowed can be counted on one's fingers and they have been thoroughly transformed before they are absorbed in the language. The difficulty of a Tamil scholar to learn Hindi took the form of anti-Hindi agitation during the term of the first Congress Ministry in this Province. A Northern Indian can hardly be expected to appreciate this move as to him the change from his spoken language (Bengali, Marathi, etc.) to Hindi is comparatively easy and can be managed without much conscious effort. But to a Tamilian it is a hard job. He must forget whatever he has learnt about word-formation

gender, case, etc., in his mother-tongue before he takes up Hindi for special study. The absence of aspirates in Tamil which constitutes a prominent feature of the Indo-Aryan group of languages of the North is another hard nut to crack. He becomes nervous about Hindi accent and pronunciation.

Regional Language

Under the new dispensation which has made a divided India an accomplished fact, the question of a lingua franca seems to be receding to the background. The emphasis has been shifted to the regional language. This change in the policy found expression in a circular issued by the congress ministry in this province asking the educational institutions to give instructions in the medium of the languages of the place. This raised a hue and cry in metropolitan cities like Madras where people speaking various languages are permanently residing, and where till now instruction in non-language subjects was imparted in English. Apart from the paucity of qualified teachers to work the new scheme, the question was often raised in Madras whether the regional language of the city was Tamil or Telugu. While historical tradition supports the claim of Telugu, numerical strength favours that of Tamil. Besides in cities like Madras which in fact is an epitome of all India to which people speaking various languages current in India resort for different reasons, official and non-official, and where such diverse interests are to be encouraged for the prestige of the city itself, special provisions have to be made to suit the requirements of all groups if their importance and number justify such a concession. It must also be stated in this connection that while the conception of a common language inculcates the idea of unity of the nation, the emphasis on the regional language operates exactly in the opposite direction and may ultimately lead to disintegration and friction. In this transitional stage when co-operation from all is essential to render the gift of freedom an unqualified success and avoid dangers emanating from jealous and ambitious neighbours before Independent India is able to stand firm on her own legs, such a policy may not yield the best results.

Official Language

The language problem therefore bristles with difficulties and complications and calls for very careful handling. Indian Union now forms a distinct entity by itself and its unity must be preserved for obvious reasons. One common language for official correspondence has to be used, now that we have to bid good-bye to English. Or shall we retain English? We cannot dispense with it entirely as our relationship with Great Britain is to continue for some time longer and the value of English as an international medium is still high. Shall we retain it for some time more as the common language as it will serve both national and international ends? But our sense of patriotism—our abiding faith in our culture and civilization, our conception of their future form and development will give an emphatic NO to this question. Then the choice falls on a language that is spoken by the largest number of people within the Indian Union. If the division of India and consequent migration of population to various places will not seriously interfere with our census statistics, I am sure, Hindi will get the majority vote. For the sake of national unity and glory that vote must be accepted by North or South irrespective of other considerations. Hindi has to be studied as we were till now studying English which should, however, find its place in the list of optional languages, and be prescribed as an essential qualification for recruits to Foreign Relations department.

To revert to the regional languages again—the term Vernaculars is not liked by eminent writers and I would therefore use the expression Indian Languages—I refer to the major languages already mentioned in the introductory portion of this article. There must be ample scope for their development and cultivation. Want of encouragement and undue emphasis on the study of classical languages have hampered their progress on their own lines for a considerable period. Most of them have proved their immense potentiality through their classics. Their innate irresistible strength and virility to develop even under diverse environments, has also been remarkable. English education has drawn them out from their obscurity and their capacity to absorb and cultivate modern literary forms and methods has been very much in evidence in recent times. Their use during the recent world war for propaganda purposes has given them a fresh impetus and vigour. But the classical tradition has still its glamour. Poets and scholars in Indian Languages have yet to attain the distinction and recognition which is their legitimate due A Professor in an Indian Language except in Bengal and Hyderabad does not enjoy the status of his colleague in other subjects although his qualifications and work are by no means less in range and scope. In fact he labours more while his remuneration is less. Our leaders who have travelled from one end of the country to the other have realized their value and the strength of their appeal to the masses. It is therefore expected that the Indian Languages have a bright future under the new dispensation. The people have begun to show their regard and esteem towards scholars and writers in their mother-tongue. But their support alone will not make much headway. Without State patronage—now State is identified with the people—the picture will be incomplete. Shall we hope that our champions will elevate our Mother-tongue as they have done our Mother Country?

ANSWERING a question on the proposals to start an iron and steel mill in Salem, the Hon'ble Minister for Industries said—

(*a*) The question of starting the mill is under consideration.

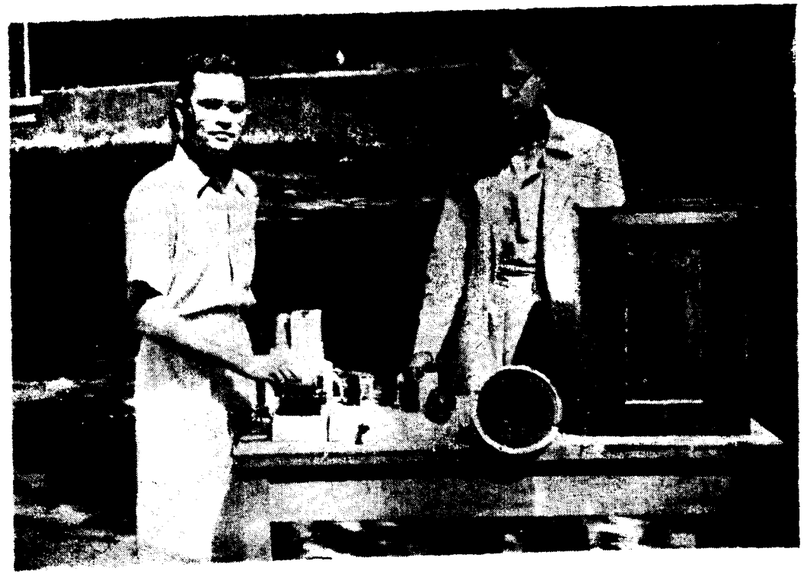
(*b*) No permission from the Government of India is required for starting an Iron and Steel Factory.

(*c*) It will in all probability be a State concern if finally it is decided to establish the mill.

THE Government have sanctioned an allotment of Rs. 5,025 towards the alleviation of distress caused by the fire accident in Tenali town, Guntur district, on 6th June 1947. The amount will be disbursed at the rate of Rs. 30 to each of the 92 house owners to enable them to rebuild their houses and at Rs. 15 to each of the 151 affected families as a matter of grace for the purchase of clothing.

A number of requests have, of late, been received by the Government in the Development Department for copies of the Preliminary Report of the Industrial Planning Committee. The public are informed that copies of the publication are available for sale with the Superintendent, Government Press, Mint Buildings, Madras, for a price of As. 10 a copy.

PROVINCIAL BROADCASTING DEPARTMENT



Model Community Receiver being assembled in the Departmental Laboratories



The loud speaker and its parts and multi-meter, being manufactured and assembled in the Research Department

Registered No. M-4767.



Visit of the Hon'ble Mr. Bhaktavatsalam to the Workshops of the Provincial Broadcasting Department



A group of Lady Students at the Chidambaram Khadi Vidyalaya

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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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FIRKA DEVELOPMENT WORK

THE meeting of the Firka Development Board constituted to advise the Government on the methods of implementing the Firka Development Scheme, held on October 19th, 1947, proved to be a convenient and useful clearing house of ideas on this much-discussed scheme. On an issue like this, opinions are bound to differ, as different persons may look at it from different points of view. The desire and anxiety to transform the villages into better, healthier and more prosperous units than they are at present being, however, a widespread and general one, it should provide the basis for the greatest common measure of agreement in regard to the scheme that is to be implemented. What is required is to fit in the ideal aimed at into a concrete framework, so that without losing oneself in ideological controversies one can go ahead with a practical scheme, which would help in the achievement ultimately of a self-sufficient village economy in the full sense of that term.

THE words "self-supporting" and "self-sufficiency" are susceptible of being misunderstood or misinterpreted when applied to individual villages or even a group of villages. It is probably necessary to emphasize that it is not the intention of the Government or of those who are in charge of drafting the Firka Development scheme to make each village or each firka self-sufficient or self-supporting in every respect. That is neither practicable nor even necessary. But what is or should be both practicable and necessary is that, as far as possible, each firka selected for the purpose should aim at evolving a self-sufficient economy in the sense of being able to supply its essential requirements in regard to food and cloth and other essential needs of the villages and dependence on outside agencies in regard to these needs reduced to the barest minimum or only such things which, on account of natural or other limitations, a firka unit cannot itself provide or produce. It is probably not incorrect to say that what is involved is the principle of "division of labour" applied on a firka scale, the aim being to revive and revivify the villages included in the selected firkas and make them model units of self-sufficient effort. To achieve satisfactory or adequate results in this respect, it is essential to have a clear appreciation of the fact that the basic requirements of the villagers are food and clothing and that for satisfying them, firstly, every attempt must be made to improve agricultural methods in order to increase the food and secondly, the supply of cloth, should be ensured by reviving the spinning and weaving industry in the villages. This in its turn necessitates provision of adequate irrigation facilities, supply of good manure and seeds and other requirements for profitable agriculture like cattle and implements. It also necessitates encouragement of spinning and weaving and the establishment of cottage industries. Side by side there is also a great need for good roads. In other words, the scheme postulates and predicates co-ordinated activity in different directions to ensure the central objective of a better and prosperous village economy. At different points and in different ways, co-ordination and integrated work is called for—co-ordination among Government departments dealing with different subjects on the one side and a spirit of co-operation and self-help among the people of the villages themsleves on the other. Above all it calls for a changed outlook on the part of everybody concerned—officials and non-officials—an outlook sincerely and genuinely sympathetic to the ideal of village uplift or GRAMA SUDHAR and a willingness and readiness to take the fullest advantage of the anxiety on the part of the Government to bring about a better village life and economy.

WITH its ideal of village self-sufficiency the Firka Development scheme also involves promotion of the spirit of self-help among the villages. As the Hon'ble Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar pointed out in his address to the Board and also to the Firka Development Officers at their conference, it is essential that,

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(6) **Reorganisation of Secondary Education.**
(7) **New Nickel coins.**

for the success of village improvement, the villagers should themselves contribute. Government have appropriated a sum of one crore of rupees for the purpose and allotments will be made from time to time from the fund for the execution of sanctioned and approved schemes. But whatever the Government allot for the work will not be adequate to the demands of the villages and will have to be supplemented by local contributions in money and local effort in other ways. If the scheme evokes response in the shape of such local endeavour, it will be a much better insurance for its success than if the scheme is spoonfed by the Government from beginning to end, which in any case is not practicable. It will have to produce more permanent and lasting results, for self-help contributes to the promotion of and induces self-respect in one self and enables him or her to feel pride in his or her own achievement. It is clear from the reports of Messrs. Bapineedu and Varadachariar that among most of the villagers of the selected firkas there is perfect willingness to make this contribution either in the shape of labour or in the shape of money.

NOW a stage has been reached in the consideration of the subject of Firka Development work when indulgence in ideological controversy or discussion about the ideal to be achieved should yield place to solid, substantial and fruitful work. It was suggested at the meeting of the Firka Development Board that intensive and all-round development on all fronts, public health, education, communications, water-supply, sanitation, irrigation and so on should be undertaken in a few—2 or 3—firkas and that in others the efforts of the staff should be concentrated on one or two important items like village communications and provision of water-supply. It was also suggested that block allocations from out of the firka development grant should be made to each firka for specific purposes like well-repairs and construction of roads. It was further recognized that technical personnel to draw up and execute the schemes are a vital need. These suggestions are likely to be examined and finalized in the report of the Sub-Committee appointed by the Board to formulate an over-all scheme into which local schemes may be fitted in. In any case, we must not lose sight of the central and paramount objective to obtain which the scheme is intended and what is hoped for is that a concrete programme of work will be placed before the Firka Development staff, who are from all accounts a fine set of people, imbued with ample enthusiasm and anxious to render unstinted service.

Madras Government Press Notes

Agriculture

Fertilisers to Ryots

The Government have sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 59,000 for the distribution of Ammonium Sulphate and Ammonium Phosphate at a concessional rate of 50 per cent of the cost price to the ryots affected by the Budameru floods in Kistna district. The Government have also taken steps to ensure that only those, whose crops have really suffered as a result of the floods, get the concession.

[October 17.

Distribution of Groundnut Oil-cake

The Government have revised the procedure regarding the distribution of groundnut cake in order to ensure its proper use for manure purposes. In the past there have been cases in which the cake distributed was not properly used by the ryots. In one district for instance something like 3 thousand tons of cake were distributed in January and February when there was little paddy cultivation and the ryots instead of storing the cake for use in the proper season utilised it either as cattle food or sold it in the black market. This is a grave anomaly, especially at this juncture when an all-out effort is necessary to step up food production. The Government have, therefore, issued necessary instructions to ensure that in future oil-cake is distributed with particular reference to the seasonal demands of each district for paddy. They have also taken steps to see that cake is utilised only for the paddy crop since its increased production is a vital necessity now. The allotments of cake will be removed to consuming centres as far as possible just before the manuring season and distributed at the rate of 2 bags per acre. The period of the manuring season for each district will be determined by the Director of Agriculture and information thereof will be communicated to the Village Committees through the Collectors. The Village Committees will cease issuing permits during the off season for paddy manuring, in order that cake may not be used for less essential crops like sugarcane, plantains, etc., or sold in the black market.

Instructions have also been issued to impress upon the ryots that, if they do not store the cake supplied to them, as they do the seed, for use during the manuring season the fault would be theirs and that if they are given on any occasion at the rate of one bag for five or six acres, it is not as if they are expected to manure their crop with that quantity only. They should also be made to understand that if they do not get the optimum quantity of cake they would like to get per acre, the cake supplied to them should be taken as only for part of their holdings which require manuring at that rate. It need hardly be said that with the present level of production of groundnut an elastic supply of cake to meet all the demands in full at all times cannot be normally expected. [October 9.

NOTICE

Subscribers are requested to quote their subscription number in all correspondence to facilitate prompt reply. The subscription number is noted on the wrapper on the left hand side of the address slip.

Education

Bharathi's Songs in Text-books

The Government have suggested the inclusion of the songs of Bharathyar and Ramalingam Pillai in the Tamil Text books published by the Registered publishers for use from the Fifth Class to Fifth Form of Secondary Schools.

[October 10

Semi-military Training for High School Classes

The Government have constituted a Committee consisting of Col. S. Paul, College of Engineering, Guindy, Dr. G. F. Andrews, Chief Inspector of Physical Education, Mr. P. N. Joseph, Principal, Y.M.C.A. College of Physical Education and Mr. Kuruvilla Jacob, Headmaster, Christian College High School, to draft and submit to them at an early date a detailed syllabus for semi-military training for high-school classes in the scheme of reorganization of secondary education which will be consistent with the syllabus recommended by the Board of Secondary Education for citizenship training. Colonel Paul will be the Chairman and Mr. Kuruvilla Jacob the convenor of the Committee. [October 10

Rayalaseema Districts and Andhra University

In continuation of the Press Release, dated 13th September 1947, issued by the Government, in connection with the report of the Committee appointed to consider the question of reaffiliation of the Rayalaseema districts to the Andhra University, the following text of the minute of dissent received from Messrs. T. Subrahmanyam and B. Ananthachariar, M.L.A., members of the Committee and referred to in the release, is also released for publication.

* * *

We are in receipt of the Report, dated 29th May 1947, to the Secretary, Education Department, Government of Madras.

We request you to have the following considered opinion of both of us to be annexed to the Report.

In view of the impending constitutional developments in our country, including the speedy formation of Provinces on a linguistic basis, and the existence of an overwhelming body of opinion in Rayalaseema against the reaffiliation, this question should not be taken up now for consideration. Moreover no new factors have arisen, since Rayalaseema was withdrawn from the jurisdiction of Andhra University, to necessitate a reconsideration of this issue.

It is further the unanimous opinion of the people of Karnatak area, as evidenced by resolutions passed by numerous associations, that this question should not be taken up.

T. SUBRAHMANYAN.

[October 16

Pay of Pandits

It was directed in G.O. No. 975, Education, dated 10th May 1947, that three grades of pandits and munshis can be employed in secondary schools under local bodies. Pandits and Munshis in the lowest grade may be in charge of Forms I to III, while those in the higher grades will be in charge of Forms IV to VI. It has been represented that it may sometimes be necessary to assign to a pandit or munshi in the lowest category work in the higher forms, and Government direct that in such cases the pandit or munshi should be granted, in addition to his grade pay, a special pay of Rs. 10 per mensem so long as the arrangement continues provided he works in the higher forms for not less than 12 periods in a week. Approval of the District Educational Officer or Inspectress of Schools, as the case may be, should be obtained by the local bodies for the assignment of work in the higher forms to a pandit or munshi in the lowest grade.

Pending the issue of orders regarding the reorganization of pandits' and munshis' cadre and the assignment of the existing incumbents to the revised grades, the existing incumbents in the lowest grade in the scale of pay of Rs. 30—2/2—50 (old scale) or on Rs. 40—1—60 in the revised scale who are actually doing work in the higher forms, may be paid a special pay of Rs. 10 per mensem with effect from the date of this order. The above orders will be applicable to pandits and munshis under private managements also.

The expenditure incurred by those managements on payment of the special pay will be treated as an approved item of expenditure for purposes of assessment of teaching grant.

[October 11

Provident Fund in Aided Schools

The Government after carefully considering the suggestion that teachers in aided educational institutions may be permitted to utilize the accumulations to their credit in the Teachers' Provident Fund towards the payment of premia for their Life Insurance policies, have agreed that the concessions may be allowed subject to necessary safeguards. The Director of Public Instruction has been requested to examine the proposal further and submit necessary amendments to the rules relating to the administration of the Fund and suggest necessary safeguards.

With reference to the suggestion that the Government rate of contribution to the Provident Fund should be raised, they do not consider it necessary to raise their rate of contribution, but managements of aided educational institutions may contribute more than half-an-anna in the rupee, if they can afford to do so. [October 11

Guntur College for Women

The Government have sanctioned the creation of a temporary post of Principal and Lecturer in the Madras Educational Services in the Government College for Women, Guntur, for a period of two years. Miss P. Seethammal, Lecturer, Queen Mary's College, Madras, has been appointed to officiate in the post newly created.

[October 11

Public Health

Cattle Health

There was a considerable rise in the mortality from contagious diseases among animals in the Province during the month of August 1947 as compared to July 1947. The total number of outbreaks reported and deaths recorded were 658 and 3,835 respectively as against 576 and 3,241 in the previous month.

Rinderpest.—There was a considerable rise in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 45 outbreaks and 271 deaths as against 28 outbreaks and 130 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe

in the districts of Vizagapatam, West Godavari and Kistna.

Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia.—There was a slight fall in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month, the figures being 222 outbreaks and 1,285 deaths as against 233 outbreaks and 1,315 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of Vizagapatam, Nellore, Godavari East, Cuddapah, Malabar, West Godavari, Bellary, Guntur, Tanjore and Madura.

Blackquarter.—There was a considerable rise in the incidence of and mortality from this disease during the month as compared to the previous month. The figures being 361 outbreaks and 2,182 deaths as against 273 outbreaks and 1,650 deaths in the previous month. The disease was comparatively severe in the districts of North Arcot, Salem, South Arcot, Chittoor, Chingleput, duddapah and Madura.

Anthrax.—Eighteen outbreaks and 107 deaths were reported during the month as against 27 outbreaks and 146 deaths in the previous month. The disease was severe in the district of Nellore.

Foot and mouth.—Twelve outbreaks and 20 deaths were reported during the month as against 15 outbreaks with no deaths in the previous month.

Outbreak of Cholera

With reference to reports in the press about the outbreak of cholera in Parvatipur Range, the following report of the latest position is issued by the Director of Information and Publicity :—

The first report of cholera infection in Parvatipur Range was received on 6th September 1947 from Gedda Tiruvada village with 28 attacks and 9 deaths. The second village to report the infection was Pandilivavivalasa with 14 attacks and 10 deaths on 9th September 1947 and the third was Jagannadhapur peak during the first week-ending 13th September 1947 itself during which 54 attacks and 24 deaths in the above three villages, were recorded. Subsequently stray cases were reported from 8 more villages and the last report was on 1st October 1947 from Kottavalasa village where there were 4 attacks and 2 deaths. The total number of attacks and deaths in the whole range of Parvatipur from the beginning of the outbreak, i.e., 6th September 1947 up to 1st October 1947 is 95 and 53 respectively. No further reports were received till date and the epidemic is well under control. The Assistant Director of Public Health in charge of the Range is camping there inspecting the cholera situation and directing the cholera preventive measures under his personal supervision. [October 9.

Food

Manure and Food Bonus Coupons

The press note issued by the Government on the 30th September 1947 regarding the conversion of the food bonus coupons into manures appears to have been misunderstood. According to the bonus scheme as originally announced, half a rupee per maund was to be paid in cash and the other half in the shape of coupons, which would be accepted to the extent of half the value of the oil-cake or manure purchased the other half being paid for in cash. This has now been relaxed so that these coupons could be utilised to their fullest extent without their holders being obliged to pay cash. There is no change in policy and the slight modification now made is only intended to make the scheme more popular with the producer.

[October 12.

Rice Iddlies in Hotels

Instances have come to the notice wherein some hotels have used large quantities of rice for preparing and selling iddlies as though they have been prepared out of pulses and other grains with an admixture of brokens allowed to them. In view of the present critical stock position of rice and as it is observed that the concession allowed to the non-meals hotels in giving small quantities of brokens for preparing savouries has been misused, the Commissioner of Civil Supplies hereby directs under clause 4 (*a*) of the Madras Rationing Order, 1947, that no person in charge of a catering establishment including trash bazaars should prepare or sell rice iddlies and that any violation of these directions will entail the cancellation of the authorization of the establishment concerned.

[October 14.

Paddy Prices

With a view to increase the cultivation of short-term paddy crop by inducing the producers to bring more land under cultivation of the crop, the Government raised the classification of all varieties of short-term paddy from third sort to second sort temporarily and directed that all the varieties of short-term paddy, which were hitherto classified under third sort, be paid for at the rates fixed for second sort paddy till the end of November 1947. It has since been represented to the Government that in the case of certain varieties of short-term paddy, raised in the districts mentioned below, which are now raised to second sort, the percentage of outturn of rice from paddy is lower than that obtained in the varieties originally classified under second sort and that therefore the millers would be unable to supply rice at the f.o.r. price fixed for second sort. The Government, after a detailed examination of the question, have decided that a slightly lower price should be given to such paddy than the rates applicable to paddy classified all along as second sort. They have accordingly directed that all short-term paddy placed in the third sort in the districts of Tanjore, Chingleput, Trichinopoly, South Arcot and which have now been raised to the second sort, except Swarnawari of South Arcot, which is said to yield as much rice as the other second sort varieties, be paid for at the following rates for purchase at village site up to 30th November 1947. Swarnawari referred to above should be paid for at the full rate prescribed for second sort :—

	RS.	A.	P.	
Tanjore ..	4	13	0	per I.M.
Chingleput ..	5	3	6	,,
Trichinopoly.	4	15	9	,,
South Arcot.	5	15	4	,,

[October 17.

Export of Potatoes

It was brought to the notice of the Government in the last week of September that A class merchants in the Nilgiris were holding a large stock of about 4,300 tons of potatoes which was rotting on account of long storage in godowns and would soon perish and become unfit for human consumption if a market was not immediately provided. The Government considered, that during a period of acute food shortage all over the country, these potatoes ought not to be allowed to be wasted, whoever the stockists might be. They accordingly decided that a special foreign export quota of 3,000 tons should be sanctioned immediately and allotted exclusively to the A class merchants so as to enable them to dispose of the stocks. Subsequently, several strong protests have been received from the N.C.M.S. growers, and the B and C class merchants in the Nilgiris, to the effect that the Government have shown undue preference to the A class merchants and enabled them to derive large profits and have acted in violation of the proportion already fixed for exports as between the N.C.M.S. growers and the A, B and C class merchants.

The Government wish to make it clear that they were fully aware of the percentage while sanctioning the special export quota of 3,000 tons in favour of A class merchants and that the quota had to be allowed with a view solely to finding an immediate market for the deteriorating stock. A strict adherence to the proportion fixed for the various categories would not have helped the speedy disposal of the stock, and there was on the other hand every likelihood of the stock being lost altogether unless exported at once to the regular consuming areas outside the province. It was also out of the question to release those potatoes for consumption in the domestic market which had been supplied already to the full limit of 3,500 tons.

The Government were, however, prepared to allow further special export quotas in favour of the Non-A-class categories, that is to say, the N.C.M.S., growers and the B and C class merchants, provided they too were in possession of large stocks deteriorating on account of long storage. On further enquiry Government have allowed 2,300 tons to be exported by the B and C class merchants, the Nilgiris Co-operative Marketing Society and the growers. The Government will see that in respect of all future allotments for foreign export, preference is given to the Non-A-class categories in the proportion already fixed so that the inequality, if any, on account of the special export quota of 3,000 tons allotted in favour of A class merchants alone may be fully removed. [October 14.

Ban on Illicit Traffic of Foodstuffs

The Government have issued an order to prohibit illicit traffic of foodstuffs in the East Godavari and West Godavari districts on the river Godavari. The order says that, with effect on and from the date of publication of the order, no person shall ply any boat or any other floating vessel up the river Godavari beyond Polavaram town in the West Godavari district between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. It also prohibits plying of any boat or other floating vessel in the river Godavari beyond Polavaram town between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. without getting such boat or floating vessel checked by the Special Permit Issuing Officer.

Every person plying a boat or other vessel up the river Godavari beyond Polavaram town, shall produce before the Special Permit Issuing Officer, the permit issued by the competent authority in respect of foodstuffs transported in the boat or floating vessel, the transport of which from one district to another within the province of Madras or other outside provinces has been prohibited except under a permit and shall get such permits countersigned by the Special Permit Issuing Officer. Where foodstuffs are transported by boat or other floating vessel from one place to another within the West Godavari district, the boatman shall obtain a permit from the Special Permit Issuing Officer for such transport. The boatman shall on his return journey surrender the permit to the Special Permit Issuing Officer after getting on the permit the signature of the consignee, if he is literate or if he is illiterate his thumb-impression with the signature of one or two witnesses or the certificate of any village officer of the village in which the foodstuffs are unloaded. Everyone who is a holder of a permit issued by the Special Permit Issuing Officer shall produce such permit for inspection by the Collector or any other person authorised by him.

Any Officer of the Revenue Department not below the rank of Revenue Inspector, any Officer of the Commercial Taxes Department not below the rank of Assistant Commercial Taxes Officer or any officer of the Police or Excise Department not below the rank of Sub-Inspector in the East Godavari and West Godavari districts, and any village officer having jurisdiction over the bank of the Godavari river in Polavaram town up the river may check boats and other floating vessels to verify whether the foodstuffs carried in them are covered by proper permits. Similarly the Special Permit Issuing Officer shall have power to check boats and other floating vessels plying on the river Godavari beyond Polavaram town.

If any of the provisions of these orders are contravened the stocks of the foodstuffs together with the containers and coverings thereof shall be forfeited under a direction from a court trying such contravention.

[October 14.

Miscellaneous

Removal of Civil Disabilities Act

The public are aware that with a view to eradicate the evils of untouchability and to place the Harijans and the other excluded classes of the Hindu Society on a footing of equality with other sections of the Hindus, the Government have passed two Acts, viz., the Madras Removal of Civil Disabilities (Amendment) Act, 1947, and the Madras Temple Entry (Authorization) Act, 1947. In order to publicise the provisions of the Acts, leaflets in the regional languages of the province have been printed and adequate quantities have been supplied to the Collectors who have been instructed to distribute them even in the remotest villages through the officers of the Revenue Department, educational institutions, reading rooms and libraries, Taluk and District Congress Committees, Village Committees and other non-official bodies and social welfare associations like the Harijan Sevak Sanghs. They will also be prominently exhibited on the notice boards of all offices, temples and on public buildings. For the benefit of the illiterate, instructions have also been issued to give publicity to the contents of the Acts by the beat of tom-tom. In addition to the publicity that Government are giving to these enactments, local propaganda by non-official bodies like Harijan Sevak Sanghs, will be of immense value. Talks by workers of such associations and Sanghs indicating the importance of solidarity, the imperative necessity of building India into a united nation by the elimination of all forms of discrimination against Harijans in the matter of entry into temples, hotels, and other public places and the part that a united body politic, including

the Harijans, can play in national reconstruction, will be very useful. The Government hope that such co-operation will be forthcoming in an abundant measure, and would appeal to every good citizen to help to carry out the intentions of these Acts in spirit as well as in letter for the sake of the peace and progress of this province and its good name.

[October 7.

National Savings Certificates

Subscriptions towards National Savings Certificates from the province for the week ended 13th September 1947 amount to Rs. 1,78,640. Madras continues to maintain its first place in the list of collections while South Kanara comes second. The total amount of subscriptions for the period from 1st April 1947 to 13th September 1947 is Rs. 67,32,185.

[October 7

Labour Conference

In April 1947, the Government announced their intention of convening a conference of employers and employees in the province in May 1947 but it was postponed to a later date due to the labour situation which existed then and certain representations received from labour leaders. The Government propose to hold the conference early in December 1947. Owing to sittings of the legislature, it is not possible to hold it earlier.

[October 16.

Economic Adviser to the Government of Madras

The Government have decided that the Economic Adviser to Government may be appointed on the same scale as the All-India Administrative Service scale, and will be started on Rs. 1,240 per mensem on a three-year contract. He will be an Adviser to Government and proposals by him will be examined by the departments concerned before orders are issued. He will also be in charge of the Bureau of Statistics.

[October 11.

Index numbers of import and export prices for the Province of Madras for August 1947.

1. The index number of declared values of foreign imports advanced by 88 points to 295.

2. The index number of declared values of foreign exports declined by 55 points to 221.

3. The index number of declared values of coastwise imports declined by 5 points to 310.

4. The index number of declared values of coastwise exports advanced by 16 points to 376.

During the week ended 11th October 1947, the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras City rose by one point to 281.

Defence Services Welfare Fund

In a press note issued on the 15th November 1946 it was announced that His Excellency the Governor's Amenities and Relief Fund has been wound up and that the balance remaining in that Fund was to be reconstituted as the 'Madras Defence Services Welfare Fund.' The fund has set apart a certain sum to meet any unforeseen expenditure which should legitimately be met from His Excellency the Governor's Amenities and Relief Fund. It is expected that the newly constituted Fund also will be wound up sooner or later, after which there will be no provision to meet such claims.

Persons having any claims pending payment from His Excellency the Governor's War Fund are requested to prefer them not later than 1st November 1947. No claims can be considered after that date. All claims should be addressed to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, Madras Governor's Camp.

[October 6.

Executive Officers for Panchayats

The Government have directed the Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards to send proposals regarding the appointment of Executive Officers of the following Panchayats which have been notified as Panchayats for which wholetime Executive Officers shall be appointed :—

Gollaprolu, Kapileswaram, Jagapathinagaram and Tapeswaram in East Godavari district, Kawtaram in Kistna district and Gurzala in Guntur district.

Cost of Living Index

The cost of living index number for working classes in Madras City for September 1947 was 275.

The index for the food group rose by 4 points to 306 due mainly to an increase in the prices of dahl, meat, tamarind and gingelly oil.

The index for the fuel and lighting group rose by 16 points to 276 due to an increase in the price of firewood.

The index for the clothing group rose by 8 points to 312 due to the adoption of the prices of handloom dhoties and sarees.

The index for the house rent rose by 6 points to 160 as a result of the revision of the house rent figure.

The index for the miscellaneous group rose by one point to 250 due to an increase in the price of tobacco for chewing.

Quarterly lapse of Cloth Ration

Representations are being made to Government that the scheme of quarterly lapses of cloth ration ordered in June 1947 by the Government, is not widely known to the consumers and would effect adversely those prudent consumers who have reserved their ration with a view to draw it for use on the festive occasions during the last quarter of the calendar year. The Government have therefore decided to lift the scheme of quarterly lapses in all areas of the province. Consumers will thus be eligible to draw the balance of the cloth ration due to them for the current year at any time before the end of the cloth ration year

[October 10.

Access of Harijans to Wells in Government Premises

Following representations to the Government that persons belonging to Harijan community are not being allowed access to wells situated in Government premises, the Government have directed that wells sunk at Government cost in the premises of Courts, Police lines, and public offices, etc., should be used by the persons for whom they are primarily intended, irrespective of their community. Should, however, it be found possible to extend access to others, the head of the office to which the well is attached is competent to do so. If such wells are intended for the use of the general public also they should be used by all communities and persons belonging to a particular community should not be prevented from using them.

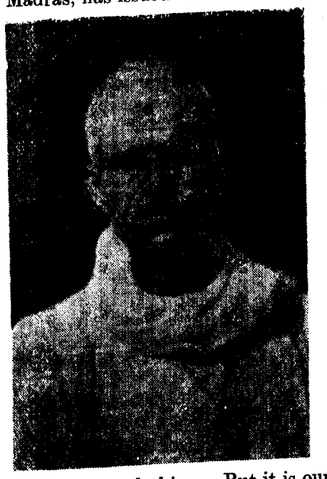
At a time when the trends are for the elimination of social inequalities the Government trust that the public would wisely refrain from trying to perpetuate inequalities.

[October 14.

Clothes for Refugees

Premier's Appeal

The Hon'ble Sri O. P. Ramaswami Reddiar, Prime Minister of Madras, has issued the following appeal :—



The people of Madras have been moved very much by the horrible sufferings undergone by our brethren in Northern India. They have been uprooted from their homes, all their movables have been pillaged, their homes have been set on fire and they have had to flee from their ancestral homes with only the clothes that they were wearing.

In North India, winter is very severe and thousands of people who have been driven from their homes and especially the women and children and the old among them will have to perish if sufficient warm clothing is not provided. I know we, in the South, do not need and are therefore not in the habit of having much warm clothing. But it is our sacred duty at this moment to help our unfortunate compatriots in North India to the best of our ability. I therefore appeal to all our people in Madras Province to help in this humanitarian cause. Men, women and even children should put forth their full effort in this direction. Congressmen and Congress Organizations as well as other voluntary organizations should help to make this appeal a success. North Indians settled in Madras who are likely to have the sort of clothing necessary in the North can be particularly helpful. Collectors in the District and the Protector of Emigrants in Madras are authorized to collect these clothings. The Collectors will send these clothings to the Protector in convenient bundles.

Refugee Rehabilitation Work

In a recent press release the public were informed of the arrangements made by the Government for the reception and rehabilitation of the refugees from the north. Since then a further contingent of refugees has arrived. So far their total number is 106, of whom 15 have left the city for Singapore, Burma and other places. These refugees are accommodated in camps at Kilpauk and Saidapet. Only *bona-fide* refugees who are actually in need of assistance are admitted in the camps.

The food allowance sanctioned by the Government is being disbursed once a week or every Saturday. Ration cards have been prepared for the refugees and they are purchasing their necessaries from the shop opened at Kilpauk by the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society. The refugees as a rule cook their own food. Cloth worth about Rs. 30,000 has been purchased for the use of the refugees and it is being stitched into garments by the Jail department. Saris to the value of Rs. 1,200 have also been purchased. Sanitary arrangements in the camps are supervised by a special medical officer who visits the camps every day and also looks after the health of the refugees. The members of the Indian Hospitality Committee and the Red Cross visited the camps and distributed soaps and tooth brushes to the refugees. Steps are being taken to open a school for the children. The Secretary of the Punjab Association in Madras has gifted a volley ball, a net and other accessories to the refugees.

* * *

The Government have decided that proper sanitary arrangements should be made and medical attendance provided for the refugees coming from North India. The Health Officer of the Corporation of Madras has been inspecting the arrangements at Lutteral Gardens, where the refugees are accommodated, and it is expected that medical attendance will to some extent be available at the Avadi Emigration Depot, which is proposed to be converted into additional accommodation if required for the refugees, from the medical staff and hospital of the Malayan Government. The Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health are requested to inspect the above centres immediately and to arrange for the necessary sanitary measures and medical relief in consultation with the Protector of Emigrants. Whatever sanitary and medical assistance is immediately required is proposed to be provided without delay. It has been suggested in this connection that if any private practitioners offer their services in an honorary capacity the exact conditions under which such services can be made available may be ascertained, so that the Government may consider the question of providing them with the requisite facilities.

All expenditure connected with the refugees in excess of the sum of Rs. 1 lakh which the Government of Madras have already allotted for the purpose, will eventually be recovered from the Government of India. The Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health have been asked to maintain a separate account of the expenditure incurred under the head "Sanitary and Medical Arrangements," and to furnish an estimate of the expenditure involved.

'Seats of honour' in Mufasal Buses

It has been brought to the notice of Government that in some places in the mufassal, seats in buses, particularly in front, are reserved for Government officials who wish to travel. The Government desire to inform the public that under the Madras Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, Government officials are not entitled to any preferential claim in the matter of accommodation in buses. Any person who has tendered the legal

(*Continued on page 8*)

Ellore early in October. The workers resumed work on 26th September 1947.

Out of 73 workers, 26 workers of the Sethuram Weaving Mills, Madura, struck work at 11–20 p.m. on 19th September 1947 refusing to wind the pirns. At 6–30 a.m. on 20th September 1947, they voluntarily resumed work. Again on 22nd September 1947 at 10–30 p.m. all the 73 workers struck work. The Labour Conciliation Officer, Madura, intervened and brought about a settlement and the workers resumed work at 12 noon on 23rd September 1947.

The Secretary, M.U.M.S., Ltd., Workers' Union, Mannarghat, Malabar district, issued a notice of strike, dated 15th September 1947, to the management of the M.U.M.S., Ltd., Mannarghat, stating that the workers would go on strike if their demands for recognition of the Union, reinstatement of dismissed workers, leave facilities, etc., are not conceded. The Labour Conciliation Officer, Calicut, has brought about a settlement of the dispute.

The Government have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, in the dispute between the management and workers of the Commonwealth Trust Tile Factory, Feroke.

The Khader Kodi Beedi Factory, Salem, which was closed on 14th August 1947 was reopened from 17th September 1947 as the result of the conciliation by the District Magistrate, Salem.

The Secretary, The Motor Transport and General Workers' Union, Salur, Vizagapatam district, has given a notice of strike, dated 23rd September 1947, to the management of Sri Rama Motor Transport Company, Limited, Salur, informing them that their workers will go on strike from 9th October 1947 if their demands for arrears of dearness allowance, payment of interim relief and bonus, increase in salaries, introduction of scales of pay, leave conditions, etc., are not conceded.

The Labour Conciliation Officer, Vizagapatam, has been asked to advise the workers not to resort to strike but to come to a settlement by negotiation and conciliation.

Industrial Disputes Settled

There was an industrial dispute between the workers and management of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, Limited, Vizagapatam, in respect of certain matters. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the Government referred the dispute to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, for adjudication. After enquiry, the Tribunal has submitted the following award :—

The unskilled labourers should be paid a minimum dearness allowance of Rs. 20 per mensem if they have worked for all the working days in the month or pro-rata if they worked for a lesser number of working days. The increased dearness allowance should be paid from 1st March to 7th July 1947 and again from the date when the workers go back to work. No increase in the basic wage is called for at present, and the workers need not be granted a house-rent allowance. Electric charges for the electricity supplied to the workers' houses should only be Rs. 1–8–0 per mensem. The management should take early steps to classify the workers into skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled and fix their wages on that basis. Fifty per cent of the vacancies in the higher grades should be filled up by promotion from the lower grades provided the candidates are really efficient. Allowance need not be paid to workers employed out-door. Hours of work for scavengers should not be reduced. The management has agreed to supply uniforms to oilmen and greasers and a car should always be kept in the premises for taking the injured persons to the hospital whenever necessary.

The claim of the workers that injured persons should be paid full wages and dearness allowance for the entire period of disability is unreasonable. When the workers work in a higher post, they should be paid the wages attached to the post if the workers work in that post for ten days in a month. The management should issue a certificate to each worker showing the quantity of rice supplied to him so that they may apply for cloth ration cards on the strength of these certificates. When a statement is recorded from a worker, a copy of it should be given to the worker free of charge. When increment is withheld from a worker, he should be informed of the reasons for the action and a copy of the order given free of charge. The management will reconsider the cases of stoppage of increments in the past if brought to its notice. Registered notices should be sent to discharged workmen if the management wishes to re-employ them. Charge hands should be employed on a monthly basis and their salaries fixed on monthly basis.

Overtime work should be compulsory except on medical grounds; it should be in accordance with the Factories Act and Rules and distributed as far as possible equally and impartially among all workers. The workers should be given leave for seven days in a year on loss of pay and dearness allowance in addition to the existing leave facilities. The demand of the workers for an increase in the rate of contribution towards provident fund is not justified. No direction can be given regarding the payment of gratuity to the workers at the time of retirement. Workers who are injured while on duty cannot claim additional compensation more than what is allowed by the Workmen's Compensation Act. The management and the municipality should provide adequate water-supply in the workers' colony.

The designation of 'helper' should be retained in case of those entertained before 1st June 1946 and those recruited after that date should be designated as labourer-fitter, labourer-turner, labourer-welder, etc. Their claims for promotion should be considered when vacancies arise. No special allowance need be paid to furnace-men, frame-setters and others working close to the furnaces as the pay fixed for them is more than that of an ordinary labourer. Night-shift workers should be paid one-tenth of their basic wages as extra allowance. The workers cannot claim as a matter of right that vacancies in the Scindia Company should be filled up by the workers in the Hindustan Construction Company. The assistant welders should be paid their wages and dearness allowance for the eight days when they were absent from duty as the strike was forced upon them. If an assistant welder is asked to do the work of a welder for more than ten days in a month, he should be paid the wages of a welder for the entire period.

If the cases of the workers discharged without previous notice are brought to the notice of the company, the company will consider such cases with sympathy. The management will try to provide suitable jobs to men who have been disabled while on duty. As the workers continued to be on strike in spite of the orders of Government prohibiting the strike, they are not entitled to wages and dearness allowance for the period of their strike.

The Government accept the award.

* * *

A dispute arose between the workers and management of the Pullicor Mills, Tiruchengode, in respect of certain matters. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the dispute was referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication. After enquiry, the Industrial Tribunal has reported that the parties have settled the dispute between themselves and have requested it to pass an award in terms of the settlement. The Tribunal has passed the award in terms of the settlement. According to the terms of the award, four employees, viz., P. Chinnaswamy, Periaswamy, Nachiappan and Kaliappan will be taken to the establishment or factory or in the Co-operative Stores located in the mills premises on 15th October 1947 and in the event of their being employed in the canteen they will be provided with employment in the other said concerns on or before 1st November 1947. Any transfer to the mills will entitle the transferee to the wages prevalent therein. Two reelers Sellammal and Pavayee will be permitted to join duty on 1st October 1947 and their absence till 1st October 1947 will be treated as absence on leave without pay. The six employees mentioned above will not get any pay for the period of absence till they are taken back to duty. A Works Committee will be formed with two representatives from the workers, namely, Ramaswamy of the Roving Department and Arthanari of the spinning department and two members representing the management to be nominated by them and will begin to function from an early date. The committee shall exercise all functions and powers provided for in Section 3 (2) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947.

* * *

As a result of the experience of the working of the Industrial Disputes Act, the Government have found that the managements of some industries are prepared to defy the awards of Industrial Tribunals because the penalty for non-compliance with awards is trivial. In certain cases, managements have also closed down or threatened to close down industries, on the plea of losses, rather than abide by the awards of Tribunals. The Government have under consideration proposals for amending the Industrial Disputes Act with a view to enhancing the punishment for non-compliance with awards. They are also considering proposals for taking powers to prevent the closure of industrial concerns as a consequence of the awards of the Industrial Tribunals.

The Government wish to make it clear the Tribunals give their awards only after taking into consideration all matters relating to the disputes concerned, including the capacity of the industry to pay, and it is not open to individual managements to declare lock-outs merely because their profits go below what they have been accustomed to.

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the Second Fortnight of September 1947

There were no marked changes in the prices of principal foodstuffs. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil seeds, oil cakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change.—Gingelly oil, Gingelly oil cake, and Groundnut oil cake.

Rise.—Groundnut (shelled (1·5 per cent), Gingelly seed (7·2 per cent) and Cotton seed (1·1 per cent).

Fall.—Copra (5·9 per cent), Coconut oil (6·1 per cent) and Groundnut oil (2·5 per cent).

Procurement

The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured in the province and the quantities of cereals and pulses imported from sources abroad.

(a) *Local Procurement during the Fortnight ending 15th September 1947.*

	TONS.
Paddy ..	42,697
Rice ..	14,753

Together equivalent to 43,804 tons in terms of rice.

	TONS.
Millets ..	6,094

(b) *Receipts from other provinces and States during the fortnight ending 30th September 1947—*

	TONS.
Rice ..	2,538
Millets ..	Nil.
Wheat and Wheat products.	Nil.
Pulses—	
Redgram ..	13
Blackgram ..	115
Greengram ...	Nil.
Bengal gram ..	Nil.
	128

(c) *Imports from overseas during the Fortnight ending 30th September 1947—*

	TONS.
Rice ..	3,000
Millets ..	491
Wheat ..	Nil.
Wheat products.	500

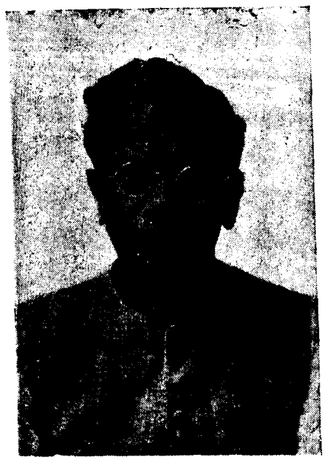
Stock and supply position of principal Foodgrains in the Province

Rice.—Procurement during the two weeks ending 25th September 1947 amounted to 49,225 tons which shows an increase of over 9,000 tons compared with the procurement in the two weeks ending 11th September 1947. The Provincial rice stock however declined from 144,995 tons on 11th September 1947 to 141,617 tons on 25th September 1947.

The position in the deficit districts continues to be unsatisfactory. To replenish the low stocks in Madura a supply of 1,000 tons of paddy on loan from Ramnad has been arranged. Towards the end of September, the rice position in South Kanara became very critical and arrangements were made to supply on loan 500 tons each from Madras City and Malabar. Guntur, one of the surplus districts, is experiencing acute shortage, and to enable the district to maintain statutory rationing, a special quota of

Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas at Pondicherry

With a view to secure the co-operation of the French Government in enforcing prohibition successfully in the districts bordering the French Settlement, the Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, visited Pondicherry on 14th October 1947. He was accompanied by Mr. V. N. Kudva, Commissioner of Excise and Prohibition. The Hon'ble Minister held preliminary discussions with Mr. Rashid Ali Baig, J.P., Consul-General for India in the French Establishments in India at Pondicherry. In the afternoon, the Hon'ble Minister addressed the French India Council of Ministers. He said that he had come to Pondicherry on a noble mission of securing the help of the French India Government in implementing the programme of Prohibition in the Madras Province and appealed for the co-operation of the French Government in making Prohibition a success in the districts of Malabar and Tanjore where it has been introduced on the 1st October 1947. He said that unless Mahe in the Malabar district and Karaikal in Tanjore district become totally 'dry', it would be difficult to make Prohibition a complete success in these districts. People might easily go to Mahe and Karaikal and have a drink there. It was also possible that they might get illicit liquor from these places into the Indian districts. The Madras Government were foregoing a large amount of excise revenue and if the French Settlement did not adopt Prohibition in these two places, the efforts of the Madras Government would be frustrated. The Hon'ble Minister said that it was the policy of the Madras Government to make the entire Province dry and that by the 1st of October next year, Prohibition would be introduced in the remaining districts also. With the introduction of Prohibition in South Arcot, the question would arise in Pondicherry. The immediate problem, however, was in respect of Mahe and Karaikal. The representatives of the French Government said that the French India Assembly had decided on the introduction of Prohibition in Mahe from January 1948. As regards Karaikal, the French Government feared that they might lose a heavy amount under excise revenue and that they would consider the question of alternative sources of income before introducing Prohibition in Karaikal. The representatives of the French Government assured the Hon'ble Minister that they would take immediate steps to have the question of the introduction of Prohibition in Karaikal considered by the French India Assembly and that they would formulate definite proposals in this regard and inform the Madras Government very soon. They assured the Hon'ble Minister of their full co-operation in this great social reform.



The Hon'ble Minister called on the Governor of the French India Settlement. He was entertained to tea by their Excellencies.

Addressing a crowded meeting arranged under the auspices of the local Congress Committee, the Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas, Minister for Prohibition, reiterated the policy of the Madras Government to make the entire Province dry by October 1948. This magnificent reform, he said, was an urgent necessity in order to save the people from the tentacles of the evils of drink. In order to save the masses from poverty and ruin and to raise their standard of living, Prohibition was essential. Prohibition, he said, was not merely a negative programme but also had a positive side to it. It was part of the general programme of the rural uplift of the masses. Public co-operation, he said, was quite essential in order to make the scheme a success. He also emphasized the urgent need for Karaikal and Mahe to go dry if Prohibition was to succeed in Tanjore and Malabar. A weak spot, however small it might be, was enough to destroy the whole structure. A small hole in a water pot would make the whole pot empty, however much it might be filled up with water. He was sure that the French Government would take early steps to co-operate with the Madras Government to make the Prohibition Scheme a complete success. The co-operation of the people of the French Settlements was also essential. The Hon'ble Minister made a spirited appeal to the people to take to this reform enthusiastically and to give their full support and co-operation to the authorities concerned.

(Continued from page 7)

fare is entitled to be carried in a bus provided accommodation is available. There was some justification for the practice of reservation of seats for Government officials during the war period on account of the non-import of the new motor cars and the difficulty experienced by touring Government officials in securing used serviceable cars. Now that the position has improved, Government have directed that the practice should be discontinued wherever it has been in vogue. Suitable instructions have also been issued in this regard to bus operators.

The present position, therefore, is that no special preference can be claimed in respect of any particular seat in a bus, by any Government official including a touring official of the Police, Revenue or any other department. Any instance of discrimination by the driver or the conductor in favour of Government official should be brought immediately to the notice of the Regional Transport Officer concerned.

Entertainments Tax Rules amended

The Deputy Commissioners of Commercial Taxes have not got statutory powers to examine and revise appellate orders of the Commercial Tax Officers under the Madras Entertainments Tax Rules, 1939, even though they have got territorial jurisdictions and powers of supervision, direction and control over the Commercial Tax Officers. To ensure better administration of the Madras Entertainments Tax Act, 1939, the Government have considered it desirable to invest the Deputy Commissioners of Commercial Taxes with the above powers on the analogy of similar provisions in the Madras General Sales Tax Act. The Madras Entertainments Tax Rules, 1939, have accordingly been amended, in the notification appended to G.O. No. 2348, Revenue, dated 8th October 1947.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the Second Fortnight of September 1947

The Government of Madras have constituted four Labour electorates, i.e., (1) The Railway Trade Union Labour Electorate, (2) The Textile Workers' Trade Union Labour Electorate, (3) The Non-Union Labour Electorate North, (4) The Non-Union Labour Electorate South, for the election of four councillors of the Corporation of Madras.

The Government of Madras declared under section 2 (*n*) (vi) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (Central Act XIV of 1947), the transport by boats in minor ports in the Province of Madras as public utility services.

The Government declared Thursday, the 2nd October 1947, as a public holiday on account of Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday, under section 25 of the Negotiable Instruments Act, 1881 (XXVI of 1881), and left to the discretion of employers the grant of holidays for their workers.

The Government have published the Preliminary Report of the Industrial Committee constituted in G.O. Ms. No. 2303, Development, dated 26th May 1947, for public criticism.

The Government have referred the dispute between the management and workers of Mahalakshmi Mills, Limited, Pasumalai, regarding strike on 11th September 1947 and lock out from 12th September 1947 to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication and, in G.O. Ms. No. 4607, Development, dated 25th September 1947, they have prohibited the strike and lock-out.

The Workers' Union of Chitram and Company Engineering Works, Rayapuram, issued a notice of strike to the management of Chitram and Company, dated 9th September 1947, intimating that the workers would go on strike if their demands for reinstatement of a discharged worker, increased dearness allowance, increase in basic wages, leave facilities, better service conditions, etc., are not conceded.

The Labour Officer, Madras, and the Commissioner of Labour are trying to bring about an amicable settlement.

About 89 workers of Nataraja Engineering Works, Kondithope, Madras, struck work on 15th September 1947 demanding increased dearness allowance, increments, leave facilities, provident fund, gratuity, better service conditions, etc. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The workers numbering about 1,000 of Gordon Woodroffe Leather Manufacturing Company, Pallavaram, who struck work on 19th September 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of 101 workers, resumed work on 20th September 1947. The union has intimated to the management of Gordon Woodroffe Company, that the workers of the above company will go on strike on 3rd October 1947 if the discharged workers are not reinstated. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The workers of City Motor Service, Madras, who struck work on the morning of 23rd September 1947 as a protest against the alleged dismissal of two workers resumed work at 1-30 p.m. on 24th September 1947.

The management denied the allegation and allowed the two workers to continue to work pending enquiry into the charges against them.

The President of the Madras District Beedi Workers' Union, Madras, reports that the Kareem Beedi Company, Madras, has been closed from 9th September 1947 without giving any reason. The Labour Conciliation Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The motor workers of Hindupur gave a notice of strike to the managements of motor transport services intimating that they would go on strike if their demands for increased wages and allowances and reinstatement of discharged workers were not conceded. The Assistant Commissioner of Labour, Madras, visited Penukonda and brought about an amicable settlement of the dispute. The strike notice has been withdrawn.

The Manager, C. S. Abdul Majid Sahib and Company Tannery, Vaniyambadi, North Arcot district, reports that their workers have gone on strike from the morning of 24th September 1947 without notice. The Labour Conciliation Officer, Vellore, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

From 13th September 1947 two workers of Sri P. V. Ramachandra Rao's Beedi Factory, Kalahasti, resorted to hunger strike on behalf of the other workers demanding increased wages. The Commissioner of Labour visited Kalahasti and had a discussion with the owners of the factories and the representatives of the workers but the parties could not come to a settlement. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to the Government that the dispute regarding wages in the districts of Chittoor, Kurnool, Bellary and Anantapur be referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, for adjudication.

The management of the Jayalakshmi Mills, Singanallur, Coimbatore, have given notice to their workers that they have decided to close the mills from 1st October 1947 until further notice owing to the abnormal cost of waste cotton in the local market. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the request of the management to control the price and supply of waste cotton may be favourably considered.

Out of 600 workers about 87 workers of Kothari Textile, Limited, Coimbatore, stayed away from work from 6-30 p.m. to 2 a.m. on 13th September 1947 to attend a meeting conducted by the union. As 14th September 1947 was a holiday, they resumed work on 15th September 1947 at 7 a.m.

About 1,128 workers of the Vasantha Mills, Limited, Singanallur, Coimbatore district, stayed away from work from 5 p.m. to 3-30 a.m. on 20th September 1947 to attend a labour meeting.

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Andhra Paper Mills Company, Limited, Rajahmundry, regarding the closure of the mills, increased basic wages, annual increments, dearness allowance and leave facilities, etc.

The workers of Sri Jayalakshmi Mills, Taleprolu, struck work on 21st June 1947 demanding increased wages and better conditions of service. The local officers intervened and brought about a settlement of the dispute and the workers resumed work on 1st July 1947. The owners did not implement the terms of agreement fully. The dispute has since been finally settled amicably by the Subdivisional Officer, Nuzvid.

About 270 workers of Sri Venkateswara Motor Service Company, Gudivada, working on the different routes struck work on the morning of 20th September 1947. The Commissioner of Labour advised the workers to resume work pending his visit to



Dr. Rajan exhorts an ex-addict to drink tea instead of toddy



Dr. Subbarayan giving away Hundi-Boxes



" Whenever you think of drink, put a coin in this Hundi-Box " says the Hon. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam

MADRAS RECORDS OFFICE
5-NOV 1947
MADRAS



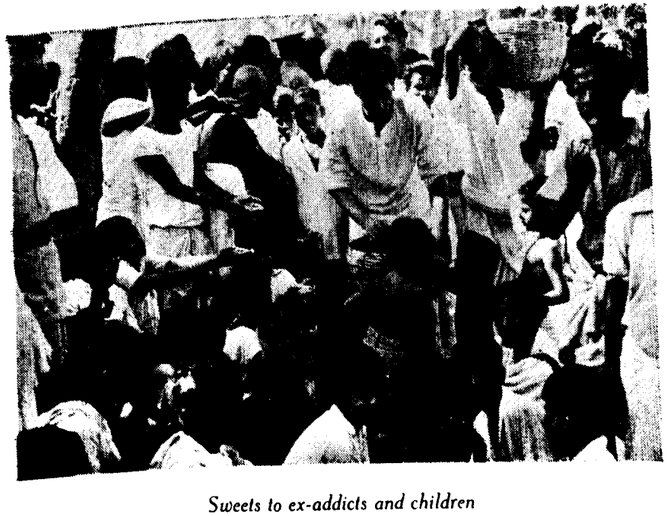
Dr. Rajan at Trichy



The Ministers at a tea-stall



Mr. Daniel Thomas at Tanjore



Sweets to ex-addicts and children

1,000 tons is being supplied from Bezwada.

Millets.—The stock of millets in the Province fell from 19,753 tons on 11th September 1947 to 18,031 tons on 25th September 1947. The offtake of millets in the Province during August 1947 was 20,596 tons. The stock of millets is very low, being less than three weeks requirements in several districts. Considerable difficulty is being felt in arranging supplies of millets to the two railways and to the the needy districts like Bellary, Guntur, and Nellore, which require large quotas very urgently. The Madras Government have been asked to move the Government of India immediately to arrange for the supply of the Milo quota of 6,000 tons due for October 1947 so as to be received in the Province before 10th October 1947 in order to enable this Province to continue the present scales of rations without any reduction.

Maize.—The stock on 25th September 1947 was 625 tons as against 777 tons on 11th September 1947.

Barley.—The stock on 25th September 1947 was 138 tons as against 158 tons on 11th September 1947.

Wheat and Wheat Products.—The stocks of Wheat and Wheat Products have come down to 1,149 tons and 135 tons respectively during the fortnight ending 25th September 1947. In most of the districts the stock of maida is practically nil. The 500 tons of maida ex. S.S. "Azadi" arrived at Cochin in the fortnight. It is being moved by the districts.

Pulses.—The stock position of all pulses was very unsatisfactory in all the districts, although stocks had been reserved in Madras City to meet the requirements of informal rationing during the month.

Rationing

In view of the low stock position of 'Milo', 'Maize' and 'Barley flour' millets have been included in the supplementary rations to heavy manual labourers, viz., 4 oz., per adult per day. Millets should be issued as an alternative cereal in the supplementary rations only when the other unfamiliar foodgrains are not in stock.

Subsidiary foodstuffs

Jaggery.—The stock position of jaggery in the Province is quite satisfactory. Collectors of certain deficit districts have been instructed to make necessary arrangements for importing sufficient stocks of jaggery into their districts from the surplus districts. In view of the accumulation of large stocks in the districts of Chittoor, Bellary and North Arcot, the question of exporting some quantities to areas outside the Province is under examination. The Government of India have also since allotted a quota of 300 tons of gur to Ceylon from this Province and instructions have been issued for the export of this quota from the Chittoor district.

The question of continuance of the control on the prices and movement of jaggery in the Province is under the consideration of the Government of India and final decisions in the matter are awaited.

Sugar.—The position with regard to sugar is fairly satisfactory. The Sugar Controller for India has recently allotted a quota of 7,500 tons of American sugar to this Province.

Prohibition has been introduced in eight more districts from 1st October 1947 and consequently additional quotas of sugar to those districts for ameliorative work have been allotted.

Miscellaneous Commodities

Scarcity of Matches has been reported from Chingleput district.

Cloth Position in Our Province

The position regarding deliveries and arrears of yarn due to our Province is given in the following statement :—

Quota for the month (26·05% of 81,209 plus 269).	Arrears up to the end of May.	Arrears for June.	Arrears up to the beginning of the month [column (2) plus column (3)].	Quota received in July.	Arrears at the end of July.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
21,424	44,661	1,958	46,619	21,792	46,251

Mill cloth

February 1947 *quota.*—The entire quota of 4,148 bales at Bombay has been purchased and 15 bales are awaiting transport. The entire quota of 1,215 bales transferred to Bombay from Ahmedabad has been purchased and 22 bales are awaiting transport.

March 1947 *quota.*—The entire quota of 2,122 bales at Bombay has been purchased and moved into the Province.

March special quota.—The entire quota of 5,046 bales at Bombay has been purchased and 263½ bales are awaiting transport.

April 1947 *quota.*—At Bombay out of a quota of 7,505 bales 13 bales have still to be purchased by our buyers and 91¾ bales are awaiting transport.

May 1947 *quota.*—Out of a quota of 2,564 bales at Bombay 43 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 260½ bales are awaiting transport.

June 1947 *quota.*—Out of a quota of 3,358 bales at Bombay 23½ bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 827½ bales are awaiting transport. The entire quota of 4,577 bales at Ahmedabad has been purchased and 128 bales are awaiting transport.

July 1947 *quota.*—Out of a quota of 4,315 bales at Bombay 404½ bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 2,233 bales are awaiting transport. At Ahmedabad the entire quota of 4,949 bales has been purchased and 560 bales are awaiting transport. At Baroda the entire quota of 305½ bales has been purchased and 26½ bales are awaiting transport.

August 1947 *quota.*—Out of a quota of 3,794 bales at Bombay 2,464½ bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 41 bales are awaiting despatch. At Ahmedabad out of a quota of 5,040 bales 4,095 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 945 bales are awaiting transport. At Sholapur the entire quota of 250 bales has been purchased and 173 bales are awaiting transport. At Baroda out of a quota of 500 bales 257 bales have still to be released by the Textile Commissioner and 249 bales are awaiting transport.

A total quantity of 8,495½ bales of mill cloth as shown below has been received from the Bombay surplus

MINISTERS DELIVER FUNERAL ORATION OF THE DRINK DEMON



Sri Kala Venkata Rao and Sri Chandra Mouli at Guntur



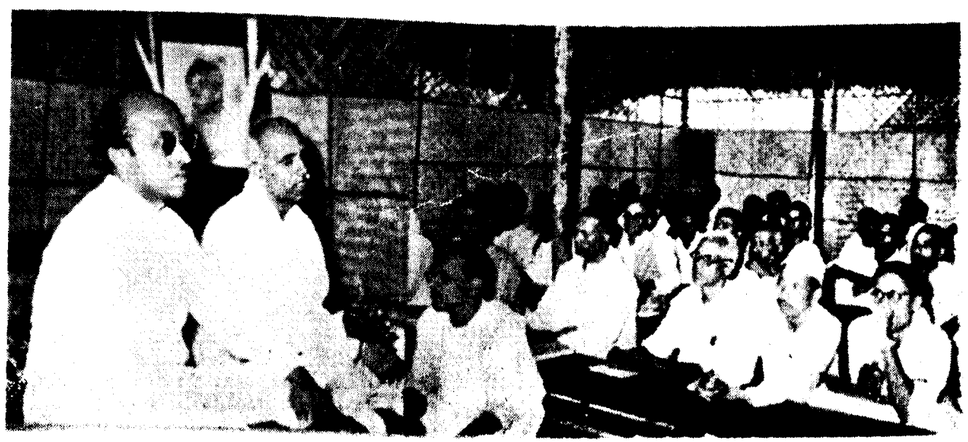
Sri Kala Venkata Rao explains the benefits of Prohibition



Sri Chandra Mouli addressing a group of villagers



The Hon. Mr. Bhaktavatsalam addressing the Conference of the Heads of Nation-Building Departments



The Premier addressing Firka Development Officers

area and distributed in the Province during the period under review :—

	BALES.
During the week ending 2nd August 1947	1,321½
During the week ending 9th August 1947	4,067¼
During the week ending 16th August 1947	990
During the week ending 23rd August 1947	2,116¾
	8,495½

Also about 5,219½ bales of South Indian mill cloth have been distributed in the Province during the period under review.

The statement below gives the allotments and supplies of mill cloth from the Bombay surplus area :—

Quota for August.	Arrears at the beginning of August.	Quota received in August 1947. Out of the quota for the month.	Out of the arrears.	Total.	Arrears at the end of the month.
9,584	10,036½	..	8,495½	8,495½	11,124¾

Mills

The Mahalakshmi Textile Mills, Limited, Madura, is not working from 11th September 1947 owing to a lock-out by its management. The average production of this mill is about 30 bales per day and we have lost already 420 bales so far.

Enforcement

Investigation into the complaint that the Sri Ramachandra Spinning Mills, Pandalapake, have been disposing of yarn produced by them in the black-market, is proceeding. The question of prosecuting Sree Venkatesh Textiles (small powerloom factory), at Renigunta, for selling cloth manufactured by them without tex-mark or price stamping is under consideration. Appeals against the acquittal in the Lotus Mills cases have been recommended to Government. Government have also been addressed regarding the appeal against the acquittal of the accused involved in the Flower Bazaar lorry case relating violation of clause 18 (2) of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order, 1945, by the dealers of Kadiri.

These mills, viz., (1) Meenakshi Mills, Madura, (2) the Saroja Mills, Singanallur, and (3) the Sree Rajendra Mills, Salem, have refused to give accommodation in the mill precincts to the authorized controllers appointed by Government; the matter is under correspondence with the Government of India.

General

For the use of the Refugees from the Pakistan area, 51 bales of coarse cloth produced by Pondicherry Mills and one bale of sarees from Bombay area have been placed at the disposal of the Special Officer and Protector for Emigrants, Madras. Also 66,794 yards of surplus military cloth which has been offered to this Province by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, has been allotted for distribution to the refugees.

Untrained Graduates in Board Schools

Pay Raised

In a Government Order, dated 10th May 1947, the pay of untrained graduates employed in L.T., or B.T., or B.Ed., posts in Secondary schools under local bodies was reduced from Rs. 50 to Rs. 45 per month. Representations having been received that this pay is too low and unattractive, the Government have decided to raise the scale of pay and fix it as follows :—

Graduates, B.A., or B.Sc., passed Honours, who have undergone L.T., or B.T., or B.Ed., training, but failed, will get Rs. 70 per mensem and untrained Rs. 65 per mensem.

No recovery need be made from graduates appointed to posts of L.T., or B.T., or B.Ed., grade in secondary schools under local bodies, who have already been paid from 1st January 1947 in excess of Rs. 45 per mensem, provided the pay does not exceed the pay now fixed. The pay of such graduates should be refixed with effect from the date of this order.

It has also been decided that under the revised scales of pay introduced from 1st January 1947, Headmasters of the Secondary schools should be paid on the revised scale, an allowance of Rs. 10 per month if the strength is 500 and below, and Rs. 25 per month if the strength exceeds 500. A question has been raised whether the amount of allowance to be paid should be fixed with reference to the number of pupils in the schools at the beginning or end of each month and whether the allowance should be curtailed if the strength falls below 500 in a month. The Government direct that for determining the amount of allowance to be paid to Headmasters, the strength of the secondary school on the 1st August in each year should be taken as the basis and that in the case of these schools, which were having a strength of more than 500, the allowance should be reduced from Rs. 25 to Rs. 10 if at any time after the allowance is fixed the strength of the school falls below 450.

M. & S.M. Railway Earnings.

1. The approximate earnings for August 1947 compare as under with those of August 1946 :—

	1946. RS.	*1947.* RS.
Coaching Traffic	69,18,000	75,26,000
Goods Traffic	79,73,000	74,35,000
Miscellaneous	3,07,000	4,88,000
Total ..	1,51,98,000	1,54,49,000

2. The approximate volume of Passenger and Goods traffic during August 1946 and 1947 are as follows :—

	1946.	*1947.*
Number of passengers (all classes) ..	6,999,000	6,943,000
Goods traffic (in tons)	540,000	397,000

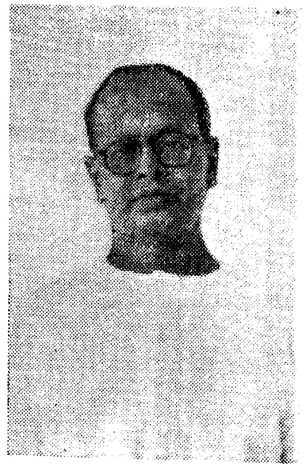
Reorganization of Secondary Education

By Sri T. S. AVINASHILINGAM CHETTIAR, Minister for Education

For more than two decades, the matter of reorganization of secondary education has been engaging the minds of the educationists of this Province but it is unfortunate that till now, nothing much has been done. The present system of education has been blamed to be too bookish, as not providing for any activities which will develop the various qualities of our boys and girls. It has also been believed to have given greater prominence to the foreign tongue and culture in preference to our own culture and languages. It has also been said that the training and feeling of citizenship and civic consciousness so necessary for every individual, is not being given in the school. The feeling of social well-being and social service which is the essence of all culture is also said to be absent from the present system of education which has been dominated mainly by examinations. The Sub-Committee appointed by the Secondary Education Board has taken all these into consideration and have tried to evolve a new system of education in which many of these defects will be absent.

They have tried to provide for the introduction of crafts. They have also introduced other activities in the curricula such as elements of scouting. They have introduced citizenship training which in the long run is expected to give the children a civic and social sense not only through books or by learning but by practical service to those around the school.

The next important aspect of reorganization is the place that must be given to the various languages in our curricula. The regional language must of course become the first language. There is Hindi, the coming national language of India. It is quite possible that in a few years' time, the Central Government may be conducted in Hindi. In that circumstance, the necessity for Hindi as a language will become highly important. It may not be immediate but those who plan for education must have the vision and fore-thought to see the coming future and provide for it. Then there is English. The medium of instruction in our colleges is English and it may continue to be so for some time more especially in science subjects. English is also an important international language. The Government are contemplating the appointment of a

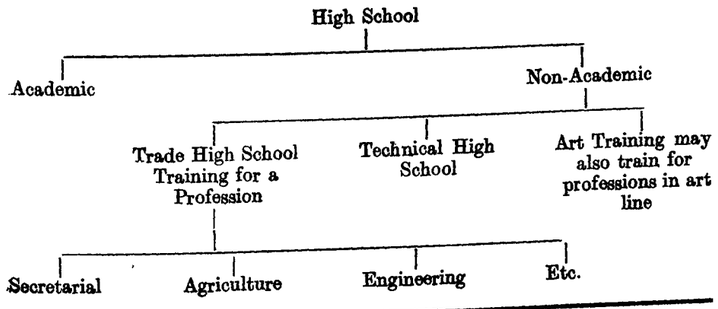


Committee to evolve equivalents in our various South Indian languages for the scientific and technical terms used in the college courses and are looking forward to the time when instruction in colleges also in all subjects will be through the medium of regional languages. But at present, the highest books in all the sciences and the different aspects of knowledge are available to us only in English and it must take some considerable time before all this higher knowledge becomes available in our own languages. And so, it is considered necessary that English also should be studied by our children at least for the next some years to come. And now comes another claim, the claim of Sanskrit, Arabic, etc. It may be said that those who want to study Sanskrit or Arabic may be few but it is still necessary that as cultural languages, these also should be provided in our schools. Now, the question is as to how to provide for the study of these various languages and what is the respective position to be allotted to each of them in our curricula. This is not a question over which decision is easy, for, it is further complicated by the feelings and sentiments held by large numbers of people on this matter.

The third important aspect of the reorganization proposals is the abolition of the optionals in the V and VI Forms. It has been found that except in Mathematics, study in the other optionals is being repeated in the college classes. The optionals in the college classes are three but in the high school classes it is one, with the result that the knowledge in the high school classes has to be repeated in the college classes. And so, it has been suggested that we should introduce either three optionals corresponding to the college classes in the high schools or abolish all optionals. In view of the time that has to be given to many other important subjects, it has been recommended by the Committee that the optionals may be abolished but in its place, a bifurcation may be made at the IV Form stage.

The matter of bifurcation has been engaging the minds of the people for nearly the last ten years. While going into this matter, the Committee has taken into account the needs of the times as well as the different tastes and capacities of our boys and girls. Secondary education must by its very nature be capable of being able to provide for a large majority of boys and girls with an avocation for life. These must also provide for certain boys or girls who are so inclined for artistic pursuits, such as music and dancing, art-painting, etc., and in a free India, I believe there will be much more scope for art than before. And then, there is the need for technical courses which will lead the boys so inclined to higher grade technical institutions such as polytechnics. And lastly, there must be academic courses as at present which will lead its entrants to colleges and from there to higher courses of study. With this end in view, they have divided the post-taird form courses as below.

In the present system, there is a very great wastage of human talents. Graduates, Presidency first and with high distinctions in science subjects such as Chemistry, Physics or Zoology, are spending their lives as clerks. To avoid this human wastage, it is the intention of Government to give these Secretarial trained boys preference for being employed as clerks. The Universities have pointed out that these divisions should not be too rigid, and that certain boys and girls who have taken non-academic courses should be enabled by passing a small test to join college and pursue further studies. In view of these suggestions, the Universities have been addressed in the matter. I am also glad to be able to inform you that to encourage the introduction of bifurcation courses in aided schools provision is proposed to be made for giving grants



for aided institutions at the following rates for fifty schools each year for five years.

Teaching grant at ¾ of the net cost of running the courses subject to a maximum of Rs. 1,450 per annum for each school.

Three-fourths of the cost of equipment to be purchased for the courses subject to a maximum of Rs. 5,700 for each school.

System of Examinations

Then there is the other very important matter of examinations. The present-day examination systems have been condemned by everybody. They have emasculated our boys and girls. They have made them merely bookish. Too much seriousness has been imported into the results of these examinations. Suggestions have been made by the Board to minimize the importance that is to be given to examinations, to set up tests for activities such as crafts and also to measure the development of personality in the children. This may be considered to be an advance on the present system of examinations.

Last but not least I would like to refer to the place that physical education should have in the future reorganization of education. The Government are anxious to evolve a physical education of the right type, which will make our boys and girls active and disciplined and will make them men and women of character and hardihood. We want also that elementary military training should be given to them. It is proposed to appoint a committee to evolve a scheme of military training. His Excellency Sir Archibald Nye has promised to give his distinguished and able guidance in the matter. We are all aware of his great knowledge and deep experience in this subject, having held the most important post of British Vice Chief of General Staff throughout the most critical period of the last World War. Major-General Shri Nagesh, G.O.C. of the Madras Area has also offered to co-operate with the committee and give all necessary help and I have no doubt that they will be able to draw up a system of military training suitable for our boys and girls in our schools and colleges.

The Government are also aware of the need for the reorganization of technical education in its higher stages and the co-ordination of the various Engineering Colleges in the Province. For that purpose they have appointed a Technical Education Board on a high level composed of the Chief Engineers of Government and the two railway systems working in this Province as well as other representatives of the Industries, etc., in the Province. They are also having in mind the conversion of the Presidency College into a high grade institution where higher research can also be done; for research in these days has a great place in the progress of a nation.

When we plan for the reorganization of education, we are planning for the future of this country and this nation. Let us bear these thoughts prominently in mind and approach our problems with a spirit of humility and prayerfulness. No proposal or scheme can be perfect; we want constructive suggestions which will improve the proposals wherever possible. It is our privilege to plan for the great future of this great and ancient country. I only pray that God must give us the vision and the strength to carry out this great task.

—[*Speech delivered at the meeting of the Provincial Advisory Board of Education held on the 14th October* 1947.]

Towards Building A New Self-Sufficient India

Firka Development Officers Confer

Sri Kumarappa's Exhortations

A conference of the Firka Development Officers in charge of the intensive rural reconstruction work in selected firkas was held in the Dakshin Bharat Hindi Prachar Sabha premises on 13th October. Mr. J. C. Kumarappa, who opened the Conference said—

"I am glad that the Firka Development Scheme has been put forward with the blessings of Mahatma Gandhi. That means we have a grave responsibility. We know what Gandhi stands for, we know his speeches to the villagers, we know what he wants the villagers to be. Now if this Development work is to be launched with his blessings it is hoped that the people who are going to do the work will probably represent the people who are here, whether we accept this grave responsibility or not. You have got to work as servants in the real sense of the term. You have got to work as servants of the villagers. You have got to lead the villagers. If we have to accept Gandhi's method of work, everyone of us has to be imbued with his ideal. I would like each one of you to consider this.

Firka Development work should be a regularly planned work for the whole village. It should not be part and parcel. It should be based on economic order based on non-violence. The primary needs of the villagers are clothing, shelter, food. A country cannot be called self-sufficient without these. A country dependent on others leads to violence. Great Britain is always dependent on others for its economic welfare. This leads to submission and that means violence. Ultimately the whole of western economic system is based on the proposition of what you may call a wasting asset. For example a father dies leaving his two sons with a cash of Rs. 5,000 each. The first boy stays in Connemara Hotel,

runs a Packard or Rolls Royce Car and wastes his money in one month. The other boy with his cash of Rs. 5,000 buys Prachara books and sells them at a profit and makes some money, say at least Rs. 150 to Rs. 200 a month. Naturally his standard will be low. But his life is based on a permanent footing. But do you think that the brother who has wasted his money will go to the other man and ask him to give a job? He will naturally go to the race course. It breeds that mentality. If you want ultimately to have a steady life it requires considerable amount of self-discipline and self-control. The boy who wasted the money is said to be reservoir economy and the second is current economy. England was at one time current economy. India is on a current economy. It represents the non-violent way of life. America is now an example of petroleum economy. That is the result of the two world wars. They are looking for petroleum wells. Stalin, Truman and Attlee are in search of these wells. That creates violence in the world. We must get away from the petrol centre economy.

Industrialisation

Continuing Mr. Kumarappa said, "I would like to tell you about industrialisation. The word industrialisation is a very big word. Jawaharlal Nehru has also said about this. What is industrialisation? None of the leaders have realised what is industrialisation. The Britishers have not only wasted their capital but also our capital of nearly 5,200 crores. Now you cannot buy anything in England. They try to develop atomic bombs to let loose on the human beings. It is only to wipe out the human beings. It is only to kill people wholesale. We do not want that for our country. Our economy is to produce food, to produce grain for feeding the empty stomachs and empty mouths and clothe the naked. That should be our purpose. I was mentioning about shortage of consumer goods in England. A cartoon appeared in the papers in which a man with a big bundle in his left hand and soap piece in his right hand and with his broken leg standing at the door of his house; his wife was asking what the matter was. He replies, "I slipped on a piece of soap and broke my leg." The wife answers: "How wonderful, Darling?" Because the soap was wonful to her. I stayed in London paying 3 guineas a day, that is Rs. 50 for the room. Neither the soap nor the labour I was able to get. I asked them when my clothes could be washed and returned. The reply was that they would be given only a fortnight after. So I washed my clothes. I know that our country is going to enrich the world by large production. Let that remain as a lesson. Firka Development officers therefore have to begin by being self-sufficient. You wash your shirt yourself. You pound your rice for youtself. If you want to ride on the donkey's back or on the dhobi's back you are not a Firka Development Officer. You must make it clear in your mind. Otherwise you should not tax people to do this and that. You should produce your own Khadi. Otherwise it is nonsense to talk about Firka Development. Begin with your life first. It is an exterior thing. It has got to grow from within. If you cannot transform yourself then it is absolutely useless. It is waste of public money. They must see how you are living, how you are accomplished. That is the non-violence of life.

Food.—Every rice mill is a food destruction machine. Where there are rice mills there can be no development of food. Mills are reservoir economy. It causes destruction. It is not the rice mill that is bad. It is because we are destroying food production. When the authorities talk of production and refer to mills it means destruction. Mills never increase production. If you have a sugar mill it is a mill for destruction. I have already calculated in the *Herijan* that sugar and rice mills destroy production. This is what is going on in all over the country. This is only decreasing production and not increasing production.

Cloth.—Mill cloth is terribly expensive. But it appears cheap. The benefit goes to the mill owner. One pays the cost and the other man benefits. He makes you believe that your pocket is the better for it (laughter). Decentralise industry to keep it in the hands of the poor people. Let us make that a condition of life.

Begin with Yourself

Purify your own life and then begin. Wars are being fought only to get hold of the raw materials. Why are the Americans fighting for China? It is not for the king and country and for democracy. It is for the mill-owners and other fellows. If you kill millions and millions you will become Sir, Lord, and Knight. If one man kills another he goes to the scaffold. Killing by the large scale method has been glorified. It is the foundation of their economic order. It is based on getting other people's property. Warfare is a part of their standard of living. Thereby you ride on somebody's back. The war consumes much more. The result is that we find nations without food and cloth. When I stayed in Paris there was nothing for me to eat. At a hotel, a pot of tea was served to me, black tea. I asked the server to give me some milk. He answered "No milk in Paris. No sugar in Paris." So I had to drink the black tea without sugar and walked out. Today many young men and women are going in the streets without cloth above the waist in London. After all the tremendous amount of feverish production, all the production has gone somewhere. There is no maid-servant, no cloth to put on the table. They use paper on the table. How we are going to develop our country? We have got to reform ourselves. We have to remodel villages. And how we are to teach that on a non-violent and truthful basis is the issue before us.

Food Products.—Again you cannot grow food on one side and export cotton on the other side. You pay something to pound rice. If you want to produce jaggery, produce it from the palms. You can grow rice or wheat on that particular land. This is the sort of philosophy that is standing before us. Don't do a job here and a job there. You have got to make the whole thing. We must face all the needs of the people; first we have to start with cattle breeding. The bullock is the centre of our economy. This will lead to the formation of co-operative societies. We thus reduce the money economy also. There is a greater chance of the real value being transferred from one party to another. Sometime ago I went to Avanashi Firka. The cows there looked very good and well fed. When the villagers were asked, they replied that the cows are well fed and give good milk. Then I asked why the children are not well fed. They replied "our young men sell the milk." I asked "Then you don't feed the children. You don't know what you people are. You people eat your children while they are alive. The milk contains proteins and other vitamins. There is a possibility of growth of muscles, bones and purification of the blood. The possibility of the bone growth, the possibility of the flesh growth, the purity of the blood of your children is being sold to the mill owners. The money economy has put money on your eye." Firka Development Officers should see that they satisfy the needs of the people. After 20 years you will find people well fed, well grown and well cared for. You should do it by being part and parcel of the village and not by being outside the village. You must have the levelling process. Each one must represent the full development of the village. There is a grave responsibility. As the Chairman said I am sure Mahatma Gandhi's blessings will be yours.

The Premier's Speech

The Prime Minister addressing the gathering said that the reports of two M.L.As., who were deputed to report on the working of the Firka Development Scheme were received about two months back and since then he had been trying to meet the Development Officers and discuss with them how they should carry on the work. He regretted that though it was over a year now since the Government had started firka development work, all the facilities required for the officers have not been provided. In spite of that some good work had been done; for example, some of the Firka Development Officers had encouraged local people to lay roads and conducted village surveys and given valuable assistance in other ways. He realized that Government should have done much more than what has been done actually. But funds were not adequate for doing full justice to the scheme. Large amounts of money were required for carrying out development work, and it was doubtful whether Government could find all the funds. Therefore there was need for encouraging local effort and inducing the people to contribute to their own betterment. The villages were centres of political and social service and emblems of culture. They represented social discipline; for example, the large number of beautiful tanks constructed with great engineering skill in various villages in the Presidency provided an instance of social co-operative effort. Unfortunately they are not being maintained properly now-a-days firstly because adequate funds were not available and secondly because the spirit of social service had declined among the people.

Sanitation

The same is the case, said the Premier, with our drinking water wells also, which we have not cared to maintain in proper condition. It was better to repair and maintain old wells than dig new wells. He was in favour of the traditional way of constructing open wells. One crore of rupees had been set apart for well construction and it would be a great thing if the programme was completed in 15 years.

Referring to roads, the Premier said, that in the whole of the Province there were 36,000 miles of roads of which only 17,000 were village roads. It costs Government Rs. 50 lakhs annually to maintain 4,000 miles of provincial roads, while only Rs. 3 lakhs are spent on the maintenance of village roads. The district authorities should be in a position to remedy this state of affairs.

Turning next to village sanitation and medical relief the Prime Minister said that everybody knew the extremely insanitary conditions prevailing in most of the villages. About 60 lakhs of rupees are being spent on doctors and buildings in order to administer medicines worth only 50 lakhs of rupees. So far as sanitation is concerned, there is a great need for educating the people, which can be done mainly by voluntary organizations. The Firka Development officers could find in this a fertile field of activity. It has been pointed out that human excreta could be converted into valuable manure, a thousand human-beings can thus fertilize 250 acres of land. A few municipalities have done something and a few towns have also done some work in the direction of converting village refuse into compost manure but much remains to be done. The cattle leavings also can be converted into good manure and about 400 crores of rupees is being lost annually by not conserving cattle leavings. Thus there is a good deal of wastage going on partly on account of popular indifference and partly an account of neglect of officials.

Electricity

Turning to electricity the Prime Minister, Mr. O. P. Ramaswami Reddiyar said that Government were receiving numerous applications for supply of electricity for agricultural purposes. Unfortunately it has not been possible to meet all these demands because the accessories necessary for proper distribution of electric power are not available. At present only about 8 per cent of electric power produced in this country is utilized for agricultural purposes, while the towns get more than 80 per cent. Government are contemplating measures of legislation for charging this unequal distribution and preventing maldistribution of power and for taking over the existing electricity undertakings on payment of book value of the concerns and something more as compensation. The Government have placed orders for electrical goods worth about 2 crores of rupees in America and supplies are being awaited.

With regard to village industries private voluntary efforts should effectively supplement Government action. Government would always help those that help themselves and any voluntary organizations that would come forward to solve the problem of the village industries would be welcomed by the Government.

Education

Turning next to education, the Prime Minister pointed out that the expenditure on education had increased four-fold but the number of elementary schools and the strength of pupils in these schools had actually come down. There is colossal waste going on in our educational system with no benefit to the people in the villages. There is much to be desired in the direction of supervision of educational institutions and a great responsibility rests on the district authorities in this matter. He commended the system of basic education, in which boys and girls can partly pay for their education by doing while learning.

Irrigation

With regard to irrigation facilities, the Prime Minister said that in Madras about 40 lakhs of acres are irrigated by rivers and canals. The major portion of the remaining irrigated lands is cultivated by tanks. Though the ayacuts under tanks have been gradually increasing no effort has been made to see that these tanks held water for a longer period than they did previously. The bunds, the outlets, the channels, etc., were not properly attended to. The result is that our agriculturists have to depend mostly on rainfall. For proper distribution of rainfall, forests are necessary; but unfortunately a number of our forests are being cleared up. The community loses by uneven expenditure of money; but it is for the people themselves to be vigilent and keep the Government in proper position.

In conclusion the Prime Minister exhorted the Firka Development Officers to work in a missionary spirit. They should consider themselves as *karma yogis* dedicating their lives for the service of their fellow men.

Firka Development Activities

The work so far turned out by the Firka Development staff in the firkas under their jurisdiction is summarised below under various heads.

Education.—This is one of the important items of work done by the Firka Development staff in connection with the Firka Development Scheme. About 184 Night Schools, 49 days Schools, 9 Night Schools for adults, 15 Hindi Classes, 68 Reading Rooms and 16 Libraries have been opened in these firkas. Besides these, 1 Industrial Training School, 1 Spinning School and 3 Industrial Schools have been opened at Tirumangalam, Alur and Kalasapakkam Firkas respectively. In Puliankurichi Centre, a sum of Rs. 4,000 has been collected by the Firka Development staff for constructing a school building. In Nagari Firka, the villagers have been persuaded to construct a suitable building for accommodating a school and a plot of land has been secured from a ryot free of cost. The villagers of Kurnool Firka have also been induced to give buildings free of rent for accommodating the schools to be opened in the firka.

2. *Public Health and Sanitation.*—(*a*) In almost all the Firkas, the Firka Development staff are conducting street cleaning campaigns and paid sweepers have been appointed for the purpose with the co-operation of the villagers in certain firkas. In Tirumangalam, Kundah, Veerapandy, Guruvareddipalem, Rajahmundry and Kalasapakkam Firkas, drainages of 345 yards, 75 yards, 163 yards, 500 yards, 300 yards and 75 yards in length respectively have been constructed by the efforts of the Firka Development Staff. In Nagari Firka, 50 sewage water pits have been dug. Firka Development Staff of Kurnool, Kalasapakkam, Shermadevi, Tiruman galam and Nagari have been able to construct 40, 10, 7, 3 and 3 cesspools respectively in their firkas. Latrines of various types have also been constructed in Kumbla, Alur and Veerapandy Firkas. In Palladam, the construction of Wardha type of latrines is in progress.

(*b*) In Tirumangalam, a sum of Rs. 26,000 has been collected for starting a maternity hospital. The Firka Development Officer, Kadambuliyur has secured free sites and offer of donations to construct the buildings required for starting two health centres in the firka. He has also conducted Leprosy survey of the firka with Sri T. N. Jagadeesan, Honorary Secretary, Kasturba Leprosy Relief Association. Five and half acres of land and a well have been secured for starting a Leprosy Relief Centre in the firka. 'Leprosy Consciousness' is being created in the firka through magic lanterns and pamphlets. Sanitary units have been formed in Polavaram. In Avanashi and Palladam, bath rooms have been constructed in Harijans quarters. In General, the Firka Development staff are carrying on an Intensive Propaganda to improve the sanitary conditions in the villages.

3. *Co-operation.*—After the advent of the Firka Development Scheme, the Co-operative movement in the firkas is proceeding at a rapid pace with the efforts of the Firka Development staff as can be seen from the following statement which gives the number and kinds of Societies formed in these 34 firkas :—

Co-operative stores	27
Co-operative societies	16
Weavers' Co-operative societies.	18
Co-operative credit societies ..	16
Multi-purpose Co-operative societies	7
Co-operative societies for Cottage Industries	4
Milk Supply Co-operative societies	2
Hand spinners' and Khadi production and Sale Co-operative societies	2
Students' Co-operative stores ..	1
Labour society	1

Besides these, Co-operative farming has also been organised in Kadambuliyur Firka. In Kumbla Firka a sum of Rs. 28,000 has been collected for starting a Multi-purpose Co-operative stores and it is being registered. Arrangements are being made to start a Co-operative Rural Bank at Nagari and Dendulur Firkas. A sum of Rs. 6,000 has been collected for starting a Multi-purpose Co-operative society in Pendurthi Firka. Steps have been taken by Firka Development staff in almost all the Firkas to start as many Co-operative societies as possible.

Resettlement of Ex-servicemen

The number of ex-servicemen registered for the quarter ending with 30th September 1947 is 3,647. During this period demand for these men numbering 417 were received from offices in the city for appointment and in almost all the cases they have been complied with.

The Madras Tailors' Co-operative Society is functioning well with uninterrupted progress. Two bales of mill cloth by Messrs. Benny and Company were placed at the disposal of the society for making ready—made garments; because of the facility given by Messrs. Binny and Company by supplying cloth to the society it was possible to secure orders from Government hospitals, private institutions and a very large number of private individuals. At present the society has got a surplus of about Rs. 704.

The Motor Transport Co-operative Society was having ten lorries during the quarter plying from hire. Five more lorries are expected to be added during the current quarter. All the lorries have earned an income of Rs. 23,113 during the quarter and have earned a surplus of nearly Rs. 5,000 after providing for a depreciation of Rs. 7,500. This activity has got much scope for further development.

During the quarter ending, the radio sales and service society sold 40 sets in all and has made a gross profit of about Rs. 3,400. The question of starting a laboratory and service to provide employment for large number of ex-servicemen is under consideration and necessary action in this respect is being taken by the Regional Director in consultation with the Board of Directors.

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The Government have instructed the Collectors of Guntur, Kistna, West Godavari, East Godavari, Kurnool and Nellore to remove the restrictions on the movement of sun-hemp seeds temporarily till 1st December 1947 in order to assist procurement and free movement of seeds required for sowing early in November. The control over prices will continue and stock-holders will be free to sell their stocks either to the Government or to the public at controlled prices.

Adult Literacy Campaign Inaugurated

The following is the speech delivered by the Hon'ble Sri T. S. Avinashilingam, Minister for Education, while inaugurating the Adult Education Campaign under the auspices of the Corporation of Madras on 8th October 1947 :—

The matter of adult education is of supreme importance today. The Constituent Assembly of India has determined that adult suffrage should be the basis of all the political institutions in this country and so, it is necessary for the future well-being of this great country that we should educate our masters. In future, the election of our leaders, the formation of our policies and the very moulding of the future of this country of ours are in the hands of the large masses of people and so, the education of our masses is a vital task for us to perform. I am glad that the Corporation of Madras has come forward with a large and effective scheme of adult education within the precincts of this metropolitan city.

Eradication of Illiteracy

Adult education may be broadly divided into two classes: one, the campaign for the eradication of adult illiteracy and secondly, a drive for giving further education to such of those adults who are literate and who can read and write but have not had the opportunity of higher education! In the past, there have been many attempts at adult education and adult literacy, but unfortunately, it must be said that these have not had such a permanent and widespread effort as would have been desirable. The reasons for the failure in the past must be studied so that they may not repeat themselves in the future. One of the main reasons for the failure of adult literacy and education campaign in the past in the province is, lack of properly trained personnel for adult education. For a long time, it was not appreciated that the method of education adopted for teaching children could not be adopted for teaching adults. In adult education, we are dealing with a set of men and women who have grown up with a great deal of experience and who must be treated with respect. They cannot be considered as elastic or amenable as the children and the technique of education in dealing with adults must certainly take account of these differences and must provide for a system which will give them greater knowledge with due respect and courtesy. It is for the same reason that teachers who have been trained to teach children have not always succeeded in turning out to be good teachers for education of adults. And so, if we are to take up adult education in a vast scale, it will be necessary for us also to create a large number of teachers with the requisite qualifications for adult education. The importance of adult education also should be different from that for the children and be suitable to the needs of adults.

'Each-One-Teach-One'

It is not necessary for me to point out that the eradication of illiteracy among adults is the first problem in a country like India where such a large majority of adults are not literate. Unless we create a machinery of a province-wide nature in which people are filled with a Missionary enthusiasm to do this work, this will well-nigh be an impossible problem. In this work, everybody who knows to read and write must help in teaching his brothers or sisters who may not know it. This must be taken as a compulsory social duty which every literate man or woman owes to his community and to his country. I would like to appeal to the numerous young men and women present here and through them, to the thousands of men and women spread throughout the villages in the country who have had the benefit of education in schools and colleges to take up this matter enthusiastically and come forward to do their bit. There is what is called 'Each-one-Teach-one' method. If every one of us will take to it religiously and take it upon ourselves as a supreme duty that we owe to this country, it will not be long before a large proportion of our adult population will become literate. What we want is enthusiasm for the cause and persistent effort.

Need for Intensive Drive

Till now, adult education has not been organized on any large basis. I am anxious that in this country, we should plan for a systematic drive for adult education. Various subjects such as politics, economics, the various languages, the sciences and such other things that are useful to the ordinary man or woman, must be taught to them through these adult education classes. In fact, these classes must run with definite syllabi and courses of studies as our ordinary elementary and secondary schools and colleges. Those who study in these schools must be enabled to go through these courses sitting for certain tests, if necessary, and then to pursue their studies in higher courses. Such men, in my opinion, should be enabled in the long run to qualify themselves for the University and through them to the higher posts in public services. These adult education schools should provide openings for the poorest in the land to attain the highest knowledge in as many subjects as possible and qualify themselves for the highest positions which the nation can confer. Making provisions such as these is the basis of democratic life and I am anxious that these should be done so that fresh openings for a higher life may be opened for those who may not otherwise have these opportunities. It is not necessary to set up separate establishments, buildings or equipments for these adult education schools The existing schools and colleges and their equipment can and must be utilized for this purpose also.

Adult education is necessary not only from the point of view of educating the masses but also from the point of view of national efficiency. It is a matter of common knowledge that a much smaller number of people in other countries are able to produce much more than what we are able to do. The reason for their greater productive capacity is their knowledge as well as their capacity for efficient work. If we are to rise as a nation, we must also increase our efficiency and capacity for work. It is not the number of hours that one works that counts, but the intensity and knowledge with which one works that really matters. Many hours of slovenly work without knowledge and direction will not be as productive as fewer hours of work done with efficiency and understanding. If this efficiency and understanding can be made a national quality, that will be the true way of raising the standard of our people and adult education is one of the means of doing this. Adult education need not and should not mean merely scholastic knowledge but must also be a practical equipment for life in all its aspects. It must in the long run enable millions of people in this country to earn and live better.

The Library Movement

There is another recognised method of adult education which the Government are taking up in earnest. The Library Movement is one of the larges

and the most organized methods of adult education. Small libraries exist throughout the province scattered throughout the thousands of villages. These libraries if they are enabled to get books through grants or to borrow books from Central Libraries will provide to a great extent the intellectual needs of the people of those rural areas. As you may be aware, the Government intend introducing a Bill for the proper regulation of libraries so that Central Libraries may be started in the various districts and aided libraries also will come into existence in about the same lines as aided schools so that there may be a net work of libraries throughout the province serving the needs of the country. These libraries should in the long run become centres of adult education in all its aspects. In this connection, I would like to say a few words about night schools. Night schools have dwindled in recent years. In many places, night schools have been enthusiastically begun but they have not been continued for a long time. Rarely have night schools continued to exist for more than a few years, if not months. The Government are considering whether the night schools cannot be given a further trial in the future.

Role of College Students

To provide for the literacy and education of over 80 per cent of the population, is no small a matter. Such great efforts are possible only with the backing of a tremendous enthusiasm from the general masses of the people. Even this great work can be achieved if we can get the enthusiastic co-operation and service from the educated section of our community. Lawyers, doctors, teachers, people employed in the various departments of Governments, students of schools and colleges and others—if these can come forward with a determination for a continuous effort in this direction, I have no doubt we can achieve a creditable measure of success within a reasonable limit of time. We must try to introduce the idea and ideals of service in our schools and colleges. College students have nearly three months of holidays during the summer vacation. Many of them are not able to spend it usefully. These young men and women can very profitably utilize this time for adult education work. They may be trained to do that work as part of their scholastic education even while in colleges. In fact, service to the country must become part of the curricula of our schools and colleges. This service will be to them greater education than mere study of many books or mere passing of examinations.

Activities of the Public Works Department

Report for the year 1945-46

The Administration Report of the Public Works Department for 1945-46 gives an elaborate picture of its many-sided activities.

The number of administrative circles during the period was eight, including the aerodrome circle. The total value of buildings in charge of the department was Rs. 14,62,59,162. The repairs carried out by the Public Works Department on these buildings cost Rs. 17·55 lakhs. The total expenditure on works and repairs under all heads was Rs. 51·89 lakhs against an allotment of Rs. 51·31 lakhs as compared with a final expenditure of Rs. 37·02 lakhs against an initial budget allotment of Rs. 51·21 lakhs in the previous year. The actual expenditure on buildings and roads during the period amounted to Rs. 1,97,31,536 and on Irrigation Works Rs. 11,47,42,422.

Revenue

The principal sources of revenue under "Civil Works" are rents and miscellaneous receipts. The receipts under "Rents" comprise rents of residential and non-residential buildings and hostels in charge of the Public Works Department including lands, as well as on furniture and other amenities, while miscellaneous receipts include sales proceeds of produce such as wood, grass, etc., from the compound of Government buildings and those taken on lease, sales produce of Public Works Department buildings transferred to Central Departments, supervision charges on sales of stock, value of stores found surplus, profits on stock due to re-valuation, lapsed tender and other deposits, fines, deposits of contractors forfeited for reasons other than damage to works and all extraordinary items of receipts which cannot be booked under the other minor heads. During the period the receipts under rent amounted to Rs. 9,22,841 as against Rs. 7,83,332 in 1944-45 while the corresponding figures under Miscellaneous receipts are Rs. 8,16,396 and Rs. 12,82,114 respectively.

The Consulting Architect section

A considerable volume of work was also turned out by the Consulting Architect section. The total number of drawings prepared during the year was 687. Detailed schedules of quantities were prepared for 17 schemes aggregating in value to Rs. 36·14 lakhs. Approximate estimates were prepared for 27 schemes amounting to Rs. 261·60 lakhs. One hundred and three educational and industrial grants-in-aid cases were also dealt with, the aggregate amount involved being Rs. 12·68 lakhs.

Technical Section

In the technical section 541 estimates of the aggregate value of Rs. 821 lakhs were scrutinized during the year. Roughly these estimates may be classified under Buildings, grant-in-aid works, R.A.F. Works, Naval Works, A.M.E. Station Works, A.R.P. and Fire Service Works, Bridges, Water Supply, drainage and miscellaneous.

Workshops

The workshops at Madras, Bezwada and Dowlaishwaram functioned satisfactorily during the year. The value of outturn in the Madras workshop was Rs. 4,53,702 as against Rs, 7,57,411 in 1944-45. The corresponding figures of the Bezwada workshop are Rs. 1,29,822 and Rs. 1,10,807 and that of Dowlaishwaram Rs. 3,24,709 and Rs. 2,89,667 respectively.

Stores

There were three Public Works Department stores at Madras, Bezwada and Dowlaishwaram respectively. In the stores at Madras the opening balance of stock for the year was Rs. 4,54,436 and the closing balance was Rs. 7,54,685. The closing balance includes surplus stock amounting to Rs. 78,926. The net value of surplus stock disposed of during the year was

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New Nickel Coins

The Rupee—the national coin of our realm—had a fairly tumultuous career in the history of the Indian coinage. Early in the 19th Century, India presented a scene of currency chaos, for there was then no uniform standard of coin in this country. Gold and silver coins were minted promiscuously both by the East India Company and by the various powerful ruling states in India, with a wide diversity of weight, fineness and value. At the time, when the East India Company passed to the British Crown, it is recorded that there were nearly 994 different coins of gold and silver in circulation in this country, beginning with the gold mohar and ending with the tiny silver Fanam. Such a position was very embarassing for a Government, which was rapidly unifying its political sovereignty and its administrative machinery.

After the exchange of several despatches between the Board of Directors of the East India Company and the then formed Governments of Bengal and Madras, an Act was passed by which the silver mono-metallism was established in India and it marked the beginning of the rupee as the standard coin in India with unlimited legal tender. The same Act also demonetised gold and this did away with the circulation of coins in this precious metal, with which India had been familiar since times immemorial. About the close of the last century, as a result of the recommendation of the Hershall Committee, the mints in India were closed and further coinage of the rupee coins was stopped because the gold value of the rupee which was originally fixed at 2 shillings fell continuously to the level of a shilling due to the large imports of silver from the then recently opened silver mines of the United States of America. After some time, the need for fresh issue of coins was felt, for at the beginning of the present century there was considerable monetary stringency, largely due to continuous famines. To meet this want, the Government resumed the coinage of the rupee on a considerable scale, which gradually developed into what is called the Gold Exchange Standard, which economists like Prof. Keynes afterwards hailed as the most scientific as well as the economic system of currency.

The minting of coins was all along the monopoly of the Government and the earliest silver rupee was made during the reign of Queen Victoria, which conforms to the regulations laid down by the Hershall report. It was in weight 180 grains troy and its standard fineness was eleven-twelfths that is of 165 grains of fine silver with 15 grains of alloy. The smaller denominations of half rupee, quarter rupee were also minted out of the alloy of the same composition. This continued during the reigns of King Edward VII and King George the V.

During 1940, there was unnecessary scare and false rumours, as a result of which some people resorted to hoard up rupee coins for their silver content. In view of the rapid absorption of the rupee coins due to hoarding, the Government of India considered it necessary to conserve silver as far as possible. It was therefore decided that the fineness of one-half silver and one-half alloy shoud be adopted for all the three coins. These new coins, bore the date 1940 and were exactly similar in weight and appearance to the old coins. However, an improvement was made in this new coin as it had a new security edge, which consisted of the insertion of a shallow re-entrant into the centre of the milled edge, which was considered to be a virtually absolute safeguard against counterfeiting. The rupee coins of the old fineness were not minted after 1922 and in May 1942, the King Edward VII rupees and from May 1943, the King George V and King George VI rupees ceased to be legal tender. This announcement marked the culmination of a policy which dates back to nearly half a century, of converting the rupee which had since then been a full value silver coin, into a token. Due to war, the Government were not able to import sufficient amount of silver for fresh coinage. To meet this immediate exigency new one rupee notes were issued through the Reserve Bank of India in July 1941 which were in circulation during the period of war. But it was found that large quantities of paper had to be consumed to replace the soiled and mutilated notes and hence after the war, the Government decided to issue coins for one rupee, half rupee and quarter rupee denominations in a metal which will stand continued rough usage. By then as the value of silver had also risen up considerably, the new coinage was proposed to be made out of pure nickel, since the rupee coin was to be more a token rather than a commodity for metal value. It is obvious, hence, that unless the price of silver comes down to pre-war rate such coins can never have a metal value equal to its face value. Therefore, the issue of token coins not necessarily containing silver which can give all the protection against counterfeit, corrosion and durability would meet the increasing demand for metallic coinage.

The new coins that have been now issued of the denomination of one rupee, half rupee and quarter rupee are in pure nickel, i.e., a nickel which is not alloyed with any other metal. Nickel has several advantages over silver. It has a high melting point namely 1452 C and can only be processed by using highly scientifically specialized machinery. So it cannot be readily used through making small sand castings which is the chief method of counterfeiters. Another distinctive feature of nickel is that is highly magnetic and with the exception of iron, no other metal can be suitably employed for coinage which will possess this special property. So the magnet can be used to test the genuineness of pure nickel coins. Pure nickel will continue to remain bright without tarnishing and even if it is smudged with dirt or finger impressions it can easily be cleaned with a small rag. Molten liquid of this metal being very mobile artistic impressions can be created on coins when they are minted.

These special qualities favour the minting of the new nickel coins. Moreover, the new one rupee coin though smaller in size than the silver one, continues to have the same weight and even after prolonged usage this coin will not diminish in weight like the silver one. Incidentally, the issue of the new coins has the added advantage of releasing more of silver to the genuine jeweller and silversmith and for the very many inhabitants of this country who are anxious to keep their savings in the form of one of the precious metals. In fact in no other country excepting ours, silver has been put to such multifarious uses for ornamentation and decorative purposes. With the release of silver the Government has also shackled their obligation to the speculator in the bullion market and the power of the speculator over the prices of silver has diminished. It is likely that most of the hoarded silver coins will again see the light of the day.

But there is one minor drawback in the nickel coins. We who are accustomed to the enlivening metallic ringing

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Development of Irrigation

The following is a discussion recently broadcast from the A.I.R., Madras, in which The Hon'ble Mr. M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Public Works, Mr. N. S. Varadachari and Mr. N. Govindaraja Ayyangar, Chief Engineer to the Government of Madras, participated :—

Mr. N. S. Varadachari.—I wish to mention that food scarcity is becoming chronic and we have to make large purchases of food in foreign countries and use up our trade balances for purchase of food. I wish to ask you, the Special Chief Engineer and the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works of the Government of Madras, as to how far increase in food production can be effected by improving existing Government irrigation works and initiating fresh irrigation schemes, major and minor.

Mr. M. Baktavatsalam.—It will be the attempt of Government to work consistently and rapidly towards self-sufficiency in food in this Province by undertaking both major and minor irrigation schemes.

Mr. N. Govindaraja Ayyangar.—It has been estimated that Madras is short to the tune of 2 million tons of rice. Some of this shortage may of course be made up to some extent by increased production of millets, ragi, etc. I gather that Madras had had to pay for imported food and subsidies to the tune of Rs. 14 crores in the last two years. It looks to me that it is imperative that Madras should start its major and minor irrigation schemes so that the deficiency can be made good in minimum time and any favourable trade balances may be used for obtaining machinery and other articles which we have not yet learned to make in this country.

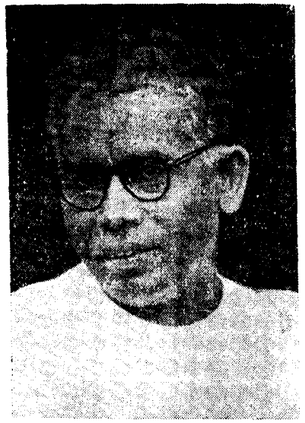
Mr. N.S.V.—Could you tell me in simple terms what exactly irrigation means ?

Mr. N.G.—Irrigation is the art of applying water to lands for agricultural purpose.

Mr. N.S.V.—Could you tell me what the extent of land covered by irrigation either by river projects or tanks in the Presidency is ?

Mr. N.G.—The total irrigation under Government irrigation works, both rivers and tanks and other works included is 81 millions.

Mr. N.S.V.—Are the existing irrigation facilities sufficient to produce he food requirements of this Province ?



Mr. N. G.—They are not.

Mr. N. S. V.—Can production in the existing irrigated lands be increased rapidly ?

Mr. N. G.—I think it can be, by intensive treatment. But that will be a matter for the Agricultural Department to take up actively.

Mr. N. S. V.—How should further irrigation develop in order to make good the shortage of 2 million tons of rice ?

Mr. N. G.—I consider that every possible major irrigation scheme as well as minor that are capable of rapid execution should be taken up.

Mr. N. S. V.—What is the relative emphasis that you will place on irrigation schemes of large magnitude and minor schemes that may benefit small areas in each district ?

Mr. B.—It is my view that concentrated rapid improvement in food production will be possible under major irrigation schemes like the Tungabhadra, Ramapadasagar, Kistna reservoir at Sangameswaram, Bhavani, Gandikota, Mettur canals for Salem and Coimbatore margins, Vaigai reservoir and other smaller major projects. I may mention here my recent experience that in the Tanjore district under the Cauvery-Mettur Project it was possible by a special drive to develop and bring under irrigation nearly 50,000 to 60,000 acres in one year. The reason was there was water readily available from the Mettur reservoir, the lands were level and could be terraced at cheap cost and special steps could be taken to provide to individual land ample water-supply and also some bonus was offered by the Government. Here it was a case where the Mettur reservoir had already been constructed and water was there ready to be drawn upon for the lands. On the same analogy I consider that rapid execution of reservoir schemes mentioned by me above would offer scope for rapid production.

In the matter of small schemes that will serve small areas in each district it is my view that they have a great psychological value. Just as we all feel that Madras Presidency should be made self-sufficient in food it is a legitimate desire of each district also that it should be made self-sufficient in the matter of food. But large irrigation projects can be had only where water can be had in plenty and that will depend upon the untapped water resources of rivers in this Presidency. Every district cannot have a major untapped river and it cannot therefore be a question of making every district self-sufficient in food. While therefore every reasonable step to make each district also self-sufficient in food is to be taken it should be admitted the larger idea of making Madras Presidency as a whole self-sufficient can be accomplished only by executing major irrigation schemes in the quickest manner possible.

Mr. N. S. V.—Can you mention how many minor schemes there are under consideration ?

Mr. B.—There are 298 such minor schemes scattered in all the 25 districts over the Presidency. They are expected to cost about Rs. 5 crores and are proposed to be taken up under the Grow More Food scheme with such financial assistance as may be forthcoming from the Government of India. These if rapidly developed should have a good short-term value. But it is my view that scattered as they will be all over the Presidency a very determined drive will be necessary to develop the areas under these minor schemes and to hold out substantial assistance to the landholders to reclaim the lands and to bring them under irrigation when these minor projects are completed. I have found that it was easier for the Government to provide assistance in the matter of reclamation of areas in a case like the concentrated development of 50,000 to 60,000 acres in the Tanjore district, than to distribute such assistance to various scattered Grow More Food Works that have been done all over the Presidency. Very special steps will therefore have to be taken to reclaim lands under minor schemes.

Mr. N. S. V.—As the demand for paddy to-day is great should not the projects be more for raising paddy crop ? What is your view regarding raising of millet and other dry crops by irrigation ?

Mr. N. G.—People in this Presidency have a definite preference for rice. I may however mention that paddy cultivation consumes nearly three times the water that dry irrigated crops like millet, wheat, ragi, etc., consume. Therefore with the same amount of water we can irrigate three times the area of dry crops as we can in the case of paddy. Dry irrigation will also therefore bring in more revenue to the Government but having in mind the partiality which people have for rice I would advocate projects like the Ramapadasagar, Kistna, Sangameswaram, etc., be designed for raising paddy crops and projects like Tungabhadra, the Bhavani, and Gandikota may be designed more for irrigating dry crops, namely, millets, ragi, etc. In view of the very hard working nature of Salem and Coimbatore agriculturists I would advocate that the Mettur canal for the Salem and Coimbatore margins along the Cauvery be designed for good money crops, if necessary after reserving sufficient area for food crops.

Mr. N. S. V.—How are these irrigation schemes which turn out to be very costly to be financed ?

Mr. M. B.—The Government consider that the production of ample food for the people will be a first charge on their finance. The Government would be prepared to obtain loans to the extent necessary to execute all major and minor projects which can produce some reasonable return and provide ample food.

Mr. N. S. V.—What is your view in the matter of finding finance for these projects ?

Mr. M. B.—It has been recognized that protected water-supply has to be provided for every individual, free of cost or by levying water and drainage tax. That is as it should be. No water-supply or drainage scheme is subject to an examination on its remunerative aspect. It is my view that next to water, food is a human necessity which also should not be subject to any arbitrary test of productive rate of interest on the capital. In fact this principle has already been admitted by the Government when they passed an order some years back to say that some of the Ceded districts projects can be recommended for sanction if they would give a return of nearly half to one and a half per cent less than the accepted productive rate of interest. In my view food production projects should be freed from almost any test of productivity. We must now plan definitely that we shall be going in for a definite number of major projects and a definite number of minor projects which will produce within 5, 10 or 15 years the full requirements of food for this Province. The possible return in the shape of water rate from these projects should be estimated and an estimate of the loans that will be required and the interest charges that will have to be paid on the loans will have to be calculated. In almost every new project the estimated revenue is in deficit of the interest charges on the capital. So long as this deficit can be set off against the continued cost of importation of food and subsidy, there should be no hesitation to take up these projects. Once this plan is accepted nothing should stand in the way of pushing up these projects to completion in the quickest time.

Mr. N. S. V.—Can you suggest any other means of financing these irrigation schemes ?

Mr. N. G.—Yes. Before dealing with these irrigation schemes I shall build up an analogy by giving my views in the matter of providing protected water-supply to all towns and major villages. It is my view that well-to-do members of the locality should come forward with substantial loans towards the execution of water-supply and drainage schemes in that locality. They should be prepared to loan to Government at rates of interest a little lower than bank rates. The Government would thus be enabled to find a good deal of the finance required for carrying out water-supply and drainage schemes. I consider it is the duty of the well-to-do people who have surplus money to contribute materially to the health of their own towns and villages by as I have said before freely loosening their purses and not insisting on bank rate of interest or higher.

Similarly I consider that in the case of minor district irrigation schemes there should be a good response from the haves of those areas to loan to Government at least 50 per cent of the cost of those schemes at rates of interest materially less than the bank rate. Of course, if those schemes should at any future date prove to be more remunerative, then the private loans will be entitled to claim a share in the improved returns of those projects.

In the case of major projects I consider that either the rich people in the area should produce half the capital cost in loans carrying a lower rate of interest than the bank rate or the unremunerative portion of the capital should be forthcoming as inclusion fees.

Summarising in my view, food production projects should take the same priority as water-supply and drainage schemes and the Government should not insist upon these producing bank rate of interest or the higher rate that may have been fixed as a criterion for productive projects. The Government should go ahead with these schemes so long as they are justified with reference to the large expenditure that is now incurred in the importation of food and payment of subsidies. The haves will have to advance loans to the Government on substantially easier terms than the banks but would be entitled to claim a share in the project return if it proves, as time goes on, to be a gilt-edged project. Of course at no time will the private loans be entitled to any higher rate of interest than the bank rate even if the project should prove remunerative.

Mr. N. S. V.—Can you briefly describe the benefits of the Mettur Project whose expansion is almost complete and of the Ramapadasagar which is to be taken up hereafter ?

Mr. N. G.—The Mettur Project has been responsible for an increased production of 11 lakhs tons of rice valued at Rs. 22 crores in the last 13 years. Though it is still paying only 1·75 per cent interest on the capital it has saved the Cauvery delta of 1·2 million acres in four very bad seasons from almost utter failure. Looked at from this point of production it has more than repaid the capital cost.

The Ramapadasagar Project will help to raise paddy on two million acres. The yield may be expected to be a million tons of rice valued at, say, Rs. 24 crores. Water-supply from the Ramapadasagar will extend to compact areas in the Vizagapatam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur districts and will also help to raise a second crop over the Kistna delta which has now no second crop and towards further substantial extension of second crop in the Godavari

delta. Since second crop will be raised on lands already under first crop, therefore requiring no further reclamation and since Godavari and Kistna ryots are thirsting to develop second crop paddy, prospects of rapid food production in these areas are indeed very bright.

In the matter of hydro-electric power Mettur can generate 30,000 K.W. and Ramapadasagar 100,000 K.W. and more. Let me just enquire what really food production means. Food provides the calories of 1,500 to 3,000 that each individual requires every day. It has had now from 16 to 24 oz. of food. Next to food Electricity which is convertible into calories can be extensively used for pump irrigation, where water and land are available and where otherwise the country does not lend itself for constructing cheap irrigation works. By diverting the entire electric power of Ramapadasagar to pump water for irrigation, I imagine, we should be able to pump water to irrigate 6 to 12 million acres. I am quite conscious that all the electric power cannot go to pumping water and production of food but my view is that even a single Ramapadasagar project will directly increase food production and make good half the food deficit of this Province and will indirectly through the generation of electricity fully solve the food problem. In food production irrigation takes the first place and electricity comes next.

Mr. N. S. V.—Have we really had sub-soil survey ? Can we use sub-soil water for irrigation purposes ?

Mr. N. G.—It is my feeling that sub-soil survey had not been done and should now be taken up. But at the same time I may say that Madras Presidency does not compare with the Gangetic plain in having an unlimited depth of sandy soil below in which locked-up water can be found in plenty. It appears to me that the sub-soil supply in the Madras Presidency may not prove even a hundredth as optimistic as it has, in the Gangetic area. Even there I feel that the sub-soil water has proved much more costly than gravitational irrigation and will be more useful and paying only for such money crops as sugar-cane, etc.

Mr. N. S. V.—What are your general views in the matter of hurdles in the way of progress of irrigation projects ?

Mr. M. B.—Finance, staff, plant and machinery are all such hurdles. I have already dealt with finance. Staff is just now proving to be difficult and it will be solved within five or six years as we have now got five Engineering Colleges. We are starting immediately a class for overseers. There may be about 150 admissions into this class and it will be an accelerated or short-term course of nearly two and a half years. In this, plant and machinery are again a difficult problem. I consider that we should take up industries such as construction of large pumps, large turbines and generators and also manufacture of road-rollers and other plant which may not in the initial stage require a very high precision.

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Rs. 3,823. The value of receipts and issues of stores during the year were Rs. 6,18,612 and Rs. 3,26,191 respectively.

At Bezwada the sanctioned reserve stock limit for the year was Rs. 1,70,000 and the closing balance was Rs. 1,53,894. The value of receipts and issues of stores during the year were Rs. 1,12,838 and Rs. 88,949 respectively.

At Dowlaishwaram the reserve limit of stores, viz., Rs. 1,40,000 was subsequently increased to Rs. 2,50,000. The receipts and issues during the year were Rs. 4,90,777 and Rs. 4,85,059 respectively.

Conclusion

The difficulties of securing labour in the Agency parts combined with the heavy demand for labour and materials and the present high cost of living seriously impeded the progress of the works. To meet the labour scarcity in Anantagiri Agency tracts, attempts were made to import labour from the plains with a promise of special facilities for the labourers.

Revenue Expenditure

The statement on the progress of Revenue and Expenditure on Revenue Account of the Government in 1947–48 up to the end of June 1947, shows that the total revenue realized to the end of June 1947 is less by Rs. 52·01 lakhs as compared with the revenue for the corresponding period of 1946–47. The decrease is the net effect of decrease totalling Rs. 119·25 lakhs under certain heads and increases amount to Rs. 67·24 lakhs under certain others. The main decreases are under Provincial Excise and Stamps while the chief increases pertain to Land Revenue, Receipts under Motor Vehicles Act, Industries, and 'Other Taxes and Duties.'

The total expenditure on Revenue Account for the period also shows a decrease to the extent of Rs. 87·35 lakhs as compared with the expenditure for the corresponding period of the previous financial year. The decrease is the net result of decreases totalling Rs. 226·92 lakhs under some heads and increases totalling Rs. 139·57 lakhs under certain others. The decreases are mainly under General Administration, Civil Works and Civil Defence, while the increases in expenditure are mainly due to adjustment of contribution to the Loan Depreciation Fund and to the repayment of the advances given by the Government of India on account of Grow More Food schemes, higher expenditure on Police Administration on account of the revision of pay and allowances of the police subordinates, larger expenditure on dietary charges, medicines and hospital necessaries, increased expenditure on the Yarn and Cloth and Khadi schemes under "Industries."

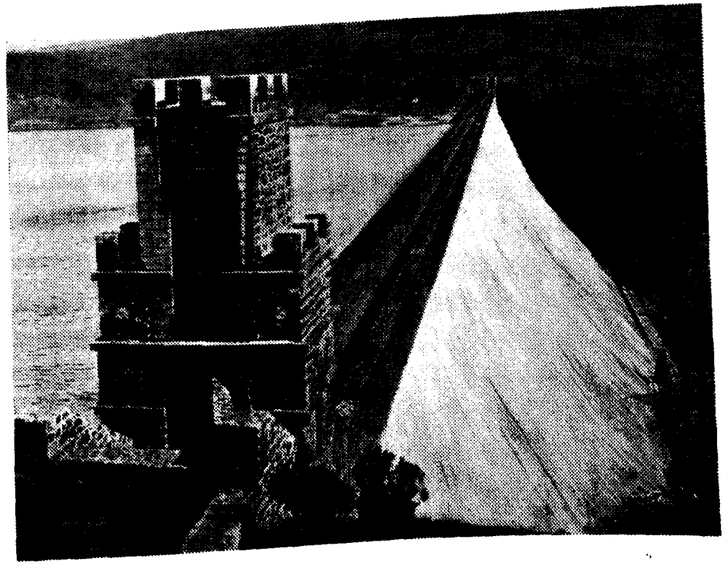
(*Continued from page* 25)

sound of the old silver coins will henceforth be denied that pleasure, as nickel coins have no ring. However, this habit of ringing the coins had disappeared considerably during the past few years when the present 50 per cent silver coins were introduced which had a much flatter ringing than what their predecessors had. But the proof against counterfeit and the highly magnetic quality of the pure nickel coins will well compensate for the absence of the ring and let us therefore wholeheartedly welcome these smart looking new rupee, half rupee and quarter rupee coins which possess the delightful design of the traditional Indian tiger on the one side and the head of King on the other side.

[By kind courtesy of A.I.R., Madras.]

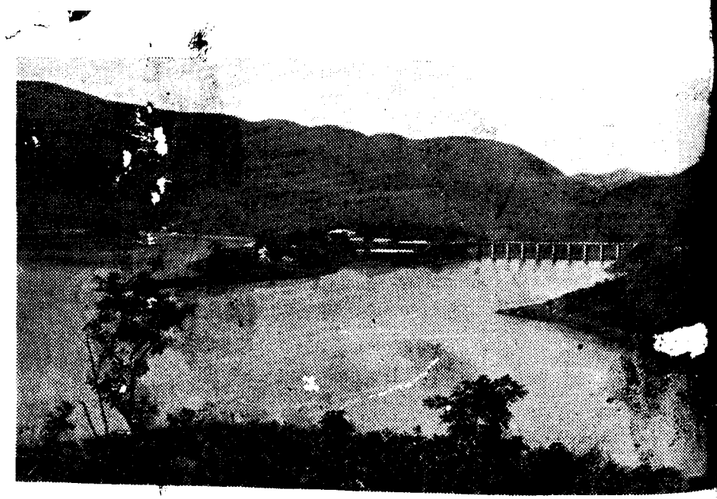


Sluice at Head of Tunnel of Periyar Headworks.



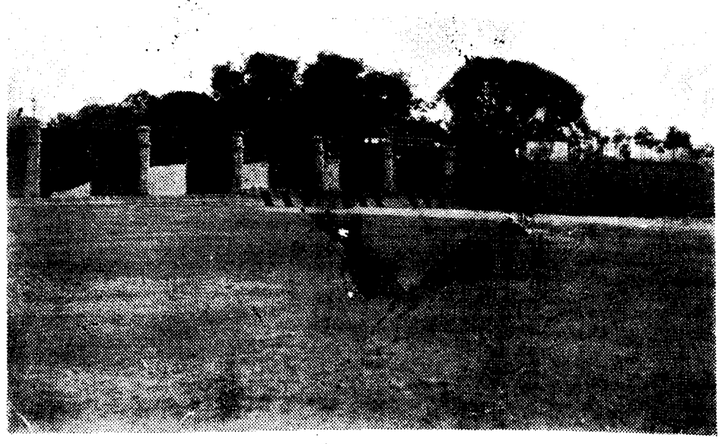
View of the Periyar dam and lake.—*The dam is constructed across the Periyar river in Travancore territory and impounds 15,661 M.C. ft. of water. The water is taken to the eastern side of the Western Ghats and let into the Vaigai river to irrigate 17,600 acres of land in Madura district. The dam is 1,241 ft. long at crest and 173 ft. high from the river bed.*

MADRAS INFORMATION



View of the Periyar Headworks and Regulator.—*This Regulator is intended to discharge the surplus water of the Periyar Lake back into the Periyar River. It is located at the right flank of the Periyar Dam and consists of 10 spans of 36 feet each fitted with gates 16 feet high.*





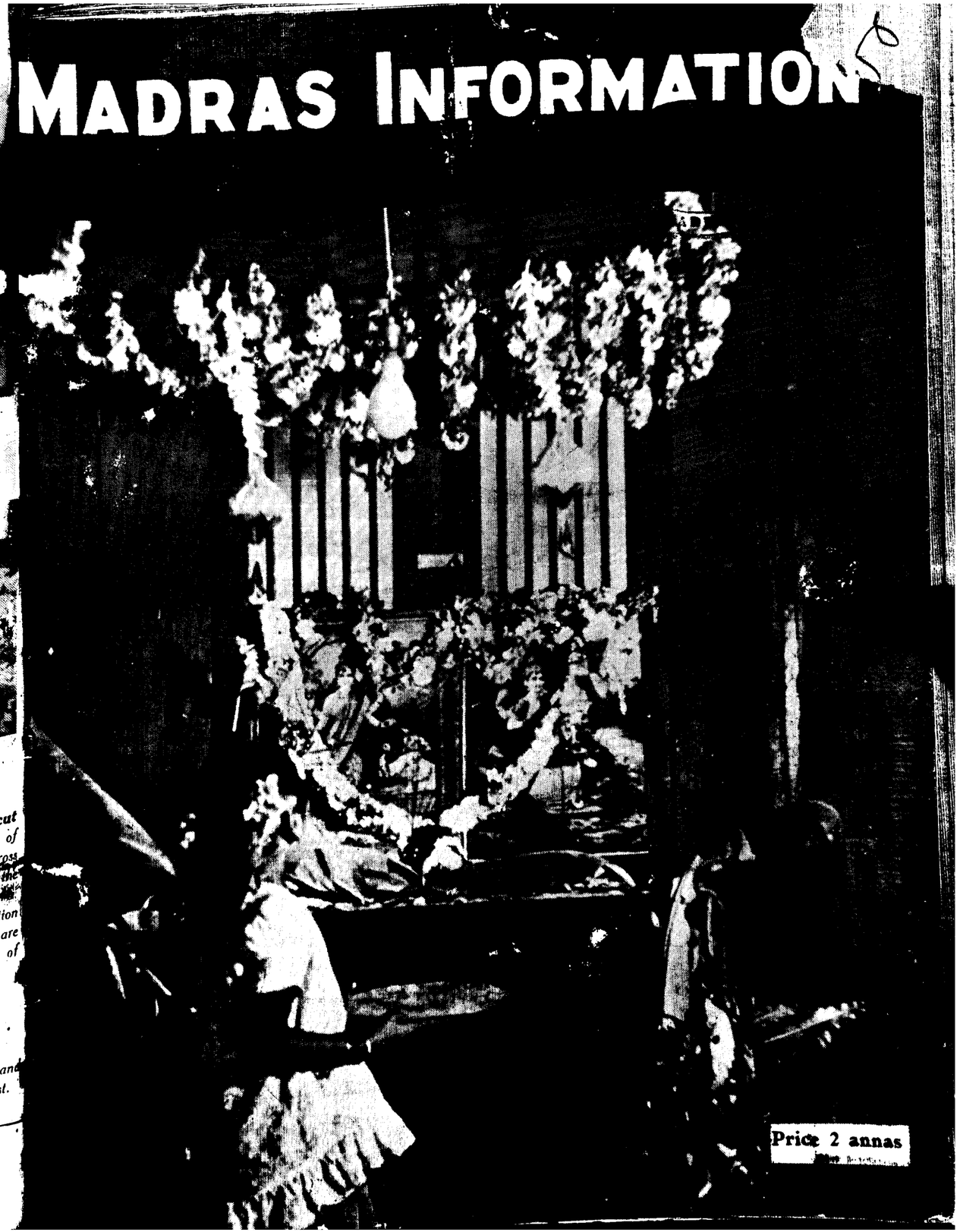
Above—

Restoration of Sangam anicut across Pennar River.—*A length of 450 feet of the Sangam anicut across Pennar River was washed away in the unprecedented floods of December 194[illegible]. The picture shows the reconstruction in progress. About 1,500 men are employed on the work. The cost of restoration is about Rs. 7·5 lakhs.*

Left—

Front view of Srivaikuntam anicut and south head sluice taken from north-west.

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However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.



The Honourable Minister for Prohibition is addressing a meeting at Palghat.

Madras Information

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Vol. I, No. 24 **"WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE"** **November 15, 1947**

Rationing Offences

By SRI E. VEERABHADRA PILLAI, Provincial Controller of Food Rationing

Rationing of foodgrains has been in force in our Province for the last four years and the people should be quite conversant with its rules and regulations. They know full well that but for the introduction of rationing, the Province would have faced a similar woeful situation as Bengal had in 1943. Still we find a large number of evasions and violations of the rationing regulations. The reasons are not far to seek. There are several instances in which the reduction in ration when a member of their family leaves the town or dies is not applied for but the full rations are drawn for the absent or non-existent member also till the fact is actually found out by the Rationing staff in their periodical verification. Temporary guests are sometimes represented as permanent additions to the family and rations are increased on a permanent basis. Though the guests may leave the town after some time rations are drawn for them also till it is found out. Some apply for ration for their guests for longer periods than their stay would warrant and appropriate the extra rations for themselves. A few persons use the cards of others or allow others to use their ration cards thereby enabling them to draw more rations than to which they are entitled. Some persons even manage to get ration in the name of bogus persons. If these subterfuges do not get them sufficient quantity for all their lavish uses, they do not hesitate to purchase rice in black-market. They know full well that all these are offences under rationing rules and that they are appropriating rice which would otherwise be available for other needy people.

There is another set of irregularities connected with the hotel keepers and retail dealers in foodgrains, actuated by personal gain. Some of the hotel keepers are not satisfied with the limited quantity of foodgrains rationed to them. With a view to get more profit they purchase foodgrains in black-market and prepare eatables far in excess of the quota allowed to them. Recently a raid was made of these hotels and it was found that some of the hotel keepers were preparing iddli, dosai and pongal out of rice though no rice was allowed to them for the purpose. Some hotels which run both meal and tiffin section unauthorizedly utilize for tiffin the rice given for the meals section.

The retailers who are authorized by Government to deal in foodgrains form the main source of all black-markets. They get rice from the Government godowns in bags of two maunds each and the Government have fixed the contents of each bag at 46 measures. This was fixed after allowing a reasonable margin for dryage, etc., from the place of export till it reaches retailers. Generally the bags contain a little in excess of 46 measures which may in some rare cases amount to 1½ to 2 measures. The retailers are expected to bring to their account any such excess in the bags they deal out but in some instances this is not being done and the excess is set apart for selling in black-market. Some resort to short-measuring to the customers and save one or two measures of rice per bag. Not being satisfied with the quantity got in the above two ways, they find out the cardholders who do not draw ration in a week, credit ration against their cards on the last day of the week and sell the ration to others at higher rates. Thus some unscrupulous retailers manage to get fairly large quantity of rice extra and they sell it in black-market to the needy cardholders and hotel keepers. Steps are being taken to minimise the scope for black-marketing by refixing the contents of a bag. But there is a real need for a change in their outlook and they should put the public interest instead of their selfish gains foremost, in the interest of common frod.

The ryots who produce foodgrains are not all free from blame. They are required to make an honest declaration of their stocks and the requirements and give away the surplus to the producing agents so that the surplus may be made use of for people in the deficit areas either in the same district or outside it. But unfortunately some persons do not declare their stocks correctly. They under-rate their produce but inflate their requirements and keep back a fair portion of their produce from the Government procuring agents and sell it in black-market for higher prices. There are some others who purchase from producers and sell at a greater profit. Thus we have various sets of people who care more for their conveniences and personal gains than for the common interest. Of course there are rules and regulations to punish such offenders and in fact some are punished and that too deterrently when caught; but many cases escape detection for obvious reasons. In these days of acute shortage of foodgrains when every grain saved is badly needed to feed the hungry, all people high and low, should set aside their personal conveniences and gains, observe austerity measures, and co-operate wholeheartedly with the Rationing authorities to enable them to distribute the available grains to the maximum number of people for the maximum period. The Hon'ble Ministers and all the officers are making an all out attempt to procure the maximum quantity of grains from the ryots and the response is much beyond expectation. When the critical food situation is explained, the innate sense of charity of the ryots is stirred and most of them willingly offer their stocks. If others also rise up to the occasion, adopt austerity measures in their daily life, reduce the use of food materials to a minimum in functions and marriages, forget for the present their undue gains and be honest in their dealings, it is quite possible to tide over the food crisis.

Madras Government Press Notes

Education

D.A. for teachers in aided schools

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that managements of certain aided educational institutions other than elementary schools are not paying dearness allowance or war allowance at Government rates to the members of their teaching staff, in spite of instructions to that effect issued as early as 1st April 1945. The Government have, therefore, asked the Director of Public Instruction to look into such cases and find out whether the inability has been due to the lack of financial resources of the institutions concerned. If it is found that the resources are ample enough, the Director is empowered to insist on the payment of dearness allowance at Government rates in future. Even after such direction, if the managements receiving teaching grants from provincial funds do not pay the allowance at Government rates, the Director can withhold the grant payable to the management in full or in part. Refusal of payment of the allowance at Government rates by the managements of schools which do not earn any teaching grant will be considered a valid reason for withdrawal of recognition. It is proposed to make necessary amendments to the Grant-in-Aid Code in accordance to ensure that the orders referred to above are carried out.

[October 28]

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Rayalaseema and Andhra 'Varsity

In a press release, dated 13th September 1947, the Government released the report of the Committee constituted to consider the question of bringing the Rayalaseema districts within the jurisdiction of the Andhra University. It was also announced that opinions of members of the public on the report should be sent to the Government within one month of the publication of the report.

Subsequently, in another press release, dated 16th October 1947, the Government released the full text of the minute of dissent signed by two members of the Committee. In view of this, the Government feel that some more time should be given to the public to communicate their opinions on the report and they have accordingly extended the time limit for the purpose up to 20th November 1947.

[October 28]

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Overseers' course

The Government have directed that the L.C.E. course now conducted in the Engineering College, Guindy, be abolished from July 1948 and that an Overseers' course of two years duration be started instead. The students already undergoing the L.C.E. course will be allowed to complete their course.

The Government have decided that the L.C.E. course conducted in the Government Polytechnics should also be abolished and an Overseers' course similar to that to be started in the Engineering College, Guindy, should be started in the Polytechnics. The new course in the Polytechnic will also be designated as the "Overseers' course."

A course for the overseers will be started in the Engineering College, Guindy, immediately, and 100 students will be admitted, of whom 40 will be from the mufassal. The minimum qualification for admission to the Overseers' course will be S.S.L.C. (Eligible).

[November 1]

****

Educational Concessions

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that some of the discharge certificates produced by the demobilised personnel contain no information as to whether their terms of service included liability to serve overseas and whether they were making remittances to their families. The Government have, therefore, ordered that the discharge certificate produced by ex-soldiers in support of the claim for the award of educational concessions to their children and dependants should be sent through the Secretary of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board of the district concerned, with a view to enabling the latter to issue the prescribed certificate.

[November 3]

The Museum and the Connemara Library

The Administration Report of the Government Museum and the Connemara Public Libraray for 1946-47 shows that there were notable additions to the Museum collections during the year. The number of coins acquired was 14 gold, 1,424 silver and 12 copper coins. The silver coins except 17 were all coins of the Roman Emperors, Augustus and Tiberius from hoard discovered in Coimbatore district.

Educational Demonstrations were given by the Museum to 83 teachers. Students from colleges and schools in the City and mufassal visited the Museum in an organized manner. Museum exhibits were loanod to the Central Asian Antiquities Museum for their special exhibition in connection with the Inter-Asian Relations Conference.

The usefulness of the Connemara Public Library continued to be appreciated by the public. The number of readers who visited the library increased from 52,289 to 59,515 and the number of volumes consulted from 157,140 to 178,545.

[November 6]

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Scholarships for Royal Indian Navy Candidates

The Government of Madras have been annually awarding scholarship of the value of £260 from the year 1946 to the Madras candidate sending highest in the list of successful candidates in the open competitive Royal Indian Navy Examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission each year and selected for training for entry into the Commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy in order to enable him to meet the expenses of his training in the United Kingdom. As the parent's or guardian's share of the cost of training has been reduced from £260 to £116 the Government have now decided to institute two scholarships of the value of £116 instead of one scholarship of the value of £260 from the year 1947 onwards to be awarded annually to the two Madras candidates standing highest at the first two open competitive Royal Indian Navy Examinations held each year.

[November 6]

Public Services

Corruption among Government Servants.

During the period January to August 1947 corruption among Government servants was brought to notice against 299 persons. Of these 299, 45 were let off as the charges against them were not proved and proceedings against 203 were still pending at the close of the period. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 51 persons and they were suitably punished. The departments to which the persons who were punished belonged and the nature of the punishment awarded are given below :—

Department.	*Number of persons.*	*Nature of punishment.*
Police	21	16 dismissed from service, 3 reduced to lower rank, 1 censured and 1 awarded blackmark.
Revenue ..	9	6 dismissed from service, 1 removed from service, 1 convicted and 1 probation terminated.
Agriculture ..	7	1 dismissed, 1 removed, 1 services terminated, 1 pay reduced, 1 increment stopped, 1 declared unfit to hold independent charge and 1 censured.
Registration ..	4	2 dismissed and 2 pay reduced.
Food	3	2 convicted and 1 removed from service.
Forest	2	1 dismissed from service and 1 services terminated.
Judicial ..	2	1 compulsorily retired and 1 reduced in rank.
Education ..	1	Dismissed from service.
Provincial Rationing.	1	Increment stopped.
Transport ..	1	Removed from service.

[November 5]

****

Future of certain categories of service

The Government have issued orders defining the future of those persons who have been selected for and appointed to a service, class or category, by direct recruitment on or after 2nd June 1944, but who have not probationary rights.

It may be recalled that according to Government Orders, dated 15th March 1947, in the case of persons selected and appointed on or after 2nd June 1944, only the most suitable will be retained against dereserved vacancies irrespective of seniority or subject to the communal rule where it normally applies. Government now direct that this principle should be applied in all cases where persons selected and appointed by direct recruitment on or after 2nd June 1944, have to be discharged for want of vacancies up to 31st March 1948, by which date recruitment of war service candidates should be almost complete and most of the war-time temporary posts would also have been abolished. The rule issued in Government Order, dated 5th February 1945, will be cancelled in due course with effect from 1st April 1948. After this is done the appointing authorities may allow persons whom it is possible to retain beyond 1st April 1948, probationary rights with retrospective effect under rule 29 (*a*) of the General Rules for Provincial and Subordinate Services and confirm them in available substantive vacancies.

It may be recalled that at the time of issuing the Government Order, dated 2nd June 1947, it was anticipated that most of the persons recruited on a temporary basis will have to be discharged to give place to war service candidates or on the abolition of temporary war-time posts.

The main reason for denying the ordinary rights of reappointment after discharge was that they should not block the normal recruitment of young men from the colleges and schools during the post-war period. A considerable number of these temporary posts are, however, likely to continue without break in the vacancies dereserved and allotted to civilians with reference to G.O. No. 821, Public (Services), dated 15th March 1947, or in other temporary vacancies created for work connected with post-war development schemes.

[November 5]

****

D.A. of Gazetted Officers Revised

After a review of the existing scheme of cost of living allowances, in the light of the orders of the Government of India on the subject, the Government of Madras have revised the existing rates of allowances in respect of Gazetted Officers with effect from 16th August 1947, as follows :—

1. 'Married' officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 per mensem will receive an allowance equal to 17½ per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 per mensem and a maximum of Rs. 100 per mensem.

2. 'Married' Officers on pay exceeding Rs. 1,000 but not more than Rs. 2,000 per mensem will draw 10 per cent of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150 per mensem.

3. 'Married' officers on pay more than Rs. 2,000 but not more than Rs. 2,150 per mensem will draw as allowance the amount by which the pay falls short of Rs. 2,150.

4. 'Single' officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 per mensem will receive an allowance equal to 10 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 40 and a maximum of Rs. 75 per mensem.

5. 'Single' officers drawing pay exceeding Rs. 1,000 but not more than Rs. 1,075 per mensem will draw as allowance the amount by which the pay falls short of Rs. 1,075.

The other conditions regulating the grant of cost of living (war) allowance during leave, deputation, etc., will continue to apply as heretofore.

The question of the applicability of the orders in the case of officers belonging to the former Secretary of State's Services is under consideration and separate orders will issue.

[October 30]

****

Cost of Public Services and Pensioners in 1946-47

Statistics of the strength and cost of the several services in this Province as well as the number of pensioners and the amount of pensionary liabilities of the Government during 1946-47,

(*Continued on page 4*)

Area under groundnut

The average area under groundnut in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944-45 represents 41·5 per cent of the total area under groundnut in India. The area sown with groundnut up to 25th September 1947 is estimated at 3,087,200 acres. When compared with the area of 3,120,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year it reveals a decrease of 1·1 per cent. The summer crop of groundnut has been harvested. The yield per acre was normal in Cuddapah and Nellore and below normal in the other districts of the Province. The yield of the earlier crop was normal in Coimbatore and below the normal in Salem. The condition of the main crop is reported to be generally satisfactory except in parts of Vizagapatam, Kistna, Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah, where the crop was affected to some extent by plant lice and other insect pests and in parts of South Arcot and Trichinopoly due to want of timely rains. The yield per acre is expected to be normal in East Godavari and West Godavari, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor, Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, Ramnad and Malabar and below the normal in the other districts of the Province.

[October 29]

****

Export of unshelled groundnuts

The Government have issued a notification prohibiting the export outside Madras Province of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel except under a permit issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or any other officer specially authorized by him in that behalf. The order says that no person shall, with effect on and from the date of publication thereof, transport unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel from any place in the Province of Madras to any place in India outside the province except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit issued by the Civil Supplies Commissioner, Madras, or any other officer specially authorized by the Commissioner. Nothing contained in this order shall, however, apply to the transport of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel from the Province of Madras to the States of Pudukottah, Banganapalle and Sandur and to the movement of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel against a valid export licence for export out of India issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. Contravention of the provisions of the order will involve forfeiture of the stocks of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel concerned with the containers and coverings thereof in addition to any other punishment, to which the person contravening it may be liable and which the Court may impose.

[October 30]

****

Voluntary Surrender of Bogus Ration Cards

It has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, that being afraid of prosecution, people are not coming forward to make any reduction on their cards for persons who are not existing, either dead or left the area, and that if an assurance is given by the Government that no prosecution will be launched if the reductions are applied within a prescribed time, there might be appreciable reductions. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, therefore assures that no action will be taken against those who by the 30th November 1947, voluntarily surrender bogus ration cards which are with them, or apply for reduction on their cards for the persons who are either dead, do not exist or have left the rationed area. Serious notice will however be taken on cases of any violation detected after the 1st December 1947.

[November 4]

****

Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act, 1939

The Administration Report on the working of the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation for 1946-47 shows that no legal or administrative difficulties were experienced in administering the Act or the rules thereunder. The Act worked smoothly and satisfactorily during the period. The rates of taxes under this Act were enhanced with effect from 1st February 1947, to four annas per gallon in the case of petrol, and one anna six pies per gallon in the case of motor spirit other than petrol. The enhancement has not in any way affected the sales of petrol and motor spirit other than petrol for agricultural and industrial purposes.

2. The number of registered importers, wholesale dealers and retail dealers at the end of the year was 167, 160 and 1,003 respectively. The total demand for the year including some arrear balances was Rs. 34,90,905, of which a sum of Rs. 34,90,146 was collected leaving a balance of Rs. 659 which is only 018 per cent of the demand. A sum of Rs. 563 was collected under "Miscellaneous Revenue" (fines, penalties, the compounding fees). The consumption of petrol was 31,552,448 gallons, and of motor spirit other than petrol was 9,589,797 gallons.

3. There was no offence under the Act or the rules in which punishment was awarded by a Magistrate. But 31 offences were compounded departmentally during the year. The offences were minor ones. In six cases, the dealers were warned.

4. Due to restricted supply of petrol for civilian use, many buses and lorries were continuing to run on charcoal gas. There was no evasion of tax on the part of the dealers by direct imports from the Indian States or other Provinces.

[November 7]

****

Labour Dispute in Cement Works

A dispute arose between the workers and management of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, on the question of payment of wages for the period of lock-out of the Cement Factory from 5th January 1947 to 14th February 1947. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the question was referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication. After the enquiry the Tribunal has submitted its award. The Tribunal says that the management took no steps whatever to implement the award passed by the Adjudicator in September 1946 relating to the abolition of the system of contract labour, that the factory workers were responsible for the strike of the quarry workers and therefore the unemployment of the factory workers during the period of lock-out was voluntary, that the management was not justified in closing the factory and that both the workers and management must share the responsibility for the unemployment. The Tribunal therefore recommends that the management should pay the workers compensation for the period of closure from 5th January 1947 to 13th February 1947 both days inclusive but excepting holidays without pay, at the rate of fifty per cent of the average daily earnings inclusive of dearness allowance paid to the workers in December 1946. Only the workers who were on the muster roll of the company on 4th January 1947 and rejoined duty within one week of the reopening of the factory will be eligible for compensation. The compensation must be paid within one week after the publication of the award.

[November 2]

****

Labour in Rice and Oil Mills

In March 1947, the Government appointed Sri U. Ramappa, Retired Judge of the City Civil Court, Madras, as a Court of Enquiry to go into the problems connected with the working conditions of labour in rice and oil mills of the Province. After enquiry the Court has submitted its report. The recommendations of the Court are—

(1) The minimum wage for a female worker should be eight annas and for a male worker twelve annas.

(2) There is no necessity for a separate dearness allowance.

(3) It is not possible to absorb the daily paid workers into monthly paid workers. It is not desirable to have permanent workers except the persons in charge of machinery and building.

(4) Rice mills which are seasonal factories can be converted into non-seasonal factories by having subsidiary industries.

(5) The system of piecework and contract work may be allowed.

(6) No bonus need be paid. The workers are already granted leave. It is not possible to ask the employers to render medical aid to the labourers. There is no housing problem for the workers in rice and oil mills. The grant of dress or dress allowance is not recommended.

(7) Rice and oil mills should be located in villages where raw products are produced. Co-operative societies of village or panchayat boards may be owners of rice and oil mills.

(8) There must be a wage board consisting of representatives of the workers, the producers of raw products and the owners of the mills to fix wages for labourers, and the rates of charges for rice milling and oil extraction.

[November 3]

****

Threatened strike of Scavengers

In connection with the threatened strike of the scavengers and conservancy menials of Aruppukottai Panchayat Board, Ramnad district, from 15th November 1947, the Government have examined their demands and find that the threatened strike is unjustified and they have, therefore, decided to take action under section 8 of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1947. The Executive Officer of Aruppukottai Panchayat Board has been asked to bring the Government's decision to the notice of the workers' association.

[November 8]

****

Use of Aluminium Vessels

Vessels for cooking and storing food form an essential equipment in household but people are apt to forget what an important role they play in the preservation of their health.

Vessels made of aluminium are extensively used in this Province for cooking and storing prepared food. Their popularity is probably due to their silvery lustre, lightness and comparative cheapness. Recent experiments carried out in India and other countries have shown that certain foods where especially tamarind and salt are used (for instance sambhar, rasam, etc.) act on aluminium and dissolve it in appreciable amounts. Though the available evidence is that aluminium in the amounts it is likely to be consumed as a result of using aluminium vessels, may not have any harmful effect on all consumers, yet it is advisable that the use of these vessels is minimised as far as possible.

A special word of caution is also necessary against the use for cooking and storing food of vessels made of aluminium scrap metals dismantled from aeroplanes and other war-discarded machinery. From the latest information available from the United Kingdom, it has been found that there is considerable injury to health attendant on the use of these vessels. Aluminium aeroscrap may contain certain alloying elements like nickel, copper, and iron in excess of specified safe amounts and also lead. The uncertainty of the amounts of these elements in various components of aircrafts alloys renders the use of aeroscrap considerably harmful to human health.

It is a duty cast on the manufacturers of aluminium vessels that they select for their ware only sound material. The public have a right to demand from the traders a guarantee about the genuineness of the articles they purchase.

[November 6]

Indian Women's Civic Corps

The public are aware of the organization known as the Indian Women's Civic Corps which is a voluntary body, with a nucleus of official staff, working for the civic, social, cultural and economic uplift of women in this Province. This started originally in 1941 as the Women's A.R.P. Corps, with the object of having a large number of trained workers who could effectively inculcate in women and children, measures of self protection in the event of air raids. When the war ended and A.R.P. measures were abolished the Government felt that the wide contacts which the Women's A.R.P. Corps had built up with the women and children of the Province should be maintained and that the corps, with a suitable change of name, could be utilized for constructive welfare work among women and children. Hence, the corps was retained as the I.W.C.C. with branches throughout the Province. The Government feel that a great many branches are not getting proper local support without which it is difficult for them to progress or for the numerous workers of the corps to build up the organization on the soundest possible lines, however hard they might work. They consider, therefore, that it would be of immense benefit to the organization as well as to the general public if the objects and scope of the organization in the field of social service for women are clarified fully.

The general aims of the Indian Women's Civic Corps are to educate women for home and community life, to raise their general standard of living and thinking, to promote unity and understanding amongst them by developing civic consciousness and to instil in them a spirit of friendliness and service.

The day-to-day working of the I.W.C.C. is under the Commandant, an official, but general control of its activities is vested in a Provincial Executive Committee of which Her Excellency Lady Nye is the President, with the following as members :—

(1) Mrs. M. N. Clubwala, (2) Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddy, (3) Sister R. S. Subbulakshmi and (4) Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin—*Vice-Presidents.*

(5) Dr. (Mrs.) Soundaram Ramachandran—*Chairman.*

(6) Sister Sita Devi, (7) Mrs. Savithri Rajan and (8) Mrs. Bhuvaneswari—*Members of the Committee.*

Village Food Committees Abolished

The Government have decided that the Village Food Committees should be abolished forthwith and their functions taken over by the appropriate officers of the Revenue and Civil Supplies departments. The Rationing Advisory Committees in towns and in major panchayat areas will, however, continue without any change in their composition and functions for this year.

It may be pointed out that the question of continuance or otherwise of the Food Committees had been seriously engaging the attention of the Government for sometime past. Reports from most of the Collectors have shown that the working of the Village Committees had been unsatisfactory and this opinion was shared by a large body of non-officials also.

[October 28]

Who is a Producer?

With a view to build up sufficient stocks of foodgrains by improving the procurement of foodgrains, the Government sanctioned some bonus schemes in the year 1946, under which a bonus was paid to producers for the foodgrains delivered by them to the Government procuring agents during the months of June and July in the first instance and then again during the months of September, October and November 1946. In that connexion, several representations were received by the Government requesting them to define the term "producer" and to state clearly who was entitled to the bonus—whether the landlord or the cultivator—in cases where the landlord was not the actual cultivator. The Government accordingly issued a Press Note on 7th November 1946 defining the term "producer" in which it was made clear that so far as the Government was concerned, the bonus would be paid only to the person who actually sold the foodgrain to their procuring agents and held the E. Form receipt covering the sale, that it was not possible for them to find out in each case what portion of the bonus should go to the landlord and what portion to the tenant and that if either of the two had managed to get the other's share of the bonus, it was open to the aggrieved party to seek relief against the person to whom the bonus was paid.

In view of the paddy bonus scheme sanctioned this year, the Government have again received similar representations, asking for clarification of their policy in the matter. Therefore, the Government want to make it clear that there is no change in the policy announced by them in the last year. The public is hereby informed that as it will be impossible for the officers entrusted with the duty of disbursing the bonus to verify in each case whether the person mentioned in the E. Form is really the producer or not before disbursing the bonus, the person mentioned in the E. Form would generally be treated as the producer entitled to the bonus and the amount paid to him, and that in cases where somebody else claims the amount, the claim will be honoured only if the person mentioned in the E. Form gives his unequivocal consent.

[October 21]

Area under Paddy

The average area under paddy in Madras Province during the five years ending 1944–45 represents 13·3 per cent of the total area under paddy in India. The area sown with paddy up to 30th September 1947 is estimated at 6,203,000 acres. When compared with the area of 5,925,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year it reveals an increase of 4·7 per cent. The area estimated is the same as that for the last year in the districts of Coimbatore and the Nilgiris. A decrease in the area is estimated in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Bellary, Nellore, South Arcot and South Kanara and an increase in area in the other districts of the Province. The increase is due mainly to timely rains and sufficient supply in irrigation sources. The first crop of paddy has been harvested in parts of East Godavari, West Godavari, South Arcot, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevelly, Malabar and South Kanara. The yield per acre is expected to be generally normal or slightly below the normal. The condition of the standing crop is generally fair.

[October 29]

Food

(*Continued from page* 3)

show that the total number of posts, in the Indian Civil Service was 121, involving an expenditure of Rs. 24·33 lakhs. The strength of other All-India Services in the Province, excluding I.C.S. High Court Judges, was 175 and the cost thereof amounted to Rs. 24·40 lakhs. The total number of pensioners under the Indian Civil Service and the other All-India Services was 94 and 233, respectively, and the pensionary liabilities under this head amounted to Rs. 26·68 lakhs.

The total strength of the Provincial Services was 2,710 and the cost involved was Rs. 130·39 lakhs. The strength of the Subordinate, Ministerial and Inferior Services was 142,417 involving a cost of Rs. 712·56 lakhs. Pensioners under the former category numbered 1,051 and under the latter 30,106. The total pensionary liability to the Government under this head was Rs. 120·30 lakhs.

The strength of the village establishment was 107,941 and the cost thereof Rs. 155·07 lakhs.

The total cost to the Government on account of salaries and pensions of the various grades of public servants in 1946–47 amounted to Rs. 1,196·42 lakhs.

[October 1]

Miscellaneous

Modification of Loan Rules

It has been pointed out that sanction of the loans applied for by cultivators under the Madras Land Improvement Loans Act and Agriculturists' Loans Act takes a considerable time. It is obviously necessary to minimise delay in such matters and the Government have, therefore, approved amendments to the Loan Manual in order that unnecessary delay may be eliminated.

In future the maximum period for the disposal of a loan application will be two months. When the total number of pending applications reaches 30 in a taluk, the Collector is at liberty to appoint a full-time Special Revenue Inspector for the work. Where encumbrance certificates are necessary the Registration department has been asked to see that such certificates are issued expeditiously. The period allowed for filing objections by landholders to the grant of loans to ryots in proprietary areas has been reduced to 10 days as a temporary measure.

The operation of these innovations will be watched and the position reconsidered a year hence.

[November 4]

Anti-Malarial Requirements of Plantation Labour

In a press release, dated 3rd March 1947, the Government outlined the procedure with regard to the supply of anti-malarial requirements (quinine products and substitutes) of the employers of plantation labour in South India outside Travancore. The procedure required that the Secretary of the United Planters' Association of South India should furnish the Superintendent of Central Jail, Coimbatore, particulars regarding the quantities to be supplied to the planters during each half-year—January to June and July to December. He was also required to inform the planters individually the quantities allotted to them. The Superintendent, Central Jail, had thereupon to make the actual supply expeditiously.

The Government have since reconsidered this procedure and have ordered that the role of the Secretary of the United Planters' Association as the medium of communication between the Superintendent, Coimbatore Central Jail, and the planters should be confined to the cases of only those planters who are members of the association. As regards other planters who are not members of the Association and those who belong to Mysore, Cochin and Coorg, the District Medical Officers concerned or other Medical Officers having a similar status will have to furnish every half-year to the Superintendent, Central Jail, Coimbatore, the necessary particulars with concurrent intimation to the planters concerned. The Superintendent of the Central Jail will then make the supply. Indents for additional supplies will be referred before compliance to the Secretary of the United Planter's Association or the District Medical Officers or other Medical Officers, as the case may be.

These instructions will take effect from 1st January 1948.

[October 21]

Licence for pawnbrokers

Many pawnbrokers, especially in urban areas, were suspected of receiving stolen property and there was a marked reluctance on their part to reveal the sources from which property was received by them. The account books of some pawnbrokers were written in a script not current in this Province, and this added considerably to the difficulty of preventing them from making an illegitimate use of their position. The Government, therefore, considered it necessary to enact a measure requiring pawnbrokers to take out licences and subjecting their operations to a due measure of control on the lines of the English Pawnbrokers Act, 1872. For this purpose a Bill was published for criticism. After carefully considering the objections and suggestions received, His Excellency the Governor of Madras enacted the Madras Pawnbrokers Act, 1943.

Under section 1 (3) of the Act the Provincial Government may, from time to time, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, apply the provisions of the Act to the whole or any portion of the Province of Madras. The provisions of the Act were first extended to the Madras City and the Saidapet taluk of the Chingleput district with effect from 1st November 1944, and subsequently applied to the South Kanara district also. It has since been brought to the notice of the Government that, in view of the existence of many pawnbrokers in the other districts and the exorbitant rates of interest they are charging, it is desirable to extend the provisions of the Act to the rest of the Province. The Government have therefore published a notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 5th August 1947, applying the provisions of the Act to the rest of the Province.

[October 31]

Bogus cloth ration cards

It has come to the notice of the Government that in Madras City several bogus cloth ration cards have been acquired by unscrupulous persons and are made use of to purchase cloth unauthorizedly. Instructions are being issued to the officers concerned to be vigilant and to make an intensive check of cloth ration cards and the accounts of a few selected dealers in all important areas in Cthe ity during their inspections, and to take suitable action against persons, whether consumers or dealers, making use of such bogus cloth ration cards. The attention of all concerned is drawn to the fact that the use of bogus cloth ration cards offends against the best interests of the community and is punishable under the Penal Code.

[October 31]

Coarse cloth exempted

It has been brought to the notice of Government that retail dealers in mill cloth in Madras City are having large quantities of cloth of different descriptions lying unsold with them for fairly long periods. With a view to enable the dealers to clear their stocks within a reasonably short time, the Government have decided that, in Madras City only, all coarse and medium varieties of cloth (stamped by manufacturers as such)—other than cloth manufactured by Mettur Mills should be excluded from the Rationing Scheme with effect from the 1st November 1947 till 31st December 1947 or till any earlier date (which) as may be announced by the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

[October 30]

Bogus yarn ration cards

It has come to the notice of Government that yarn rations are being drawn in all districts in respect of many handlooms which do not exist or are not active. The supply position of yarn has been very unsatisfactory in the Province and in consequence genuine weavers do not get sufficient yarn to keep them busy for even ten days in a month. The drawal of yarn rations for spurious looms has resulted in reducing still further the scanty supplies available for distribution to genuine weavers. The Government have considered the question of taking action against the offenders and have decided that the following procedure should be followed in dealing with them.

2. Whenever a bogus handloom is detected not only the yarn card issued in respect of the bogus loom, but all yarn ration cards belonging to the master weaver or independent weaver concerned will be cancelled. They will also be prosecuted under sections 182 and 415, Indian Penal Code, if there is *prima facie* evidence to show that they drew yarn rations for the bogus loom.

[October 29]

Groundnut Oil Cake

The Government have received a number of representations from sugarcane growers asking for the supply of groundnut oil cake for manuring sugarcane crops. But, in view of the very limited supplies of this cake, the Government have decided not to supply any groundnut cake to manure sugarcane crops. Sugarcane growers can purchase other kinds of cake like castor. They can also use sulphate of ammonia.

[November 4]

Area under groundnut

The average area under groundnut in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944–45 represents 41·5 per cent of the total area under groundnut in India. The area sown with groundnut up to 25th September 1947 is estimated at 3,087,200 acres. When compared with the area of 3,120,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year it reveals a decrease of 1·1 per cent. The summer crop of groundnut has been harvested. The yield per acre was normal in Cuddapah and Nellore and below normal in the other districts of the Province. The yield of the earlier crop was normal in Coimbatore and below the normal in Salem. The condition of the main crop is reported to be generally satisfactory except in parts of Vizagapatam, Kistna, Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah, where the crop was affected to some extent by plant lice and other insect pests and in parts of South Arcot and Trichinopoly due to want of timely rains. The yield per acre is expected to be normal in East Godavari and West Godavari, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor, Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, Ramnad and Malabar and below the normal in the other districts of the Province.

[October 29]

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Export of unshelled groundnuts

The Government have issued a notification prohibiting the export outside Madras Province of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel except under a permit issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or any other officer specially authorized by him in that behalf. The order says that no person shall, with effect on and from the date of publication thereof, transport unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel from any place in the Province of Madras to any place in India outside the province except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit issued by the Civil Supplies Commissioner, Madras, or any other officer specially authorized by the Commissioner. Nothing contained in this order shall, however, apply to the transport of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel from the Province of Madras to the States of Pudukottah, Banganapalle and Sandur and to the movement of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel against a valid export licence for export out of India issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. Contravention of the provisions of the order will involve forfeiture of the stocks of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel concerned with the containers and coverings thereof in addition to any other punishment, to which the person contravening it may be liable and which the Court may impose.

[October 30]

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Voluntary Surrender of Bogus Ration Cards

It has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, that being afraid of prosecution, people are not coming forward to make any reduction on their cards for persons who are not existing, either dead or left the area, and that if an assurance is given by the Government that no prosecution will be launched if the reductions are applied within a prescribed time, there might be appreciable reductions. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, therefore assures that no action will be taken against those who by the 30th November 1947, voluntarily surrender bogus ration cards which are with them, or apply for reduction on their cards for the persons who are either dead, do not exist or have left the rationed area. Serious notice will however be taken on cases of any violation detected after the 1st December 1947.

[November 4]

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Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act, 1939

The Administration Report on the working of the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation for 1946–47 shows that no legal or administrative difficulties were experienced in administering the Act or the rules thereunder. The Act worked smoothly and satisfactorily during the period. The rates of taxes under this Act were enhanced with effect from 1st February 1947, to four annas per gallon in the case of petrol, and one anna six pies per gallon in the case of motor spirit other than petrol. The enhancement has not in any way affected the sales of petrol and motor spirit other than petrol for agricultural and industrial purposes.

2. The number of registered importers, wholesale dealers and retail dealers at the end of the year was 167, 160 and 1,003 respectively. The total demand for the year including some arrear balances was Rs. 34,90,905, of which a sum of Rs. 34,90,146 was collected leaving a balance of Rs. 659 which is only 018 per cent of the demand. A sum of Rs. 563 was collected under "Miscellaneous Revenue" (fines, penalties, the compounding fees). The consumption of petrol was 31,552,448 gallons, and of motor spirit other than petrol was 9,589,797 gallons.

3. There was no offence under the Act or the rules in which punishment was awarded by a Magistrate. But 31 offences were compounded departmentally during the year. The offences were minor ones. In six cases, the dealers were warned.

4. Due to restricted supply of petrol for civilian use, many buses and lorries were continuing to run on charcoal gas. There was no evasion of tax on the part of the dealers by direct imports from the Indian States or other Provinces.

[November 7]

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Labour Dispute in Cement Works

A dispute arose between the workers and management of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, on the question of payment of wages for the period of lock-out of the Cement Factory from 5th January 1947 to 14th February 1947. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the question was referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication. After the enquiry the Tribunal has submitted its award. The Tribunal says that the management took no steps whatever to implement the award passed by the Adjudicator in September 1946 relating to the abolition of the system of contract labour, that the factory workers were responsible for the strike of the quarry workers and therefore the unemployment of the factory workers during the period of lock-out was voluntary, that the management was not justified in closing the factory and that both the workers and management must share the responsibility for the unemployment. The Tribunal therefore recommends that the management should pay the workers compensation for the period of closure from 5th January 1947 to 13th February 1947 both days inclusive but excepting holidays without pay, at the rate of fifty per cent of the average daily earnings inclusive of dearness allowance paid to the workers in December 1946. Only the workers who were on the muster roll of the company on 4th January 1947 and rejoined duty within one week of the reopening of the factory will be eligible for compensation. The compensation must be paid within one week after the publication of the award.

[November 2]

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Labour in Rice and Oil Mills

In March 1947, the Government appointed Sri U. Ramappa, Retired Judge of the City Civil Court, Madras, as a Court of Enquiry to go into the problems connected with the working conditions of labour in rice and oil mills of the Province. After enquiry the Court has submitted its report. The recommendations of the Court are—

(1) The minimum wage for a female worker should be eight annas and for a male worker twelve annas.

(2) There is no necessity for a separate dearness allowance.

(3) It is not possible to absorb the daily paid workers into monthly paid workers. It is not desirable to have permanent workers except the persons in charge of machinery and building.

(4) Rice mills which are seasonal factories can be converted into non-seasonal factories by having subsidiary industries.

(5) The system of piecework and contract work may be allowed.

(6) No bonus need be paid. The workers are already granted leave. It is not possible to ask the employers to render medical aid to the labourers. There is no housing problem for the workers in rice and oil mills. The grant of dress or dress allowance is not recommended.

(7) Rice and oil mills should be located in villages where raw products are produced. Co-operative societies of village or panchayat boards may be owners of rice and oil mills.

(8) There must be a wage board consisting of representatives of the workers, the producers of raw products and the owners of the mills to fix wages for labourers, and the rates of charges for rice milling and oil extraction.

[November 3]

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Threatened strike of Scavengers

In connection with the threatened strike of the scavengers and conservancy menials of Aruppukottai Panchayat Board, Ramnad district, from 15th November 1947, the Governm

have examined their demands and find that the threatened strike is unjustified and they have, therefore, decided to take action under section 8 of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1947. The Executive Officer of Aruppukottai Panchayat Board has been asked to bring the Government's decision to the notice of the workers' association.

[November 8]

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Use of Aluminium Vessels

Vessels for cooking and storing food form an essential equipment in household but people are apt to forget what an important role they play in the preservation of their health.

Vessels made of aluminium are extensively used in this Province for cooking and storing prepared food. Their popularity is probably due to their silvery lustre, lightness and comparative cheapness. Recent experiments carried out in India and other countries have shown that certain foods where especially tamarind and salt are used (for instance sambhar, rasam, etc.) act on aluminium and dissolve it in appreciable amounts. Though the available evidence is that aluminium in the amounts it is likely to be consumed as a result of using aluminium vessels, may not have any harmful effect on all consumers, yet it is advisable that the use of these vessels is minimised as far as possible.

A special word of caution is also necessary against the use for cooking and storing food of vessels made of aluminium scrap metals dismantled from aeroplanes and other war-discarded machinery. From the latest information available from the United Kingdom, it has been found that there is considerable injury to health attendant on the use of these vessels. Aluminium aeroscrap may contain certain alloying elements like nickel, copper, and iron in excess of specified safe amounts and also lead. The uncertainty of the amounts of these elements in various components of aircrafts alloys renders the use of aeroscrap considerably harmful to human health.

It is a duty cast on the manufacturers of aluminium vessels that they select for their ware only sound material. The public have a right to demand from the traders a guarantee about the genuineness of the articles they purchase.

[November 6]

Indian Women's Civic Corps

The public are aware of the organization known as the Indian Women's Civic Corps which is a voluntary body, with a nucleus of official staff, working for the civic, social, cultural and economic uplift of women in this Province. This started originally in 1941 as the Women's A.R.P. Corps, with the object of having a large number of trained workers who could effectively inculcate in women and children, measures of self protection in the event of air raids. When the war ended and A.R.P. measures were abolished the Government felt that the wide contacts which the Women's A.R.P. Corps had built up with the women and children of the Province should be maintained and that the corps, with a suitable change of name, could be utilized for constructive welfare work among women and children. Hence, the corps was retained as the I.W.C.C. with branches throughout the Province. The Government feel that a great many branches are not getting proper local support without which it is difficult for them to progress or for the numerous workers of the corps to build up the organization on the soundest possible lines, however hard they might work. They consider, therefore, that it would be of immense benefit to the organization as well as to the general public if the objects and scope of the organization in the field of social service for women are clarified fully.

The general aims of the Indian Women's Civic Corps are to educate women for home and community life, to raise their general standard of living and thinking, to promote unity and understanding amongst them by developing civic consciousness and to instil in them a spirit of friendliness and service.

The day-to-day working of the I.W.C.C. is under the Commandant, an official, but general control of its activities is vested in a Provincial Executive Committee of which Her Excellency Lady Nye is the President, with the following as members :—

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(5) Dr. (Mrs.) Soundaram Ramachandran—*Chairman.*

(6) Sister Sita Devi, (7) Mrs. Savithri Rajan and (8) Mrs. Bhuvaneswari—*Members of the Committee.*

cent of the basic wages and this should be reduced as the cost of living index decreases. In the case of workers engaged by the moopans and contractors, the dearness allowance should be 50 per cent of the basic wage and twenty-five per cent of the basic wage in the case of the mill at Kalyanpur. In the case of mills at Mangalore and Kasaragod, the dearness allowance should be 50 per cent of the basic wage.

(4) *Overtime allowance.*—For every hour worked beyond the normal period of eight hours not less than one and a half times the proportionate day's wage per hour plus dearness allowance should be paid.

(5) *Production or output bonus.*—The payment of production or output bonus should be compulsory in all the mills in Malabar at a uniform rate of eight annas per kandy of the total number of kandies of timber worked. This payment should not be made to depend on attendance.

(6) *Annual bonus.*—The workers should be paid bonus equivalant to 25 per cent of their total basic earnings including dearness allowance. Workers absent for more than 60 days in the year excluding leave and holidays will not be oligible for bonus; but it will not depend on good conduct, production, etc.

(7) *Permanency.*—Workers who have put in more than six months' service in a mill and have thus satisfactorily undergone their probation or apprenticeship should be treated as permanent

(8) *Hol days with pay.*—Two festival holidays should be allowed to the workers in every year. Absence without leave up to a period of seven days in a year should be treated as leave without pay and should not entail dismissal or discharge or forfeiture of past service.

(9) *Medical aid.*—A fully equipped first-aid kit should be maintained in every mill and at least two or three persons should be well trained in rendering first-aid. It is desirable to open a dispensary at Baliapatam with contribution from mill owners. If a worker is injured while on duty and the case is not covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act, he should be paid full wages and dearness allowance so long as he is unfit even for light work in the mill, in addition to the hospital and other charges incurred, whether he is sent to the hospital for treatment or not. The period of absence should not be excluded in calculating the total period of duty for purposes of payment of bonus.

(10) *Provident Fund.*—All mills of more than five years' standing should institute Provident Fund Schemes, the rules of which should be approved by the Commissioner of Labour.

(11) *Discharge of workers.*—In case of temporary closure of mills, at least a week's previous notice should be given to the workers. Mill should not be closed temporarily as a punitive measure.

(12) *Monthly paid clerical, technical and other non-labour staff.*—The basic minimum salary should be Rs. 30 per mensem and the minimum dearness allowance should be Rs. 12-8-0 per mensem but the existing total emoluments should not be reduced. After one year's service, the staff should be eligible for leave of at least 28 days. The staff should be eligible for the benefits of Provident Fund.

The Government are in general agreement with the recommendations of the court and commend them to the workers and managements of the several factories concerned.

Town-Planning Committee Constituted

To examine the problem of town-planning in Madras Province and the legislation necessary to make the Town-Planning Act more comprehensive and effective during the post-war years in the light of the recommendations of the Bhore Committee on Town-Planning and Housing, the Government have constituted a special Committee consisting of the following:—

Sri K. R. Karanth, M.L.A. (*Chairman*);

The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards (*Ex-officio Director of Town-Planning*);

The Commissioner of Labour;

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies;

The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras;

Sri V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, M.L.A.;

Sri P. Ratnavelu Thevar, M.L.A.;

Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao, M.L.C.;

Janab Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur, M.L.A.;

Sri V. K. Thiruvenkatachari, Advocate, Madras;

Sri M. B. Chablani, Chairman, Madras City Improvement Trust; and

Sri Rao Sahib K. K. Nambiar, Engineer, Corporation of Madras.

The Joint Director of Town-Planning will be the Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee is requested to consider the following matters and submit a report to Government as early as possible:—

(1) Amendment of the Madras Town-Planning Act, 1920, with a view to ensuring expeditious execution of all town-planning schemes.

(2) Methods of rationalizing the levy of the "Betterment Contribution."

(3) Measures for effectuating these objects in relation to all sanctioned schemes and those pending preparation and sanction.

(4) Measures for organizing the technical departmental services so as to ensure prompt and efficient despatch of work consistent with economy, with special reference to the necessity or otherwise of reorganizing the existing town-planning departments, both under the Government and under municipal councils; the methods of obtaining the staff necessary (training and qualifications); and as to how schemes drawn up under the Act should be financed.

(5) To draft, if considered necessary, a comprehensive Bill on a consideration of the recommendations of the Public Health Sub-Committee and of the Bhore Committee and other suggestions.

The headquarters of the Committee will be in Madras.

It may be stated here that the Health Survey and Development Committee have commented on the poor results achieved in the field of town-planning in the Province of Madras in spite of the existence on the statute book of the Madras Town Planning Act, 1920. The main reasons, among others, for this absence of outstanding achievement in town-planning are stated to be the unsatisfactory finances of the local authorities and lack of trained technical personnel. The conditions created by the last war aggravated these difficulties. The question as to what measures should be taken to enforce the provisions of the Town-Planning Act more effectively

(*Continued on page* 11)

Review of Prohibition Work

The following report on the working of the Madras Prohibition Act, in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot, during August 1947, is published for information.

Enforcement

Cases detected.—The total number of cases detected in the eight districts during the month was 2,252, as against 2,256 in July, 2,192 in June, 2,132 in May and 2,059 in April.

The total number of illicit distillation cases, which also showed a decrease, was 958 as against 1,015 in July. There was a marked decrease in the district of Salem from 270 to 202 and in the district of Chittoor from 146 to 79. The number in Anantapur district, however, increased from 34 to 94 and the number in Cuddapah district from 191 to 232. The fall in Salem district is attributed to the vigilance of the special staff in putting down illicit distillation while that in Chittoor is attributed to the decrease in crime. The increase in Anantapur and Cuddapah districts was due to the special steps taken by the enforcement staff in conducting several large scale raids.

The number of cases of smuggling of liquor decreased from 80 to 64. The number of cases relating to the smuggling of intoxicating drugs also decreased from 169 to 138.

Border problems.—Border patrols continued to be active. A large number of addicts in prohibition districts continue to visit border shops for drink.

Assistance by officials of other departments and by non-officials.—The police in the Ceded districts have, as usual, given very satisfactory co-operation in the detection of crime. Their work in Kurnool district deserves special mention. The work done by village officers in Salem and North Arcot districts was good. No cases were detected in Coimbatore district by the village officers themselves or as a result of information furnished by them. There was a decided improvement in the work done by the Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in Cuddapah district. No cases were detected by or at the instance of the members of the Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in Bellary, Kurnool, Coimbatore and Chittoor districts.

General remarks.—The preventive work during the month was, on the whole, satisfactory.

Ameliorative Work

Substitutes for drink.—There was a further increase in the number of coffee and tea stalls in all the prohibition districts and it is reported that all these stalls were popular especially among ex-addicts.

Rural recreation.—The 59 Rural Recreation Officers who were working during the month visited 756 villages and organized rural games in 584 of them. Thirty-five firka tournaments and two taluk tournaments were held during the month.

Bhajanas, Harikathas and Kalakshepams.—Bhajanas, harikathas or kalakshepams were held in 1,019 villages during the month. There were also folk dances, dramas or cinema shows in 363 villages during the month.

Organising community singing.—The ballad singers visited 374 villages during the month and organized community singing in 143 villages. They also trained 973 villagers in community singing.

Rural uplift.—Six thousand nine hundred and thirty-six Gramasangams, 190 Firka Associations and 46 Taluk Associations have been formed till the end of the month. The Gramasangams engaged themselves in various ameliorative measures like the purchase of medicine chests to distribute first-aid medicines free of cost to the villagers, opening of schools and libraries, distribution of slates, books, pencils, etc., to poor children and Harijan boys, construction of roads, purchase of stud bulls and sinking of new wells and repairing of old ones.

Rural uplift school.—One rural uplift school with 54 students was opened during the month in each of the districts of Coimbatore and North Arcot.

Promotion of thrift.—The amount saved in hundi boxes during the month was Rs. 13,469, making up a total of Rs. 1,13,048 till the end of August 1947. Thrift day celebrations were held in Chittoor, Anantapur, North Arcot, Salem and Kurnool districts. At Kasiralla in Chittoor district, Hon'ble Minister (Prohibition) distributed hundi boxes to the members of the Society and exhorted them to save more.

Co-operative Jaggery Manufacturing societies.—In the four districts of Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot, jaggery of the value of Rs. 13·18 lakhs was produced till the end of August 1947.

Beneficial results of Prohibition.—The Collector of North Arcot has reported that in Wandiwash taluk, about 200 Harijans, all of whom were addicted to drink, have jointly purchased a plot of land for Rs. 1,000 for building houses and have taken up residence on the sites from 15th August 1947, the Independence Day, and have named the place "Gandhi Nagar."

(*Continued from page* 10)

during the post-war years engaged the attention of the Public Health Sub-Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction General Committee, which, after considering the proposals of the Director of Public Health, drawn up in consultation with the Director of Town-Planning, came to the conclusion that legislation was necessary to make the Town-Planning Act more comprehensive and more effective. The Sub-Committee also suggested that the following items of work should be put down for the first five-year period:—

(*a*) Training of personnel and expansion of staff;

(*b*) Amendment of the Act in the manner referred to above; and

(*c*) Execution of all sanctioned town-planning schemes.

The Committee now constituted will examine all the suggestions and make necessary recommendations.

Exempted varieties of Cloth

The Government understand that their recent decision to exclude certain unattractive and slow-selling varieties of cloth from the Rationing Scheme has not been fully appreciated and availed of by the trade, and that as a result, cloth of these descriptions is allowed to accumulate with dealers. The Government would repeat for the information of all concerned that retailers, holding coarse and medium varieties of unbleached or coloured cloth having a width of 40" and below and remaining unsold for over two months with them, may apply to the Collector of their district, giving the actual description of the cloth and the date of its arrival in their shops, for permission to sell it outside the rationing scheme and that, on obtaining his permission, they can sell it to their customers outside the ration. Dealers are advised to take full advantage of this concession.

There are 29 branches of the organization throughout the Province, with altogether 220 centres. About 8,000 women are attending these centres at present. These branches are directed as well as assisted by a band of nearly 900 voluntary workers drawn from all classes and communities with experience in general or specialised forms of social service, including many professional men and women actuated by a spirit of social service. There is a nucleus of specially trained paid staff in each branch.

The main work of the Corps is to organize women into corporate groups under trained leadership, building up a general background of well informed outlook and a desire for improvement through self-effort both on the part of the individual and of the group. Useful arts and crafts such as Needle Work, First Aid, Sanitation, Hygiene, Domestic Science, Cooking, Gardening, Simple Cottage Industries, Fire Fighting, etc., are taught. There are weekly classes and monthly meetings of the branches where women meet without any difference of race, class, caste, or creed. Slum work is being carried on in the City of Madras. Of late, the I.W.C.C. has taken up special activities such as propaganda to popularise and teach the correct use of wheat, cholam, maize, dehydrated and other unfamiliar food-stuffs; assistance in Prohibition work and encouraging the housewife in the ways of thrift through practical instruction. Training in Basic education is also given. The organization publishes a journal in English and the languages of the Province, which contains matter of interest relating to its activities and women's welfare.

The Government have under consideration the expansion of the scope of the organization by transforming it into a Department of Social Welfare among women and children. Besides the opening of additional branches, it is proposed that the organization should take up new channels of social service such as rescue work, running of Service Homes for destitute women and children and Training Institutes for imparting general and vocational training to the inmates of the Homes.

It is considered that the existing machinery available in the Indian Women's Civic Corps with all its resources, experience and trained personnel can without great difficulty and expense take over the additional functions outlined above and achieve the desired object. It is expected that this new department will be able to undertake the additional work from the beginning of the next financial year, i.e., in the year 1948–49. The Government earnestly appeal to the public in general and women in particular to give their fullest support and co-operation to the new department and enable it to render devoted service to the women and children of the Province.

[November 6]

Handloom Cloth Wage Control

The Provincial Textile Commissioner has issued the following statement:—

Criticisms from some individuals and associations have appeared in the press that the Hon'ble Minister for Industries has excluded his own district, Bellary, from Handloom Cloth Wage Control. These statements have been made without a proper appreciation of the circumstances under which the Madras (Bellary District) Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947, was issued. Bellary District continues to be in the same position as any other district, as explained below.

2. With a view to bring down the prices of handloom cloth, Government promulgated the Madras Handloom Cloth (Price Control) Order, 1946, in August 1946 under which the margins of profit of producers and dealers were specified without interfering with the weaving wages. But the absence of a provision for the control of wages in this Order was taken advantage of by the producers and dealers to manipulate prices and raise them even above the old levels. This compelled the Government to promulgate the new Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947.

3. The main provisions of the new Control Order of 1947 are—

(1) Fixation and notification of maximum weaving wages by the Government;

(2) Appointment of stamping inspectors to stamp the retail prices on handloom cloth produced in the Province; and

(3) Formation of local wages Board and fixation of the maximum wages for each local area.

After the above preliminaries are completed, the Collectors should issue a Notification under clause 2 (1) bringing into operation clauses 18 to 22 of the Order regarding stamping. Pending the issue of such a Notification, the provisions of the Madras Handloom Cloth (Price Control) Order, 1946, continues to be applicable in the Province.

4. The Collector of Bellary inadvertently issued a Notification under clause 2 (1) of the Madras Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947, on 7th May 1947 bringing into operation clauses 18 to 23 thereof in his district before the Government had notified the maximum wages. The effect of this was that from 7th May 1947, the 1946 Control Order ceased to apply in Bellary district and the 1947 Control Order came into force. Thus no cloth produced in that district after that date could be sold unless the prices were stamped on the cloth, but in the absence of fixation of the cost of weaving under clauses 18 and 21 (2) of the latter Order, the stamping inspectors could not proceed about their work and the provisions of that Order could not be enforced. A special Control Order for Bellary embodying the provisons of the 1946 Price Control Order had therefore to be promulgated to restore the 'Status quo.

5. It may be seen that the Madras (Bellary District) Handloom Cloth (Price Control) Order, 1947, contains the main provisions of the Madras Handloom Cloth (Price Control) Order, 1946. The Bellary District has not been exempted from the proposed wage control for weaving handloom cloth. All the provisions of the Madras Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947, except clauses 18 to 23 thereof are in force in that district as is the case in respect of other districts.

6. The Government have since notified the maximum weaving wages under clause 17 (1) of the Madras Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947. The formation of local wages Boards and the appointment of Stamping Inspectors are under the consideration of the Government. As soon as a final decision is taken, the Bellary District Control Order will have to be repealed and the whole of the Madras Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947, will be applied to that district.

Industrial Disputes Settled

An industrial dispute arose between the workers and the management of the Madras Pencil Factory. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to Sri P. C. Sundaram Ayyangar, retired District and Sessions Judge, as Industrial Tribunal, for adjudication. After the enquiry, the Tribunal has submitted its report and made the following recommendations:—

The bonus awarded by the Arbitrator in October 1946 should be calculated on the wages as increased from 1st September 1946, and the balance still due shall be paid before the end of October 1947. Contributions to the provident fund should be made from the wages due for January 1947 onwards. The workers should pay their back contributions within a month from the date of the orders of Government on this award. Such of the workers who fail to do so will have the benefit only from the month of the orders of Government. Workers reinstated after 1st October 1947 should pay their contributions within a month of their reinstatement. Aprons, gloves and glasses will be provided by the management to those workers who need them before the end of October 1947. The stoppage of pay for half day's strike on 23rd January 1947 and the strike on 6th February 1947 should be only for one and half days. Both the management and the workers have agreed that work on Saturdays should be only for half a day but if the return on the capital invested falls below nine per cent per annum the management may insist on forty eight hours week. The holidays for festivals in a year will be twenty-one as before.

The dismissed workers who have not yet been reinstated should be reinstated before 31st December 1947. They will be paid full wages for eight days in February 1947 up to and inclusive of the 9th February, and one-third of the basic pay and dearness allowance from the 10th February to the date of reinstatement in the case of the 31 workers already reinstated and up to the 15th October 1947 in the case of the other workers. Those who are not reinstated by the 15th October 1947 will receive full pay and dearness allowance. The terms of employment for the re-employed workers will not be varied. The withdrawal of recognition of the union by the management was improper and the union should be recognized.

* * *

There was a dispute between the boatmen and owners of boats at Cuddalore. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred for adjudication to the District and Sessions Judge, South Arcot, as Industrial Tribunal. After enquiry, the Tribunal has submitted its report with the following recommendations:—

1. (*a*) Ordinary rates of hire should be paid for trips commenced after sunrise at the port, provided the return journey from the steamer also commences before sunset.

(*b*) The time of sunrise and sunset noted from the Madras daily newspapers, should be prominently displayed in the Port' Office, preferably by chalking on a blackboard, each day.

(*c*) For calculating ordinary rates in the above manner, the time of leaving the steamer can be exceeded by a margin up to half an hour, in the case of not more than five per cent of the total number of lighters of all the boatowners, operating on a given day.

(*d*) The extraordinary changes prescribed in G.O. No. 100, Revenue (Special) (Marine), dated 8th March 1920, as revised will be payable for journeys between sunset and 4 a.m., between 4 a.m. and sunrise, and on occasions of inclement weather.

(*e*) The boatmen cannot refuse to undertake a journey out of the ordinary rate schedule hours, when exigencies require speedy unloading of cargo. For work outside the ordinary schedule hours, they are entitled to the extraordinary schedule of rates of hire. If they refuse to work for reasons which appear unreasonable to the Port authority, they are liable to be penalized, under such rules as may be in force.

2. The present system of calculating hire for transport of coal appears to be the most practicable under the circumstances, and cannot be considered inequitable. It requires no modification.

Conditions of Labour in Timber and Saw Mills in Malabar and South Kanara

In May 1947, the Government appointed Sri Rao Sahib K. A. Mukundan, retired Deputy Collector, as a Court of Enquiry to enquire into the conditions of labour in the timber and saw mills in Malabar and South Kanara districts. After enquiry, the court has submitted its report. The following are the recommendations of the Court:—

(1) *Workers employed by contractors or moopans.*—The names of the workers who are not recruited temporarily by the contractors or moopans, should be brought on to an attendance register or wage roll to be maintained by the mills and the management should see that they are properly paid. These workers should get all the privileges that the other workers get such as dearness allowance, output-bonus, annual bonus, holidays with pay and benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Madras Maternity Benefit Act.

(2) *Basic Minimum wage.*—The minimum basic wage of the workers in the mills in Malabar district should be 12 annas for adult and experienced workers, ten annas to new recruits for the first six months and to women. The basic minimum wage of the workers in the mill at Kalyanpur should be ten annas for male workers and eight annas for women workers. No increase is necessary in respect of the workers in the Mill at Mangalore. The minimum wage of the workers in the mill at Kasargod, should be one rupee with a dearness allowance of 50 per cent of the basic wage. The employers should ordinarily give all the workers who turn up for work six days' work every week.

(3) *Dearness allowance.*—The dearness allowance to the workers in the Mills in Malabar should be cent per

Public Health Administration in 1946

The Administration Report of the Public Health Department relating to 1946 shows that in spite of difficult living conditions and acute food shortage the public health of the Province as a whole recorded considerable improvement and the Province was comparatively free from the epidemics of cholera and smallpox. It is significant that cholera mortality was the lowest on record within the past 65 years.

Vital statistics.—The Madras Registration of Births and Deaths Act continued to be in force throughout the Province, except in the Agency tracts and some backward and excluded areas. The birth rate increased from 29·45 in 1945 to 31·62 per thousand of estimated mid-year population, in 1946, reaching almost the pre-war level. There was a marked fall in the death rate from 22·27 in 1945 to 18·88 in 1946. The number of deaths recorded was lowest under every disease except under plague. The rate of infantile mortality fell from 169·44 in 1945 to 146·88 in 1946 and it was the lowest on record during the past 26 years. The maternal mortality rate also dropped from 9·29 in 1945 to 7·94 per thousand births in 1946.

Epidemics

Cholera.—The number of deaths from cholera fell sharply from 8,494 in 1945 to 753 in 1946. About two-thirds of the total cholera mortality occurred in the districts of Kistna, Nellore, Vizagapatam, Guntur and Trichinopoly.

Smallpox.—Smallpox took a lesser toll during the year, the number of deaths decreasing from 20,636 in 1945 to 7,923 in 1946. The mortality was high in Guntur, Malabar, Chittoor, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Nellore, West Godavari and North Arcot.

Plague.—Plague was acute during the year. The total number of deaths from plague increased from 1,644 in 1945 to 2,254 in 1946, Coimbatore accounting for 80 per cent of the total number of deaths. Besides the usual preventive measures of anti-plague inoculations and cyanogas fumigation, experimental studies were undertaken to determine the relative efficiency of D.D.T. as a pulicide as compared with cyanogas. The special scheme for the investigation and control of plague in the Nilgiri district was in progress during the year.

Other Diseases

Leprosy.—The Madras Provincial Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Association continued to be generally in charge of leprosy work in the Province. An *ad hoc* committee consisting of officials and non-officials was constituted to go into the question of leprosy control and to make recommendations for its improvement. A scheme for the training of Rural Medical Practitioners in Leprosy at the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium at Chingleput was sanctioned.

Tuberculosis.—During the year 85,854 cases were treated as against 86,407 in 1945.

Fevers.—The number of deaths from fevers decreased from 301,178 in 1945 to 248,663 in 1946.

Dysentery and diarrhœa.—The number of deaths on account of dysentery and diarrhœa decreased from 78,106 in 1945 to 62,621 in 1946.

Miscellaneous other causes accounted for 56 per cent of the total deaths during the year.

Research schemes.—Research schemes for the biological control of guineaworm disease were in progress in five districts and had been sanctioned for four more districts. Studies of different species of small indigenous fresh water fish to test their cyclopocidal quality were carried out. Chemical treatment of water sources with lime to destroy cyclops was also tried side by side with the biological method.

Malaria control.—The reorganized Bureau of Malariology established in 1945 continued to function during the year. All the previous anti-malarial schemes were in progress and new schemes for malaria control in Paderu near Gudivada and Nagur in the East Godavari Agency tract were sanctioned with a First-class Health Officer in charge of each. A separate First-class Health Officer was also sanctioned to be in charge of anti-malarial measures in the Machkund Hydro-Electric Project and the Ramapadasagar Project. Quinine and quinine substitutes were freely distributed as usual by the health staff in all endemic areas. Experiments with the new anti-malaria drugs were also undertaken. D.D.T. was widely used for residual spraying of houses. Pyrethrum was also employed with effect in certain circumstances. Experiments were also conducted to determine the most effective and economic method of using D.D.T. in malaria control work.

Health propaganda.—As usual research education and propaganda formed part of the routine work of the health staff. Lectures, talks, cinema shows and exhibitions were arranged. Weekly broadcasts on the public health conditions in the Province were arranged. Environmental hygiene and soil sanitation also received attention.

Fairs and festivals.—Precautions were taken to safeguard public health during fairs and festivals. There was no epidemic during any of the festivals.

Maternity and child welfare.—Maternity and child welfare also received attention. Twenty-three new centres were opened during the year. A sum of Rs. 1,50,707 was sanctioned by Government as grants to local bodies for maternity and child welfare activities in 1945-46 as against Rs. 1,22,797 in 1944-45. There was a dearth of candidates for appointment as Women Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Food adulteration.—The Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act was extended to 13 more panchayats during the year. Further extension of the Act was rendered difficult by the paucity of Laboratory facilities for the Government Analyst. The percentage of adulterated samples decreased slightly from 46·70 in 1945 to 46·0 in 1946.

Nutrition.—The establishment of a Bureau of Nutrition under an Assistant Director of Public Health with two Regional Units, one at Trichinopoly and the other at Anantapur, was sanctioned during the year. Detailed diet surveys were undertaken in about 450 families in various districts. They disclosed a general deficiency in the consumption of protective foods. Three Nutrition Exhibitions were organized during the year and 175 broadcast talks on various aspects of food and nutrition were given. Twenty-four food propagandists were trained in nutrition at the central laboratory. Studies of dietaries of institutions and examination of samples of foodstuffs to test their fitness for human consumption were also conducted in the laboratory.

Vaccination.—The total number of vaccinations done during the year was 8,584,105 as compared with 1,197,270 in 1945. The decrease is due to a smaller number of re-vaccinations as

(*Continued on page* 18)

Facts and Figures about Sanitation in 1945–46

According to the Annual Report of the Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Madras for the period from 1st January 1945 to 31st March 1946, the total number of municipal water-supply schemes in operation, including that in the City of Madras, continued to be 48. Excluding the City of Madras, there are 83 district municipalities in the Presidency with a population of 3,689,931 representing 7·403 per cent of the total population of the Province, who have the benefit of water-supply. If the City of Madras also is included, 9 per cent of the population of the Presidency has the benefit of municipal administration as regards water-supply. The population served with water-supply in the 47 district municipal towns is 2,555,943 representing 69·3 per cent of the municipal population excluding these in the City of Madras. If the City of Madras also is included, the total population served by protected water-supply scheme will be 3,333,424 representing 74·6 per cent of the total municipal population of the Province. The cost involved in the installation of these district municipal schemes is Rs. 270 lakhs in round figures, while the capital cost of the City water works up to the end of 1945 as per figures available at present is Rs. 162·2 lakhs.

As regards drainage, seven municipalities have had the benefit of drainage schemes, of which three are only partial, serving only a portion of the population of the towns concerned. The cost of the installation of these schemes is Rs. 63 lakhs, excluding the cost in respect of the City of Madras. The drainage schemes of the district municipalities serve 14 per cent of the municipal population. Inclusive of the City of Madras, the total population served by drainage schemes is 1,356,282 representing 30·7 per cent of the municipal population.

It has been estimated that to provide water-supply for the remaining 30·7 per cent of the population of the district municipalities, the approximate cost will be Rs. 396 lakhs at pre-war rates, inclusive of charges for improvements to the existing schemes. The estimated expenditure for providing drainage schemes to serve the 86 per cent of the municipal population, who do not benefit by them now is Rs. 665·96 lakhs, at pre-war rates. In this category, schemes costing Rs. 34·39 lakhs are however under execution. Thus for the major water-supply and drainage schemes for the municipal towns, a total expenditure of Rs. 1,061·96 lakhs approximately has to be incurred, including that on schemes that are under execution at present.

Twelve panchayats had been provided with protected water-supply schemes though in some cases the supply is only partial. The cost involved in the installation of these schemes is Rs. 9·64 lakhs.

Outturn during the period

Municipal Schemes

Water-supply.—Ten schemes of water-supply continued to be under execution by the Public Works Department at an estimated cost of Rs. 99·93 lakhs. The outlay of expenditure during the period under report was Rs. 5·85 lakhs and the total expenditure on these schemes at the close of the period was Rs. 69·44 lakhs. Seven schemes continued to be under execution by the Municipal Engineering staff under the supervision of the Public Works Department and these schemes are estimated to cost Rs. 7·75 lakhs. The total expenditure to the end of the period was Rs. 4·65 lakhs.

Drainage.—Five drainage schemes estimated to cost Rs. 28·94 lakhs continued to be under execution by the Public Works Department. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 3·09 lakhs and the total expenditure to the end of March 1946 was Rs. 12·03 lakhs.

Design.—Good progress was made in the preparation of designs during the period. Detailed plans and estimates for water-supply at Trichinopoly, estimated to cost Rs. 1·20 lakh, were prepared. Plans and estimates for water-supply relating to the Tungabhadra Project were also prepared. Preparation of plans and estimates for six other schemes involving an approximate cost of Rs. 38·47 lakhs was underway during the period under report. Detailed plans and estimates for six drainage schemes were also prepared during the period while preparation of plans and estimates for Saidapet drainage and the sewerage scheme for Vizagapatam (swamp area) estimated to cost Rs. 17·92 lakhs was in progress.

Investigations.—Investigation of water-supply schemes for the three municipalities of Chittoor, Gudivada and Mangalore, estimated to cost Rs. 70 lakhs had been in progress during the period and in the case of one of them it was completed. Similarly, investigation in respect of three drainage schemes involving a cost of Rs. 8·10 lakhs were in progress during the period, excluding that relating to the Lady Willingdon Leper Sanatorium in Chingleput, involving a cost of Rs. 0·96 lakh. In some cases, investigations had been completed.

Panchayats

Water-supply.—Two schemes estimated to cost Rs. 2·80 lakhs were under execution by the Public Works Department. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 0·35 lakh and the total expenditure to the end of the year was Rs. 2·85 lakhs. In two cases, detailed plans and estimates for water-supply schemes were prepared during the year. The investigation of water-supply for Kollegal Panchayat, involving an expenditure of Rs. 5·83 lakhs was also completed.

Professional sanction for sanitary works.—During the period under report, plans and estimates for 30 works were scrutinised and technical sanction accorded for the same. Of these, 22 were for water-supply works estimated to cost Rs. 2·11 lakhs and 8 for drainage works estimated to cost Rs. 1·06 lakhs. In addition, proposals for water-supply and sanitary installations for educational institutions recived from the Director of Public Instruction were also scrutinied. The scrutiny of plans and estimates for rural water-supply schemes received from the Board of Revenue was also done during the year.

Miscellaneous

As against 47 municipalities possessing water works, 44 municipalities have got competent Municipal Engineers. By-laws relating to water works of municipalities continued to be examined and revised by the department during the period. There has been an improvement in the rate of water-supply for Madras. The consumption per head in 1945, as per figures available, was 30·7 gallons per day. Under the post-war development scheme, the revised programme for water-supply and drainage works is estimated to cost Rs. 25·6 crores at pre-war rates spread over a period of 20 years, with an expenditure limited to Rs. 3·71 crores during the first five years.

Progress of Broadcasting in Madras Province

The Administration Report relating to Provincial Broadcasting for 1945–46 shows that the radio, as an instrument of mass information and instruction, is becoming increasingly popular in the Province. The total number of rural radio receivers working on 31st March 1946 was 501 and the total number of sets installed in municipalities up to 31st March 1946 was 167. Besides these, 61 sets have been installed by the Madras City Police, the Malabar Special Police and under the public address system and 40 sets have been installed in private and Government institutions, thus making a total of 769 sets. The installation of the scheduled sets received from the Government of India could not be carried out during the period under report partly owing to the lack of batteries. The work, however, made better progress since the receipt of new batteries in June 1946.

Steps were taken during the period to popularize the use of radios by local bodies. In November 1945, the Government reduced the maintenance charges recoverable in respect of panchayat board sets from Rs. 120 to Rs. 90 per set, excluding the annual fee of Rs. 10 payable to the Postal and Telegraph Department. Subsequently in March 1946, this concessional rate was applied also to municipalities who installed the sets only in their schools, irrespective of the number of sets maintained. This step was meant as a gesture to education through the radio. It is also contemplated to install 8,000 additional community sets in several parts of the Province in connexion with educative publicity regarding the several ameliorative schemes of the Government.

Long-range improvement in broadcasting has also been envisaged by the Government and to that end they have permitted research students subject to a total limit of six at a time to do research and development work on provincial schemes in the Broadcasting Department. They have also sanctioned the institution of three scholarships each of the value of Rs. 50 per mensem for award to research students. Quarterly conferences are also held of the Radio Engineer, the Station Directors of All-India Radio, Madras and Trichinopoly, and the heads of Nation-Building Departments of the Government to discuss as to how best to utilise the services of the radio for nation-building purposes. These conferences have proved extremely useful. The Government have also appointed a Special Officer temporarily for a period of six months to advise them in regard to the steps to be taken for further development in Broadcasting, in this Province, adoption of suitable rural programmes, and other allied subjects.

For purposes of administration, the Province is divided into three circles each being in charge of an Assistant Radio Engineer with a Radio Engineer at the top. Preliminary enquiries have been made for a big drive in educational broadcasting in the Province and it is hoped that in the coming years almost every important College, Hostel and High School will have a community radio set.

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Village, Thy Name is India

Rural Development, Sure Foundation for a Stable Society

By Sri J. C. KUMARAPPA

Rural development may be roughly of three kinds. The villages may be looked upon as raw material producers for centralized industries. From this point of view the programme laid out will emphasize the needs of large mills and will convert villages into adjuncts of towns and cities where the mills are situated. The fields will grow, not food the villages require, but crops such as sugarcane; long staple-cotton tobacco. The towns will be the parties to dictate what use should be made of the village lands. This scheme is worked out by controlling the money mechanism. When looked at from a broader view point, however much of material welfare this system may bring to the villages, it will be ruinous to the development of the villagers as human beings. It is, therefore, a plan that will ultimately bring out deterioration of the human race.

The second method of rural development is a compliment of this. While the first method caters to the mills in regard to the raw materials, the second method helps the mills in disposing of their finished goods. Here, we may say, that the villagers become the markets of manufactured articles from centralized industrial organizations. While the first method resorts to money as the instrument of effecting the necessary change in the rural economy, the second method relies on propaganda to create a demand which can be satisfied by mill-made articles. All such propaganda are generally half truths which carry the villagers off their feet. Under this scheme, the cities and towns may benefit, not only by getting the custom of the villages, but also, by drawing to themselves articles which would otherwise be consumed by the villages. For instance, villages may sell their milk and be satisfied with using tea. Ultimately, nutritively considered, such a change is in favour of the town. Again, villagers may be made to use city-made articles as against village products. Examples of these would be mill cloth as against Khadi, and white sugar as against gur. In all such cases also, the real interests of the villages are overlooked, while advancing the welfare of cities and towns.

The third method, which I presume the Government of Madras wishes to adopt in its firka development scheme, is to look upon the villager as an entity and his development as an end in itself. This means, that ultimately we have to scrap all considerations which will not be conducive to the growth of his personality. The rural development plan in this case will assume the nature of an all-round scheme for the villager to lead a comprehensive life. This scheme will afford the villager opportunities for exercising all his faculties while at the same time supplying all his bodily needs. If such a plan is pursued, the village life will truly become the foundation of the culture of the nation. We shall not be merely making the villager a victim to the monetary greed and the profit motive of the "haves."

The greatest need of the human being is his food, which feeds the body and provides the necessary favourable conditions for the development of the higher faculties of man. With this end in view, any scheme of rural development should begin with the organization of village life to provide the rural population with a sound balanced diet. The diet should be so calculated as to ensure good health and strength. The articles produced by a proper distribution of the available land would be re-distributed amongst the population to enable every inhabitant to obtain all his primary needs. Any surplus left over will, then be available for exchange with the surplus products of other units.

Besides the economic production, the villagers should be educated in the art of living, which means how to spend their time profitably so as to give themselves a chance for further development. At the present time, because of the terrible drain on the resources of the villages, the villager has more or less become beasts of burden, carrying the responsibility of feeding the towns and cities and, in return, using their manufactured articles. The interests of the villages are not considered to be the guiding factors in the layout of rural life.

With this idea in view, the scheme that is suggested to Government will aim at making a group of villages comprising a firka, self-sufficient, at least in food, clothing and shelter. For this purpose, the land that is available in the firka has to be scientifically examined as to the best use it can be put to. A preliminary survey will have to be made to give the planners an idea of the diet of the people, their physical condition and their needs. Keeping this in mind, a satisfactory table of balanced diet should be drawn up allowing for the quantity needed for the firka. In addition to this, provision will also be made for growing enough cotton to enable the people to clothe themselves. These will be given priority over all other uses the land can be put to. After this, if there be any surplus lands, the crops that are needed by the adjoining firkas, which can grow articles in short-supply here, should be cultivated and the products exchanged with the neighbours.

To distribute the production of the firka amongst the inhabitants and to handle the goods, a multi-purpose co-operative society should be organized. This co-operative society will take in from the villages such products as are in excess of the needs of the producers themselves. It will grade the articles and will arrange to store in satisfactory godowns the goods until they are required by the consumers. If there be any surplus in this firka, it will be such a co-operative society that will arrange to exchange such surplus with other co-operative societies which may have articles needed by this firka in excess.

In addition to this function, the co-operative society should help the villager in planning his work. It may have to have a propaganda department which will create public opinion needed for carrying out a planned economy. It will stand between the Government and the people, and it should be governed, when fully organized, by elected members of the people.

When such a co-operative society is in full working order, it ought to be able to control and organize all large-range programme, such as the building of roads, and planning of irrigation, and control of forests within the firka jurisdiction.

Apart from this economic side of the rural development, equally important items will require our attention. We have to arrange for the health of the people and sanitation of the villages. As a complement to this, we would have the disposal of refuse which can be converted into valuable manure and

the land and also will prevent the spread of diseases.

Culturally, the people will have to have satisfactory outlets for their own expression. This will be provided for by organizing festivities and fairs at which local talent will have ample scope and free play.

It is generally agreed that if our villagers are languishing to-day, it is because their education has been long neglected. Hence, it becomes incumbent on us to provide an adequate system of education for, not only this generation, but also for the future generation. This education should not content itself with purely giving the learner a knowledge of the three R's. But it should go deeper and develop the person mentally, morally and spiritually. This can only be undertaken by a new system which aims at developing the human being rather than at pumping into the brain of the individual, great many items of information.

With this objective, Gandhiji has formulated what has come to be known as "the basic schemes of education." According to this system, a child is instructed, not only in the sciences and arts, but also how to live. For instance, great emphasis is laid on the teacher closely directing the child in all its actions. A satisfactory medium of education for this purpose has been found to be one that is founded on a craft. While the child is practising the craft the child's mind is receptive. To the child the practice of the craft becomes play, and it ceases to be what we call "work." As an example, if we take a child that is being taught ginning and carding of cotton, the teacher teaches the child, the proper posture to adopt and the suitable layout of his implements. The important thing is not getting so many slivers by employing child labour. If, for example, in placing, say, a piece of newspaper on which to card the cotton, the child keeps it at an angle and not parellel to his "asan" on which he is seated, the teacher would draw the attention of the child and ask him whether it is better as it is, or should he rather arrange the newspaper to lie in such a way as to have its edge parallel to the edge of the seat. This would immediately draw the attention of the child that in everything he does, there should be logical arrangement, order, and neatness. This training is much more important to the growth of the child than the material product his work puts forth.

When the village people have had this type of education they would become conscious of their various duties to their fellowmen and will have resourcefulness enough to manage their affairs. No education based purely on information and literacy can ever develop the inherent qualities of an individual. Strictly speaking, we may say that the basic system of education aims at training an individual for the responsibilities of full citizenship. When India attains the place of full responsibility in the Counsel of Nations, it will be incumbent on our villages to bear their share, which will not be by any means negligible. The ancient civilization of India was founded on a village centred economic organization and if India is to make its contribution to the world at large it must be on a culture which is its very own. True democracy cannot be founded by practising centralization in economics. Centralized industries ultimately lead to dictatorship in politics. It is not by any accident that the highly industrialized countries of the world found themselves under veritable dictators as soon as a crisis presented itself.

If we aim that our rural development should lead us ultimately to the development of the individual to his full stature, to the complete satisfaction of his wants, to enable him to take his full share in the nation's life, to develop a culture which will be distinctive of his environment and which will being about goodwill among men; we shall have to bestow careful and studied attention on our rural development plans because it is only through such planned life that we can achieve our ends. No amount of emphasis laid on the material contribution of the villages to the towns and cities will ever give us these results that we seek. Therefore those who are entrusted with rural development plans should enter on their work with the fullest sense of responsibility and not look upon it as a scheme to placate for a while the cry for the betterment of the countryside. Rural development is the basis on which the future world order can be built up much more satisfactorily and with much greater stability than any agreement between the Powers that be, can bring to the present world sunk in desperation and distress.

[By courtesy, A.I.R., Madras]

Food Crisis Tided Over; But . . .

Hard Times Still Ahead, Warns Minister

Buffer Stocks must be built up

The following is the talk Broadcast by the Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Food Minister, on the 1st November 1947.

It is with immense relief that I am talking to you to-day about the food situation in the Province. I confess that during the dark days of June and July when procurement was going down week after week, when stocks were dwindling and when the Government of India kept on saying that the help which they could render was very limited and that the provinces should rely on its own resources, I had moments of despair as to how we could carry on till the end of the year without a breakdown. If the food situation has been saved, as it has been, and if the province has not experienced any calamity, it is entirely due to the hearty co-operation of the producers in the province to whom I hereby express my thanks. We sanctioned the scheme of bonus in July 1947 in order to induce producers to part with their stocks. The momentary inducement offered by it coupled with the personal appeals made by every one of my colleagues and myself to the producers in the Province, during our intensive procurement tours in August and September 1947, and the personal appeals made by the heads and subordinates of the several departments of the Government had a very satisfactory response as the figures for procurement between 24th July 1947 and 9th October 1947 clearly indicate. I can now say with pride that the procurement during this period amounted to 296,886 tons of rice as against 162,517 tons procured during the corresponding period of last year, even though there was a better inducement in the shape of a more generous bonus last year. The procurement, particularly for the weeks beginning from the first week of September, greatly improved culminating in the record procurement of 38,353 tons during the week ending 10th October 1947. This shows that the producers, as a body, had realized the gravity of the situation, and had, in response to our appeals and no doubt at some sacrifice and inconvenience to themselves, come to the help of the country at a most critical moment.

Our year for food purposes, as you know, is the kharif year, and begins from the 1st of November. The final forecasts of production of rice and millets in the Province for the current kharif year were estimated at 47·95 lakhs and 23·38 lakhs of tons against the normal production of 49 lakhs of tons of rice and 28 lakhs of tons of millets. After allowing at the rate of 1 lb. per adult per day to meet the needs of the producers and also for their seed and wage requirements the target for the year was fixed at 17·94 lakhs of tons of rice and 1·53 lakhs of tons of millets with reference to the efficiency ratio indicated by the procurement in previous years. Last year, the target for rice was fixed at 14·02 lakhs against which 13·54 lakhs of tons was procured. This year, up to 9th October 1947, 13·81 lakhs of tons of rice and 94,320 tons of millets have been procured. If the present rate of procurement is maintained, we should be able to procure about a lakh of tons of rice and about 9,000 tons of millets more before 1st November 1947. Thus you will see that this year's procurement does not lag behind last year's in spite of severe handicaps.

In the beginning of the Kharif year in anticipation of a better crop and in the hope of securing help from the Government of India on the same scale as in the previous year the Provincial Government increased the ration from 8 to 10 ounces in December 1946 and then to 12 oz. in February 1947.

Our hopes did not however materialize. Again the large scale experiment in procurement work made in the highly surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur—by the formation of the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies at a rather break-neck speed in December 1946 with initial handicaps such as want of experience, want of



Hon'ble T. S. S. Rajan

capital and want of proper staff, etc., naturally affected procurement adversely. Procurement between January and March 1947 immediately after the harvest was unsatisfactory instead of being the peak. The Government had to decide though reluctantly, to restore the millers and to abolish the procuring licences of the co-operative societies. In doing this, the Government were purely actuated by consideration of putting the food position of the Province in a safe and sound basis. At the same time, the Government were compelled in view of the dwindling stocks of rice to reduce the ration to 10 oz. in May and the rice ration to 8 oz. in July but with an addition of 2 oz. of millets. The Government however directed the supply of potatoes in the statutorily rationed areas, the cost of transport being subsidised by Government. Rice is still on this attenuated scale of 8 oz. with the addition of 2 oz. of millets to rice eaters. It is possible that here and there this extra 2 oz. of millets was not distributed for a short while for want of stocks but I would like you to remember that we were passing through a food crisis and neighbouring states like Mysore, Cochin and Travancore were obliged to reduce their rations. I can assure you that everything possible was and is being done to maintain our present scale of rationing, which I know is not quite adequate.

Apart from the failure of the newly formed producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in the matter of procurement, there was a marked reluctance on the part of the producers to part with their stocks. Several reasons contributed to this, viz., the dissatisfaction of the producers with the prices offered by the Government; the availability of plenty of money with the ryots in the upland areas of the producing districts due to the better value derived from the cultivation of commercial crops which enabled them to offer black-market prices for rice and to some extent the change over of the procurement agency from the societies back to millers. Extensive black-marketing was noticed in the Guntur district initially and it spread to almost all other surplus districts of the Province in varying degrees. So far as prices are concerned, the Government had explained to the producers by means of several press notes that their hands were tied and that they could not offer more, as that was not viewed with favour by the Government of India. They also informed the ryots that they had no intention of either increasing the price during the year or granting any bonuses. However, in order partly to meet the viewpoint of the producers, the Government decided in April 1947, to allow them some increase in the price up to 4 annas per imperial maund by reducing wherever possible the allowance given to the intermediaries. This step did not result in any appreciable increase in procurement. To accentuate our difficulties the very unsatisfactory food position throughout the world and the extensive failure of crop which had occurred in Northern India, stood in the way of the Government of India helping us materially. Of course, they were and they are allocating to us whatever quantity of foodgrains were received from overseas and from the other surplus Provinces. But they could not help us even to the extent of one half of what they did in 1946, when they gave us about 6 lakhs of tons of foodgrains whereas up to 9th October 1947 we have had only 134,542 tons of rice and 43,333 tons of millets, wheat, etc., 55,135 tons.

During the rest of October, we expect only about 22,000 tons of foodgrains making a total import of only 2½ lakhs of tons of foodgrains in the current year against 6 lakhs during the previous year. Another impediment to efficient procurement was the village committees constituted last year. These committees as a general rule took a parochial view of things and used their influence to retard procurement, to inflate the requirements of the producers and to reclassify as many of the cardholders

as rice eaters as they could. The Government had, therefore, to authorize the Collectors to override the recommendations of the Village Committees if they considered that their recommendations were unjustified. A third impediment was the general order that was in force that co-operative societies should, as a rule, be preferred to private merchants. This order tied the hands of the Collectors and even if they are convinced that a change of the agency was necessary in the interests of procurement, they could not give effect to it.

These were the initial difficulties met with by us during the early days of our taking up office and we had to set about to find remedies for the same. As I stated earlier, the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in the Circars were ordered to be replaced by the millers. We also modified the instructions issued in favour of co-operative societies and gave discretion to Collectors to choose any agency and to change the existing agency if such a change was found necessary in the interest of procurement. To meet the reluctance of producers to part with their stocks the Government decided, though they had previously made declarations to the contrary, to grant a bonus of Re. 1 per imperial maund to all producers. One half of it was to be paid in cash and the other paid in the shape of manure to encourage them to increase production on the lands. To avoid discrimination in the matter of the grant of bonus, the Government also ordered the payment of the bonus with retrospective effect for all deliveries made from the 1st of December 1946 up to 31st October 1947. All these steps helped, of course, in the increase in procurement. However, a review of the position at the end of July revealed that unless procurement was intensified, the Province could not escape a calamity. All my colleagues and myself, therefore, decided to make an intensive tour of all the districts in the Province and make a personal appeal to the producers to part with their stocks. At the same time all the heads of departments and their subordinates were required to contract the producers personally as far as they could and appeal to them to come to the help of the people and the Government by sparing whatever surplus they could. This intensive tour of the Ministers and the appeal by officers began to bear quick fruits and the procurement figure which was so low as 13,889 tons of rice for the week ending 28th August 1947 gradually went up week by week and exceeded 39,000 tons for the week ending 16th October 1947. It was due to this very satisfactory procurement which far outstripped the performance during the corresponding period of last year that we have been able to tide over a crisis. On the 9th October 1947, we were having a stock of 1·64 lakhs tons of rice and 21,000 tons of other foodgrains making a total of 1·85 lakhs of tons, which is sufficient to carry us for one and a half months. And during the rest of October we expect to procure a substantial quantity so that in the beginning of November we may expect to have at least the same stocks on hand.

Though we have thus tided over a crisis, it should be remembered that we are still living a hand to mouth existence. The Government are well aware that the intensive procurement drive sweetened by doses of bonuses have drawn out all the reserves that the producers have been keeping and that the situation hereafter will become critical if any unfavourable season or any other calamity affects the production of foodcrops for the next year. So far, the prospects of crops for the next year appear to be more or less normal and the Government expect that production will be approximately on the same scale as in the present year. However, from the estimates which the Government of India are able to make of the possibilities for import during the next year, it would seem that we cannot place our faith upon any appreciable imports during the next year also and that we should be thankful if we are able to get as much as we have received from the Government of India during the present year. This is likely to add to our difficulties.

The Government have under consideration the question of fixing fair prices for the foodgrains for the next kharif year and they expect to prevail upon the Government of India to take a realistic view of the situation and grant such increase over the existing prices as may be justified. The Government of India have recently appointed a committee to go into the question of the foodgrains policy to be adopted for the future and I am sure the committee will go into all aspects of the question in full. The producers need therefore be under no misapprehension that they would have to suffer under the same disability as in the present year by producing foodcrops. The Government also intend to do everything possible in their power to see that the cultivators' requirements for the cultivation of foodgrains are made available to them at reasonable prices in adequate quantities.

I would therefore appeal to the producers to come to the help of the Government and the people of the Province by surrendering all their surplus grains immediately after the harvest to the Government procurement agents. If the next long-term crop is normal and if procurement proceeds satisfactorily, the Government have every intention to restore the rice ration to 10 ounces as soon as it may be done. The Government will do everything in their power to see that the maximum quantities are made available from imports to this Province by the Government of India. It should be remembered that unless the requirements of the entire population for a period of six months at least is built up as a buffer stock it would be unthinkable to relax control over prices, procurement and rationing and I make an earnest appeal to the producers to co-operate in producing enough to build up such a buffer stock at the earliest possible time.

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No More "On His Majesty's Service"

The Government have ordered that in future the superscription "On Madras Government Service" (O.M.G.S.) should be adopted on envelopes and other stationery in the place of the existing superscription "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE" (O.H.M.S.).

(*Continued from page* 12)

a result of the subsidence of the small-pox epidemic of 1945. The number of vaccinations done in the year, however, represented 16·5 per cent of the population of province as compared to 14·1 per cent in 1944 and 23·2 per cent in 1945.

Town-Planning and Housing.—The Town-Planning Act was in force in 83 municipalities including the Corporation of Madras and in 92 panchayats.

Poonamallee Health Unit.—The reorganised Health Unit functioned during the year and there was some progress in regard to the water supply, conservancy and maternity and child welfare services. The unit continued to be an important training centre for public health workers.

Crossing wild with cultivated plants

Note on Research Experiments

Hybridization with wild cotton is included as an item in the programme of the Cotton Breeding Station, Coimbatore. The main characters for which these wild types are sought for are drought insect or disease resistance. It has been found that *G. darwinii*, *G. taitense* and *G. tomentosum* among the tetraploid Americans, *G. raimondii* and *G. trilobum* among the diploid Americans, and *G. Anamolun* among the diploid Asiatics are the most promising varieties for such purposes. Crosses with diploid Americans lead to the production of sterile progeny which have either to be doubled with colchicine or backcrossed to tetraploids for imparting fertility. In seed plants in general the problem of wide crossing is not as simple as in sugarcane where a promising bio-type can be immediately propagated and multiplied vegetatively. Fertility and stability have, however, to be slowly, methodically and patiently built up.

(2) Under oil-seeds crossing between sesamum orientale with Malabar wild gingelly was successful and a strain X. 38 was evolved. It shows a good degree of resistance to wilt and shoot webbar attack.

(3) *Millets.*—Crosses have already been done between wild and cultivated cholam to induce hardiness, disease resistance, etc., but the progeny has not inherited the desirable economical characters.

Ragi selections suited to the hills have been gathered and are under yield test. Crosses made with the hill ragi when tried in the plains have proved to be unsuccessful.

(4) *Paddy.*—A collection of wild rices—indegenous and exotic—was undertaken even at the time of opening of the Paddy Breeding Station, Coimbatore. Eight such species are now grown year after year in the station along with the world collection of 2,000 cultivated types of paddy. Work has also been started to cross the dry paddy strains of MTU 17 and MTU 18 with wild rices to improve the drought resistant character of the two strains.

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of October

Market conditions and trend of prices.—There were no marked changes in the prices of principal food stuffs. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil-seeds, oil-cakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change.—Gingelly oil-cake.

Rise.—Groundnut oil-cake (0·3 per cent) and cotton seed (0·5 per cent).

Fall.—Groundnut shelled (7·0 per cent) and gingelly seed (2·0 per cent).

Copra (5·1 per cent), coconut oil (9·1 per cent), gingelly oil (3·4 per cent) and groundnut oil (8·3 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured in the Province and the quantities of cereals and pulses imported from sources outside it—

(*a*) Local procurement during the fortnight ending 30th September 1947—

	TONS.
Paddy	60,430
Rice	22,928
Millets	7,576

Together equivalent to 65,191 tons in terms of rice.

(*b*) Receipts from other provinces and states during the fortnight ending 15th October 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	633
Millets	..
Wheat and wheat products	..
Pulses—	
Redgram	166
Blackgram	..
Greengram	194
Bengalgram ..	..
Total ..	360

(*c*) Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th October 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	1,770
Millets	..
Wheat	2,000
Wheat products	..

Stock and supply position (principal foodstuffs)—Rice.—Though the total provincial stock has increased from 143,286 tons on 25th September 1947 to 163,955 tons on 9th October 1947 mainly as a result of an improvement in procurement, the position continued to be unsatisfactory in some districts notably East Godavari, Guntur, Ramnad, South Kanara and Vizagapatam. The situation was particularly critical in East Godavari, Guntur and South Kanara where the stocks were less than a week's requirements and to the two last mentioned districts supplies are being sent from surplus areas.

Among the surplus districts, East Godavari is not in a position to resume exports until November when the short-term crop comes in, while Guntur is finding it difficult to manage even on local procurement and Nellore has ceased to export rice as its present stocks and further procurement have to be conserved for local needs till the next main harvest in January 1948. The position in Kistna may not admit of any appreciable exports in November though it can undertake exports in December when the new crop will be harvested and as a consequence the districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool, which depend usually on Kistna have been switched over to the Tanjore district in the south temporarily. The position, therefore is that the deficit districts will have to be fed in November mainly from the short-term crops in the two northern districts of East Godavari and West Godavari and the southern district of Tanjore. Supplies from Tanjore to several districts are being made mostly in the shape of paddy as the export quota fixed is more than the district's milling capacity.

Millets.—The stock of millets in the Province fell slightly from 18,031 tons on 25th September 1947 to 17,436 tons on 9th October 1947. The heavy issues during the weeks ending 2nd October 1947 and 9th October 1947 were offset by the large quantity of 7,438 tons of millets procured during the period. The stock of millets is very low in the districts of Bellary, Nellore, Guntur, Madura, and the

Nilgiris. Arrangements have been made for the transfer of 500 tons of millets from Tinnevelly to Madura and 200 tons of millets from Coimbatore to the Nilgiris. With the approval of the Government, orders are now being issued for the supply of wheat in lieu of millets up to 2 oz. per adult per day in the districts of Madras, Bellary, Nellore, Guntur and Cuddapah and these districts have been allotted quotas of 500, 500, 300, 100 and 100 tons respectively out of the shipment already received at Madras port.

Maize.—The stock fell from 625 tons on 25th September 1947 to 529 tons on 9th October 1947. The stock may be expected to be sold out completely in 3 weeks.

Barley.—The stock of barley on 9th October 1947 was 137 tons against 138 tons on 25th September 1947. The offtake in August 1947 was 81 tons.

Wheat and wheat products.—The stock of wheat and wheat products on 9th October 1947 was 2,807 tons and 570 tons respectively.

Pulses.—Scarcity of pulses and gram continues to be felt in the districts. In Madras City, the stock of greengram has run out and special arrangements are being made to meet the requirements under the informal rationing scheme.

Transport, Storage and Inspection—

Transport.—No remarks.

Storage.—The Government of Madras have purchased the sheds of the Naval department at Chromepet and it is proposed to use two of them as additional storage space for foodgrains procured on Government account.

Inspection.—No remarks.

Rationing.—It was observed that the concession under which non-meals hotels were getting small quantities of broken rice for the preparation of savouries, which require an admixture of rice or rice flour, was being abused by the preparation of eatables which require large quantities of rice. In view of the critical stock position of rice in the Province, the preparation and sale of rice idlis by the catering establishments including trash bazaars has been prohibited.

Subsidiary foodstuffs—Jaggery.—The stock position of jaggery in all the districts of the Province is quite satisfactory. The Government of Madras have, with the approval of the Sugar Controller for India, ordered that a quota of 2,000 tons of jaggery be allowed to be exported to the Central Provinces and Berar in addition to the quota already allotted to them during the current year and that this quota be supplied from the North Arcot and Bellary districts in equal quantities. Instructions have been issued to the Collectors of these districts for the grant of permits for the immediate movement of the quota on receipt of despatching instructions from the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar.

Coffee seeds.—There was acute scarcity of coffee seeds in Madras City during September 1947 as no auction sales were held by the Chief Coffee Marketing Officer, Bangalore, during August 1947. Auction sales were held between 2nd to 23rd September 1947 at various centres. The City received a supply of about 67 tons during September out of which a quantity of 47 tons was sold to consumers in that month. The position has not improved even now and the question of imposing a ban on the transport of coffee seeds outside the Madras City till 31st December 1947 as was done in 1945 is under consideration. The October release of coffee seeds is expected to reach the City by the 20th of this month when it is expected that the supply position may improve.

Potatoes.—The control over the price and movement of potatoes within this Province has been removed with effect from 6th October 1947.

Salt.—The maximum ex-factory wholesale prices of salt in the producing centres have been fixed and a notification issued to that effect under section 3 (2) (c) of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 (Central Act XXIV of 1946). The District Collectors have been empowered to fix the wholesale and retail prices of salt for each consuming area in their respective jurisdiction.

Miscellaneous commodities.—Scarcity of matches has been reported from Chingleput district.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of October

Thursday, the 2nd October 1947, being Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday, was declared a public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act. The Birthday was celebrated in a fitting manner throughout the Province by holding public meetings and taking out processions. The managements of most of the firms, workshops and factories closed their concerns to enable the workers to take part in the celebration.

Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Court of Inquiry for Motor Transport Services and Transport Workshops and Industrial Tribunal, Madras, on return from leave, rejoined duty on the afternoon of Monday, the 6th October 1947.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and managements of beedi factories in the districts of Chittoor, Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, for adjudication.

The Government have declared under section 2 (n) (vi) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (Central Act XIV of 1947), the Electric Tramway Services, Motor Transport Services and the Cotton Textile Industry as public utility services for a period of six months from the date of publication of this notification.

The Government have informed the Southern India Mill Owners' Association, Coimbatore, and the managements of Saradha Mills, Coimbatore, Thirumurthi Mills, Udumalpet, Kamala Rajendra Mills, Salem, and Jayaram Mills, Limited, Rajapalayam, that their grievances have been placed before the Government of India with a recommendation that the higher wages allowed by the award of the Industrial Tribunal should be taken into consideration in revising the prices of lower counts of yarn and that the Government of India have assured them that the recommendation will be considered and the price revision question is being discussed with the Textile Control Board.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of the East Asiatic Company, Limited, Madras.

The Government have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Presidency Transport, Limited, Madras.

The Government of Madras have referred for adjudication the dispute between the workers and the managements of foundries and engineering firms, Madras, mentioned below, to the Industrial Tribunal, Madras :—

(1) The Basin Foundry, Washermanpet, Madras.
(2) The Maxwell Engineering Works, Kondithope, Madras.
(3) The Lakshmi Engineering Works, De'Mellows Road, Madras.
(4) The Standard Engineering Works, Komaleswaranpet, Madras.
(5) The Swaminathan Foundry, Wall-Tax Road, Madras.
(6) The Essor Engineering Works, Sydenhams Road, Periamet, Madras.
(7) The Bombay Engineering Works, Sunkurama Chetti Street, Madras.
(8) Sri Durga Foundry, Kondithope, Madras.
(9) The Chandra Foundry, Basin Bridge Road, Madras.
(10) The Swamy Foundry, Choolai, Madras.
(11) The Saraswathi Foundry, Pulianthope, Madras.

The Government have referred to Sri P. C. Sundaram Ayyangar, retired District and Sessions Judge, as an Industrial Tribunal in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Nataraja Engineering Works, Kondithope, Madras, for adjudication. In G.O. Ms. No. 4840, Development, dated 11th October 1947, the Government have also prohibited the continuance of the lockout and strike in the factory.

The Government have appointed the Hon'ble Mr. K. P. Lakshmana Rao, *Kt.*, Judge of the High Court of Judicature, Madras, as an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication of the dispute between the workers and the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills Company, Limited, Madras, in supersession of the previous orders appointing him as a Court of Inquiry. The Tribunal has been requested to appoint two assessors (one representing the workers and the other representing the management) to advise it in the proceedings.

In the Western India Match Company, Limited, Tiruvottiyur, owing to the use of inferior kinds of wood in the box-making department, the workers who could not earn their normal wages on piece rates, staged a stay-in-strike demanding higher rates. The management notified that there would be no work in the other departments. The workers struck work on 3rd October 1947. The management pleaded inability to secure the proper kinds of wood from Malabar on account of reduction in supply of petrol. With the assistance of the Joint Secretary, Development Department, the management were able to secure more petrol and the workers resumed work on 4th October 1947.

The workers of the Sun Rise Glass Works, Limited, Tiruvottiyur, numbering about 175, struck work on 26th September 1947 as a protest against the discharge of one of the workers. The workers resumed work on the management's assurance that the worker would be reinstated after 4 days' suspension.

The management declared 2nd October 1947 (Mahatma Gandhi's birthday) as a holiday, on the workers agreeing to work on Sunday, 5th October 1947. The workers did not turn up for work on 5th October 1947. Thereupon the management declared a lockout on 6th October 1947. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, reports that the management of the Kamala Mills, Limited, Singanallur, Coimbatore, has proposed to close down their mills from 16th October 1947 on the ground that they have been working the mills at a loss. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government to permit the mills to spin higher counts of yarn. The management have also been advised not to close the mills. The Government have also been requested to advise the management by wire not to close their mills.

The Inspector of Factories, Cocanada, has reported that the National Engineering Works, Cocanada, which was closed on 17th September 1947 for want of raw materials, reopened on 1st October 1947, with about 20 workers, having secured some raw materials.

The management of the Suryanarayana Spinning Mills, Pandalapaka, have decided to close down the mills from 16th October 1947 as they have sustained a loss of Rs. 20,000 within five months after implementing the award of the Industrial Tribunal.

The management of the Ellore Motor Transport, Limited, Ellore, have reported that the Ellore Division Motor Employees' Union and the Gudivada Division Motor Employees' Union have given a notice of strike intimating that the workers will strike work if they are not paid the interim relief before 17th October 1947.

The Government have been addressed to instruct the District Magistrate to prosecute the managements who have failed to implement the award. The workers have been advised not to resort to strike pending orders of Government.

Consequent on a strike by the workers of the Mahalakshmi Mills, Pasumalai, on 11th September 1947 the management declared a lockout from 12th September 1947. In their Order Ms. No. 4584, Development, dated 24th September 1947, the Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication. The Government have also prohibited the strike and lockout as the dispute has already been referred for adjudication and issued an order to that effect in G.O. No. 4607, Development, dated 25th September 1947. The workers have resumed work on 15th October 1947 on the assurance given by Government that their interests would be safeguarded.

The Managing Agent of the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited, Kallai, has reported that as the mill is working at a heavy loss as a result of the implementation of the award it was resolved by the Directors to close the mill with effect from 11th November 1947 after issuing proper notice to the workers and the authorities.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the managements in Beedi Factories in Tinnevelly district to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication.

Resettlement and Employment of Ex-Servicemen

The Government of India have constituted an Employment Advisory Committee to advise the Regional Directorate of Resettlement and Employment, Madras, on matters relating to the resettlement and employment of demobilised services personnel and discharged war workers and the training of ex-servicemen in the Presidency.

Mr. Syed Abdul Quadir, Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment, will be the Chairman.

The Committee will consist of 36 members including officials and non-officials.

All about Labour in India

Did You Know That?

An Asiatic Labour Conference was held at Colombo on May 10 and 11, 1934. Delegates from India, Ceylon and Japan attended it. Among those who represented India were Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Jamnadas Mahta and Mr. S. C. Joshi. Two members of the I.L.O. staff Dr. P. P. Pillai, Director of the Indian Branch of the I.L.O. and Dr. F. I. Ayusawa from Geneva also attended it. A constitution was drawn up and several resolutions dealing with labour problems were adopted.

Only once has the chief of the I.L.O. at Geneva visited India. Mr. Harold Butler, Director of the I.L.O., toured India, Ceylon, Malaya and Netherland Indies during the winter of 1937–38 and recorded his impressions in a report "Problems of Industry in the East" which was published by I.L.O. in 1938.

About 180,000,000 is the total number of Indian workers employed in agriculture, industries, mining, transport services, banking, commercial services, fishing, navigation, etc.

About 100,000,000 or nearly 25 per cent of the population are employed in agriculture and a large number of them are unemployed for about two to four months in a year.

The number of industrial workers in India is estimated at 8,000,000.

There were nearly 4,800,000 workers in organized industries in 1945. Of these, regulated factories employed nearly 2650,000, Mines 350,000, Railways 800,000 and Plantations about 1,000,000.

The number of workers in unregulated factories is estimated at 1,000,000. Of these about 500,000 are engaged in *beedi* making, etc., 140,000 in mica splitting, 30,000 in shellac industry and about 2,000 in carpet weaving.

There are nearly 6,000,000 (2,400,000 wholetime and 3,600,000 parttime and ancilliary) workers on handlooms which provide 25 per cent of the cloth produced for home consumption and they represent 86 per cent of the total textile workers. Over 1,000,000 workers were employed in textile factories in 1945.

Port Labour employed is estimated at 75,000.

The number of seamen according to a recent estimate is 250,000.

About 470,000 workers were engaged in building works in 1931.

Porters and coolies and men engaged on construction by Railways numbered about 200,000 in 1931.

Rickshaw pullers in India number about 50,000.

Coal miners in India exceed 255,000. Of these over 61,000 are women, but they are not allowed to work underground.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were Presidents of the All-India Trade Union Congress.

There were 818 registered Trade Unions in India in 1943–44 with a total membership of 780,967 members, as compared with 29 registered unions in 1927–28, with a membership of 100,619.

One hundred and twenty-two millions, eighty-five thousand two-hundred and fifteen working days were lost in 1946 due to 1,825 strikes involving 2,310,239 workers. From 1921–1946 (i.e., for a period of 26 years=9,490 days) over 160,000,000 man-days were lost in India due to nearly 9,500 strikes.

A Labour Bureau was set up by the Government of India in 1920. A series of valuable bulletins on factory work were published by the Bureau, but before its ability could be established it was abolished in 1923 as a measure of retrenchment. In consequence, the lead in the creation of a proper Government department for Labour must be credited to the Bombay Government which opened a Labour Office in 1921.

The annual income per worker in urban areas in India was Rs. 426 in 1931–32. In rural areas it was Rs. 135 for the same year. The *per capita* income in that year was Rs. 162 for urban areas and Rs. 48 for rural areas. Rs. 1,243,800,000 were paid as wages in cash to employees in factories covered by the Indian Factories Act in 1945.

There is a lady labour welfare officer in the Central Ministry of Labour to look after the interests of women workers. The Coal Mines Welfare Fund also employs several lady welfare officers for women workers in coal mines.

I.L.O.—And What It Stands For

Unique among inter-governmental agencies, the International Labour Organisation—the I.L.O.—allows representatives of employers and workers share in the making of its decisions and the shaping of its policies. All its constitutional organs include representatives of Governments, employers and workers in the proportion of two for Government and one each for employers and workers.

The object of this 28-year old organisation is to contribute to the establishment of universal and lasting peace by furthering social justice. It seeks by international action to improve labour conditions to raise living standards and promote economic and social stability.

The three basic parts of the I.L.O.'s structure are—

1. The International Labour Conference, its highest authority which meets usually annually. It is a world parliament for labour and social questions. All points of view—Government, employers and workers—find full expression in the conference, for each of these three sections can speak and vote independently.

2. The Governing body, composed of 16 Government representatives and eight representatives each of employers and workers, is the Executive Council of the Organisation and exercises general supervision over the office and frames its budget.

3. The International Labour Office, the I.L.O.'s permanent Secretariat, a world information centre and a publishing house, is staffed by experts drawn from many different countries, whose knowledge, experience and advice are available to all the nations which are members of the Organisation. It has branch offices including one in India and correspondents in many countries.

Fifty-two States are members of this Organisation—

Afghanistan, Albania, Argentine Republic, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Siam, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

Conventions and Recommendations

The International Labour Conference seeks to prescribe minimum international labour standards and these take the form either of Conventions, which partake of the nature of international treaties and have therefore to be accepted *in toto* by the ratifying member states or of Recommendations. These are based on careful fact-finding and discussion. As a two-thirds majority of the Conference is required for their adoption, they represent the general agreement of informed world opinion.

Since the first Conference in 1919, the I.L.O. has adopted 80 Conventions and 80 Recommendations. These deal with hours of work, the minimum age for employment, the working conditions of women and young workers, workmen's compensation, social insurance, minimum age-fixing machinery, social standards in non-self-governing territories, holidays with pay, industrial safety, statistics and subjects relating to migration. In June 1946, a precedent was set with the adoption of a Convention fixing an international minimum wage for seamen.

The decisions of the Conference are not automatically binding. Member countries are required to bring Conventions adopted by the Conference to the attention of their competent authorities for possible ratification. If a country ratifies a convention, it assumes the obligation to take measures to bring its legislation into line with the provisions of the convention and to report annually on these measures to the I.L.O.

A Landmark in World Thinking

It was in 1944 at its Philadelphia session that the famous Declaration of the I.L.O. restating its aims and purposes was formulated. This charter, which has been hailed by the late President Roosevelt as a landmark in world thinking, is built around the cardinal truth that 'poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere,' and asserts that 'all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity.'

In January 1945, after the Dumbarton Oaks Conference had laid the groundwork for the United Nations, the Governing Body of the I.L.O. expressed its wish to be associated with the new organization, and the Paris Conference reaffirmed this desire. As a result, a few months after the United Nations came into being, negotiations were intitiated to define the terms of the Organization's relationship, which resulted in an agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, the United Nations recognized the I.L.O. as a specialized agency having the responsibility of doing the job entrusted to it by Governments in its Constitution.

The I.L.O. thus enters the post-war period as the only international organization born of the First World War to take its place in association with the agencies that have grown out of the second conflict.

The Role of Employment Exchanges

Employers' Co-operation Urged

"Every country in the world is focussing its attention in the resettlement of their ex-servicemen and if India did not do likewise, she would not be able to hold her rightful position amidst the progressive nations of the world. No other country is so very balanced and rich like India in its resources and when fully exploited should be capable of occupying the top rank amidst other countries," observed Mr. T. Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mayor of Madras, in a broadcast talk from the Madras Centre of A.I.R. on 25th October 1947.

In the matter of bringing together speedily and satisfactorily, employers and employment seekers, facilitating mobility of labour either occupationally or geographically, in training and planning for training men and women in the various technical or vocational occupations and in operating as a statistical and advisory bureau the Employment Exchanges have a dynamic function in the development of the country.

To-day when the industrialist is able to recruit his labour requirements rather easily and often at the gates of his factory or workshop, he may not fully realize the significance of the employment service. But with the rapid industrialization of the country, on its onward march, the employer is bound to feel the scarcity of manpower, specially skilled, when he will feel the dire need of an institution like this. Further this involves no expense to himself as service performed by the Exchanges, is inspired by the supreme ideal of free, prompt, efficient and impartial service.

The employment service is a very handy mechanism for adjusting the supply, and demand of different categories of workers. The shortage of skilled labour at present in our country fully indicates that the greatest advantage should be taken of utilizing the services of the men returning from the forces. Many of the men have had some kind of training or other while in the army. Besides the greater contracts they were able to make while in the forces with other countries and other peoples, it has brought about a wider outlook and given them new and better ideas. No one should lose sight of this valuable opportunity of harnessing this fine human material towards the growth and development of India's post-war industry.

* * *

Labour Exchanges

A plea for sympathetic understanding of the difficulties of the Labour Exchanges is made by the Government of India with reference to the attitude of some of the employers towards these Exchanges. Employers generally expect the Exchanges to supply skilled labour in all categories and when the expectations are not fulfilled, the tendency is to make a grievance of the fact. Such a tendency betrays a lack of appreciation of the difficulties of the Exchanges. The supply of skilled personnel available in this country in different categories is not adequate to meet the present demand in full. In some categories deficiency is particularly marked and Exchanges are really unable to meet the demand to any appreciable extent. It has also to be remembered that this

(*Continued on page 26*)

Refugee Relief Work

So far, 133 refugees from the West Punjab and Sind have been admitted to the camp in Madras and 30 have left for Singapore, Burma, Delhi, Bombay and other places in search of relatives and employment. Two refugees died in the hospital, one on account of Tetanus and the other of Malaria. No authorized Sindhi refugee has arrived in Madras so far, though it was agreed to take five thousand of them. Arrangements are being made to provide amenities like water-supply, electricity etc., in the Malayan Emigration Depot, where the Sindhi refugees are to be accommodated. Seventy-two South Indian refugees from Karachi had arrived. They were provided with bed and board in the city as also railway tickets and pocket-money to reach their native places.

The Refugees Relief Committee distributed clothing on the Vijayadasami Day to the refugees. A radio set was presented to the refugees at the Lutteral Gardens. The members of the Ladies Sub-Committee of the Refugees Relief Committee, the Guild of Service and the Red Cross are visiting the camps frequently and assisting in relief work.

The food allowance sanctioned by the Government is being disbursed once a week on every Saturday. Ration cards have been prepared for the refugees and they are purchasing their necessaries from the shop opened at Kilpauk by the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society. The refugees as a rule cook their own food. Cloth worth about Rs. 30,000 has been purchased for the use of the refugees and it is being stitched into garments by the Jail Department. Saris to the value of Rs. 1,200 have also been purchased. Sanitary arrangements in the camps are supervised by a special medical officer who visits the camps every day and also looks after the health of the refugees. The members of the Indian Hospitality Committee and the Red Cross visited the camps and distributed soaps and tooth brushes to the refugees. Steps are being taken to open a school for the children. The Secretary of the Punjab Association in Madras has gifted a volley ball, a net and other accessories to the refugees.

* * *

The total number of refugees is now 557. Thirty-five of them have left for other provinces of their own accord. Four hundred and twelve Sindhi refugees are among the new arrivals. South Indian refugees numbering 254 have also arrived from Karachi. They were accommodated at the Jamalia camp, Perambur, and clothes and sweets were distributed to them. They will be provided with railway tickets and pocket money at the rates of Rs. 2 per adult and Re. 1 per child to reach their native places. The comforts of all the refugees are being properly attended to. A Health Inspector has been posted to look after the sanitary arrangements in the Lutteral's Garden Camp. The Education Sub-Committee of the Refugee Relief Committee has decided to open a school for the refugee children. The Mayor of Madras has made arrangements to supply daily powdered whole milk to the children in the camp.

Procedure for payment of pensions

The Government of India have laid down the procedure for the payment of advances to their civil pensioners who might have come as refugees from West Pakistan. All such pensioners as possess the pensioners' halves of the Pension Payment Orders should present them to the Accountant-General, Central Revenues, Delhi, who, after making such verification of their genuineness as is possible, will issue a special provisional authority to the treasury at which the payment is required for monthly advances equivalent to the monthly pension to be paid for a period not exceeding three months. The Accountant-General, Central Revenues, will at the same time send extracts from the Pension Payment Orders containing identification particulars together with specimen signatures to enable the treasury officer to identify the pensioner. The pensioner should agree in writing to adjustments of the advances being made against the pension to be drawn later after the proper transfer has been effected. The pensioner's half of the Pension Payment Order will be retained by the Accountant-General, Central Revenues, until the transfer of pension has been carried out in accordance with the normal procedure.

In the case of those who claim payment of pensions without producing their Pension Payment Orders, they should be asked to produce satisfactory evidence about the *bona fides* of their claim. The Accountant-General, Central Revenues, after making a summary enquiry and after verification from their records if possible, may authorize payment of advances equivalent to the residual monthly pension, on the assumption that the original pension would have been commuted to the full permissible extent, for a period not exceeding three months after obtaining an indemnity bond from the claimant with an acceptable surety from a Government official or a bank guarantee. To minimise the risk of inadmissible claims, payment in such cases where pension exceeds Rs. 100 per mensem should be made only through recognized banks. The pensioner should also agree in writing to adjustments of these advances against the pension which may be drawn late after the transfer has been effected.

(*Continued from page* 25)

lack of balance between demand and supply is not peculiar to this country alone and such disparity is noticed elsewhere also. All the same the Exchanges are doing their best to meet the demands of the employers. A spirit of understanding and goodwill on the part of employers will greatly help matters.

There are also one or two other points which may be noted by employers. The trainees are not accustomed to the conditions of work in factories and a brief period in a factory would be necessary to enable them to adjust themselves to new conditions. After this adjustment they are likely to give better satisfaction to their superiors. The employers will also do well to accept semi-skilled persons as apprentices. The Government of India will bear the cost of such apprenticeship training.

[October 30]

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Cost of Living Index Figure

During the week ended 1st November 1947, the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras city remained stationary at 280.

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Government Servants' Provident Fund

The Government have extended the General Provident Fund Rules to permanent Government servants in Inferior service also.

Government of India Announces Textile Policy

Standardization Scheme Takes Effect in December
Appeal to Labour for Co-operation

The Government of India have viewed with concern the continued fall in the production of cloth and yarn during the last few months. A variety of reasons have contributed to this fall, amongst which are a recent and progressive shift of production from coarse and medium varieties produced with Indian cotton, to relatively finer varieties, the reduction of the working day from 9 to 8 hours since August 1946, and the general unrest and relaxation of effort which have followed the strain of the war years.

In February 1947, the Government of India appointed an *ad hoc* departmental Committee to investigate the causes of the fall in production, and the price structure which had apparently made it remunerative for the mills to shift production from coarse and medium to finer varieties. This Committee has prepared a scheme for standardization of production, with two main features :—

(*a*) The lowering of the average count produced by each mill, and

(*b*) the reduction of the types and varieties so as to increase production by making the maximum use of the available supplies of yarn.

The scheme will restrict production to such varieties as are in popular demand, reduce unnecessary widths and specify the minimum breaking strength of yarn. The objective is to produce more and better cloth, at the expense of finer varieties worn only by a few classes. This scheme, which is expected to increase production by about 400 million yards of mill cloth and 400 million yards of handloom cloth, has found general support and has been endorsed by the Commodities Prices Board.

The Committee also recommended a revision of the price structure which involved an increase in the price of coarse cloth and yarn. The Commodities Prices Board have viewed this proposal with disfavour and suggested that, if necessary, price adjustments should be secured by an Equalization Fund whereby the prices of fine varieties are utilized to subsidize coarse and medium varieties. Government have carefully considered the report of the *ad hoc* Committee, and the views, of the Commodities Prices Board, and have also taken into account the weight of public opinion against any increase in the price of an essential commodity like cloth. They have accordingly decided to remit the whole question to the Tariff Board for advice.

MAIN POINTS IN TEXTILE POLICY

1. Control of cloth and yarn will continue.
2. Production must be increased by 800 million yards.
3. Average count will be lowered and varieties reduced.
4. Tariff Board will advise on question of prices.
5. Equalization Fund will be set up.
6. Quota-holders' commission will be halved.
7. Labour will be compensated for extra work.

Equalization Fund

As an immediate practical measure, however, Government are bringing into force from December 1, 1947, the scheme for the standardization of production referred to earlier.

They are also constituting an Equalization Fund to which will be credited

(*a*) the difference between existing ex-mill prices of fine and superfine cloth and the lower prices which the *ad hoc* Committee believe to be fair ;

(*b*) half of the amount now being paid as quota-holders' commission which Government have decided to reduce with effect from 1st January 1948 from 3 to 1½ per cent ; and

(*c*) a surcharge on a sliding scale on "free" yarn sold by mills.

If Government decide on the recommendations of the Tariff Board to increase the prices of any types or varieties of cloth or yarn, such increase will be given retrospective effect on all cloth and yarn delivered by the mills under the standardization scheme after 1st December 1947, provided a prescribed target of production has been reached. "On account" payments will be made to a mill if such assistance is shown to be necessary for the maintenance of production.

Regional and Unit Production Committees consisting of representatives of labour and industry will also be set up to ensure that there is no leakage at the mill end and that labour fully co-operates in the production programme. Government will appeal to labour to work slightly longer hours than at present as an emergency measure. Any overtime will be adequately remunerated. Besides such compensation, suitable labour welfare measures in the Cotton Textile Industry will be financed by Government out of the Equalization Fund, which it is proposed to create on the lines suggested by the Commodities Prices Board.

Control to continue

During recent weeks there has been considerable controversy on the question of decontrol of cloth and yarn. Government are of the view that with supplies well below demand, immediate decontrol would only lead to a repetition of the shortages and the high prices which occurred in 1943 and were the direct reasons for the institution of the existing control over cloth and yarn. Apart from the grave hardships which will ensue, should such a situation recur, an increase of the price levels of cloth and yarn to those of 1943 would start an inflationary spiral dangerous to the country's economy. If, however, the present scheme for increase of production should produce the expected results, relaxation or withdrawal of existing control would become feasible. It is the policy of Government to continue the control only so long as is necessary in the best interests of the country, and in a form which will throw the least inconvenience on consumer and producer alike.

Industrial Planning Committee

The Government have permitted the Industrial Planning Committee appointed by them to co-opt persons having expert knowledge of particular industries to help it in drafting the final report.

In co-opting such additional members, no extra expenditure should, however, be incurred by the Committee, except that on the travelling allowance admissible to the new members, without the specific sanction of the Government.

Activities of the Education Department

Salient Features during October 1947

Education—Special.—The Secondary Training section attached to the Government Hobart Secondary and Training School for Muslim Women, Royapetta, was amalgamated with the secondary training section in the Viscountess Goschen Secondary and Training School for Muslim Women, Trichinopoly, for want of strength in the former. For the same reasons the Government Training School for Muslims, Guntur, was amalgamated with the Government Training School for Muslims, Madras.

Government have permitted the Director to admit to the Nursery Training class in the Lady Willingdon Training College students with such general educational qualifications as he considers sufficient for the purpose.

Government propose to open an Overseers' course from October 1947 in the College of Engineering, Guindy. It is proposed to provide for the training of 100 students in the current year.

Basic Education.—Government have sanctioned the opening of two craft equipment stores, to be opened at Perianaickenpalayam (Coimbatore district) and Vinayashram (Guntur district) to meet the demands of schools for the supply of Basic Craft equipment.

General.—Government have sanctioned the constitution of non-official advisory committees for all Government colleges, secondary and training schools for men and training schools for women for 1948–49. In the case of colleges, the advisory committees will advise the Principals in the matter of selection of students for admission.

Government have approved subject to certain conditions, the proposals of the Director of Public Instruction for the provision of visual education in schools and colleges in the Province as an interim arrangement and arrange for their exhibition in schools and colleges through their own agencies and film concerns recognised by the Director. The Director has also been requested to make speedy arrangement for certifying and grading these films. Final proposals for the provision of visual education, as a long range scheme on the lines of the tentative scheme have also been required to be submitted to Government.

Government have sanctioned the deputation of eight candidates for Training in the Hindustani Talimi Sangh, Wardha.

Madras City electoral rolls to be revised

In a resolution passed on 9th September 1947, the Council of the Corporation of Madras has requested the Government to revise the voters' list and to postpone the elections until such time as is necessary, as the present electoral rolls are considered to be defective. After a careful consideration of the request of the Corporation, the Government have decided to revise the electoral rolls of the Madras City under rule 8 (*a*) in the Introductory portion of the Madras Legislative Assembly Electoral Rules. The Government are accordingly directing the Registration Officer, viz., the Collector of Madras, to prepare a list of amendments to the electoral rolls for the General, Muhammadan, Indian Christain and Anglo-Indian Constituencies of the Madras Legislative Assembly relating to the City of Madras. The 'prescribed date' with reference to which the rolls should be revised will be the 15th November 1947.

2. The following dates have been fixed for the several stages of the revision of the rolls :—

(i) Publication of the preliminary list of amendments—Not later than the 15th January 1948 (Thursday).

(ii) Filing of claims and objections —Not later than the 30th January 1948 (Friday).

(iii) Publication of lists of claims and objections, etc.—Not later than the 6th February 1948 (Friday).

(iv) Commencement of the sittings of the revising authority—On the 13th February 1948 (Friday).

(v) Publication of the final list of amendments—Not later than the 15th March 1948 (Monday).

3. For the convenience of the public of the Madras City extracts of the relevant rules relating to the electoral qualifications in respect of the Madras Legislative Assembly will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*. November 15th has been fixed as the 'prescribed date' to give an opportunity to those who can be enrolled only on application, e.g., on literacy qualification to present their applications. No person will be included in the electoral roll unless he has attained the age of twenty-one years on the date. Tax and residential qualifications have reference to the previous financial year, viz., 1946–47 and property qualifications have reference to the previous fasli year, viz., the year ending on the thirtieth day of June 1947. Persons who are qualified to be voters but whose names have not been included in the final rolls that are now in force and persons the entries relating to whose names require correction as to the manner or place of entry are hereby called upon to see that their names are included in the respective rolls or their entries corrected.

4. Any person who claims to be included in the rolls of the General, Muhammadan, Indian Christian or Anglo-Indian Constituency of the Assembly by virtue of the undermentioned qualifications, should present an application in the prescribed form in person to the Registration Officer, viz., the Collector of Madras or to an officer subordinate to him not lower in rank than a Revenue Inspector :—

(1) Occupation as sole tenant throughout the previous financial year of a house in respect of which property-tax or house-tax has been paid for both the half-years of that year [paragraph 2 (*e*) of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935].

(2) Being throughout the previous fasli year a kanamdar or kuzhikanamdar or the holder of a kudiyiruppu or a verumpattamdar having fixity of tenure [paragraph 3 (*c*) of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act].

(3) Being throughout the previous fasli year a mortgagee with possession or lessee under a registered instrument of immovable property in the Province (other than house property) of an annual rent value, in the case of an urban constituency of not less than one hundred rupees and in the case of a rural constituency of not less than fifty rupees [paragraph 3 (*d*) of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act].

(4) Being the guardian of a minor who by virtue of the provisions of paragraphs 1 to 4 of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act would have been entitled to be included in the electoral roll for that constituency if he were of full age (paragraph 5 of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act).

(5) Being a literate (paragraph 6 of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act).

(6) Being the wife of a retired pensioned or discharged member of His Majesty's naval, military or air forces [paragraph 9 (*b*) of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act].

Personal presentation of application is not however necessary in the following cases :—

(1) It is not required in the case of a person who claims to be enrolled by virtue of being a literate and who proves to the satisfaction of the Registration Officer or an officer of the Revenue department not lower in rank than a Revenue Inspector that he possesses a completed Secondary School-Leaving Certificate issued under the authority of the Government of Madras or a qualification declared equivalent thereto. In this case it is enough if an application is sent by post, messenger or agent with necessary evidence as to the existence of the qualification.

(2) In the case of a woman who, according to the custom of the family or community to which she belongs, does not usually appear in public, her husband or other relative may present the application signed by her. The person presenting the application should endorse on the reverse of the application—

'Application presented by me, the applicant claiming exemption from personal appearance.

Signature and address in full.'

Station
Date

It is essential that every application should be accompanied by definite evidence to prove the existence of the qualification relied on. For example, it is not enough if a person seeking inclusion of his name in the rolls on literacy qualification gives the number of his Secondary School-Leaving Certificate or reference to the University Calendar. The Registration Officer or his deputy has neither the time nor the facilities to verify it. For the same reason, applicants should give definite information about nationality, age and residential qualifications in the applications. The declarations in the form of application should invariably be completed.

Forms of applications may be obtained free on application from the offices of Registration Officer, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors.

5. The Registration Officer will fix the dates for the receipt of these applications at convenient centres in the registration area and notify them for the information of the public. A person who claims inclusion of his name in the rolls by virtue of being a literate should write the application in his own hand in the presence of the Registration Officer or under the certificate of—

(i) an officer in superior service in any Government departments who is not inferior in rank to a lower division clerk and who is not for the time being in foreign service ; or

(ii) a person in the service of the Corporation of Madras (including a Government servant in such service), who is in receipt of a pay of not less than Rs. 100 per mensem.

(iii) an Honorary Presidency Magistrate.

Literacy applications may be received by Registration Officer, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors and Honorary Presidency Magistrates. For the convenience of the public, the following officers of the Corporation of Madras have also been authorized to receive them :—

Assessors.
Licence Supervisors.
Sanitary Inspectors.
Supervisors.

Overseers (including water works and drainage overseers).

6. Under the rules a voter should be registered in that part of the roll which relates to the area where he resides or is believed to reside. In the case of persons who are enrolled on application a certificate of residence has been prescribed. The certificate may be given either by the Registration Officer or an officer of the Revenue department subordinate to him and not lower in rank than a Revenue Inspector. In the case of voter enrolled on literacy qualification such certificates may be given by the persons who certify to their literacy. If a person is not in a position to secure a certificate of residence, he may present the application without it.

Persons giving wrong addresses or certificates are liable to punishment.

7. Persons having claims and objections to prefer with reference to the preliminary list of amendments should do so before the date fixed in that behalf, namely, the 30th January 1948.

Forms of claims and notices of objections may be obtained free on application from the Registration Officer and also from Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars. Claims and objections may be presented to the Registration Officer in person or by agent or sent by post ; Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars within the jurisdiction of the Registration Officer are also authorized to receive claims and objections. No claim or objection based on any of the qualifications will be received by any of these authorities after the latest date fixed for the purpose, namely, the 30th January 1948. A claim or an objection sent by post which does not reach the proper authority on or before the due date will be summarily rejected unless there is evidence to show that it was posted in sufficient time to have reached the authority concerned in the usual course on or before the due date. On no account will dates be extended. Claims based on qualifications which should be brought to the notice of the Registration Officer by means of an application in the prescribed form has been duly made on or before the prescribed date, namely, the 15th November 1947, and that it has been improperly rejected.

8. In view of the impending elections to the Corporation, it is very important that the name of every voter should be entered in the correct part of the rolls. Voters are advised to avail themselves of this opportunity to have their names entered in the correct ward.

9. The Government trust that all interested persons in the City will assist the electors by giving publicity to these arrangements and in particular to the need for the applications from literates and others who can be enrolled only on application being made before the 15th November 1947.

Producers-cum-consumers societies in Circar Districts

Summary of Recommendations of Enquiry Committee

The following summary of the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee on the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in Northern Circar districts is issued to the Press :—

1. To provide for the permanent working of producers-cum-consumers societies, these societies should be reorganized by amalgamating four or five of these into one society, at least after the procurement work is over, to undertake processing of produce and its marketing.

2. The amalgamated societies may be allowed to advance money to their members on the pledge of their agricultural and industrial produce.

3. To facilitate the storage of the produce of the members, these societies may own godowns, besides mills or hullers to undertake processing operations.

4. The societies will establish business relations directly with co-operative organizations in the consuming centres, to their mutual advantage.

5. The Government may examine the societies and give procurement to those societies, whose financial position, management, etc., are satisfactory.

6. The producers-cum-consumers societies should be given distribution (wholesale and retail) of foodgrains and other controlled commodities like sugar, kerosene, cloth, steel, iron implements, manures, etc., as contemplated in G.O. Ms. No. 1034, Food, dated 20th November 1946, so as not to affect the work entrusted to the existing societies.

7. The societies should be reconstituted with the least delay by admitting persons desirous of joining them ; general body meetings of the societies should be convened immediately to amend their by-laws as suggested ; new directors should be elected according to the new by-laws, after enacting a transitory by-law, terminating the period of service of the present directors and secretaries.

8. The managements of societies shall have the power to appoint persons having the qualifications prescribed as secretaries and accountants and pay them such scales of pay as they may fix, considering their financial condition.

9. Such of the existing secretaries as may have the requisite educational qualifications may be given sufficient training in the Co-operative Institute and re-employed in the societies on the scales of pay to be fixed by societies themselves.

10. The maximum amount a member may invest in a society may be fixed at Rs. 1,000 as provided in the Act and that the value of a share may be fixed at Rs. 10 for the new members.

11. The Government should issue definite instructions to Collectors and other officers, entrusted with the duty of procurement and distribution of rationed articles and controlled commodities and also with the administration of several control orders, to encourage co-operative organizations according to the policy already laid down by Government in G.O. Ms. No. 791, Food, dated 19th September 1946, and also to render all possible assistance for their development.

12. In the interests of proper working, efficient management and future development, the producers-cum-consumers societies should be transferred to the co-operative department.

13. Two Special Deputy Registrars, one for East and West Godavari districts and the other for Kistna and Guntur districts, with necessary subordinate staff, should be appointed immediately to attend to the reorganization and reconstruction of these societies, with the assistance of local Revenue and Co-operative Officers.

14. Necessary staff for the supervision and audit of the societies should be appointed.

15. With a view to facilitate the amalgamation of societies with the least delay, it is recommended that the Government should suspend the provisions of section 13 of the Act, and permit the Registrar to adopt a simpler method to amalgamate the societies.

It may be pointed out here that the committee was constituted in accordance with the terms of G.O No. 2755, dated 25th June 1947, with the following terms of reference : "The Government are anxious to prevent the frittering away of the large share capital collected by the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in the four Circar Districts of East Godovari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur and to put the societies to the best use possible. They consider that it is desirable to constitute a committee to go into the question of the future of these societies and to suggest ways and means of establishing them on a permanent basis." The members of the Committee were—

1. Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, M.L.A. (Central), *President*.

2. Sri A. Govindacharyulu, M.L.C., Ellore, West Godavari district.

3. Sri K. Brahmananda Reddy, M.L.A., Guntur district.

4. Sri N. Satyanarayana of Alamuru, East Godavari district.

5. Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, M.L.A., Bezwada, Kistna district.

6. Sri D. S. Sastri, Agent, Central Bank of India, Limited, Madras.

7. Sri Duggirala Balaramakrishniah.

8. Sri Rao Bahadur J. C. Ryan, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras.

Sri V. Satyanarayana, Special Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, was the Secretary of the Committee.

The Government have expressed their cordial thanks to the President and the members of the Committee for their valuable work.

Notice for Subscribers.

Subscribers are informed that in view of the reduced rates of subscription with effect from 15th October 1947, subscription amounts outstanding on 15th October 1947 and amounts received thereafter at the old rates will be adjusted for a further period at the revised rates.

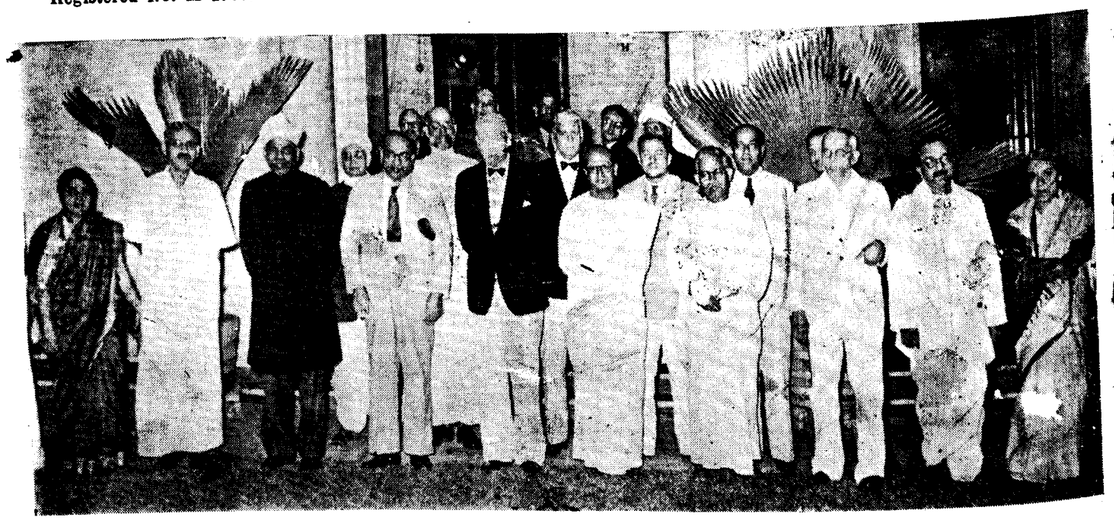


(Left) *The Honourable Minister Gopala Reddy inaugurated Prohibition in Nellore district*

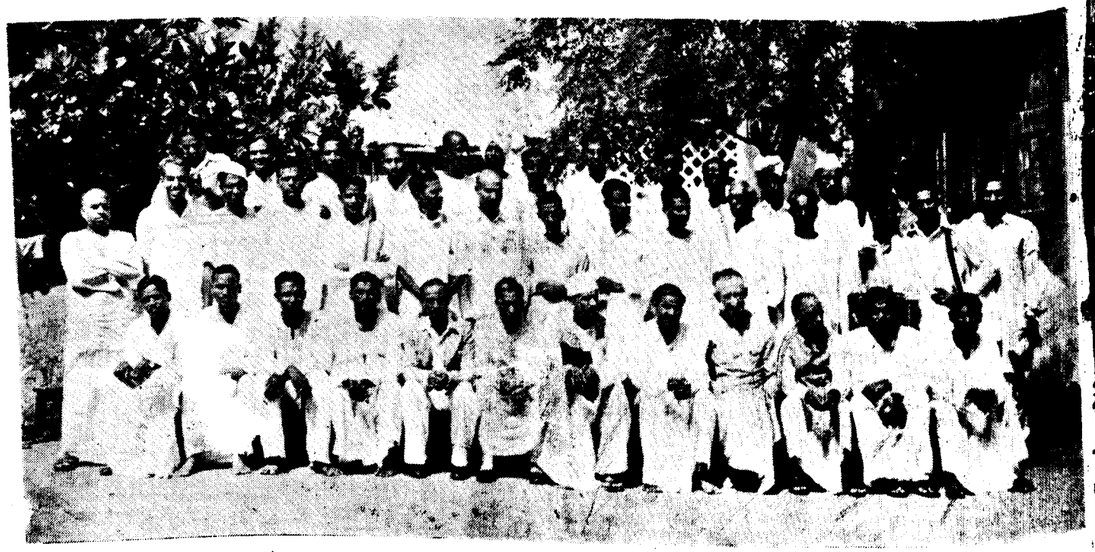
(Below) *A procession taken out in that connection*



Registered No. M-4767.



Sir John Sergeant, Educational Adviser to the Government of India was entertained at a tea party at the Connemara Hotel during his recent visit to Madras



Firka Development Officers' Conference

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The object of *Madras Information* is to give a brief record of the Madras Government's activities and to educate the public opinion on the Government's policies.

However, the views expressed and the articles published in this journal do not necessarily represent the official opinion.

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* * *

Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

Madras Information

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Vol. I, No. 26 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" December 15, 1947

Current Topics

Prohibition

The enthusiasm with which the extension of prohibition to eight more districts was welcomed by the masses on the 1st of October last, augurs well for the future and gives the lie to critics who have been condemning this measure as unwanted. Reports received show that in almost all the districts, the inauguration ceremony was elaborate. In the Nilgiris, the Badaga villagers and all other communities participated in the celebration. In Ootacamund, an effigy of 'drink demon' was taken in procession followed by school children displaying placards and shouting slogans on the 'evils of drink'. The effigy was later burnt. There were similar processions in other parts of the district. In South Kanara one feature of the inauguration was that some of the members of the Police and prohibition staff moved round the town in gaily decorated vans and lorries shouting slogans through megaphones and loud speakers. The food propaganda van was used for broadcasting speeches, on the occasion. Effigies of the 'drink demon' were taken in lorries and amidst shouts and cheers. A public meeting was also held at the end of which the effigies were burnt. In Tanjore, the inauguration ceremony was announced by the switching on the sirens in municipalities. In other places this was proclaimed by the ringing of bells in temples and churches and by the beating of trumpets and drums and blowing of bugles. Bajana parties led mostly by scavengers and Harijans were arranged in scores, and these went round in procession. Effigies of 'toddy demon' were burnt in several places. Physical exercises and demonstration, dramas and cinema shows constituted other salient features of the celebration. In Guntur, special services were conducted in churches and prayers were held in mosques and temples. The introduction of prohibition was announced through colourful posters on buses and other transport vehicles, and public conveyances. There was also a procession of school children and students of high schools. Placards showing 'no more toddy,' 'no more arrack,' 'save your drink money,' 'make your home happy,' 'banish misery,' etc., were carried in the procession. Lorries and buses were fitted with loud speakers. Prohibition songs were sung by girls. Poor-feeding, sports, public meeting, fancy dress competition were some of the other items. Similar interesting items are also reported from Trichinopoly. In Nellore, the advent of prohibition was proclaimed by beat of tom-tom, of drums and blowing of bugles in all towns and villages. Several processions were also taken out. A delightful programme of songs by children and a free dramatic performance were other important items.

Thus prohibition was ushered into being in all the new areas with a degree



The Hon'ble Minister for Prohibition attended a meeting at Salem to review the progress of prohibition in the district.

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Our District News Bag



Mrs. Ammanna Raja, Deputy Speaker, Madras Legislative Assembly, addressing a large gathering at Pullampatti, Salem district, on the occasion of the visit of the Hon'ble Minister for Prohibition to the village

of enthusiasm and public rejoicing which seems to be an earnest of its success. Public co-operation is one vital thing necessary for the success of prohibition and the amount of public enthusiasm displayed during the inaugurations show that the requisite amount of co-operation will be forthcoming to make prohibition an unqualified success. The success of prohibition will be an effective step towards economic rehabilitation and an example especially to the rest of the world.

The Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1946

According to section 3 (1) of the Madras Buildings (Lease and Rent Control) Act, 1946, "every landlord, within seven days after the building becomes vacant by the landlord ceasing to occupy the building or by the termination of a tenancy should give notice thereof in writing to the Controller." The Act can be enforced only through the help of neighbours, who may know when a tenant has changed or when a house has fallen vacant. Despite the vigilance on the part of the officers, it has been found difficult to get sufficient evidence for prosecuting landlords in cases of violation.

This is the position in broad terms regarding the enforcement of Rent Control Act. It need hardly be pointed out that in order to secure prompt and meticulous obedience to any law or regulation, it is necessary that infringements thereof are discovered and promptly handled. Otherwise the usual consequence of the law becoming a dead-letter will follow and the purpose for which a salutary law has been formulated would be defeated. It is here exactly that the co-operation of the general public comes in for the enforcement of law. Citizenship involves not only rights but duties also and unless duties are discharged the question of the enjoyment of rights would become problematical. It is therefore incumbent on every citizen to co-operate with the Government in the enforcement of salutary laws. And in these critical times such co-operation has to be extended ungrudgingly. It is hoped that the required degree of public co-operation will be forthcoming in the matter of enforcement of the Rent Control Act.

Development of Sugar-cane Industry

Sugarcane is one of the important cash crops of the Presidency. The area under cultivation during the past decade has increased from 123,361 acres in 1935–36 to 160,700 acres in 1945–46 —the latest figures available. About 75 per cent of the cane cultivated is utilized for the manufacture of jaggery. The Province is self-supporting so far as jaggery supply is concerned. The position of supply of white crystalline sugar is, however, different. Only about 10 per cent of the sugarcane grown is consumed by the sugar factories. The total quantity of sugar consumed in the Province in 1938–39 was 97,892 tons or roughly 100,000 tons. The annual production in 1938–39 was 31,738 tons. There was therefore a deficit in supply in 1938–39 to the extent of 66,154 tons. This quantity used to be mainly supplied by the other provinces in India. In planning for future development, provision has to be made for the increases in population and improvement in standard of living. It will therefore be necessary to increase the production of both jaggery and white crystalline sugar. Proposals are already under consideration to start a few new sugar factories and also increase the production capacity of some of the existing factories.

The object will therefore be to (*a*) increase the yield of sugarcane in areas cultivated round about the sugar factory and (*b*) increase the yield of sugarcane in jaggery-producing areas.

2. *Programme of work.*—The development work will be carried out in two ways as indicated below :—

(*a*) *By starting liaison farms.*—Four liaison farms will be opened in the vicinity of sugar factories at Samalkota in East Godavari district, Hospet in Bellary district, Nellikuppam in South Arcot district and Pugalur in Trichinopoly district. Each farm will be placed in direct charge of a Gazetted Officer, assisted by a technical staff consisting of two Farm Managers, two fieldmen and a unit of ministerial staff.

About 20 acres in the homefarm of the sugar factory or in its absence in the neighbourhood of the factory will be taken on lease. The results of research achieved at the Provincial Sugarcane Research Station will be tested on a field scale on these farms.

The main items of work on these farms will consist of—

(i) trial of promising varieties to test their suitability to the tract,

(ii) multiplication and sale of seed and material found suitable for the locality,

(iii) trial of manurial and cultural methods found profitable at the Provincial Sugarcane Research Stations,

(iv) trial of remedial measures against insect pests and fungus diseases, and

(v) classification of varieties as suitable for crushing in early and late seasons.

(*Continued on page* 11)

Resumé of Press Notes, Releases, etc.

Anti-corruption Drive

During the month of September 1947, corruption among Government servants was brought to notice against 187 persons. Of these 187, five were let off as the charges against them were not proved and proceedings against 168 were still pending at the end of the month. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 14 persons and they were suitably punished.

[November 20]

Transfer of Officers

The Government have issued orders drawing the attention of all authorities empowered to direct postings of officers to the instructions issued in G.O. No. 334, Finance, dated 23rd October 1939, so as to eliminate all avoidable transfers especially transfers over long distances.

[November 20]

Women Vaccinators

The Government have commended to the local bodies the suggestion made by the Director of Public Health that one woman vaccinator should be employed in every district and in all municipalities having a population of 50,000 and above and that in districts having large gosha populations more women vaccinators should be employed according to their special needs.

[November 20]

Betting-tax enhancement

The rates of the tax in respect of the races at Guindy have been raised from 6¼ per cent to 12½ per cent and in respect of the races at Ootacamund, from 3½ per cent to 5 per cent. The enhanced rates have come into force from 19th November 1947.

[November 20]

Working of Trade Unions Act

The following are the important features of the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in this Province during the year 1946–47.

At the beginning of the year, there were 242 unions on the register. During the year, 174 unions were registered while the registration of 30 unions was cancelled. The total number of trade unions registered since the commencement of the Trade Unions Act up to 1st March 1947 was 563, of which 386 were actually on the register at the end of the year.

The membership of registered trade unions at the end of the year was 229,830 as against 171,083 at the beginning of the year, showing an increase of over 34 per cent. One hundred and nineteen unions availed themselves of the concession of the audit during the year.

Government are glad to observe that there was steady progress of trade unionism in the Province during the year under review.

[November 21]

Christmas holidays intervening, there will be no issue of *Madras Information* for the second half of December 1947. The next issue which will be dated 15th January 1948 will contain more pages.

Communal Ratio Revised

Under the existing rules, appointments in the public service to which recruitment is made on a communal basis are allocated among the various communities in the proportion specified below :—

Non-Brahmans (Hindus)—5 out of 12.
Brahmans—2 out of 12.
Muslims—2 out of 12.
Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians—2 out of 12.
Harijans—1 out of 12.

There has of late been considerable agitation from almost all sections of the general public that the above allocation which was decided upon years ago is quite unsuitable, that most of the vacancies assigned to the Non-Brahmans and Indian Christians go to the educationally more advanced members of those communities and that Harijans get very much less than what they are entitled to on the basis of their population in the Province. Individual members and Associations belonging to the Harijan community have also pointed out that while the Government of India have reserved 12½ per cent of vacancies to the Harijans in respect of posts under their control, the Government of Madras have no reason to stick to 8⅓ per cent. After a careful consideration of the claims of all communities, the Government have come to the conclusion that the existing allocation be changed as follows :—

Non-Brahman (Hindus)—6 out of 14.
Backward Hindu communities—2 out of 14.
Brahmans—2 out of 14.
Harijans—2 out of 14.
Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians—1 out of 14.
Muslims—1 out of 14.

The result of the revised allocation is that while the Harijans gain appreciably, Anglo-Indians and Indian Christians and Muslims lose likewise, but it must be realized that the revised allocation is roughly in conformity with the percentage of population of these communities in the Province and therefore in conformity with the decision of the Government of India on this subject.

2. Recruitment to some of the services and posts under the Government is made on a communal rotation basis. Consequent on the change in the reservations ordered in paragraph 1 above, it has become necessary to change the order in which appointments by rotation are to be made. The Government have decided to change the order of rotation as shown below in every cycle of 14 vacancies :—

1. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
2. Harijan.
3. Backward Hindu.
4. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
5. Brahman.
6. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
7. Muslim.
8. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
9. Anglo-Indian or Indian Christian.
10. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
11. Harijan.
12. Non-Brahman (Hindu).
13. Brahman.
14. Backward Hindu.

3. The revision of the rule of communal representation ordered in paragraphs 1 and 2 above will come into force immediately. In the case of communal rotation, the order will start afresh. The fresh start will be made with the first vacancy arising after the date of issue of this Press Note and will begin at the first turn, viz., Non-Brahman (Hindu).

[November 21]

Boiler Position in 1946–47

The number of boilers on the registers of the Madras Province, Coorg, and Bangalore Civil and Military Stations at the end of the year under notice was 3,278, 12 and 34 respectively. There was an increase of 84 boilers in the Madras Province over the number for the previous year. The total number of registered boilers in the Madras Province alone up to the end of the year under review was 3,201. Fifty boilers were registered, 49 in the Madras Province and 1 in Coorg during the year. Of the 49 boilers registered in the Madras Province, 40 were new ones—36 imported from England, 1 from America and 3 from Africa and the remaining 9 were imported from the Indian State territories.

2. The total number of boilers examined, inspections made and certificates issued during the year under review is 1,740, 3,018 and 1,542 respectively. The examination of 22 boilers was refused under section 14 (2) of the Indian Boilers Act, 1923, as against 17 boilers in the previous year, due to the boilers not having been prepared for inspection in the manner prescribed under the Indian Boiler Regulations. The total number of boilers with defects that rendered them unfit for working at the maximum pressure, during the year under review was 113.

3. *Accidents to boilers.*—The total number of accidents to boilers during the year under report was 24 as against 30 in the previous year. Though the number of accidents for this year was less than that of the last year, the necessity for increase in the number of visits for checking up of boilers is still indicated. Bulges and collapse of flue rings and bulges in shells of a few boilers were among the more serious of the accidents. Large number of these accidents could have been prevented by owners employing competent and certified boiler attendants and by more cursory inspections which at present are not possible due to shortage of inspection. Government are considering the formulation of rules under section 29 (*d*) of the Indian Boilers Act, requiring persons in charge of boilers to be in possession of certificates of competency.

4. The net receipts and expenditure of this department for the year under review were Rs. 77,364, and Rs. 87,149 as against Rs. 74,781 and Rs. 80,968 respectively in the previous year.

5. The number of new boilers imported showed a considerable increase over any previous year and still a wide demand exists for more new boilers. Owing to the inability of the supply to meet the immediate demand, many owners brought in boilers from other Provinces, most of which required reconditioning and repairs.

[November 21]

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Petrol Rationing

The Government have issued a notification that no ordinary or basic coupon issued for motor cars and motor cycles under the Motor Spirit Rationing Order, 1941, shall be valid with effect on and from 26th November 1947, unless it is endorsed by one of the officers mentioned below and a coupon so endorsed shall be valid only for the quantity specified in the said endorsement.

Any person who is lawfully holding any such coupon may apply to one of the aforesaid officers for endorsement thereon and produce before him a certificate of registration of the vehicle in respect of which the coupon has been issued.

The officers empowered to endorse coupons are—

The Commissioner of Police ; the Deputy Commissioner (Traffic and Licensing) ; Assistant Commissioner of Police (Traffic and Licensing) ; Madras Taluk Head Accountants or Sub-Magistrates specified in Schedule 'A' to the Home Department Notification No. 1430, dated 21st October 1947 ; the Area Rationing Officers, and any other Officer who may be appointed in this behalf by the Government of Madras.

[November 25]

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Cement distribution in Madras

During the war, the Government of India had imposed control on the price and distribution of cement under the Defence of India Rules and appointed Regional Honorary Cement Advisers to administer the scheme. Although the legal provisions made by the Government of India expired on 30th September 1946, the administrative arrangements connected with the scheme were continued in this Province by the Government of India, with the agreement of the Government of Madras Frequent complaints have since been received by the Government of Madras against the existing system which had no legal support. After examining these complaints, they have decided to take over the existing administrative arrangements for distribution and to place the whole scheme on a legal basis under the Madras Essential Articles Control and Requisitioning (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 (Madras Act XIV of 1946). They have accordingly appointed the present Regional Honorary Cement Advisers to the Government of India at Madras and Coimbatore as Honorary Cement Controllers of the Government of Madras for the areas shown below :—

Honorary Cement Controller—

1. Sri R. R. Varma, No. 199, Mount Road, Madras.

Area (Districts)—

(1) Chingleput, (2) Madras City, (3) South Arcot, (4) North Arcot, (5) Chittoor, (6) Nellore, (7) Cuddapah, (8) Kurnool, (9) Anantapur, (10) Bellary, (11) Guntur, (12) Kistna, (13) West Godavari, (14) East Godavari and (15) Vizagapatam.

2. Sri A. Shanmugam, No. 33, Avanashi Road, Coimbatore.

Area (Districts)—

(1) South Kanara, (2) Malabar, (3) Tinnevelly, (4) Ramnad, (5) Madura, (6) Tanjore, (7) Trichinopoly, (8) Salem, (9) Coimbatore and (10) The Nilgiris.

Unauthorized sale or purchase of cement, or sale of cement above the controlled price will be an offence under Madras Act XIV of 1946. Registered dealers will, however, be authorized by the Controller to sell cement in small quantities up to 5 bags to each *bona fide* consumer after satisfying themselves regarding the genuineness of the demand. Applications for larger quantities of cement should be sent to the Honorary Cement Controllers of the respective areas, preferably through the Collectors, District Agricultural Officers, District Industrial Officers or other District Officers, as the case may be, according to the purpose for which the cement is required. These officers will forward *bona fide* applications to the Controllers concerned with their recommendations, for the issue of permits.

It is not the intention of the Government at present to set up a new organization for cement control. What they have done now is to clothe the existing machinery, which had been giving fair satisfaction during the war period, with legal authority to function. The Government will watch the result of its operations for some time before considering drastic changes.

[November 27]

Government Stationery Department in 1945–46

The total value of English articles obtained from the India Office, London, during 1945–46 was Rs. 25,549 as against Rs. 1,20,698 during 1944–45. The value of country papers purchased from the Indian mills during 1945–46 is Rs. 12,00,649 as against Rs. 13,01,609 during 1944–45. The value of country-made miscellaneous articles purchased locally during 1945–46 is Rs. 1,81,673 as against Rs. 2,58,896 during 1944–45.

The value of English stores purchased locally during 1945–46 was Rs. 3,01,312 as against Rs. 2,75,919 during 1944–45. The total value of issues in respect of different kinds of articles supplied by the Stationery Office during 1945–46 was Rs. 21,64,875 as against Rs. 21,56,414 during 1944–45. The value of English and Indian stores in stock and purchased by the Stationery Office during 1945–46 is Rs. 38,34,639. The value of the stationery articles issued to various departments during 1945–46 was Rs. 21,53,458 as against Rs. 21,48,531 during 1944–45.

There has been a fall in prices during 1945–46 also. [November 26]

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Film declared uncertified

The Government of Madras have directed that the film entitled "Arab-Ka-Sitara" produced by the Roshan Pictures shall be deemed to be an uncertified film in the whole of the Province of Madras.

[November 26]

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Refugee Relief

Out of a total of 718 refugees, who have arrived in the city up to November 22, 608 are in the camps run by the Government.

During the week ending November 22, 1947, 15 South Indian refugees from Karachi were received by the special staff and sent to their native places, after having been provided with railway tickets, pocket money and clothes. Out of the 608 refugees, 96 are in the Malayan Emigration Depot, Avadi, 44 in the Holiday Home, Saidapet and 468 in the Lutteral's Garden Camp, Kilpauk.

[November 26]

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Regional Language—Stressed

The Government have directed that the regional language should be the first language in future and English the second language in the S.S.L.C. scheme.

It may be pointed out that English was hitherto regarded as first language in the secondary schools and the regional language as the second language. In order to give the languages of the province their proper place in the scheme of studies for secondary education, it was considered that the regional language should be the first language and English the second language. The Board of Secondary Education and the Provincial Advisory Board of Education which were consulted in the matter, have agreed to the proposal.

Necessary amendments to the S.S.L.C. scheme with reference to this change will be issued after the revised curriculum of studies is approved. In the meantime, the revised classification should be adopted in the question papers to be set for the S.S.L.C. examination and for class examinations in the current years.

[November 26]

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Production of food crops

In view of the present food situation in the province, the Government desire that ryots should put every acre of land possible under essential food crops like paddy. The Government will provide facilities to ryots to the extent possible by way of seeds, manures, etc. In order to prevent any increase in the acreage under commercial crops, the Government have decided to stop all supplies of manures and fertilizers to such crops. If the ryots divert their lands under paddy to non-food crops like tobacco, cotton and groundnut or even to less essential crops like sugarcane and plantains, they will be disqualified for any assistance or facilities from Government.

[November 27]

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Forfeiture of publications

The Government have declared to be forfeited every copy, wherever found, of the English booklet entitled "Police Terror Against Malabar Kisans" printed by M. B. Rao, New Age Printing Press, 190-B, Khetwadi Main Road, Bombay : 4, and published by him for the People's Publishing House, Limited, 190-B, Khetwadi Main Road, Bombay : 4, and all other documents containing copies, or translations of the booklet.

The Government have declared to be forfeited every copy, wherever found, of the Malayalam book entitled "Moplahstan" printed at the Cochin Mail Press, Ernakulam, and published at the Al-Jihad Publishing House, Mattancherry, Cochin, and all other documents containing copies of translations of the booklet.

[November 27]

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Firka Development Committees

With a view to devising ways and means to implement the Government's Firka Development Scheme, the Government of Madras have directed that a Firka Development Committee be formed in each of the firkas and centres selected for intensive rural reconstruction work.

[November 29]

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Burma Beans

The Government of India have consented to the export of these beans outside this province provided the stockholders obtain import permits from the administrations to which areas they propose to export the beans. The stockholders who desire to export the beans outside the province are therefore advised to obtain import permits from the Governments of the Provinces or States to which they desire to export the beans and address the Collectors of the districts in this province, where their stocks lie, for permission to export. On receipt of these applications, the Collectors will arrange to release the quantity mentioned in the import permit from the freezing order and permit export within a specified time which would be one month normally. If the export is not made within that time and if there is any reason to believe that the released stocks are made use of in some form or other in this province itself the stocks will be frozen again under the Public Health Act.

[November 29]

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Ban on Telugu Book Lifted

The Government of Madras have directed that the ban imposed in their Order, dated the 24th August 1938, on the Telugu book entitled "The 1922 Ryot Revolt in Manyam (Alluri Sitarama Raju)" and published by A. Kameswara Rao, be lifted.

[November 29]

The Vitobha Temple at Pandharpar is one of the biggest temples in Maharashtra and a great centre of pilgrimage. It is estimated that over a lakh and a half devotees, popularly known as Warkaris were in the town for the "Kartiki Ekadasi" fair.

* * *

Importance of Physical Education

His Excellency the Governor of the Central Provinces and Berar emphasized in a speech recently the importance of physical education in independent India. The Governor inaugurating the physical education week said that the need for physical education must be fully realized if free India was to maintain her greatness.

He observed further that Russia was a model in the sphere of physical education. He suggested that all provinces should have a college for physical culture, where boys and girls should be made to undergo a physical fitness test before obtaining their degrees. Bombay already has such an institution and other provinces could make a start without delay.

* * *

A Bombay Act

A Bombay Government Gazette has notified that the Bill to entitle Harijans to enter and perform worship in temples in the Province of Bombay has received the assent of the Governor-General. The Act, therefore, becomes operative in the Province with immediate effect.

* * *

Honorary Grow More Food Commissioner for Bihar

The Bihar Government have appointed Pandit Girish Tewari, M.L.A., as an Honorary Grow More Food Commissioner. His duties will be to tour the districts and to do propaganda among the villagers in order to popularize the Grow More Food Campaign and to explain what was being done for them by the Provincial Government. He will also verify the figures submitted by the Agriculture Department.

* * *

Panchayat Schemes for Delhi Villages

A scheme to establish 11 panchayat ghars (each panchayat ghar to include at least a group of ten villages) for 110 villages of Delhi Province is understood to have been discussed recently by the Delhi Development Board.

A rural development organizer, it is gathered, will be appointed to control and supervise the work of each panchayat ghar. He will also introduce various schemes of development, such as the establishment of first-aid centres.

* * *

Plans to end Racing in Calcutta

The West Bengal Government propose to stop racing in Calcutta in 1953. Meanwhile, an attempt will be made to increase the provincial revenues either by raising the present betting tax or by imposing a licence fee on the Royal Calcutta Turf Club and the Tollygunge Gymkhana.

Before submitting his final proposals for the consideration of the Cabinet, Mr. Chowdhury, Finance Minister, is ascertaining the views of the Club and the Gymkhana in the matter.

The five-year period of grace before racing is abolished is considered necessary by the Government to enable the Club to liquidate their assets, liabilities and other commitments.

Representatives of the two organizations are reported to have expressed the view that the period to be given to the organizations to enable them to liquidate their commitments should be between 10 and 20 years in view of the very large interests, such as land and property, breeding centres, etc., involved.

With regard to the proposal to raise additional revenue from racing the representatives affirmed that the Club and the Gymkhana were not making any profit now but were being run merely for the sport of racing. Almost the entire income of the two organizations went into Government coffers as income, super and other taxes. If the Provincial Government now imposed a licence fee or increased the betting tax, it would merely result in a proportionate loss to central revenues.

* * *

Separate Department for Harijans

The U.P. Government will very soon open a separate department for Harijan uplift. This fact was mentioned by the Minister of Excise recently addressing the second day session of the Benares District Harijan Conference.

The Minister emphasized the need for unity, literacy and temperance and said that if the Harijans gave up the habit of drinking and devoted their time to learning, all the ills of their society would disappear and they would no more be looked down upon by others.

* * *

Elections to Municipalities

After careful consideration the Government of Bombay has come to the conclusion that the cumulative system of voting which is followed for elections to all municipalities in the Province except Ahmedabad and Ghatkopar-Kirol has outlived its usefulness and that it should be replaced by the distributive system of voting.

* * *

Training in Weaving of Hand-spun Yarn

The Government of Bombay has approved the Village Industries Committee's revised scheme for training 40 persons in the weaving of hand-spun yarn by the institution Gandhi Kutir, Karadi in Surat district, and organizing 1,000 spinners in 5 units of 200 spinners each with a view to obtain a regular supply of hand-spun yarn for the weavers and has sanctioned a grant-in-aid of Rs. 18,200 to the Village Industries Committee for conducting the scheme during the current year.

* * *

Horse-Racing Banned in East Bengal

The Premier of East Bengal stated that the Government had decided to put an end to horse-racing. After March 31, there would be no more racing.

* * *

Trial of Corrupt Officials

The Government of the United Provinces will soon have an 'Administrative Tribunal' to deal with cases of corruption, failure to discharge duties properly, irremediable general inefficiency in a public servant of more than 10 years' standing, and personal immorality of Government servants. The disciplinary proceedings (Rules governing the tribunal) which have already come into effect on November 8 apply to all Government servants under the rule-making control of the Governor. The tribunal will consist of two members and is empowered to co-opt an assessor to assist it. The tribunal will tour the Province and its proceedings will be held *in camera*. Neither the prosecution nor the defence will have the right of representation by counsel. In addition to or as an alternative to the punishments defined in the Civil Service Rules, the tribunal may also recommend compulsory retirement without allowance. During or before the proceedings of the tribunal the delinquent official may be suspended subject to the ordinary rules.

* * *

Extension of Co-operation in East Bengal

The network of co-operative societies in the Province, approximately amounting to about 4,000, which are mostly credit societies giving agricultural loans and the like to cultivators, may now have their scope of activities enlarged. The East Bengal Government contemplate converting them into multi-purpose organizations and thereby cater to the essential needs of the tiller of the soil without any exploitation as at present, at the hands of private individuals and traders. This would at the same time, it is pointed out, provide employment to the surplus agricultural population, whom the land—due to excessive pressure—cannot support. The activities of such bodies will not be standardized but will cover the entire economic field according to the peculiar needs of the locality regarding a particular commodity or article.

Mr. Afzal, Minister in charge of the departments of Co-operation and Agriculture, said that there were immense possibilities for the development of the co-operative movement, which until now was confined only to giving loans to cultivators. He pointed out that the aim of the co-operative movement was co-operation as opposed to competition —in the fields, production, marketing and purchase of commodities by the growers, producers and cultivators.

The Minister also dwelt on the desirability of conducting the production and marketing of rice and jute, which were the two main crops, through co-operative societies, in which case the poor cultivators, he said will get the maximum return for their labour, and their living standard will necessarily improve. He said that at present, the middlemen get about Rs. 30 and 40 crores annually from transactions in rice and jute respectively. If there are co-operative societies in rural areas these huge sums will go to the growers themselves, he said.

It has long been felt in official circles that to bring the cultivators up to any level of prosperity the middlemen, the village usurer, must be eliminated and the co-operative societies pressed into service for supplying agriculturists with an organization which would be elastic enough to undertake activities in various directions connected with rural economy. It has also been decided that schemes for agricultural improvement should have a co-operative basis and it will be recalled that the two departments of Agriculture and Co-operation which were formerly separate have been amalgamated under the same Minister.

* * *

Prison Reform in West Bengal

The West Bengal Government proposes to amend the Bengal Jail Code Manual on 'progressive lines.' An officer has been appointed to suggest amendments, which will be placed before a Jail Code Revision Sub-Committee to be formed to help the Government in reforming the jail administration. The Sub-Committee will consist of both officials and non-officials.

The Government have decided to withdraw the ban on Indians being appointing jailors of the Presidency and Alipore Central Jails, where such posts have hitherto been reserved for Europeans only.

The Government's Jail reform programme includes introduction of compulsory primary education in jails and the setting up of industries where prisoners may be taught crafts and profitably employed. There is also a plan to establish children's industrial homes to supplement the existing Borstal School.

* * *

Development of Indian Shipping

The Central Government propose to secure the entire coastal trade and reasonable shares of the overseas trade for Indian shipping in accordance with the recommendations of the Reconstruction Policy Sub-Committee on Shipping. Before Indian shipping can participate, however, in other trades and meet the entire coastal requirements, Indian tonnage must increase sufficiently and the Government are at present considering certain proposals for the rapid acquisition, on a joint State-cum-private ownership basis, of additional tonnage.

* * *

Ten Technical High Schools in Bombay.

The Government of Bombay have accorded administrative approval to the opening at a cost of nearly sixty-five lakhs of rupees of 10 more Technical High Schools in addition to the existing 2 Technical High Schools maintained by Government at Bombay and Sholapur so that there should be one Technical High School for every two districts of the Province. The schools would be opened with Standards I to IV in the first year and higher standards would be added in subsequent years so that they are full High Schools within four years.

* * *

Bombay Rural Medical Scheme

In view of the acute shortage of qualified medical practitioners for appointment as Subsidised Medical Practitioners, the Government of Bombay have sanctioned, with effect from December 1, 1947, the grant of revised rates of subsidy to the Subsidised Medical Practitioners employed under the 'Rural Medical Relief Scheme.

The orders involve an increase in the subsidy from Rs. 75 per mensem to Rs. 150 per mensem in the case of allopathic Subsidised Medical Practitioners and from Rs. 50 per mensem to Rs. 120 per mensem for qualified Subsidised Medical Practitioners in the case of Ayurvedic and Unani practitioners. The grant for medicines and instruments of both kinds of Subsidised Medical Practitioners will simultaneously be increased by Rs. 50 per annum and the travelling allowance of Ayurvedic and Unani Subsidised Medical Practitioners will be brought to the same level as that of the allopathic Subsidised Medical Practitioners, that is, all Subsidised Medical Practitioners in future will get a travelling allowance of Rs. 37-8-0 per mensem.

* * *

Bihar Government to Popularise Ayurvedic system

The Government of Bihar are considering a scheme for popularising indigenous systems of medicine according to the Ayurvedic and Tibbi sciences and the first step in the direction will be the establishment of a college in each of the three divisions of Bhagalpur, Tirhut and Chotanagpur.

The plan includes opening of an Ayurvedic clinic for patients suffering from tuberculosis at Digha, five miles from Patna.

Papanasam Labourers demand

Some of the labourers employed on construction work at the Papanasam Hydro-Electric Scheme had to be disbanded recently on account of completion of certain works. The remaining muster roll labourers have therefore gone on strike from 19th November. They demand that they should be made permanent and that they should be paid higher rates of wages irrespective of the prevailing rates. Government have examined their demands and informed them that since construction works are temporary most of the labourers engaged on them have necessarily to be employed on a temporary basis and that Government do not see sufficient reason to depart from their general policy of paying workers at the prevailing market rates for similar labour in the locality. The labourers on strike have also been advised to return to work. [November 29]

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Leaflet restored

The Government have cancelled the forfeiture order on the leaflet entitled "The Tragedy of India" commencing with the words "To the People of the U.S.A." and ending with the words "Published by the Hindustan Gader Party," published at San Francisco, United States of America. by Edward Gammons. [November 27]

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Village Panchayat Courts in 1946

During 1946, the number of Panchayat Courts constituted was 4,394. The number of courts that exercised jurisdiction was 3,121 and the number of suits tried by these courts was 41,733. The corresponding figures for 1938 are 4.584, 4,205, and 184,868 respectively. There was a steady fall both in the number of courts that exercised jurisdiction and in the number of suits for disposal since 1939. The number of members of Panchayat Courts who were removed from office for failure to attend more than five consecutive meetings during 1946 was 4, and the number of members who were removed for misconduct, incapacity or neglect of duty was 2, as against 79 and 23, respectively in 1941.

The working of the village courts which were functioning was generally satisfactory. [November 27]

Index Figure

During the week ended 22nd November 1947, the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras City remained stationary at 285.

[November 11]

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Board of Film Censors

The Government of Madras have reconstituted the Board of Film Censors with 20 members for the purpose of examining and certifying films as suitable for public exhibition in the Madras Province. The term of office of the non-official members of the Board will be one year from the 8th December 1947. [November 29]

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Cashewnut Roaster

As a result of extensive trials made in the Experimental Section attached to the Government Industrial Engineering Workshops, the Department of Industries and Commerce has evolved an improved cashewnut roaster suitable for operation on a Cottage Industry basis. This roaster not only roasts the cashewnuts satisfactorily but also extracts a fair proportion of the cashewnut oil in the outer shells. In addition, the objectionable fumes which are ordinarily emitted in the process of roasting the nuts are burnt away in this roaster and the usual pungent and irritating smell associated with the roasting of cashewnut is entirely eliminated.

The standard model is about 6 feet long over all, 18½" wide and 2' 6" high to the base of chimney and it has been found to be capable of roasting 500 to 600 lb. of cashewnuts in a day of eight working hours. Two men are required for the operation of the roaster excluding the labour required for splitting the roasted nuts. The cost of making a roaster of the above size is estimated to be about Rs. 350.

[December 2]

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Ban on Ballad Lifted

The Government of Madras have directed that the ban imposed in their order, dated 15th April 1922, on the Telugu ballad, captioned "We do not want this white Government" and written by Garmilla Satyanarayana, be lifted. [December 3]

Restriction lifted on Unirrigated Groundnut and Tobacco

With a view to increase the area under pulses, the Government prohibited, in their order, dated, 13th October 1944, the cultivation of tobacco except as a mixed crop with at least one row of a pulse crop all round the tobacco crop of each field or portion of a field and the cultivation of unirrigated groundnut in certain districts, except as a mixed crop with one line of redgram for not more than 11 lines of the spreading or bunch variety of groundnut. As these crop restrictions have not materially added to the food supply, but have only increased the ryots' problems in respect of crop rotation, the Government of Madras have ordered that these restrictions be removed.

[December 3]

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Leaflet Forfeited

The Government of Madras have declared forfeit all copies, wherever found, of an anonymous leaflet in Hindi beginning with the words "*15th August to the Hindu Ministers, Officers*" and ending with "*to drown yourself in a pot of water*" and containing a picture of naked women taken in procession and all other documents containing copies or translations of, or extracts or reproduction from, the said leaflet.

[December 3]

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Cost of Living Index

The cost of living index number for working classes in Madras City for November 1947 was 285.

The index for the food group rose by five points to 515 due mainly to an increase in the prices of vegetables, meat and garlic.

The index for the fuel and lighting group rose by one point to 291 due to an increase in the price of charcoal.

The index for the clothing group rose by fifteen points to 330 due to an increase in the prices of dhoties and sarees.

The index for the miscellaneous group rose by one point to 259 due to a increase in the charges for shaving.

The index for house-rent remained stationary at 161.

[December 3]

News and Notes from outside

Assam Hills and Plains people's Week

The Assam Hills and Plains People's Week which was opened in Shillong on the 5th November 1947 concluded after a week. Both the Patrons of the Week, His Excellency the Governor and the Hon'ble the Premier made speeches at the opening ceremony in which they paid warm tributes to all the voluntary helpers who have worked hard to make the Week a success. Everyday thousands of spectators including the tribal delegates in their colourful dresses visited the Exhibition grounds where plains and tribal dances were performed and stalls demonstrating Assamese Art and Industry were opened.

Four hundred and thirty-four delegates from different parts of the Province, e.g., the Naga Hills, Lushai Hills, Garo Hills, Manipur State, Tirap Frontier Tract, Sadiya Frontier Tract, Balipara Frontier Tract and Jowai arrived on the occasion.

His Excellency Sir Akbar Hydari, Lady Hydari and the Hon'ble the Premier received the tribal delegates at Government House on the 8th November, when a film was taken and Tribal songs were recorded. The Members of the Assam Assembly met the delegates at a Tea Party on the 9th November, at the Assembly quadrangle, which was attended by the Governor, Lady Hydari, Hon'ble the Premier and Hon'ble Ministers.

About twenty stalls were opened at the Exhibition site and the demonstrations given at the Sericulture and Weaving sections attracted great attention. The improved processes of endi rearing, spinning, etc., the life circle of a silk worm were demonstrated in the Sericulture section. It was pointed out that in 1937–38, 30,031 bundles of mulberry cuttings were supplied to growers of the Province by the Sericulture Branch. The number increased to 188,708 bundles in 1946. Again in 1937–38, 105,287 layings were supplied to mulberry silk growers of the Province. The number increased to 320,405 in 1946, testifying to the fact that sericulture is becoming a popular cottage industry in the Province.

Bombay Government's Rs. 7½ Crore housing programme

The Government of Bombay have generally approved the recommendations of the Provincial Housing Advisory Committee in respect of the fixing for all the industrial towns in the Province, of a target of 125,000 tenements to be completed in five years, the target including tenements constructed by all agencies—Government, Government-aided and private enterprise and have sanctioned, subject to certain conditions, the programme of constructing 15,000 tenements by the Government, in a period of five years at a cost of Rs. 7½ crores.

Co-operative house building societies will also be aided financially to the extent of Rs. 50 lakhs.

* * *

Prohibition in Bombay

Speaking at a public meeting organized in connexion with the launching of the prohibition programme in Bombay, the Excise Minister referred to the progressive deterioration of the economic and social life of the people since the early days of British rule in India and said that the deleterious effects of toddy and other intoxicants had made physical wrecks of many of them. The same evil had plunged them into debt and turned them into serfs of others, he added.

Appealing for the enthusiastic cooperation of all, the Excise Minister said that Prohibition was not the whim or mid-summer madness of any single group or party but it had been supported by all political parties in the Legislature and adopted as a programme. Therefore, it deserved the wholehearted support of everyone in the Province.

* * *

Scholarships for backward classes

The Bombay Government have sanctioned the institution with effect from 1st November 1947, of 50 new sets of middle school scholarships of the value of Rs. 6 per mensem tenable for three years for backward classes.

Hospitals' improvement

The Government of Bihar have constituted a committee to look into the question of improving the conditions of hospitals in the Province and providing increased and better accommodation and treatment.

* * *

Co-operative organizers

For the period ending June 30, 1948, the Government of Bombay have appointed sixty District Honorary Organizers of Co-operative Societies in the three divisions of the Province.

* * *

Prohibition Propaganda

In the coming Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition, Bombay, the Provincial Prohibition Board has taken a big stall to popularize prohibition plan.

A number of oil paintings depicting the evils of alcoholism and other posters some of which have been prepared by the J. J. School of Art will be exhibited. Very interesting statistics are interpreted in the form of graphs to enlighten the public on the various economic aspects of the problem. Books and pamphlets on prohibition will also be on sale.

* * *

Bombay Regulation regarding school sites

In view of the emphasis now laid on the physical activities and games and simple agriculture in the form of kitchen gardening in schools, the Government of Bombay have laid down the minimum area of a site required for a school building and a playground on the basis of the number of children in the school, for the guidance of the District Building Committees and District Local Boards.

* * *

Harijans enter the Pandharpur Temple

The Harijans and other so-called untouchables have entered the Vitobha Temple and this is considered an important landmark in the history of social emancipation in this country.

The working of the scheme will be placed under an independent department to be called the Department of Indigenous Medicines and the chief executive will be the Superintendent with the rank of the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals, Bihar. For the present the Principal of the Patna Ayurvedic College will be the Superintendent and the Principal of the Tibbi College the Deputy Superintendent. The plan visualizes registration of "hakims" and "vaidyas and the same facilities will be accorded to them as those enjoyed by graduates according to the Western system of medicine.

* * *

Orissa Bills

According to the Orissa Review the November session of the Legislative Assembly of that province passed five Bills into law. All the five were passed without any opposition and without much debate. The first Bill related to the amendment of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act, 1939. It purported to give the Endowment Commissioner powers to enforce his orders of dismissal or suspension of trustees, office-holders or servants of maths, temples or religious endowments. The amendment of the Orissa Tenancy Bill is the next one that has been placed on the Statute book. According to the amendment Chandnadars have been brought within the purview of the Act and they are now protected against eviction from their homestead lands. The Orissa Land Encroachment Bill comes next. There was no special legislation till now to effectively deal with encroachments on Government lands, and the Bill is designed to remedy this defect. The Bihar and Orissa Local Self-Government Amendment Bill of 1947 and the Sambalpur Local Self-Government Bill are the next. They mainly pertain to the amplification of the powers of certain district boards in regard to the licensing of dangerous and offensive trades including mills and factories.

* * *

Bombay Advisory Committee

The Government of Bombay has set up an Advisory Committee to assist the new Department of Parks and Gardens. The Committee is composed of the Honourable the Premier *Chairman*. Members — The Chief Secretary to Government, Political and Services Department, Mrs. Hansa Mehta, M.L.C., Mrs. Lilavati K. Munshi, M.L.A. (Bombay Agri-Horticultural Society), Mr. N. S. Kajrolkar, M.L.A., Dr. Hariprasad V. Desai, M.L.A., Mr. F. P. Poccha, Mr. Humayun Abdulali (Bombay Natural History Society), Mr. V. S. Gore, Mr. Jabir A. Ali, Mr. S. R. Bhagwat (Agri-Horticultural Society, Poona), Sir Manilal Nanavati, the Chief Conservator of Forests, the Director of Agricultural Engineering, the Consulting Surveyor to Government, the Horticulturist to Government, the Superintendent of Gardens, Bombay Municipality,

The Director of Parks and Gardens — *Ex officio Secretary*.

* * *

Prohibition Board Magazine

Prof. J. C. Daruwalla has been appointed honorary editor of the monthly Prohibition Magazine to be published in English by the Provincial Prohibition Board. It is expected that this magazine will provide source material for the Prohibition Officers throughout the Province as also the District and Provincial Committees. It is also hoped that the regional language papers in different parts of the Province will use the material provided in this magazine. An Editorial Advisory Board has also been constituted.

* * *

Resettlement and Employment Organization

The Resettlement and Employment Organization of the Government of India is being divided between Pakistan and the India Union. Of the total number of 70 Employment Exchanges, the India Dominion will retain 53 including the Central Employment Exchange, and the remaining 17 situated within Pakistan will belong to that Dominion. Of the nine Regional Directorates one will be allotted to Pakistan. The two Regional Directorates of Bengal *cum* Assam and Punjab *cum* North West Frontier Province are being partitioned. Separate Regional Directorates for East Punjab and West Bengal will be constituted. Of the total number of training centres which are proposed to be allotted on a territorial basis to either Dominion, 45 will go to Pakistan and 160 to India. The Centres will be divided complete with existing stores and equipment. Ex-servicemen will receive training at Centres of the Dominion to which they belong.

Big United Provinces drive for compost making

A big drive for producing at least 48 million tons of compost for the next kharif crop and help the province get over its present food deficit will be launched by the United Provinces Government early next month.

The authorities have been encouraged by the results of the October drive, which was started to commemorate Mahatma Gandhi's 78th birthday. The results show that, with the exception of three or four districts, 100 per cent success has been achieved and each of the four-lakh pits dug is likely to yield about 60 maunds of compost, for almost no cost. The total yield is expected to be somewhere near 75 lakhs maunds at a production cost of Rs. 500.

* * *

Bengal declares war on Black-Marketeers

Persons convicted of black-marketing may be called upon to display notices of their conviction at their places of business for not less than three months, under the provisions of a West Bengal Government Bill which is to be introduced in the provincial legislature this session. Newspapers may also be called upon to publish the full text of any official press note containing an account of the trial and conviction of any person charged with black-marketing.

If tried summarily, offenders under the proposed law will be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years. In case of trial by a special tribunal, the maximum penalty will be seven years' imprisonment.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Bill says that black-marketing has been rampant for a long time and has become a great evil which should be checked immediately, if society is to survive.

* * *

Coconut nurseries

Schemes for the establishment of coconut nurseries in important centres of Madras, Bombay and Assam Provinces were approved by the Indian Central Coconut Committee which concluded its sixth meeting in Bombay. The Madras scheme, the largest, involves the setting up of five new nurseries and will provide 160,000 selected coconut seedlings annually to coconut growers.

Sir Datar Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, who presided, emphasized the need for making India self-sufficient in this important agricultural product. India, he pointed out, was now dependent on imports to the extent of about one lakh tons of copra a year and development of coconut production would be beneficial not only to the country as a whole but also to the grower.

A sub-committee to consider and make recommendations with regard to measures for the stabilization of coconut prices was also appointed.

* * *

Bihar Provincial Development Board

The Provincial Government have for some time past been considering the question of the creation of an organization to help, accelerate and intensify the development programme of this Province. In 1937-38 also, when the Ministry was in office the subject of development of nation-building activities received their attention, and, in particular, measures of rural development and other activities on a large scale were started. The commencement of the war and its consequences, however, gave a set-back to those measures. The fundamental requirement now is that development should be methodically planned and executed in a co-ordinated manner in collaboration with representative public opinion. The Government of Bihar have accordingly constituted a Development Board with Hon'ble Minister for Development as Chairman. There are twenty members in the Board including the Chairman. The Development Commissioner will be the Secretary of the Board.

Functions of the Board.—The Board will be an advisory body only, but it will be competent to discuss and make recommendations to Government on all questions of policy relating to the Post-war Development and industrial expansion. The functions of the Board will be—

(1) to formulate detailed plans of industrial development of the Province;

(2) to advise in regard to each industry, whether it should be State-owned or left to private enterprise;

(3) to advise in respect of the industries to be left to private enterprise, the degree of State control to be exercised over them and the method of exercising the control whether by purchase of shares or otherwise;

(4) to advise on the selection of sites for industries;

(5) to advise on such other matters connected with industrial or other development of the province as may be referred to the Board by Government; and

(6) to help, obtain the services of experts, if and when necessary.

The Board will meet at least once in each quarter of the year and its life will be five years in the first instance. At each meeting a statement on the progress of the post-war plan in general since the last meeting will be given to each member.

The Board is empowered to co-opt members when necessary for special purposes and to appoint sub-committees composed of its members and co-opted members.

The Post-war Reconstruction Board, Bihar, constituted by the previous Government in the year 1944, is abolished.

* * *

The United Provinces Economic Development Board

Methods to improve statistics of food production by undertaking a census of estimated yield for every field in the province were considered at the second meeting held yesterday of the Provincial Economic Advisory Board, United Provinces. The Board decided to recommend such a census to Government as an experiment for two years. It was generally agreed that the results obtained by such a census provide a useful check on the estimates obtained at present.

The Board also considered a resolution recommending introduction and development of mechanised water transport in rivers in order to cheapen transport and save coal. Suggestions made included State measures such as controlling river beds and river courses and creating artificial falls for generating energy. A good deal of discussion took place on the best method of management of such transport and the pros and cons of State management as against private management under State control were fully discussed. The Board finally agreed to recommend private management under State control.

The Board includes nine non-official members, viz., a representative each of the five Universities in the province and of Agriculture, Industry, Labour and Cottage Industries.

(Continued from page 2)

The average number of days worked by the sugar factories in a year in the Province is about 107 days. If more sugar has to be produced, the duration of cane-crushing season has to be extended. This has to be achieved by inducing ryots to cultivate both early and late-maturing varieties.

(*b*) *By concentrating and intensifying propaganda work.*—The scheme will be tried in 24 taluks, spread over 13 districts. The work in each taluk will be in charge of a Special Agricultural Demonstrator, assisted by a technical staff of one fieldman and four demonstration maistris.

The main items of work in the taluks selected will be—

(i) organizing seed farms for multiplication and sale of seed material of an improved variety found suitable for the tract,

(ii) visiting growers frequently and guiding them in cultivating on improved lines,

(iii) demonstrating the construction of suitable type of furnace for jaggery manufacture,

(iv) arranging supply of manures, cane-crushers and jaggery pans required by growers and demonstrating improved methods of purifying jaggery, and

(v) issuing free seed material up to a limit of Rs. 200 per annum to deserving poor ryots.

Government's Policies and Programmes

Basic Education

Hon'ble Minister for Education Surveys Position

Speaking at the meeting of the Advisory Board of Basic Education, Hon. Sri T. S. Avinashilingam Chettiar, Minister for Education, observed: "There are people who think that if spinning is introduced in elementary schools, that will be basic education. Nothing is farther from the truth. Basic education is not merely teaching, spinning or any other craft but it is teaching through craft. It is a well accepted principle of education throughout the world that all education should be based upon experience and if a craft can be made the main experience around which education could be imparted, it serves the double purpose of giving experience as well as teaching a useful craft and that is the main contribution of basic education to the world of educational thought. Since it is so much different from ordinary education, we may understand how much it will be difficult for us to introduce this new system of education in our schools throughout the Province. For teachers who have grown old in the old method of education, this will indeed be a trial. The task of re-training the lakh and odd teachers already employed in our elementary schools is indeed a great one; but yet one that has to be done."

Government Plans

The Government are drawing out a comprehensive plan for the spread of basic education throughout the Province. In the course of this year, three more training schools have been started, one in South Kanara, another in Malabar and the third in Tamil Nad. In addition, they have also started training the staff of our Training Schools. Twenty-four of them are being trained in basic education and it is expected that they will be able to convert eight training schools as basic training schools in the next school year. I am also glad to inform you that the Basic Education Society of Tamil Nad and the Kasturba Trust have come forward to conduct a training school each in basic education. Circulars also have been issued that within five years all higher grade and secondary grade training schools in the province should become basic training schools.

Importance of Elementary Education

Education in the elementary stage is the very basis of our national life. If we are to create a great and glorious nation that can be done only by giving ideas of strength, cleanliness and efficiency to our children even while they are young and in the lowest classes. If that is to be done, the efficiency and quality of our elementary schools will have to be improved a great deal. While basic education will certainly improve the content of education, we must also address ourselves to the organization of elementary education which will avoid wastage and create an efficient system of elementary education throughout the Province. I am sorry to inform you that even on the 31st of March 1947, there have been as many as 5,421 single-teacher schools and as many as 14,014 double-teacher schools in the Province. Everybody who has any experience of educational organization will know how much of waste there may be in these schools. It is also unfortunate that in certain villages where there is strength only for one good elementary school, there are two elementary schools with two or three teachers each. This could be easily combined into one school working with greater efficiency. In some cases, the district board itself maintains two schools, one for boys and one for girls. In some cases, it is one aided school and another District Board school and in other cases, it is two aided schools working in competition with each other. The result is that the strength between them is vacillating and the strength of both is low and both schools are inefficient. In these circumstances, the Government are contemplating whether it will not be in the interests of both efficiency and economy to combine these inefficient schools and conduct them more efficiently.

Personnel

The real problem of our elementary schools is want of good personnel. It has been said that we are entrusting the education of the future of the nation in the least qualified hands. I must express in this place my appreciation of the good work done by our thousands of elementary school teachers under very difficult surroundings in far off remote villages. At the same time, I am also not unaware of the great need for improvement in the personnel of our elementary school teachers. Various reasons have contributed towards this unhappy state of affairs. The basic qualifications, the conditions of service, constant transfers, want of proper treatment by superiors and in some cases unhelpful attitude of the villagers themselves have contributed to these. Any organization which does not take into account these factors and effect improvement in the status of the elementary school teachers in their daily life cannot succeed in its object and so, it is under the contemplation of Government to consider ways and means by which this can be done consistent with our financial resources.

Women Teachers

It will be seen from figures that the number of women employed in elementary schools has considerably increased in recent years—

Year.	Number of women teachers in elementary schools.
1941–42	19,470
1942–43	20,373
1943–44	21,442
1944–45	22,596
1945–46	24,202
1946–47	25,353

This shows how more and more women are taking to teaching as a profession. With the spread of education amongst girls, there will be thousands more of them who would like to take up to a profession. Teaching children is one of those professions in which women can do much better than men and it is only to be expected that as time goes on, the number of women who will take to teaching as a profession will become greater every year. In England, America and in other countries, elementary school teachers are normally only women and only in rare cases, men are employed. It is likely that the same conditions may prevail in this country also. If this is to happen, we must provide conditions of security and dignity to those who would take up this work. This is a responsibility which rests both upon the State and the people.

The importance that elementary education plays in the economy of our Province is reflected in the expenditure incurred for it. From the figures given below, it will be seen that a large amount has been spent on elementary education, as compared with secondary and collegiate education:—

Year. (1)	Amount spent on Elementary education. (2)	Secondary education. (3)	College education. (4)
	LAKHS. RS.	LAKHS. RS.	LAKHS. RS.
1941–42	278	127	68
1942–43	287	129	71
1943–44	314	143	77
1944–45	386	164	90
1945–46	460	203	123
1946–47	*390+ 170† =560	*59·46+ 161† =220·46	*55·96+ 77† =132·96

* Government expenditure.

† Expenditure from other sources based on figures for 1945–46.

The actuals for 1947–48 will be much greater than for 1946–47, because the recent revision of salaries made for elementary school teachers will also have to be included in the total expenditure for that year.

Financial position

It has been estimated that there are about seven million school-going children who have to be provided for in elementary education. Till now, we have been able to provide only for about half that number. We have got the tremendous work of providing for the rest of the school-going children. The state of our provincial finance is too well-known for everybody. Any further expansion of expenditure in any large scale will be well-nigh impossible. Our revenues are shrinking. Our expenditure is increasing in all items and with the prospect of a depression ahead, it is possible that other items of revenue which have hitherto yielded large amounts to the provincial exchequer may also dwindle. In these circumstances, it will be very difficult if we are to make further expenditure of a like amount necessary before making education available for the rest of the children. It is not only a matter of finding money but also a matter of finding nearly double the number of teachers that we have today, i.e., nearly another lakh and fifty thousands of teachers. Besides, this will also mean finding more than double the number of buildings necessary for elementary education. Our school buildings are not in a very enviable condition today. To set them in order itself will cost us a fabulous sum but to find double that accommodation in the near future will be a well-nigh impossible task for any Government. But these difficulties should not deter us from our objective. We must find ways and means by which we must be able to provide seats for the school-going children throughout the Province. The experiences of other provinces and countries must be able to give us a great deal of light in this matter and the Government are considering with interest the systems followed in neighbouring States and elsewhere.

Conclusion

Our plans and our execution may not be perfect because we may lack the wherewithal to build them as well as we would wish. But we shall try to do our best within the resources available to us. In this great task, we want the co-operation of all men and women in the villages and we hope we will have them in a wholehearted manner.

The Housing Problem

Hon'ble Mr. DANIEL THOMAS explains Government measures

The Housing problem is one of the numerous problems that call for urgent solution in the post-war world. It is fairly common throughout the world in different degrees of intensity. The Madras Government have been extremely prompt in grasping the magnitude of the problem and taking quick action. Hon'ble Mr. Daniel Thomas refers in his broadcast to the historical background of the problem and the various measures taken by the Government towards its solution. He also appeals for public co-operation. This co-operation is especially essential in a matter like the shortage of housing accommodation for the Government have its own natural handicaps and cannot do everything single-handed.

In the course of the broadcast the Hon'ble Minister said—

Housing Scheme of the Government

Housing is one of the most important problems that confront us at the present time in India. On the physical plane, it is next in importance only to food and clothing. And there can be no civilized life without proper housing facilities. Housing has a vital bearing on the health of the nation and the standard of living of the community in general. Neglect of housing tends to the growth of 'plague spots' in crowded towns and cities which constitute a starting point for the spread of epidemics like cholera, plague and smallpox. It is no exaggeration to state that the standard of health of the people in our villages, towns and cities is to a large extent dependent on the provision of healthy and hygienic houses. Housing has now become one of the major problems that needs to be tackled with all the resources which the State, local bodies, employers and private capitalists can mobilize.

Background

Discussing the question of housing accommodation in India, the Bhore Committee observes that increase in the number of houses has not kept pace with the increase in population. It is an indisputable fact, as far as Madras is concerned, that there has been a sharp increase of population in the last two decades, but no corresponding increase in the number of houses, especially houses suitable for the lower middle class and the poorer sections. The position has become much worse since the last war. Abnormal increase in the value of building sites, the extreme scarcity of building materials like cement, steel and timber and the greatly increased cost of labour, both

killed and unskilled have prevented the construction of new houses on an appreciable scale. Statistics show that in the Madras City during the last quinquennium (1941–1946) when the increase in population was over 60 per cent, only about 1,600 new houses were constructed which works out at the rate of one new house for every addition of 287 people. The position is not very different in the important towns in the mufassal.

Agencies for Construction

As regards the actual construction of houses, there are various possible agencies: the Government, municipalities and local boards, co-operative societies, companies and employers as well as private individuals. As amongst these diverse agencies, co-operative effort represents a happy mean between the restricted and often slow-moving methods of municipal and public enterprise and the system of commercial enterprise which is actuated by the profit motive. A co-operative building society is primarily concerned with the satisfaction of the need for housing felt by its members, while a commercial enterprise is concerned with the profit that can be derived by the investment of funds on house construction. State loans are obtained by co-operative building societies and passed on to members on easy rates and for periods up to 20 years with a view to enable them to build their own houses for their own occupation. The system does not aim at exploiting them, but promotes thrift among members; for it enables the members to save from their income to pay off the loans obtained. When the co-operative organization takes the form of a house construction society, which builds houses for its members and leases them out to them on the hire-purchase system, the objective is to economize the costs of construction and to speed up the erection of buildings by joint effort. The houses are constructed primarily for the occupation of the owners themselves, for only those who have no houses of their own are generally admitted as members. If exceptions are made in favour of those who possess houses of their own, it is only on condition that they agree to rent out the new houses at fair rates determined by the Board of Directors of the Society. This exception has become necessary in recent years, as otherwise the general shortage of houses cannot be remedied speedily.

Further, the co-operative system does away with the arbitrary interference of the landlord as members in their corporate capacity constitute the landlord or owners. In view of these undoubted advantages, Government propose to encourage schemes of co-operative housing as far as possible.

Government action

With a view to immediately relieve the shortage in the housing accommodation in the city and the mufassal the Government have organized a Co-operative House Construction Society in the City and in several important mufassal towns. In order to tackle the problem of housing in rural areas, it is also proposed to organize similar societies in all major panchayats where there is shortage of housing accommodation. The question of extending similar schemes, with necessary modifications to villages is also under consideration. Housing Committees have been constituted in 70 municipalities and 197 major panchayats for the selection of suitable sites for house building and for the formation of Co-operative House Building Societies. Most of the societies have begun to function and have selected sites for the building schemes. The progress of the schemes is bound to be slow in the initial stages in view of the difficulties relating to acquisition of suitable sites and the scarcity of building materials like iron, cement and timber; but Government are making arrangements to speed up acquisition proceedings, to help in procuring the necessary materials and also to provide the necessary funds by way of loans to the Co-operative House Construction Societies.

Madras House Construction Society

Of these co-operative societies, the Madras House Construction Society deserves special mention. It has on its roll 661 members with a paid up share capital of Rs. 22,31,000. The society has already acquired site to an extent of about 131 acres in Adyar by private negotiation. A lay-out plan has been prepared, providing for 332 houses. The society proposes to construct three classes of buildings:—Upper class buildings at a cost of Rs. 15,000 each; middle class buildings at a cost of Rs. 10,000 each and lower class buildings at a cost of Rs. 5,000 each, exclusive of the value of the site. It is to be a self-contained colony providing amenities such as clubs, playgrounds, parks, schools, child welfare centres, markets and such like. It is expected to start construction in January 1948 which may be finished in less than a year. When completed, this colony will be a model of its kind from the point of view of health, sanitation and recreation facilities. The society is also initiating land acquisition proceedings for additional sites in Adyar, Mylapore and Kilpauk.

Other Schemes

The Co-operative Housing Schemes referred to above are intended for middle class people who are in a position to make the initial deposit covering a quarter of the cost of the site and of the house and to repay the remainder of the cost provided by the society in easy instalments during a period of 20 years. The question of housing the poorer classes of people is also under the consideration of the Government. It is obvious that so far as these sections of the people are concerned, they will not be in a position to join up the Co-operative House Building Societies as they cannot make the required initial deposits unless special arrangements are made or special subsidies are given by the Government. With reference to the Weaver communities in the mufassal, house construction schemes are worked out under the auspices of the Weavers' Co-operative Societies. A beginning has been made at Yemmiganur in the Bellary district where a scheme for the construction of 100 houses has already been worked out and foundation has been laid. About 20 similar housing schemes are being started in various other parts of the Province. As regards Housing Schemes for Harijans, various schemes are being considered by the Harijan Welfare Committee and the Government will take necessary action as soon as the recommendations of the Committee are received. On the general question of housing also, a Provincial Housing Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Diwan Bahadur L. Venkatakrishnan, retired Chief Engineer. The Committee have examined the various housing problems in the Province and their report is likely to be ready before the end of the month. The Government are awaiting the report of the Committee with interest and will consider their recommendations and take such action as is necessary and possible.

Appeal

What I have outlined above is only a beginning. The problem is so widespread and so vast that it requires steady and sustained efforts both of the Government and of every section of the people. I would therefore appeal to every section of the public not only to help and co-operate with the Government in their schemes, but also to initiate and carry out building schemes on smaller and larger scales throughout our Province.

What the Government have done for Harijans and Muslims

Harijans

1. *Social.*—In order to improve the social status of the Harijans and to remove their civil disabilities, the Government enacted the Removal of Civil Disabilities Act, 1938. Recently a Bill to amend this legislation which seeks further to remove their civil disabilities has been passed by the Houses of the legislature. House-sites, wells, tanks, etc., for supply of drinking water, sanitary amenities, pathways, burning or burial grounds, etc., are provided by the Labour Department for the social amelioration of the Harijans. Government make grants to private bodies engaged in social uplift of the community and they have created a special fund of Rs. 1 crore called the Harijan Uplift Fund with a view to undertaking a colonization scheme for the benefit of the Harijans. The details of the scheme have not yet been finally settled.

Collectors of districts have been instructed to select sites for sinking wells in rural areas as far as possible near Harijan colonies and places accessible to them. The Government have directed that wells dug at the cost of the Government in the premises of Courts, police lines, offices, etc., should be used by the persons for whom they were intended, namely, litigants, policeman, employees in the offices, etc., as the case may be, irrespective of their community and if after serving their needs first, it is possible to extend the convenience to others, it may be done by the head of the office in whose compound the well is situate. Government are also issuing instructions that officials who go enquiring into the needs of the Harijans should actually go to the cheris themselves and not bring the Harijans to the place where they camp.

2. *Spiritual.*—By the passing of the Madras Temple Entry Authorization Act, 1947, Harijans have been enabled to enter any Hindu temple and offer worship therein in the same manner and to the same extent as Hindus in general.

3. *Economic.*—Under Board's Standing Order No. 15 (38) specific areas of land in each village have been set apart for assignment to depressed classes for cultivation. In the case of valuable lands, they may be assigned to them on collection of market value in easy instalments. Under the Grow More Food rules, preference in the matter of temporary grant is given to landless poor, the bulk of the landless poor being Harijans.

On representations made to the Government by the Harijans that they are experiencing difficulties in securing the rationed articles and that they may be exempted from the operation of the one year rule about the licences under the Madras Foodgrains Control Order (No. 11), 1945, to enable them to open rice ration shops, orders have been issued by the Government that the one year rule may be waived in case of genuine applicants belonging to scheduled castes provided they satisfy the other conditions.

On a representation from the members of the Legislative Assembly that Harijans including those who were converted to Christianity are not getting their due share of controlled and rationed articles such as mill cloth, yarn, foodgrains, firewood, sugar, etc., as the licensed dealers invariably belong to other communities, the Government have ordered that some shops may be located in Harijan quarters, Harijans being made the licensees in respect of such shops. The Collectors were asked to implement fully the above orders in granting licences to deal in cloth and yarn. The Government have also ordered that whenever applications from suitable Harijans with necessary qualifications are available they may be considered favourably for appointments in the Textile Department.

Co-operative societies have been organized for the Scheduled classes for various purposes such as supply of credit for their agricultural and domestic expenses, purchase of house-sites to provide dwelling houses, or the taking of land on lease or an assignment from the Government for purposes of cultivation. On the 30th June 1946, there were 2,328 such societies with 1·14 lakhs of members. These societies include the Kallar societies in Tanjore and Madura districts, the fishermen societies in Malabar and South Kanara and the societies for hill tribes in Vizagapatam and East Godavari districts. The Government have sanctioned special staff for the supervision of these societies.

The Government have exempted the Scheduled class members of co-operative societies including land mortgage banks from the payment of all fees payable under the law of registration for the registration of documents and for obtaining encumbrance certificate in respect of applications for loans on the security of immovable property. Under the existing orders this concession will remain in force till 31st March 1950.

4. *Educational.*—Maintenance of schools, grant for scholarships, stipends and boarding grants, grants for the purchase of books, etc., grants to private educational institutions for the benefit of Harijans, are the ameliorative measures taken by the Labour department for the Harijans.

The scholarships in the Madras Veterinary College are distributed in accordance with the principle of communal rotation based on the strength of each class. Candidates belonging to the Scheduled castes who are admitted to the B.V.Sc. degree course in the Madras Veterinary College will be paid a scholarship of Rs. 40 per mensem whereas candidates belonging to other communities will be paid only Rs. 30 per mensem.

Instructions have also been issued to the Director of Veterinary Services to view liberally applications from Harijan candidates for admission into the Madras Veterinary College and to see that all Harijan candidates who possess the minimum qualifications required for admission are admitted to the course without reference to their marks in comparison with other candidates, i.e., a Harijan candidate need not be rejected on the ground that there are candidates with better marks or higher qualifications.

Three scholarships of Rs. 30 per mensem each are awarded to the backward and other communities including Harijans in each of the Agricultural Colleges, Coimbatore and Bapatla. Two scholarships of Rs. 40 each per mensem are awarded to students from the Scheduled castes by the Labour department in each of the Agricultural Colleges.

The Director of Agriculture has been asked to issue instructions to the Principals of the Agricultural Colleges to view liberally applications from Harijan candidates for admission into the colleges.

The Government have issued instructions to check discrimination against



A photo taken in connection with the inspection of the Hon'ble Minister for Public Works of the Tungabadra Dam Area The Hyderabad Superintending Engineer is seen on the left of the Hon'ble Minister



Hon'ble Minister for Public Works distributing sweets for children of labourers in the Tungabadra Area



Hon'ble Minister for Public Works inspecting the dam site. The Special Chief Engineer (right) and the Superintending Engineer (left) are with the Hon'ble Mini:'



Some of the Burma evacuees employed as labourers in the Tungabadra Area

Harijans in schools. In the matter of admissions special facilities have been made for the reservation of seats to the extent of 10 per cent to Harijans in schools. As a means of solving the problem of untouchability, the opening of separate schools for Harijans will be discouraged. Steps are also taken to see that when schools are newly opened, they are located near Harijan cheris so that it may be convenient for Harijans to attend along with caste pupils. Harijans are eligible for full fee concessions up to III Form if they are poor under the Madras Educational Rules. Harijan girls in higher forms and Harijan boys in all forms are eligible for the half-fee concessions under these rules. The Government sanctioned in 1945–46 a scheme for the introduction of compulsory elementary education in selected villages in each district and the scheme is being extended year after year. Instructions have been issued to the Director of Public Instruction to select villages in backward areas as far as possible. Under the orders of Government, poor children of *Scheduled Castes and Muslims* reading in elementary schools under local bodies are supplied with books and slates free of cost. These books and slates should be utilized by the pupils during school hours and should not be taken home. The supply is left to the discretion of the local bodies and depends on the funds available with them. Harijan boys and girls in all schools and colleges are eligible for the special scholarships reserved for them by the Labour department. In the Education department though no special scholarships have been earmarked for the Harijan pupils direction has been given that in the award of the general scholarships preference should be given to the claims of the Harijan pupils.

In regard to collegiate education, the Government are against fixing a rigid communal proportion for admission into Government Arts and Professional Colleges. They have, however, issued instructions to the Principals of Government Colleges that while making selections for admission to all classes in their colleges, they should exercise the greatest care in seeing that due representation is given to Non-Brahmans, to all minority communities, to Muslims, to Scheduled classes and to women. They have also been instructed that special consideration should be shown to Muslim women and Scheduled classes many few of whom ever reach the collegiate standard. From the academic year 1947–48, the Government have reserved 10 per cent of the seats in all Government *Arts* Colleges, *Training* Colleges and *Law* College, Madras, for Harijan students. In the matter of admission to Government *Engineering* Colleges, fresh instructions have been issued to the Principals of the Colleges that the number of seats from each district should be fixed to the extent possible with reference to the ratio of the population of the district bears to the total population of all the districts in the Province. They have also been informed that the communal proportion fixed for representation in Government service should be kept in view and should be observed as far as practicable in the matter of selection of students from the various communities for admission into the Government Engineering Colleges. This will enable Harijans to get their fair share of seats in such colleges.

In respect of Medical education the following concessions are admissible to *Harijans and Muslims* ;—

(1) Women students of these communities and classes when admitted to the Medical Colleges are exempted from the payment of entire tuition fees.

(2) Out of every twelve seats in the Medical Colleges, Muslims get two and Harijans one.

In the School of Indian Medicine, the following concessions are given to *Muslims and Scheduled Castes* students :—

(1) A stipend of Rs. 20 per mensem to two women students every year.

(2) Half-fee concession to all *Muslim and Scheduled Caste students*.

In the Central Board of Indian Medicine, one seat has been reserved for medical practitioners from the *Scheduled Castes* and one seat for practitioners in Unani system who are generally *Muslims*.

5. *Political*.—So far as local bodies are concerned, special representation through reservation of seats has been given to members of *Scheduled Castes and Muslims* with reference to their population in the local areas concerned in order to safeguard their interests in the administration of local bodies.

Muslims

Educational and spiritual.—Every improvement that is necessary and is possible is being effected in the existing schools. It is the policy of the Government to have complete schools wherever necessary. Quite recently schools for Muslim girls were started at Mangalore, Coimbatore, Madras and Tirur. Provision exists for religious instruction in all these schools. Religious instruction is a regular feature in all Muslim institutions. Muslims are admitted into all Government hostels. Conveyance facilities are provided in schools for Muslim girls of a certain age. Muslims are also eligible for full and half-fee concessions as the case may be under the Madras Educational Rules. There are in addition special scholarships for Muslims in secondary schools and the number of scholarships has been increased this year. They are also eligible to receive general scholarship. They enjoy, besides a large number of free scholarships in Government Muslim schools which are denied ordinarily to other communities. Three scholarships of the value of Rs. 30 each per mensem are awarded to the students from the Muslim community studying for the B.Sc. (Ag.) course in each of the Agricultural Colleges at Coimbatore and Bapatla. The concessions enumerated in detail under the heading "Harijans" in the matter of their education in the Arts, Professional and Medical Colleges, and in the School of Indian Medicine (including the Central Board of Indian Medicine), are allowed to the Muslims.

Political.—The same concessions as are shown to Harijans in the matter of representation through reservation of seats in local bodies are also shown to Muslims.

India's Cattle Wealth

"Scientific knowledge should be harnessed for the development of India's cattle wealth," said Acharya Kripalani presiding over the annual function of the Delhi Pinjrapole Society yesterday. He said that though India had the largest number of cattle, most of them were infirm and unproductive. Services of experts should be utilized by Pinjrapoles which should be run as far as possible as self-contained units. The first essential requisite was to obtain the necessary land where fodder for cattle should be grown. Secondly measures should be taken to improve the breed of the animals.

Dependence on public subscriptions for running Pinjrapoles should be discontinued. No institution could be run on private charity and it should be the endeavour of the persons connected with it to make it self-sufficient.

Acharya Kripalani continued, "we are too much bound down by past tradition and do not understand true religion."

Tungabadra Project



Ground work in full swing



A full aerial view of the Tungabadra Dam

Demonstration tanks, conservancy of carp fry in canals, channels, drains, etc., supply of larvicides and propaganda in educating the public about the activities of the department are the features of the scheme.

As a preliminary to undertaking large scale operations, Government sanctioned the survey of the Kistna and Godavari rivers. They also sanctioned a scheme for the survey of the fisheries of the rivers of the Presidency with a view to finding out different kinds of migratory fishes.

At Ootacamund a mirror carp farm and trout culture have been established. There are also demonstration farms for popularizing the inland fisheries and educating the rural population on the intrinsic and food value of fishes. The department has participated in a number of open exhibitions.

Pearl and Chank Fisheries

The important chank fisheries are those of Tinnevelly and Ramnad. The smaller fisheries of Tanjore, Chingleput and Nellore are leased to contractors and a portion of the Tanjore fishery is being worked departmentally. The aim of the department is the organisation and development on scientific lines of the ancient chank fisheries and pearl fisheries with a view both to ensuring prosperity of the fishermen who are engaged in these fisheries and to safeguarding the revenues of the State. Pearl fisheries exist off Tinnevelly and Ramnad Coasts. There has been no pearl fishery since 1928.

Socio-Economic Activities

Education.—One of the duties of the Fisheries department has been to bring about the uplift of the fishermen community through education. At the inception of the department the fisherfolk on both the coasts were in general at every low stage of intellectual development and their general condition called for remedial measures. Separate fisheries schools were therefore started. From the year 1919 onwards there was a progressive increase in the number of schools, year by year till 1937–38, when a more rapid expansion took place. The result is that today there are 56 fisheries schools on the West Coast alone as against 51 during the previous year, with 9,922 pupils and 3 on the East Coast with 194 pupils. Of these 56 schools on the West Coast, one is a high school, 10 are higher elementary schools and 45 are lower elementary schools.

Training in fisheries.—A short term course has been conducted lasting for a period of six weeks, for training the members of public and local bodies in inland fish farming to improve fish production in order to tackle the food situation.

Co-operation.—Since 1934, the officers of the Fisheries department have been working in collaboration with the officers of the Co-operative department in starting new societies among fishermen and in supervising them. At the close of the year ended June 1946 there were 60 such societies on the West Coast and 3 on the East Coast. As a result of the working of these societies it has been possible to wean the fishermen from the habits of intemperance, extravagance, etc., and it is gratifying to note that the drink evil among this community has now diminished considerably. The question of appointing welfare officers is under consideration of the Government.

A scheme for the supply of catamaran logs, sail cloth, yarn, manila rope, coal tar, hooks, etc., to fishermen on a subsidized basis is separately under consideration as a relief measure.

(2) Labour Department

Labour Situation during the First Fortnight of November 1947

About 1,000 workers of the Western India Match Co., Ltd., Tiruvottiyur, Madras, staged a stay-in-strike on 27th October 1947 on the alleged refusal of the management to compensate them for the fall in their earnings due to the introduction of half packets.

The workers resumed work on 1st November 1947 in the afternoon.

About 91 workers of the Mysore Vegetable Oil Products, Ltd., Madras, struck work on 28th October 1947 as their demands for dearness allowance, increments, house allowance, uniforms, etc., were not conceded by the management. On the intervention of the Labour Officer, Madras, an agreement was reached between the workers and the management and the workers resumed work on the morning of 4th November 1947.

The Madras District Cigar Workers Union issued a notice of strike, dated 28th October 1947, to the President, Madras Cigar Manufacturers Association and the following companies :—

(1) T. R. Swami Chetty Cigar Co., Madras ;

(2) P. G. Manickam Chetty Cigar Factory, Madras.

(3) P. Venugopal Mudaliyar Cigar Factory, Madras ; and

(4) The Indian Tobacco Co., Madras.

The Union intimated that the workers would go on strike if their demands for increased wages, dearness allowance, provident fund, gratuity, etc., were not conceded within a fortnight from the date of notice.

The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Madras District Beedi Workers' Union issued a notice of strike, dated 28th October 1947, to the President of the Beedi Factory Owners Association, Madras, and the following Beedi Companies :—

(1) Taj Mahal Beedi Co., Madras, (2) Kareem Beedi Co., Madras, (3) Sait Beedi Co., Madras, (4) Diamond Beedi Co., Madras, (5) Hussain Beedi Co., Madras, (6) Governor Beedi Co., Madras, (7) Clover Beedi Co., Madras, (8) Rustom Beedi Co., Madras, (9) Roshan Beedi Co., Madras and (10) Bavatta Beedi Co., Madras.

The Union intimated that if the demands for increased wages, dearness allowance, houserent allowance, provident fund, bonus, etc., were not conceded, they would go on strike after a fortnight from the date of the notice.

The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Gordon Woodroffe Tannery Workers Union issued a notice of strike, dated 30th October 1947 to the management of Gordon Woodroffe Leather Manufacturing Co., Pallavaram, intimating that the workers would go on strike on 14th November 1947 if the demands of the workers for increased basic pay, hours of work, Dearness allowance, wages for the night, etc., were not conceded. The management retrenched about 200 workers out of about 1,000 workers. The workers went on a lightning strike on 13th and 14th November 1947. As a settlement of the dispute could not be brought about, the Commissioner of Labour, Madras, has recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, for adjudication. The workers resumed work on 15th November 1947.

The Secretary of the Madras Snuff Workers Union, issued a notice of strike, dated 28th October 1947, to the President of the Madras Snuff Manufacturers' Association making 27 demands. He intimated that, if the demands were not conceded within a fortnight from the date of issue of notice, the workers of about eight companies, viz., (1) Original Shunmugam Snuff Co., Madras, (2) K. S. Sultan Sahib Snuff Co., Madras, (3) Ambal Snuff Co., Madras, (4) A. J. Snuff Co., Madras, (5) A.S. Snuff Co., Madras, (6) S. T. Snuff Co., Madras, (7) V. N. K. Snuff Co., Madras and (8) Appu Dorai Snuff Co., Madras, would go on strike. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Government of Madras have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Original Shunmugam & Co. (Snuff Manufacturers), Madras, to the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, for adjudication.

The President and the Secretary of the Hindupur Motor Workers' Association, Hindupur, issued a strike notice to the managements of Messrs. A.D.T.S. and Messrs. V.M.S., stating that the workers would go on strike on 21st December 1947. The Labour Officer, Anantapur, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute. The President of the Association has also been asked to withdraw the notice of strike and await the result of conciliation by the Labour Officer, Anantapur, and the result of the Court of Inquiry for Motor Transport Services, etc.

The Government of Madras have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal (Sri P. Ramakrishna Ayyar), District and Sessions Judge, South Arcot, in the dispute between the boatmen and the owners of boats at Cuddalore Port.

The President of the Erode Motor Workers' Union issued a notice of strike to the management of A.M.T., Ltd., Erode, intimating that the motor workers would go on strike any day between 5th and 15th November 1947 if their demands for placing the workers on monthly paid staff, recognition of the Union, reinstatement of suspended and dismissed workers, fixation of hours of work, etc., were not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute. The Union has also been advised to withdraw the strike notice pending settlement of the dispute by conciliation.

The Conservancy menials of the Dharapuram Municipality struck work from 8th November 1947 demanding house-rent allowance and a bonus of one month's wages. The Municipal Chairman, Dharapuram and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Dharapuram, intervened and brought about a settlement of the dispute. The menials resumed work on the next morning.

The management of the Jayalakshmi Mills, Ltd., Singanallur, Coimbatore district, have closed down their mills after due notice. The Commissioner of Labour visited Coimbatore and discussed the matter with the management. The management are not willing to open the mills unless the ceiling rate of waste cotton is fixed at a suitable level. The mills remain closed from 1st October 1947. The Government of Madras have addressed the Government of India regarding the fixation of ceiling price of waste cotton.

The management of the Saroja Mills, Singanallur, Coimbatore district, have proposed to close down the mills from 1st December 1947 on the ground that they are unable to implement the awards of the Industrial Tribunal as the mills are reported to be working at a loss.

It is reported that the Motor Transport Workers in Gudivada and Ellore struck work on 15th November 1947 forenoon in spite of his advice. The Labour Officer's detailed report is awaited.

The Labour Officer, Bezwada, has reported that the following tanneries in Ellore were closed on account of (1) stoppage of supply of raw hide from Pakistan areas, (2) lack of facilities for transporting skins, raw hide and tanning materials, (3) lack of funds and (4) unrest among workers who had been resorting to illegal strikes every now and then—

(1) Messrs. M. M. Abdul Azeez & Co., Tanneries I, II and III.

(2) Messrs. M. A. S. Haji Mohideen & Co.

(3) Messrs L. M. S. Sadik Tambhi & Co., Tanneries I and II.

Messrs. S. R. Abdul Rahman & Co., wired on 13th November 1947 stating that the workers of their tannery at Ellore struck work on 13th November 1947 without notice.

The Labour Officer, Bezwada, is looking into the matter.

About 2,500 workers of Messrs. Pierce, Leslie & Co. (Cashew Factory), Jeppu, Mangalore, struck work on 3rd November 1947 demanding 100 per cent increase in wages, increased dearness allowance, three months' wages as bonus, etc. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government that the dispute may be referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication. The workers resumed work on 17th November 1947.

About 42 workers of the Premier Tile Works, Mangalore, struck work on 10th November 1947 and 11th November 1947 in batches demanding additional number of workers in piece work contracts of a gang of 14 workers in every tile press. The Labour Officer, Calicut, has been asked to bring about a settlement.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management of the Mahalakshmi Textile Mills, Ltd., Pasumalai, Madura to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, at Tinnevelly for adjudication consequent on the attitude of the management to take disciplinary action on certain workers during the pendency of criminal cases.

The management of the Rajah Mills, Madura, have given notice of closure of their mills from 16th November 1947.

The Government have, in supersession of previous orders, constituted an Industrial Tribunal, consisting of one person, namely, Mr. N. D. Krishna Rao, District and Sessions Judge, South Malabar, to adjudicate in the dispute between the workers and the management of Messrs. K. P. Neelambi & Sons (Handloom Factory), Calicut.

The Secretary, Motor Workers' Union, Palghat, issued a notice of strike, dated 6th November 1947, to

the management of the T.B.T., Ltd., Palghat, intimating that the motor workers would go on strike from 21st November 1947 if their demands for recognition of the Union, reinstatement of dismissed workers, bonus, batta, etc., were not conceded. The Commissioner of Labour has asked the Labour Officer, Calicut, to bring about a settlement of the dispute and to advise the union to withdraw the strike notice.

The management of the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills, Limited, Kallai, have closed down their mills on 11th November 1947 after giving due notice.

The Labour Officer, Guntur, has reported that the strike notice, dated 7th October 1947, issued by the Secretary of the Electrical Labour Union, Nellore, to the management of the Nellore Power and Light, Limited, Nellore, was withdrawn as a settlement was reached between the parties.

The Government have referred the dispute between Sri K. Venkatarama Iyer, typist, and the management of Sri Meenakshi Sundareswaral Electric Power Corporation, Limited, Karaikudi, to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication.

The management of the Pullicar Mills, Limited, Trichengode, Salem district, have closed down their mills from 1st November 1947 after due notice.

The Mettur Workers' Union (Electricity Department), Mettur Dam, issued a notice of strike demanding increase of wages, provident fund, gratuity, leave facilities, etc. The Superintending Engineer, Mettur Dam, intervened and promised to have their grievances redressed at an early date. The strike notice was withdrawn.

The General Secretary, Sri Rajagopal Transports Bus Workers' Union, Trichinopoly, issued a notice of strike, dated 20th October 1947, to the management of Rajagopal Transport, Limited, intimating that the workers would go on strike from 3rd November 1947 if their demands for recognition of union, reinstatement of discharged workers, hours of work, batta, etc., were not conceded by then. The Labour Officer, Trichinopoly, has brought about a settlement of the dispute and the strike was averted.

The Vice-President, Vincent & Co., Ltd., Employees Union, Trichinopoly, issued a notice of strike, dated 27th October 1947, to the management of Messrs. Vincent & Co., Ltd. (Mineral Waters, Bakery, etc.), Trichinopoly, intimating that the workers would go on strike on 10th November 1947 if their demands were not conceded. The Labour Officer, Trichinopoly, has brought about a settlement of the dispute and the strike notice was withdrawn.

The Secretary of the Karur Motor Workers' Union, Karur, Trichinopoly district, issued a notice of strike, dated 5th November 1947, to the Managing Director, U.M.S. Public Conveyance, Limited, Karur, intimating that the workers would go on strike from 23rd November 1947 if their demands for reinstatement of two turners and four blacksmiths who were discharged, refund of deposit money to conductors, supply of dress, etc., were not conceded. The Labour Officer, Trichinopoly, has been asked to bring about a settlement of the dispute.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Scindia Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Vizagapatam.

The workers of Nellimarla Jute Mills Co., Ltd., Nellimarla, Vizagapatam, struck work on 15th October 1947 as a protest against the dismissal of a worker in the winding department for insubordination and disobedience. The workers resumed work on 20th October 1947 on the assurance of the management to consider the question of reinstatement.

The President, Sri Rama Sugar Mills Labour Union, Bobbili and Seetanagaram, issued a strike notice on 6th November 1947 to the management of Sri Rama Sugar Mills, Limited, Bobbili, intimating that the workers in the above mills would go on strike after 14 days from the date of the strike notice, if their demands for recognition of the union, fixation of wages, bonus, etc., were not conceded by the management. The Labour Officer, Vizagapatam, has been asked to bring about a settlement.

(3) Education

Basic education.—The Government have sanctioned the appointment of a Basic Education Officer for the Andhra Desa, with headquarters at Vinayashram (Guntur district) and Sri L. Rajagopal Rao has been appointed to the post.

Reorganization of Secondary education.—The Provincial Advisory Board of Education met on 14th October 1947 and discussed the question of re-organization of Secondary Education based on the proposals submitted by the Secondary Education Board. It accepted the recommendation with certain changes.

The Director of Public Instruction has been authorized by Government to appoint sub-committees for drafting the syllabuses in the several subjects of the re-organized courses.

General.—The Government have suggested the inclusion of songs of Bharati and Namakkal Ramalingam Pillai in the Tamil Text-books published by Registered Publishers for use in Class V to Form V of Secondary Schools.

PRICE INDEX NUMBERS

The index numbers of rural prices for the month of October 1947 with the year ending 30th June 1936 as base or 100 were as follows for the several centres in the Province :—

District.	Rural centre.	Rural price index.	Variation when compared with the index for the previous month.
Vizagapatam ..	Adivivaram ..	393	Rise of 3 points.
	Thettangi	368	Rise of 4 points.
West Godavari ..	Alamuru	348	Fall of 7 points.
Bellary	Madavaram ..	416	Fall of 3 points.
South Arcot ..	Puliyur	312	Rise of 4 points.
	Agaram	317	....
Trichinopoly ..	Thulayanatham ..	373	Fall of 8 points.
Madura	Eriodu	328	Rise of 8 points.
	Gokilapuram ..	344	....
Coimbatore ..	Kinathukadavu ..	323	Fall of 6 points.
Malabar	Koduvalli	428	Fall of 5 points.
Chingleput ..	Guduvancheri ..	349	Rise of 3 points.
	Kunnathur ..	346	Rise of 5 points.

(4) Revenue

Prohibition Review—September 1947

Ex-Addicts make Substantial Savings

Enforcement

Cases detected.—The total number of cases detected in the eight districts during the month was 2,708, as against 2,252 in August. There was an increase in the number of cases detected in all the districts except Cuddapah.

Out of the 2,708 cases, 2,172 (representing about 80 per cent) relate to illicit distillation and kindred offences. The number of cases of illicit distillation increased from 958 to 1,176. The increase was appreciable in the districts of Kurnool, North Arcot and Chittoor. The increase in these districts was the result of several large scale raids conducted by the enforcement staff. Though the number of cases of smuggling of liquor increased from 64 to 76, no large scale smuggling from the adjoining states was reported during the month. The number of cases relating to intoxicating drugs increased from 138 to 187 which included three cases of illicit cultivation of hemp plant involving 16 plants in Chittoor district and two cases involving six plants in Salem district. Cases of smuggling of Mysore ganja were detected in the districts of Anantapur, Coimbatore, North Arcot, Salem and Chittoor.

There was a decrease in the sale of denatured spirit. Two cases of attempts to render denatured spirit fit for human consumption were detected but the quantity involved in these cases is reported to be small.

Assistance by officials of other departments and by non-officials.—The Police in the Ceded districts gave as usual satisfactory co-operation in the detection of crime. Village Officers detected in all 40 cases and rendered assistance in the detection of 107 cases. Four hundred and seventy-nine cases were detected by or with the assistance of outsiders other than regular informants. There was an appreciable improvement in the work done by the Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in the districts of Salem and Anantapur. No cases were detected by or at the instance of the members of the Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in the other districts.

Ameliorative Work

Substitutes for drink.—An increase in the number of coffee and tea shops is reported in all the Prohibition districts except Anantapur. These stall continued to be popular among the ex-addicts who frequented them.

Rural recreation.—The 52 Rural Recreation Officers who were working during the month visited 766 villages and organized rural games in 607 villages. Thirty-two firka tournaments and five taluk tournaments were held during the month. The Chief Physical Instructor and the Assistant Physical Instructor toured the Coimbatore district and checked up the work of the Rural Recreation Officers.

Bhajanas, Harikathas and Kalashepams.—Bhajanas, Harikathas or Kalashepams were held in 1,237 villages. Folk dances, dramas or cinema shows were held in 329 villages at the instance of the Development Officers.

Ballad singers.—The thirty ballad singers who were working during the month visited 327 villages and organized community singing in 116 villages. Six hundred and sixty villagers were trained in community singing. The Balled Singers besides training the villagers in community singing organized dramatic troupes wherever facilities existed and conducted bhajanas, Kathakalakshepams and Kathaprasangams.

Propaganda vans.—The Propaganda vans in Coimbatore, Salem, Anantapur, Bellary and Cuddapah districts visited 31, 28, 24, 16 and 9 villages respectively. The vans in Kurnool and North Arcot districts were under repairs.

Gramasangams.—Sixty-eight Gramasangams and seven Firka Associations were formed during the month bringing the total number formed till the end of the month to 7,004 Gramasangams and 197 Firka Associations. No new Taluk Association was formed during the month. The Gramasangams attended to various beneficial activities. Three Gramasangams in the Chittoor district rendered assistance in the procurement of paddy. Three Sangams in Coimbatore district collected Rs. 9,000 in all for the construction of rural dispensaries.

Rural Uplift Schools.—A Rural Uplift School with 43 students was started at Kadiri in Anantapur district during the month.

Thrift.—A total amount of Rs. 9,907 was saved in hundi boxes during the month bringing the amount saved up to the end of the month to Rs. 1,22,806.

Co-operative Societies.—Eight Weavers' Co-operative Production and Sales Societies were registered in the Salem district to provide work for ex-addicts and a Cottage Industries Society was organized at Arni in the North Arcot district for the economic uplift of the women of the locality.

Uplift of women.—The members of the Indian Women Civic Corps evinced interest in contracting women in the villages in Salem, Coimbatore and Bellary districts and Arkonam in North Arcot district. The Indian Women Civic Corps Centre at Arkonam purchased a loom for demonstrating korai mat weaving to the women of the families of ex-addicts who wished to learn the art.

Co-operative Jaggery Manufacturing Societies.—No further progress was made by these societies during the month, being the off season for tapping sweet juice from palms.

Beneficial effects of Prohibition.—The reports of the Collectors indicate that there is marked improvement in the economic and domestic life of the poorer classes in general and of the ex-addicts in particular. There is an air of happiness in the villages and the gloomy evenings have given place to fun and frolic. The reports of the Collectors and Special Development Officers specify the following concrete instances of economic improvement in the condition of ex-addicts on account of prohibition.

Anantapur district.—Madiga Nagadu, Madiga Kullayagadu, Madiga Munigadu and Vadde Nagappa of Putlur village have not only repaid their prior debts but each of them has saved Rs. 50. Mason Ahmed Sahib and Mason Fakru Sahib of Sanagalagudur village have saved Rs. 400 and 100 respectively. Madiga Palligadu of Sengalagudur repaid debts and also saved some money with which he erected a thatched house for himself.

Coimbatore district.—Fifteen Boyars of Arasampalayam have constructed 15 new houses out of their savings. Peria Payyan, son of Rama Gounder of Palingipuram, Bhavani taluk, has purchased five goats worth of Rs. 100. Chinnasami Chettiar, son of Chokkappa Chettiar of Thavuttupalayam has purchased jewels worth Rs. 300. Lakshmana Mudali of Jambai has purchased a bullock cart worth Rs. 200. Veerappa Mudali of Olagadam has cleared a debt of Rs. 200.

Kurnool district.—In Markapur division, Puma Murgan and Gayam Naganna purchased two she-buffaloes each costing Rs. 120 out of their savings.

TOPICAL ARTICLES

Rural Development

It is common place that India is a country of villages. Their total number is estimated to be 700,000. Madras accounts for roughly 50,000 of them. The total number of towns in India, it has been stated do not exceed 2,500. It has been said that roughly more than 8 persons of every 10 in India live in villages, while four out of every five persons in England live in towns. So the prosperity of India means the prosperity of the rural folk. Recently a writer has observed that in future India, we have to look for prosperity more to villages than to towns. It is a significant fact that there is a wide realization of this fact all over Free India. Both Provincial and Central Governments have initiated a concerted drive towards rural rehabilitation. The Madras Government have already constituted a Firka Development Department which has envisaged an intensive drive for rural development. In this connection, an article under the above caption by Dr. J. C. Kumarappa in the Harijan *dated 24th November 1947 may interest the readers. The article runs as follows :—*

Now that the political wash consequent on the British leaving India is dying down, the Governments are thinking in terms of rural development once again. Therefore, it will be necessary for us to consider the lines on which this work could be done. In the main there are three forms in which this programme may be approached.

1. We may look upon the villages as possible sources of raw material supply to the mills situated in the towns.

2. The rural population may be regarded as the main consumers or markets for the production of towns.

3. The village may be looked upon as an entity in itself affording complete facilities for the development of the individuals composing the population of the village.

As Sources of Raw Materials

When the village is looked upon as producer of raw materials for the towns and cities, the whole economic order is shaped according to the needs of the town-dwellers. Often the villagers are exploited and do not enjoy all the fruits of their labour. The fields are utilized for growing crops which are not directly connected with the needs of the villagers. The regulation of crop-growing is done by the price mechanism in which money plays the leading role. Under the pretext of placing more purchasing power in the hands of the villagers the towns make the villager do what the town wants even though it may ultimately prove to be inimical to the interests of the villagers. Raw material crops such as long staple cotton, sugarcane and tobacco, drive out food crops and the people are left to face starvation in spite of having much purchasing power in their hands, which latter also may be represented by inflated currency tokens.

Under this system of rural development the villages cannot flourish. Their interests are secondary to the requirements of mills and town-dwellers. Unfortunately the present day economic order encourages people to proceed on these lines.

As Markets

Similar to the type of rural development that we saw in the first instance, attempts are being made to convert the villagers into consumers of the production from towns. Here again the price mechanism is allowed free play and the villagers are driven to buy town-made goods as being cheap. Apart from our own towns this outlook is one in which foreigners also are interested in making our enormous population into an insatiable market for their products. Articles such as polished rice, millground flour, tea, coffee, sugar, preserved foods, vanaspati oil, rubber shoes, mill cloth, etc., are being dumped on the villagers against their own interests. Here again the villagers are being deprived of their opportunities of employing themselves in various industries and in the processing of food. Thus their field of work is restricted and the pressure on land is increased.

In the above two methods of rural development the needs of the villagers are not the deciding factors and much less the consideration of opportunities for the development of the citizen's personality.

Personality—Centered

We have to consider whether the material interests of the towns and the cities are more important than the interests of the villager himself. If so, the first two methods of rural development will have to yield place to a system that will centre, not on the material production and distribution alone, but on making the villager into a worthy citizen of a democratic State. We look upon work as a means through which an individual could be educated. Of course, in the process the individual will also be producing articles for his own consumption. The villager has to be an entity in himself. To this end the whole social, economic and political structure will have to be moulded to enable the citizen to develop himself from childhood to old age. The village economy ought to be a training ground in the various phases of human development.

Social

The needs of society in the form of water-supply, communications, health and hygiene, disposal of waste, satisfactory housing, etc., will have to be looked after by the people themselves. Education of the children through a craft, to train them for the art of living, in logical method and good conduct with moral considerations as background, will also be a duty falling on the people.

Economic

The people will have to organize themselves in such a way as to enable them to produce all their requirements in food, clothing and shelter. For this purpose the land available may have to be apportioned according to the needs of a balanced diet, and with reference to the quality of land and availability of water. They should raise cereals, pulses, oil seeds, fruits and vegetables, and dairy products to supply, as far as possible, the whole needs of the village and where there is a surplus that surplus could be exchanged with other neighbouring localities for articles which they require.

The processing of this agricultural production will provide a considerable amount of occupation to persons who are not required on the land: Pottery, tanning, oil-pressing, gurmaking, spinning and weaving, carpentry and blacksmithy will provide outlets for people's requirements in art and for a fuller expression of their emotional personality. Fairs and festivities should also be organized to enable them not only to market their goods, but also to produce a culture based on village life.

Political

The control of all these aspects of life will have to be done on a democratic basis by the organization of the village panchayats which will not only control the social and economic life but will also mete out justice and to some extent raise funds necessary for the administration and execution of an overall plan for all the activities of the village or locality.

Conclusion

Unless we take to the third method of rural development with our interests centred on the villages, it will be futile for us to hope to be able to solve our problems in a democracy, as the people will not be sufficiently educated to bear this great responsibility. While our country is preparing plans for our future, it is necessary for us to bear these different aspects of rural development in mind so that the plans that are made out now will bear fruit according to our requirements in due time without creating further complications not only in our country but also in relationship with other peoples of the world. Our form of rural development, therefore, will, in the main, be based on self-sufficiency. So long as every member of the society aims at this ultimately, there could be no shortage of goods, especially in primary necessities; and there should be no commerce and trade in such articles if we wish to establish peace among the nations.

Such a scheme of rural development will not be a patch work made by Government officials according to the whims of the various departments, but being based on self-help and local contribution in labour and in kind, it will be an ideal training ground in the art of living which is a laudable end in itself.

Fruit Production in India

Man power is the chief motive force in the economic system of India. So, obviously the efficiency of the economic system depends upon the efficiency of man power. And the food that one takes is an important contributory factor in promoting efficiency. There is a greater recognition of this fact in the recent past and Nutrition experts are working in several provinces including Madras to advise the people as to the best course of food calculated to promote health.

One drawback in regard to the common Indian diet is that it is not balanced. Unbalanced diet retards public health. Experts have observed that common people in this country do not take a sufficient quantity of fruits. Fruit is a protective food and its consumption is essential if a proper level of health is to be maintained. The production of fruits in India is not sufficient and it has to be stepped up, in the event of its wider consumption. The Indian Information *has recently published an article entitled, "Food Production in India" and it gives a clear picture of the position. The following is the full text of the article :—*

It is authoritatively stated that a 100 per cent increase in fruit production in India is essential to meet the minimum requirements of the country. This can be secured by increasing the acreage under fruits, and by improving cultural practices in existing orchards, for increasing the yields per acre.

Some of the steps taken by the Government of India, to develop the fruit industry both from the production point of view, and for making increased production available for consumption in larger quantities, include financial assistance to Provincial Governments and States, the establishment of nurseries and the training of personnel.

The growing of short-term fruit like bananas and pine apple have been encouraged, and in Bihar alone the acreage under fruits has been increased by 7,543 acres, which will yield an additional 23,000 tons of fruits from next year.

Establishment of Nurseries

Total yields in case of fruit trees, depend partly upon their inherent capacity to bear fruit and partly upon the care and attention paid to them. The growth of pedigree nursery plants has been regarded as the soundest and surest single factor to make the fruit industry a profitable proposition. The Central Agriculture Department has therefore assisted in the establishment of fruit nurseries by Provincial Governments, for supplying genuine plants to prospective growers. Such nurseries are already in operation in some Provinces and others will soon follow suit.

The Government of India have also encouraged Provincial Governments to start horticultural classes for the training of gardeners. It is hoped to have one trained gardener for every 20 acres of orchard area.

To meet the demand for technical graduates in horticulture, the Government of India have instituted a one-year post-graduate course for the benefit of Provincial Governments and States.

As a result of better cultural operations, including adequate manuring, better hygiene, proper cultivation, timely irrigation and judicious pruning, it is stated that 3,700 tons of additional fruits have been produced during last year.

Fruit Preservation

To popularise fruit preservation as a cottage industry, short courses in fruit and vegetable preservation have been given at different women's educational institutions in Delhi, since August last year. In addition an advanced course was started in October last year which is being attended by 22 lady students from different parts of India.

To carry out research on fruit, to secure trained technicians, and to tender advice to the industry, the Indian Institute of Fruit Technology now functioning at Lyallpur on a small scale, will be established in New Delhi in the current year. For this the necessary funds have been provided, and the staff is being recruited for study abroad.

The growing importance of the Indian fruit industry has been recognized by the protection recently granted to it by the Government, on the recommendation of the Indian Tariff Board.

The Role of Co-operation in Rural Economy

The role of co-operation in rural reconstruction cannot be over emphasised. It is now common ground that the salvation of this country lies largely in the path of co-operation. The Royal Commission on Indian Agriculture has already stressed this fact. More than one writer have also emphasised the dictum "no co-operation, no progress." Happily there is now an ever increasing realization of the truth of this fact and Governments all over India have formulated long range schemes which when implemented would result in giving co-operation, its deserved place especially in the sphere of village economy. In this connection, the speech of Hon'ble Mr. M. B. Patil, Minister of the Bombay Government delivered recently at the Bombay Annual Co-operative Conference is of topical interest. A summary is given below.

A spirited plea for the efficient working and administration of the various types of co-operative societies in order to help the rural population of the Province to reorganize its economic life on a sound basis was made by Mr. M. P. Patil.

"It is my firm belief" he said "that unless the improvements recommended and carried out through the Agricultural Department are ultimately propagated through an organization like a co-operative society, particularly in the rural areas, no permanent improvements in the agricultural industry can be possible. It is these small societies, I mean the agricultural primaries and other group societies, that can alone take the torch of light to the ultimate producer."

Problems of Marketing

"In these days of complicated economy, marketing of agricultural produce has assumed almost a technical importance. The unorganized small producer, as a consequence, is not able to obtain adequate returns for his produce unless he is assisted in the art of selling that produce. Experience has showed us— particularly after the last depression which preceded the second world war—that mere supply of capital for agricultural industry through organized credit is not sufficient to help the producer to better his lot. It is not the mere credit that an agriculturist needs, but rather controlled credit, which alone is useful to him in his present-day conditions when he is unorganized and ignorant. What I want to emphasise is that unless, while granting credit needed for agricultural industry, arrangements for supply of agricultural and domestic requirements as also for marketing of his farm produce are made, the credit granted is in danger of being misapplied. The importance of organization and development of marketing societies, which alone can establish faster links between credit and marketing, comes to the forefront for this reason.

Difficulties in the path

"As time goes on, co-operative societies will have a greater and more decisive role to play and a more onerous task to perform in the planned economy of the future.

"The task of setting up the important marketing machinery includes, among other things, (1) assembling, (2) storing, (3) financing, (4) ensuring, (5) standardizing, (6) selling and (7) transporting." All these aspects of the whole machinery have to be taken note of before a proper machinery can be set up.

"The other point is regarding adequate storage arrangements for agricultural produce in the rural areas in this Province. Co-operative marketing organizations, which can help agriculturists to pool their produce, must have at their command as also regulated markets, adequate warehousing facilities for the storage of produce in order to enable the growers to take advantage of favourable markets. It is a common experience for us all to find that agriculturists have always to sell their produce at a time when the prices are the lowest and borrow for their needs when the prices go up. It is to meet this evil that such warehousing facilities are essential. Short-term credit on the security of easily realisable produce, is only possible, if proper storage arrangements under proper supervision and control are available. The licensing of warehouses envisages all this establishment under proper control and supervision.

"Co-operative organizations, after all, require public-spirited men and their success will naturally depend upon this imporatnt condition. Areas where such men are available in large numbers will naturally develop, while those others, where this condition would not be satisfied, will remain co-operatively backward.

"The best way to assist the rural population is to help the working and administration of these democratic institutions and the Gram Panchayats in the rural areas of this Province."

Glimpses into the Refugee Camps

[The Editorial staff of the Information and Publicity Department of the Madras Government recently paid a visit to the Refugee Camps in Madras. Some of the impressions of this visit are set down in this article.]

The Refugee problem has been truly described as an All-India problem. The burden of rehabilitating millions of refugees, who have been cut off from their moorings all on a sudden has fallen with equal suddenness on the Government of India and it is only in the fitness of things that the province and States constituting the Indian Dominion should also share the burden. It is gratifying, therefore, to note that almost all the provinces and many of the States came forward offering to accommodate a reasonable number of refugees within their respective areas. Madras also, like other provinces, realised their obligations and offered to take refugees from the North. Following this offer, refugees from the Punjab and Sind have been arriving in batches. South Indian residents in Karachi, who got stranded there. are also being received in Madras, and despatched to their respective destinations in the province with tickets and money to meet their needs.

The other refugees from the North have been accommodated in three camps, viz., the Lutterals Gardens in Kilpauk, Holiday camp at Saidapet and the Malayan Emigration Depot at Avadi. Of these, the Lutterals Garden is the main camp accommodating the largest number of refugees consisting of men, women and children. This camp covers an extensive ground within the city limits with a spacious upstair bungalow located inside. There are a number of lesser structures too, which are also under the occupation of refugees. A Special Deputy Collector is primarily in charge of these camps. Most of the refugees from the Punjab belong to the well-to-do or the upper classes. There are old men and women, youngsters and children. Most of them owned extensive landed properties in the Punjab and they had to come away leaving everything behind and with empty hands. Some of the refugees have long stories to give of their experiences. One refugee—a sprightly young man, who was described as a hockey player of international reputation, possessed properties worth lakhs and at present he has little or no idea of the fate of his properties or the whereabouts of his relations. The Sindhi refugees seem to be of a different type. They are shrewd businessmen and during the short time of their stay in Madras have shown ample signs of their business acumen. Some of them have already set up business of their own. Generally the refugees do not like to keep quiet, and many of them have applied for jobs. The women from the Punjab are experts in embroidary work and some of their products disclose a high degree of workmanship. It is said that most of the refugees, though they are without money of their own generally decline to receive private charity. Perhaps their robust sense of self-respect has survived their worst calamities. These refugees, both men, women and children, have a cheerful appearance inspite of their bitter experiences and the fortitude with which they have borne their calamities, would unfailingly evoke the spontaneous admiration of anybody coming into contact with them. The fact that these calamities have been due to factors beyond their control, entitles them to greater compassion.

The refugee camp at Saidapet is occupied by persons who have come away without their families or relations. Their misfortunes seem to sit heavily on them. One of them said that he belonged to Lahore and that there were 19 members in his family. At present he does not know the whereabouts of any of them. He is a sturdy young man, who said that he has already applied for a job here but has not so far received any offer. This camp also covers extensive grounds situated near the Engineering College, Guindy with a number of houses including a main building. The camp is immediately in charge of a Captain, recruited from one of the refugees.

The only silver lining in the dark sky of these refugees is the elaborate arrangements made by the Government to attend to their comforts and make them forget their cares and worries. Provision stores have been opened in the camps and refugees make their purchases. The refugees cook their own food. In the Lutterals Gardens there is a dispensary to treat the ailments of the refugees. Sanitation and public health of the camp there are under the charge of a Health Inspector. A school for the refugees has also been started there and refugee teachers are engaging the classes. Many of the children are bright looking and smart and do not seem to feel their present plight. One boy however declained to attend the school on the ground that his school building had no pretentious appearance. (The classes are held in tents) Apparently he is one, who was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and who could not reconcile himself to his present lot. Most of the refugees express their willingness to go back, provided they are guaranteed security of life and properties.

Free India has a number of problems and the Refugee problem is by no means the least important. This problem may, however, be only a passing phase in the evolution of India and sooner or later things may settle down in their proper perspective. But adv i'ies have their own good sides. The dispersal of refugees all over India and the humanitarian efforts of the various Provincial Governments to identify themselves with their difficulties have certainly cemented the bonds existing between the different provinces and forged new links welding them together with hoops of steel. Out of this vast co-operative humanitarian efforts is sure to emerge a more solid India.

Miscellaneous Topics

Steel, Cement and Textiles

The total quantity of iron and steel at the disposal of India (including Pakistan) was 924,058 tons in 1946 and 781,210 tons in 1947, up to September.

A total allotment of 188,465 tons of steel has been made for the Provinces of India and Pakistan and for the States. A statement laid on the table of the Central Assembly of the Indian Dominion by the Hon'ble Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, Minister of Industry and Supply, contains these figures. The statement adds that the figure given above relating to the allotment of steel includes only allotments made to the Provinces and States for distribution to the general public including small-scale manufacturers on consumer goods. Besides this, steel is also distributed to Provincial Governments for their development schemes, and to private industries in the Provinces and States for steel-processing, industrial development and maintenance requirements.

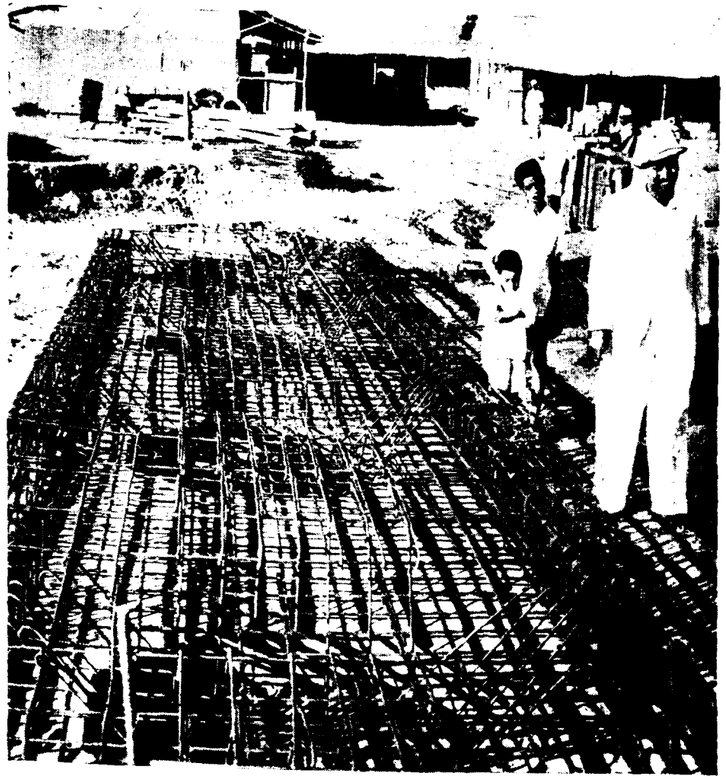
The production of cement during 1946 in factories in the Indian Union was 1,542,326 tons. The production in these factories for the nine months ending September 30, 1947, has been 1,029,312 tons. The estimated production for 1947 will, on this basis, be about 1,375,000 tons. The maximum annual capacity of the existing factories however, is 2,075,000 tons. Production has been affected, among other causes, by inadequate supplies of coal and by labour troubles.

OBSTACLES TO PRODUCTION

"The recent decline in the production of consumer as of other goods, and the inability to cr ate new capacity are principally due to unsettled labour conditions, civil disturbances in certain parts of the country, and shortages of transport to meet the present enlarged demands of the country, of coal and of certain essential raw materials.

"The aforesaid causes themselves suggest the remedial action necessary."

—THE HON'BLE DR. SYAMA PRASAD MOOKERJI *in reply to a question.*



(Left) *Concrete work in connection with Tungabadra Project*



(Below) *Blasting operations going on in connection with the Tungabadra Project*

Departments' Corner

(1) Fisheries Department

Outline of its Activities

Aims

The primary objects of the department from its inception have been the development of fisheries and the fishery industries to their utmost capacity as a source of food supply to the masses, remunerative occupation to the fisherfolk, and revenue to Government. In surveying deep sea fishing grounds, in experimenting with methods of curing and canning, in fish farming for stocking tanks and investigating the life history, growth, egg, nesting habits, diseases and parasites of fish, as opportunities and staff were available, the department aims at augmenting and improving food supplies. In organizing and developing pearl, chank and inland fisheries the department aims at increasing the revenue. Simultaneously by educating the fisher-children, by organising co-operative societies to provide capital and labour and utilizing duty free salt to encourage the adoption of improved methods of cure, the department aims at helping the fishermen to remunerative occupation.

2. Fish forms part of the diet for most of the population in Madras and in face of present scarcity of cereals, it can, with advantage, be used as supplementary food. Fish is also used for preparing manure. Fish manure is rich in phosphates and if applied in combination with nitrogenous manure, the yield becomes much greater. The Government are, therefore, tapping this wealth in addition to agricultural wealth.

3. The activities of the Fisheries department may be broadly classified under activities connected with (1) Marine Fisheries, (2) Inland Fisheries, (3) Pearl and Chank Fisheries and (4) Socio-economic work among fishermen.

Marine Fisheries

(a) *Research activities.*—Two biological stations are maintained by the Government one at the West Hill (Calicut) on that West Coast and the other at Krusadai (Gulf of Mannar). Problems arising from fishery methods on the West Coast are dealt with by the West Hill Biological Station. The Krusadai Biological Station on the East Coast, besides the normal work of collecting and studying data bearing on sea fisheries of that coast, conducts experiments.

(b) *Deep sea fishing.*—Since February 1943 the activities of the Department have been considerably exp anded. Deep sea fishing operations were initiated in the Province with a view mainly to increasing the catch of sharks and thus ensuring an abundant supply of shark livers to the Government Oil Factory, Calicut. The work was first begun in 10 centres on the West Coast and 9 centres on the East Coast. These centres were later increased in November 1944 from 10 to 12 on the West Coast and from 9 to 16 on the East Coast. These experiments have given satisfactory results and have also shown vast scope for expansion. The centres were increased from 28 to 46 on the whole, both in the East and West Coasts and the policy of the Government now is to further intensify the deep sea fishing operations in this Province by the purchase of a large number of trawlers and by the formation of large scale companies for deep sea fishing operation as this may help to solve the food problem to some extent. Intensive measures for augmenting fish supply are also being taken.

(c) *Transport of fish.*—In order to provide increased facilities for the transport of fish from the place of catch to the shore and thence to the ensuing centres and for easy and wholesome preservation of fish, the Government have also sanctioned the purchase of two ice factories, two freezing plants, two coldstores and ten refrigerated vans.

(d) *Marketing of fish.*—With a view to improve the existing insanitary conditions in the market, the Government appointed recently a Fishery Marketing officer to effect a speedy survey of the existing marketing conditions of fish, fishery products and improvements in the Province and to arrange necessary transport facilities by road, rail and water way.

(e) *Fish manure, fish meal, etc., industry.*—With a view to developing the industry of fish manure, fish guano and fish meal the Government appointed a Special Officer in November 1943. As a result of the work done by this officer the dealers in fish oil, fish manure and fish guano have realized the advantages of converting all the available surplus quantities of various kinds of fish besides sardine into guano and fish meal, instead of turning them into crude manure of no particular manurial or commercial value.

(f) *Cured fish.*—The Government are maintaining fish-curing yards both on the East and West Coasts and issue duty free salt to the fish curers for the curing of fish.

(g) *Shark liver oil.*—The manufacture of shark liver oil was started on a commercial scale in 1940 at the Government Kerala Soap Institute and the oil was placed on the market. Owing to the increase in the demand for the oil a separate factory was constructed at Calicut in 1942 and shark liver oil is now manufactured in the Government Oil Factory at Calicut. This oil is rich in vitamin contents.

(h) *Craft and tackle improvement.*—As a result of the recent war, the fishermen were experiencing great difficulty in procuring timber for building boats, logs for catamarans and yarn for making nets and lines. This was a great handicap to the free development of the fishing industry. A Special Officer for the improvement of Craft and Tackle (Marine) and another Special Officer (Inland) were employed for getting necessary timber for building boats in large numbers to meet the needs of the industry. An experimental boat building yard was established at Adirampatnam in the Tanjore district and the Government sanctioned the experimental building of two five-ton fishing boats to be supplied to the fishermen at 75 per cent of the cost and they have been built and sold. As this experiment has proved successful the question of establishing a regular boat building yard at Adirampatnam for manufacturing about 5,000 boats and supplying them to fishermen at concessional rates to protect them from the exploitation of middlemen is under consideration of Government.

Inland Fisheries

Inland fisheries.—A [illegible] scheme for developing [illegible] possibilities of tanks in [illegible] of Kistna district is under [illegible]

This year in April arrangements were made with the railway authorities to provide better transport facilities to cement factories. The cement industry was also asked to apply its organization to the study of transport conditions in the various Provinces and States and to closer co-ordination with the Railways. The cement industry responded well to the Government's request, and had it not been for their co-operation and the help rendered by the Railway authorities conditions would have been worse than they are now. These efforts, however, have been seriously impaired by the recent disturbances.

Mill C oth Production in India

The total quantity of mill cloth produced in the Indian Union averages 302 million yards a month. The following were the cotton textile goods imported into the Indian Union during the period April-June 1947: cotton piecegoods 8,408,366 yards; fents 2,969 254 yards; cotton thread, 507,266 lb.; cotton twist and yarn, 330,048 lb.; canvas, 15,857 yards; handkerchiefs and shawals, 347,107 in number; stockings and socks, 30,863 lb.; underwear, 3,997 lb.; lace and net, 362,636 yards; cotton ropes, 90,770 lb; cotton blankets, 352 lb.; cotton goods mixed with other materials, 2,009 yards; and cotton manufactures, other sorts, 21,063 lb.

Spot Light on Rampachodavaram

[Rampachodavaram has been of late so much in the news. It is therefore dconsidered esirable to issue a detailed statement on the condition of Public Health in that area.]

Allegations were made on the floor of the Legislative Assembly on the 25th of September that there had been 14 deaths in the Rampachodavaram Agency area in the East Godavari district, due to starvation. The allegations were immediately refuted on the same day, after getting information from the Collector. Later in the day, Mr. Prakasam read out the names of the persons who were alleged to have died. The names were communicated to the Collector, who reported over the phone on the 26th that out of the 14 reported dead, one was still living and that the causes of death of the other 13 were normal and not due to starvation. The Assembly was posted with the information on the 26th evening.

In the meantime a detailed report was received from the Collector refuting the allegations. The Collector's report was supported by sworn statements obtained from two persons who gave the information who confessed that their original report was based upon hearsay and that they had not verified their accuracy before giving currency to the rumour. It was also supported by statements taken from influential ryots, village munsifs and the local Health Inspector and Medical Officer, all of which went to prove that there were no deaths due to starvation in the area and that the people were not resorting to abnormal diet on account of scarcity of foodgrains. The Government published a press statement containing all these facts.

However, reports continued to appear in the press that Mr. Prakasam reiterated that there were deaths due to starvation in the area. In order to have complete information on the matter, the Collector was asked to submit information about the number of deaths in the area this year and in the corresponding period last year and whether there was any increase in deaths due to starvation. He was also asked to take steps to keep the area well-supplied with foodgrains. From the detailed report sent by the Collector, after personally inspecting several muttas, in the tract and making detailed inquiries, the following facts are borne out clearly:—

1. Both the persons who originally gave currency to the allegation have subsequently given sworn statements that they merely conveyed hear-say information without ascertaining the facts. One of the informants has also recorded in his statement that he was satisfied that the situation was not as serious as was reported.

2. The District Health Officer made a detailed enquiry to find out if there was abnormal incidence of diseases in this area. He was satisfied that the public health conditions in the villages he visited were as normal and satisfactory as could be expected in the Agency area during this part of the year. In this area during the second half of the year fevers, like malaria and respiratory diseases such as bronchitis are usually widely prevalent. Apart from this usual feature there was no evidence of abnormal physical debility either among the adults or among the children.

The following figures collected, from six representative villages by the Health Officer, will illustrate the truth of the statements:—

TOTAL DEATHS IN THE SIX VILLAGES.

Year	1944	1945	1946	*1947
Total deaths	38	25	22	30

* (Nine months.)

The monsoon was late and the rainfall was scanty during 1945–46 whereas the unusually heavy rains during July, August and September of this year, after a prolonged period of comparative draught have given rise to conditions, favourable for the spread of malaria and other fevers, resulting in a high mortality rate during the third quarter of this year. The number of deaths due to diarrhœa and other diseases connected with mal-nutrition during the months of August and September in 1946 and 1947 in the six villages are given below:—

Year.	August.	September.
1946 ..	1	1
1947		1

There is thus no increase in diseases due to mal-nutrition during August and September of this year. The deaths during these months in these six villages total 13 as against five during the corresponding two months in the previous years. The increase during this year is not due to diseases connected with mal-nutrition, but due to malaria, other fevers and dysentery. The number of patients treated during July, August and September in the Taluk Headquarters Hospital of Rampachodavaram for the various diseases is furnished below.

It will be seen from this that the number of patients treated for diarrhœa and other diseases of the digestive system is less in 1947 than in 1946. A marked increase under these heads should have been recorded if starvation conditions were prevalent. There is therefore, no reason to believe that diseases connected with mal-nutrition were prevalent during the three months of July, August and September of this year.

The photographs taken of the people in the Agency areas, which are published alongside, do not warrant the



The bloated bellies noticed in the case of many children are due to splenic enlargements which complaint is not peculiar to this year alone but more or less endemic in the Agency area

statement that there is starvation in the villages. The bloated bellies noticed in the case of many children are due to splenic enlargement, which complaint is not peculiar to this year alone but more or less endemic in the Agency area. The note on the conditions in the Rampachodavaram Agency prepared by Mr. V. N. Seshagiri Rao, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, in the year 1931, can be cited in support of this fact.

The note mentioned above also furnishes information about the diet of the people of this area. The Koya population are used to *sanalu*, *gentulu*, *jonnalu*, *korralu*, supplemented by bamboo shoots, roots of certain plants, tamarind seeds powder, mango seeds kernel, all the edible fruits available and the meat of most of the animals. They do not depend upon rice for their food. It will thus be found that the diet alleged to have been taken by these people due to starvation is really the normal diet to which they have been accustomed even in ordinary conditions.

There was no doubt a partial failure of hill cholam in these tracts, due to failure of rains last year. It was due to this fact that until the 15th of September 1947, a specific quota of 260 bags of rice per week for the several mittas in Rampachodavaram was being sent regularly this year as against the 150 bags in the previous year. After the 15th of September, the quota has been increased to 400 bags per week. It is to be noted that this Agency is outside the rationing area, both statutory and non-statutory and that this supply was made purely in order to enable the people to supplement their usual diet with rice.

The original allegations that some people died on account of starvation having been proved untrue, attempts are now being made to make out that these people died on account of lack of vitality due to starvation over a long period. The facts mentioned above must be sufficient to prove that even this is not correct.

Under instructions of the Government, the Nutrition Officer toured the area during the first week of November 1947, and visited fifteen villages. He saw a large number of adults in the area and interrogated the residents of the Rampachodavaram taluk about the food situation in general, and the prevalence of starvation, if any, in the taluk. He found that none of the people showed any signs of starvation and none of them complained that starvation is prevalent in the villages. His report also confirms what has been stated above that it is not unusual for the inhabitants of the area to depend upon forest products and that there was no dearth of grains in the area.

Particulars of patients treated in the L.F. Taluk Headquarters Dispensary at Rampachodavaram during 1946 and 1947.

Disease.	1946				1947			
	July.	August.	September.	Total.	July.	August.	September.	Total.
1. Diarrhœa	16	10	20	46	6	15	26	47
2. Digestive	75	127	120	322	81	81	88	250
3. Dysentery	5	13	9	27	9	20	8	37
4. Fevers	15	60	52	127	17	24	15	56
5. Malaria	125	148	175	448	123	135	186	444
6. Respiratory	46	46	72	164	45	43	72	160
7. Circulatory (including blood and spleen).	48	60	26	134	69	70	90	229
8. Nerves system	21	35	38	94	27	40	57	124
9. Total including all other diseases treated.	657	771	925	2,353	705	828	897	2,430

Diet Surveys in the Province

Coimbatore District

The Public are aware that the Government have selected one firka in each district of the Province for intensive rural reconstruction work so that the firka, when developed, might serve as a model for the other firkas in this district. Rural reconstruction work in any area has many facets and unless a concerted drive is initiated on all fronts, there is little possibility of satisfactory results being achieved. The improvement of the public health of the locality, the enhancement of the daily income of the masses, the promotion of agriculture and industries, the raising of the standard of living are a few of the many problems to be tackled in the process of rural reconstruction.

Of these, improvement of public health is the most important, as without public health, progress in other directions is bound to be slow, even if it is not actually retarded. And in the promotion of public health, food plays an important part. In recent times, therefore, special efforts have been made in many countries to survey the dietary habits of the people in order to assess their nutritive values and improve them wherever possible. According to the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations, successful national food management consists of political and administrative skill in applying scientific and statistical knowledge to the improvement of human nutrition and agriculture.

2. The Madras Government have directed diet surveys to be undertaken in more than one district in the Province, preference being given to areas selected for intensive rural reconstruction work. Vellakoil Firka in the Coimbatore district is one such area, where a diet survey was recently completed. The results are as follows.

3. The seventy families who agreed to co-operate in this intensive investigation fall into seven groups.

The first group consisted of thirty-four families of land holders of varying sizes.

The second group consisted of fourteen families of labourers, mainly depending on agricultural operations for their income.

The third group was of nine families of carpenters, blacksmiths, etc.

The fourth group consisted of three families (a teacher, a karnam and a warden of a hostel).

The fifth group consisted of three families of petty shop-keepers.

The sixth group consisted of three families of weavers, while the last four families were those of temple servants.

4. The average calorie value of the food consumed is 2,710 as against the minimum calorie requirements of about 2,500—2,600 calories per adult a day. In this connection, it may be of interest to specify the approximate composition of a cheap, but well-balanced diet.

Cereals (rice and millets).	About 15 oz.	
Milk	,,	8 oz.
Pulses	,,	2 to 3 oz.
Non-leafy vegetables.	,,	6 oz.
Green leafy vegetables.	,,	4 oz.
Fats and Oils ..	,,	2 oz.
Fruits	,,	2 oz.

If fish and meat are available, adjustments in the intake of milk and pulses should be made.

A few details of the survey are given below :—

Cereals.—An analysis of the nature of the staple diet consumed by different families surveyed revealed that fourteen families depended wholly on rice and three on millets, while the rest, namely, fifty-three families, consumed a mixed diet of rice and millets.

Pulses.—Every one of these families consumed pulses in some proportion or other. The presence of a large quantity of cereals in any diet, and the absence of animal proteins, make pulses an important ingredient, in the diet of poor families. The consumption of pulses ranged from 1·4 oz. to 2·3 oz. per man value in the different groups.

Meat.—While most of the families had no objection to the consumption of meat, the actual consumption was in very small quantities, ranging from 0·1 ounce to 0·3 ounce per man value.

Protective foods — Milk. — Milk includes products of milk, such as curds and buttermilk and the consumption of all these in terms of milk ranged from an average of 3 oz. in the group of temple servants to 8·3 oz. in the case of landed agriculturists. Milk yields very easily digestible animal proteins.

Leafy vegetables.—Some of the protective foods such as leafy vegetables and fruits were consumed in very small quantities in this area as a whole. The consumption of leafy vegetables and fruits was very low in most of the families under survey.

Non-leafy vegetables.—The average for the different groups ranged from 1·6 ounces to 2·2 ounces. This is not satisfactory.

Other foods.—Jaggery was being regularly consumed in reasonably good quantities in this area. Such consumption naturally increases the calorie value of the diet in times of emergency.

Vegetable oils.—As between different groups, the consumption ranged from 0·4 ounce to 1·8 ounces per consumption unit.

About 625 children in different villages in the firka were closely examined for signs of deficiency diseases amongst them. The examination revealed an incidence of 1·3 per cent of Angular Stomatitis, 2 per cent of Phrynoderma and 3·3 per cent of Xerosis. In many instances, heights and weights of the children were also taken.

It has been generally accepted that a diet which yields about 2,500 calories daily for each adult, can be considered satisfactory under South Indian conditions. On this basis, the average calorie value of the diets of all groups, excepting the three small groups of petty merchants, temple servants and weavers, was definitely above 2,500, while the average calorie value of the diets of these three groups ranged between 1,960—2,000. The average calorie value for all the families under investigation was about 2,710. The inference is, therefore, justifiable that this area is not badly off from the nutritional point of view. There was not much evidence of quantitative insufficiency in this locality. Qualitatively, the diets were not very much deficient in proteins. The average consumption of milk was in the neighbourhood of about 7 oz. per man value daily, while that of pulses was about 2 oz. A greater consumption of pulses could with advantage be encouraged consistent with the productive capacity of the area.

The consumption of leafy vegetables is regrettably low. The main deficiency in this area appears to be the short supply of these cheap but highly nutritious articles of food. Low consumption of leafy vegetables is calculated to affect the quality of the diet, since they are a rich source of mineral elements.

There is very little evidence of malnutrition in the children examined. This is very satisfactory, as the health of the children provides a reliable index of the satisfactory nature or otherwise of the food problem in an area.

South Kanara District

The Nutrition Officer toured the Kasaragod taluk in the third week of October and the results of his investigations are set down below :—

In the course of his tour he contacted groups of villagers, public workers, popular leaders, lawyers and interviewed members of other professions. These form a cross-section of the population in the district and the opinion expressed by them generally indicates that neither the alleged breakdown of rationing nor the story of starvation has any reasonable basis.

The view was expressed to the Nutrition Officer that there was an increasing tendency on the part of the people to depend solely on the Government for food without themselves doing anything appreciable to increase production. It was suggested that even people who had not been accustomed to rice were demanding rice. Then again it was observed that complaints from the poorer sections of the population were due more to their increased purchasing capacity than to any breakdown in rationing. There was a tendency among people to grumble because they considered that the quantity of ration was not sufficient and the quality was not up to their expectations. Sometimes the ground of complaint was that paddy or rice was given only for six days in a week and the cereal ration was given in some other form—milo or cholam on the 7th day. The general desire was that the entire ration should be given in the form of paddy or rice. There was also a misconception as to what constituted starvation. The general notion was that failure to get enough rice to satisfy hunger constituted starvation, no matter whether people got other things like fruit, vegetables, fish, meat, etc., to eat or not.

In point of fact the position in the Kasaragod taluk of South Kanara was not such as to cause any extraordinary concern. The consensus of opinion as ascertained by the Nutrition Officer was that there were no deaths due to starvation and that informal rationing was working satisfactorily. The basic cause for dissatisfaction was that while statutory rationing was in operation in the adjoining district of Malabar, South Kanara had only informal rationing. There was a keen demand that statutory rationing should be extended to all rural areas in the district.

The Nutrition Officer observes that sweet potatoes are grown in plenty in the district and consumed in good quantities by the people as a daily routine. Fish also is consumed, especially in the coastal areas. These with jack fruit and mangoes in turn, bananas and coconut, supplement the ration.

The Nutrition Officer also took occasion to examine school children. About 800 boys and girls were examined and their general health was found satisfactory.

Guntur District

During the last week of October 1947 the Nutrition Officer visited 16 places in Vinukonda taluk in Guntur district to investigate the state of public health in the taluk. In the course of his tour, he met various officials and non-officials and formed the following impressions about the dietetic habits of the villagers and the general food situation in the area.

Generally speaking, the staple article of diet of the population in this taluk is either kumbu or korra or cholam or ragi or a combination of these millets. The millets are raised in different parts of the taluk, especially cumbu and korra. Rice is grown in patches and the out-turn constitutes a very small proportion of the total requirements. On the whole, the agricultural population appear to be raising staple millets almost up to the full extent of their requirements and there is very little ground for any anxiety regarding these people. At a conservative estimate, it may be said that on an average each adult consumes a pound of cleaned millets daily. Pulses especially redgram and horsegram, are grown in abundance in this taluk. Consequently the consumption of pulses in the taluk appears to be fairly high. On an average, it may be in the neighbourhood of 2 to 3 ounces per adult per day. The local population are also maintaining a good number of cattle, and thus milk and milk products are available to the local population in reasonable quantities. The local population have got a contempt for groundnuts and so it can be said that there is very little consumption of groundnut or groundnut oil in this taluk.

Children of the agricultural population are maintaining satisfactory health and little evidence of deficiency diseases is noticeable among them. Availability of milk and milk products is responsible for keeping up the health of the population at a satisfactory level.

The consumption of vegetables is very much low. Cucumber is raised in plenty and is usually the only vegetable consumed by the population in addition to Gonkura (a leafy vegetable) which is also raised here and there. Meat (especially mutton) is very cheap but people do not appear to use meat much except on a few festive occasions. In Vinukonda town vegetables are in short supply, while milk and milk products are sold at comparatively high prices. A good percentage of the population of Vinukonda town is not engaged in agricultural operations and consequently this class of people are not as healthy as the agricultural population. It is said that pulses are boiled and mixed with jaggery and consumed by the non-agricultural labour classes in fairly large quantities, resulting in digestive troubles. Fruits appear to be rare in this area and even cheap plantains are not found. Fish is a rare commodity.

One general feature in the villages of Vinukonda taluk is that large numbers of school-going children go to work in the fields regularly during the harvest season in order to obtain some grain as wages for their work. Most of the labour employed in agricultural operations is paid in kind. Consequently, every family takes advantage of the agricultural operations to provide itself with the required quantities of millets, etc. The population on the whole does not clamour for supplies of rice for consumption, though some in Vinukonda town itself demand an allotment of that commodity. It is stated that the rationing system is to a certain extent responsible for "educating" the Vinukonda people to demand rice. Vinukonda raises only a limited rice crop and the taluk has to depend on outside supplies for satisfying the needs of rice ration-card holders. Wherever the Nutrition Officer went, he enquired of the population if they had known or heard of any cases of death due to starvation. He was told that there were no such cases.

The Nutrition Officer examined 482 school children for signs of deficiency diseases. About 10 per cent of them exhibited mild signs of Xerosis, while about 1½ per cent were found to be suffering from Angular Stomatitis.

On the whole the health of the population was found to be satisfactory.

The Tungabhadra Project

Hon'ble Minister for Public Works inspects the area



An excavated reach of the Tungabhadra canal

A Monumental Work

Elsewhere in this issue appear other pictures on the Tungabhadra Project. This project is admittedly one of the grandest that has ever been conceived in this country. It is now in progress and when completed is expected to bring lakhs of acres under cultivation. The genesis of this project my be briefly indicated.

One of the worst affected areas in point of rainfall in this province are the Ceded districts, Bellary, Anantapur, Cuddapah and Kurnool. The average annual rainfall of this area is 22 inches and sometimes it goes so low as 8 inches. The scanty rainfall and its irregular distribution have contributed to make this area famine ridden once in 5 years on an average. As a result, the Government have had to spend to the tune of crores of rupees on famine relief. This state of affairs caused concern to the Government and they gave thought to the problem of eliminating the spectre of famine permanently from this area. The outcome is the Tungabhadra Project.

Salient Features of the Dam

It will be the joint concern of Madras and Hyderabad, Madras doing the right or southern half. It is expected to cost including canals between Rs. 10 and 17 crores (Madras share). The entire length of the dam will be 8,000 feet, the greatest height being 126 feet except in the rift in the river which is only about 200 feet wide and the height there will be 158 feet. The total contents of the dam will be 30 m.c.ft. of stone masonry. The dam will carry a 22 feet roadway. On the Madras side there will be a low level sluice and also a high level sluice. The high level one is provided for a future contingency of a high level canal.

The Hon'ble Sri M. Bakthavatsalam, Minister for Public Works, Madras Government, made his third visit to the Tungabhadra dam and the canals on the 23rd and 24th November 1947.

Other details

Rapid progress is being made in the excavation of the dam foundations. Nearly 5,000 labourers are working. The Madras side of the dam involves an excavation of 7·0 m.c.ft. mostly of hard rock. The depth of excavation varies from 70 feet at the right end of the dam to 17 feet at surface rock at the river margin. Rock spoil has to be lifted up over lifts of 70 feet as a maximum.

Transport of part of the excavated rock spoil is done by tramming with sentinal locomotives and 1 and 2 c.yd. tipping wagons. This spoil is conveyed 4 to 6 furlongs and used to form the railway embankment for the special railway sidings that are to function shortly.

There are 7 sentinel locomotives; a few of them are engaged in transporting excavated rock to railway siding and a few others are employed in conveying stones required for the dam from the island quarry.

Workshops run by Ruston oil engine and having a few lathes, drills, shaping machines, a few saws, a grinder, oxy-cutting and paint spraying machines, etc., are attending to the repairs of all the mechanical equipment of the dam.

Patterson's of Calcutta and Modern Housing Construction of Madras are building the rapid sand filters and clear water reservoir on the hill slope. The filters will deal with a daily output of 5 lakhs gallons per day. Temporary chlorinated water-supply to the tune of 50,000 gallons per day is being supplied by pumping and by water transport lorries.

Temporary electrification of the camp at the dam site has been made.

Quarters are provided for one Superintending Engineer, two Executive Engineers, one Audit Officer, 15 Subdivisional Officers, about 40 Supervisors, 120 clerks, 80 maistries, 100 peons, 600 permanent and another 600 temporary huts are also provided for artisans and coolies. Except a very few of these buildings, the others have all been completed and occupied.

A telephone exchange with connexions to the trunk line and to the canals is in operation. A hospital, a co-operative market stall, a co-operative store and a post-office, have been established. Rations are distributed for the entire colony-officers, subordinates, artisans and labourers. A few public conveniences have been put up for the labour colony. Combined offices are under construction and the Audit office and one of the Division offices are already located in a completed building built for the Deputy Tahsildar's office of the camp. A few batchelors' quarters and quarters for Subdivisional officers have been constructed of cement-sand blocks with asbestos roofing.

Malaria has been brought well under control. Systematic D.D.T. and Pyrethrum spraying and supply of paludrine and mepacrine to one and all, inoculation for cholera and typhoid and vaccination are regularly attended to by the Health staff.

A railway station with sidings is under construction.

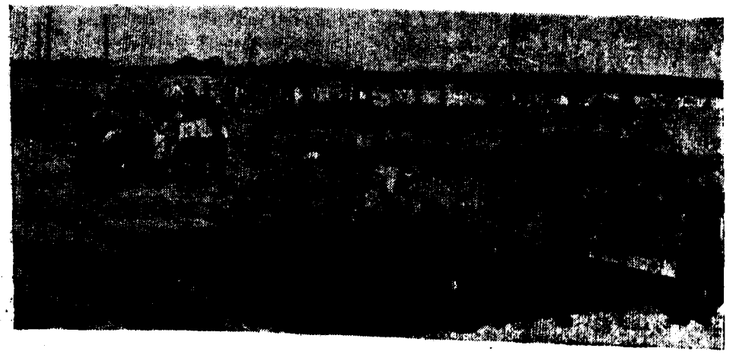
A Special Deputy Collector looks after the welfare of the camps, colony and labourers and cloth supplied by the Collector are distributed by the Special Deputy Collector to all the labourers. He is also in charge of recruitment and rationing.

A temporary bridge spans the right arm of the Tungabhadra river leading to the island quarry which is to supply most of the stones required for the construction of the dam. This bridge is of 2 lines of 24″ × 7½″ girders, covered by reinforced concrete slabs which carry a tramline. A good metalled road has been laid from Hospet-Narayana Devekere main road to dam site; besides a net work of 5 miles of roads within the camp area has also been formed.

Another Irrigation Project

The Hon'ble Minister for Public Works also visited the Hagari Aqueduct site. The Hagari Aqueduct will be across the Hagari river and will consist of 58 spans of 35 feet supported on wells which are being taken down to 25 feet below bed of the river. The canal will be carried in a reinforced concrete trough of 2 compartments. Over one compartment a 14 feet roadway intended purely for the inspection of the canal will be taken. The approach to the aqueduct is by a high embankment where the canal water level will be 30 feet above the ground level.

The canal as designed will be 210 miles long of which about 30 to 40 miles have been taken up fo. excavation. A good number of bridges and cross masonry works are already in progress. A labour strength of 5,000 to 7,000 men and women are engaged on the excavation proper. It is expected that more rapid excavation of the canals will be taken up after excavators which have been indented for from U.S.A. and England arrive.



Hon'ble Minister for Public Works inspected recently the site of the Hagari Aqueduct. Picture shows foundation wells on the right

Tit-Bits

Government Publicity

"The dissemination of correct information through a scheme of planned publicity is part and parcel of the education of the public under a democaratic Government" observed Hon'ble Mr. Bakthavatsalam, Minister for Public Information, addressing the first meeting of the Publicity Advisory Committee. He continued that this objective had been kept in view by the Congress Government and found reflection in the creation of the Publicity Department.

Cottage Industries

Addressing the annual meeting of the Madras Industries Association, the Hon'ble Minister for Industries Mr. Sitharama Reddi, observed that there must be a harmonious blending of both cottage and large scale industries. He said there was a great scope for cottage industries in this Province. The Government had appointed a Committee to go into the question of planning of industries in Madras. He expected that the report of the committee would be available shortly when they could go ahead in the matter of planning.

Madras-Hyderabad Border

With reference to his recent visit of the Hyderabad-Madras Border areas, Hon'ble the Premier said "the foremost duty of everyone now is to infuse confidence into the people". Influx of refugees, the Premier said has now stopped and similarly the emigration of the people from these areas to Hyderabad had also ceased.

Duty of Public Utility Personnel

"The Government have nationalized public utility services like the M.E.S.C. solely in the interest of the people" said Hon'ble Mr. Bakthavatsalam, Minister for Public Works, recently and the workers employed in them should feel doubly proud that it was given to them to serve the public through an agency which was run by the people themselves. Any loss or gain made in Government run services would affect the people as a whole. The Workers could not afford to be indifferent to loss or gain as in privately-owned services where the owner could make up his loss in various other ways.

Appeal to Caste Hindus

Speaking at Bombay, Mr. V. N. Barve, President of Maharashtra Provincial Harijan Sevak Sangh pleaded for tolerance and broad-mindedness in Caste Hindus, who should not maintain any longer an attitude of cold indifference towards Harijans, who could now under the new dispensation lay claim to equality of treatment in social life. They must on the contrary embrace them and take them closer to their hearts and help them in every possible manner to attain progress in all directions.

Solution for Agrarian Problem

Writing on Agrarian Problem, Professor Dantwalla observed: "My concrete suggestion is, therefore, to organize a Multi-Purpose Society in every village with compulsory membership. The Society will provide the best possible resources to every cultivator. It can charge them for the services rendered, but it will not refuse to render service simply because a cultivator cannot afford it. If this scheme is followed, not in isolation but along with other schemes of economic development, the chances are that in a few years' time every cultivator will be in a position to pay for the best resources, particularly if they are supplied on co-operative and non-profit basis."

OUR DISTRICT NEWS BAG

Uplift Activities in 'Dry' Districts

The uplift activities in prohibition districts continue with increasing vigour. The following is a brief summary :—

Anantapur.—The rural uplift school started at Kadiri completed its course by the 15th October 1947. Forty-five students joined the school and of these 43 completed the course. A taluk tournament was held in October. Eleven teams are reported to have taken part in the tournament.

Chittoor.—In Chandragiri division, a grama sangam and a recreation club were organized by the Assistant Development Officer. Grama sangam at Perur has agreed to start an aided school in their village while the people of Kallur have agreed to organize a co-operative credit society for their place. Rural games were conducted in all the divisions of the district as also inter-village tournaments. A firka tournament was also held in October on an impressive scale. Sixteen surrounding villages took part and games like chahugudu, one-leg race, frog relay, rival heroes and find the treasure, etc., were played. There was also a display of acrobatic skill. There were in addition bajanas and singing of community songs by Harijans. The villagers celebrated the anniversary of prohibition. Thrift day celebrations also took place in several villages and hundi boxes were distributed. The Saving's Scheme was pushed through in all places. Eight dramas were enacted in Madanapalle division and two in Chandragiri division. These attracted large crowds and were widely appreciated. One Weavers Co-operative Society has purchased a radio set. The rural recreation club at Tadupet opened a reading room and a public library. The significance and importance of the planting was explained upon the villagers. Twenty-eight trees were planted in 3 villages. Cleanliness day was observed in villages. It is also reported that the village betterment committee in one place assisted the Prohibition staff in detecting prohibition offences. Street cleaning drives were also conducted. Arrangements have been made for the manufacture of compost manure to absorb ex-addicts as well as to assist the "Grow More Food Campaign."

Cuddapah.—The fourth rural uplift school was opened at Rayachoti in October 1947 and closed in November. In connexion with the opening, there were entertainments, singing of songs and poems on thrift, etc.

Kurnool.—Rural games, bajanas and songs were the main items of the counter-attraction programme in the district. Street cleaning drives were also sponsored in Kurnool division. One ex-addict saved Rs. 150 and bought a cow. Another purchased a house from his savings. Thrift day was celebrated in some places. In Nandyal division many ex-addicts have constructed huts of their own from their savings. Some ex-addicts have also cleared off their debts.

Bellary.—The usual rural games were conducted in many villages, and the villagers evinced great interest in them. Bajanas, kolattams and folk dances were other items of entertainment during the week. Thrift days were celebrated. Collections exceeding Rs. 1,000 were made on behalf of a grama sangam. 'Kurushetra', a drama in Kanarese, was enacted by ex-addicts in Hospet taluk. Another drama was also enacted by them. [illegible] kalakshepams were given at Adoni. A night school and a free library and a reading room were arranged to be opened at Adoni.

North Arcot.—A rural uplift school was opened in August and closed in September. Fifty-four students completed their course. Previous to the closing of the school, a cottage industry exhibition was conducted. Magic lantern shows by the Veterinary and Health departments were held. Propaganda dramas and taluk tournaments constituted the main features of the counter-attraction [illegible]

Salem.—The fourth rural uplift school was opened by the Collector in October. Bajanas and street dramas were enacted. In October a conference of the representatives of the jaggery producers in the Omalur taluk and the Salem Co-operative Marketing Society was held and useful decisions taken. Two new volley ball courts were opened in October. Tournaments and rural games were held in many villages and prizes distributed. The weekly bajanas were held in several villages of Hosur taluk in which ex-addicts and Harijans took part.

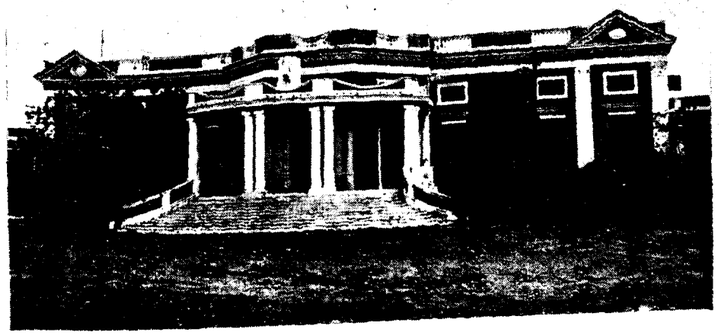
Coimbatore.—A gram asangam has formed a new road at a cost of Rupees 3,000. Another sangam has formed a flower garden and sunk a well. A third sangam has effected repairs to a village chavadi at a cost of Rs. 100. Two sangams have spent a sum of Rs. 350 and repaired their playgrounds. The Varadanallur Sangam is constructing 3 schools. Village meetings were held in several villages and an aggregate number of 40,000 people are reported to have attended. Tournaments were held in several places. Four grama sangams have purchased radio sets. Several schools constructed were declared open during the month. The Harijans in one place have constructed a school unaided by others. a bajana kudam was constructed in a village at a cost of Rs. 1,000. Three libraries were declared open.

Tanjore.—Preliminary work connected with ameliorative work is in full swing. A thrift campaign has been launched. Village betterment committees have been formed in five places and rural games organized in six places. About 24 ex-addicts are admitted free to cinema shows at Mannargudi. Some of the ex-addicts have purchased cooking utensils from their new savings. One man has saved Rs. 24 since the introduction of prohibition. A milk supplier has saved Rs. 75. In Shiyali taluk, 5 village betterment committees have been formed and in another taluk a rural recreation club was organized.

South Kanara.—During the first week of November 1947, 17 societies for jaggery manufacturing—tappers were registered in this district. These are expected to provide job for nearly 1,500 tappers.

Trichinopoly.—Two milk-supply co-operative societies were organized during November. In one, there are 22 ex-tappers while in the other there are 21 ex-tappers.

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The Refugee Camp at Saidapet (Main Building)



A group of Punjabee refugee women with children



A typical refugee from the north. In his old age he had to leave his native village and join the ranks of the refugees



Refugee children at Lutteral's Gardens, Kilpauk



Education has not been forgotten for the refugees. The picture shows a refugee teacher taking c

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