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The Functions of Co-operative Urban Banks.

BY

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The functions of the Urban Banks, as I consider them, are that they should act as centres for mobilising the small savings of persons carrying on their vocations within a definitely prescribed area. More or less, they should be able to collect the small savings of their members and utilise it for advances to artisans, merchants and other small traders in the area of operations. If we examine the existing Urban Banks in the Presidency, I do not know whether we can feel satisfied that these institutions have been helping the community in the manner it ought to. In very many societies, it is found that there is a great deal of avidity to pay a very high rate of interest on moneys deposited with them, with the result that rivalries and antagonism have grown between these Urban Banks and District Central Banks where they exist side by side. Really it ought to be the endeavour of the Urban Banks to pay only the market rate of interest for deposits and not to have them at unusually high rate; for the payment of high rates compels the charging of higher rates for advances made by these institutions. One another feature that one finds in these institutions is that greater care is being restored upon the loaning policy of the institution than upon the Thrift side of it. It is a besetting sin in very many Urban Institutions to find so many systems of loaning and very few systems for gathering deposits. It ought not to be forgotten that these co-operative institutions are mainly intended as store houses of Thrift and the purpose of these institutions seem to have been forgotten in the eagerness to create greater facilities for borrowing. The true function of an Urban Bank will be when it is able to collect the small savings of salary and wage earner to be utilised for advancing to traders and merchants in the locality. One other service that the Urban Banks can successfully undertake to do is to train the members of societies in the use c

Cheques for as yet the country has not understood the benefit of a well-controlled cheque system of currency. Another point in which I would expect the Urban Banks to take action will be in popularising inland Bills of Exchange. What I mean by the term is as follows:—

At present the loaning policy of the Urban Bank is based on advances made on the security of Promissory Notes and the amounts so loaned is returnable in a number of instalments. What I would like the Urban Bank to cultivate is the granting of advances on Hundies or Bills thereby the Trading and Mercantile classes may be made to so order their business that they will be educated in the method of meeting such bills or Hundies on the due dates. One complaint against the banking system of our country is that it is more or less done on the system of time loans than on the system of Bill Discounting. It is stated that there is nothing like a bill market developed in this country and as such it is found that short-term deposits cannot be made use of profitably. It is only by educating the merchants and traders in the localities wherein Urban Banks are situate to avail themselves of advances on Bills maturing at definite period ι Bill market can be created. Such Bill Discounting, if made popular will make the advances made by these institutions more secure than they are at present. This point is well-worth consideration by persons who are responsible for conducting the affairs of Urban Banks.

The development of Urban Banks in the Bombay Presidency is worth studying on the spot, by persons interested in its improvements. It is time that these institutions begin to man their establishment by well-trained and highly qualified persons, instead of continuing to be controlled by amateur secretaries. Urban banking will not be developed and will not contribute to the growth of the business unless persons well-read and well-trained in technics of Banking are put at the head of these institutions.

(From Silver Jubilee Sovenir of M.U.C.B.)

Extracts from the Annual Report

OF THE

Co-operative Department on the working of the Movement in the Madras Presidency for the year 1930-'31.

CO-OPERATIVE TRAINING.

The six Training Institutes held two Training classes each during the year, 804 Candidates were admitted as against 865 in the previous year. 474 came out successful. There was general feeling that these short courses of 4½ months should be replaced by a course extending to 9 months. Accordingly a more comprehensive syllabus has been drawn up and the new course began in July 1931. It has also been decided not to conduct a separate examination for the students of the institute. They will have to sit in future for the Government Technical examinations. Possibly so far as Co-operative subjects are concerned, examinations conducted by the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union will take the place of the Government examinations.

In co-operative classes conducted by the Government Institute of Commerce, 40 were selected of whom 22 came out successful.—5 in all subjects, 5 in three subjects—5 in two subjects and 7 only in one.

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The Federations in 11 Districts conducted Training classes for Panchayatdars in 592 centres at which 5,506 members belonging to 1,057 societies participated. In five Districts Central Banks conducted training classes in 97 centres and the total attendance was 4,833. The City Panchayatdar classes managed by the Provincial Co-operative Union in previous years were continued during the year and the classes were held in 115 centres in the Madras City at which there was a total attendence of 2,666 members belonging to 45 societies.

RECRUITMENT.

(*a*) *By the Department*:—The total expenditure incurred on the working of the department amounted to Rs. 11·59 lakhs as against 10·11 lakhs in the previous year. This represents 0·64 per cent of the total working capital as compared with 0·56 per cent. of the previous year.

(*b*) *Departmental Officers on Deputation*:—There were 43 Officers of the Department on deputation in various services on 30th June 1931, of whom 3 were Sub-Deputy Registrars, 9 Senior Inspectors, and 31 Junior Inspectors. They are employed by 13 Central Banks, 8 Federations 8 Audit Unions and 8 other miscellaneous institutions.

Departmental Officers for special work:—The services of a Deputy Director of Agriculture were placed at the disposal of the Registrar for improvement of work in cotton sale societies. He reported himself for duty on 12—3—31. He visited all loan and sale societies and suggested ways and means to improve their working. During the year the Government sanctioned an additional post of a Sub Deputy Registrar as Marketting Officer for the Salem Weavers Co-operative Society Ltd. One Junior Inspector was also employed for the Kora mat industry societies.

Owing to the temporary suspension of fresh organisations it was found possible to reduce the staff sanctioned by the Government to facilitate working of land Mortgage banks. There were 10 Sub Deputy Registrars till November 1930 whose duty it was to scrutinise the loan applications, verifying the title to the loan and assess the repaying capacity of the borrowers. Four of them were withdrawn in December 1930 and one in April 1931 and the work was redistributed among the remaining Sub Deputy Registrars. One of the two Deputy Registrars' posts sanctioned for the work was also kept vacant since 17-3-31 and the other Deputy Registrar has been placed in charge of all the banks in the Presidency.

For depressed classes.—There are 71 Inspectors under Labour Department and 74 under co-operative department for the special work of the Depressed class societies.

GOVERNMET AID TO SOCIETIES.

(*a*) *Grants for training and propaganda*:—A sum of Rs. 29,831 was spent by the Six Training Institutes for conducting the classes and the Government contributed Rs. 16,000 to this. The Federations spent a sum of Rs. 6,955 for the conduct of Training classes for the Panchayatdars, out of which Rs. 4,399 was contributed by Government. The total subsidy from Government given to Central Banks for conducting Training classes amounted to Rs. 4,666. The Government also gave a sum of Rs. 800 to the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union for conducting the City Panchayatdar Classes. During the year it gave a grant of Rs. 2,725 to 19 co-operative institutions for purchase of books for the public libraries maintained by them.

(*b*) *Government aid for special activities*:—The establishment charges of the Central Land Mortgage Bank were met out of the Government loan of Rs. 15,000 sanctioned last year. The Government have given a free grant of Rs. 14,000 to meet the working expenses for the year 1931-32. The Bank has written to Government requesting the loan of Rs. 15,000 sanctioned for 1930-31 may be converted into a free grant and the question is under consideration. The Bank also applied for another grant of Rs. 14,000 to meet the expenses for 1932-33 by which time it expects to get sufficient income and become self-suporting.

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The Nilgiris District Toda Society continued to work under the guidance of the Collecter assisted by a non-official Committee. A co-operative Inspector continued to work under the Collector. The society raised a loan of Rs. 5,000 from Government free of interest repayable in 10 years and also a free grant of Rs. 2,000.

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The Badaga Land Mortgage Bank borrowed from Government a sum of Rs. 6,400. A special Deputy Tahsildar acts as the ex-officio Secretary of the bank. The Government gave a free grant of Rs. 700 to meet its working expenses for 1930-31. A grant of Rs. 500 has also been given for the year 1931-32.

THE MADRAS PROVINCIAL CO-OPERATIVE UNION.

The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union continued to do useful work. On 30th June 1931, it had 460 members including 20 honorary individual members. The Six Training institutes have been affiliated to the Union, and a Central Committee has been formed to co-ordinate the working of all the institutes. The Union is affiliated to the All-India Co-operative Institutes' Association and also to the International Co-operative Alliance. It continued the publication of "The Madras Journal of Co-operation" and also took up the publication of the "Village Panchayat", which was formerly edited by the Registrar General of Panchayats under the name of the "Village Panchayat Bulletin". The Journal is issued in three languages—English, Tamil and Telugu. A number of books have been added to the library of the Union out of the library grant of Rs. 400, given by the Government and a similar sum of Rs. 400 contributed from its own funds. It maintained a Reading room in which a large number of co-operative and other Journals and some important local dailies are made available for the visitors. A number of members of the Executive Committee and the Board of Management undertook propaganda tours in several districts. The City Panchayatdars Training Classes managed by the Union in previous years were continued during the year and classes were held in 115 centres in the Madras City at which there was a total attendance of 2,666 members belonging to 45 societies. A sum of Rs. 1,282/- was spent in conducting these classes out of which the Government contributed Rs. 800/- A revised syllabus on co-operation was prepared by two members of the Centrai Committee specially deputed and it was approved by the Central Committee and the Government. The Union has also prepared a number of magic lantern slides on Co-operation, thrift etc. It continued to finance and supervise the rural reconstructien centres started under its auspices in the previous years and there are now 8 such centres. It has published detailed reports on the work done at these centres.

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The Nineteenth Provincial Co-operative Conference was held in June 1931 under the Presidency of M. R. Ry., Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalingam Chettiyar Avergal, B.A., B.L., M.L.C., of Coimbatore at which many important topics were discussed. As usual the conference was attended by a large number of delegates who took an active interest in the proceedings. The Agricultural and Industries Departments availed themselves of the opportunity to exhibit improved methods and implements.

PROVINCIAL AND CENTRAL BANKS.

Provincial Bank:—During the year under report the Apex bank was rechristened "the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank Limited" as it was thought that the name of the Madras Central Urban Bank" did not indicate its true scope and function. In spite of the troublous times it had a successful year and deservedly enjoys a complete confidence of the public. It is true that taking the year as a whole the loans issued to central banks fell from Rs. 92 lakhs to 39 lakhs and that during the period of Januaty and April the apex bank was unable to meet the demands of the Central Banks.

The Provincial Bank has continued a wholesome policy of granting only short term loans to Central Banks. There has also been a noticeable tightening up of the procedure in granting loans. Most admirable forms have been devised to accompany loan applications and the purpose for which loan is wanted is being carefully scrutinised. While the Provincial Bank will no doubt always be willing to come to the rescue of any central bank in serious difficulties. Central banks will find that money is no longer to be had for the asking. All interested in the movement must be grateful to the Bank's President and

Directors for the strong line they have taken, while the depositing public can look to this bank with renewed confidence.

Central Banks :—The Madras District Co-operative Central Bank Ltd., was registered and started in the year. The assets and liabilities of all societies working in the Madras City were taken over by the Bank from the Madras Christian Central Co-operative Bank.

The loans to the extent of Rs. 232·60 lakhs were disbursed during the year. By all Central Banks as against Rs. 328·10 lakhs in the previous year. The profits earned by all of them in the year fell from Rs. 9·62 lakhs to 7·79 lakhs. The poorer collections in all Central Banks, creation of a bad debt reserve, the raising of the rate of interest on borrowings without a corresponding increase in the lending rate and the heavy depreciation in investments in Government Paper are some of the factors that contributed to the decrease in profits. Eighteen Banks set apart substantial amounts towards bad debts reserve amounting in all to Rs. 1,24,704. There have been complaints from some Central Banks regarding the creation of these reserves and the consequent reduction of profits: but I feel sure that the policy is wise. There will undoubtedly be bad debts in some districts and it is time that fuller provision is made for them. During the course of the year several central banks failed to repay their loans to the Provincial Bank on the due dates. This is probably the first instance of Central Banks having failed to meet their liabilities to the Provincial Bank, and for a period the Provincial Bank was not in possession of sufficient funds to enable it to meet the demands of Central Banks. There were bitter, and I thought legitimate, complaints from certain well-managed Central Banks and genuine distress among good societies which were being deprived of co-operative credit at a time when it was particularly wanted. I therefore approached Government for a loan of Rs. 10 lakhs. Fortunately the money happened to be immediately available and it was sanctioned direct to selected Central Banks repayable in six months at 7 per cent. A small portion of it was almost immediately returned unused. I believe the loan did great good in relieving the temporary shortage of credit and in enabling ryots to hold up their crops till prices improved somewhat. In fact in several districts the Government loan was the only credit available to ryots in the latter months of the year. The prompt repayments reflect great credit on the management of the Central Banks concerned and I am sure have increased their prestige in the eyes of the Government and the Public.

Mention was made in last years' Report of the action taken by the Imperial Bank of India to get Government Paper substituted for co-operative societies promissory notes as cover for the overdrafts given to co-operative banks. They have continued in the year the policy of cutting down the amount of overdraft sanctioned in the case of banks that have not furnished Government paper to an adequate extent as cover for overdrafts. The Imperial Bank of India also adopted the policy of cutting down the overdraft and even withdrawing it in full in cases where the central banks have not been operating on the overdraft for a considerable length of time. Since the close of the year, the Imperial Bank have raised the question of depreciation in value in the collateral securities furnished between the dates on which quarterly certificates of securities for a particular quarter are received. They

also observed that during this period loans due in respect of several of the bonds held by them become overdue and the Imperial Bank do not accept as collateral security bonds of Primary Societies which have committed default in payment of their dues. The Imperial Bank have therefore instructed their branches to request the Central Banks concerned to submit direct to their branches a statement as on the last working day of each month showing the actual value of the pronotes without overdues as on that day.

Short-term and 10 year loans.—In my last years' report I expressed the opinion that in certain circumstances Central Banks might well revive the practice of 10 years loans. I know that several authorities, whose views I respect, thought I had given a wrong lead in the matter. One aspect of this question which impressed me very forcibly during inspection of village societies last year is that the initial grant of long-term loans has in numerous cases meant death to the society. When the society was originally formed most members obtained long-term loans to their maximum borrowing power. Hence forward in these societies there was nothing to be done except to recover the loans. So the society became dormant. There were no longer any questions of interest to discuss at Panchayat meetings, no longer was there any necessity to consider individuals. needs and claims, all interest faded, for the recovery of the money is essentially a dull heartless task. I feel sure therefore that if a society is to be kept alive, it must be constantly considering the position and needs of its members. It must have live questions constantly before it and to secure this the grant of short term loans is essential. I would therefore like to emphasise my opinion that if 10 year loans are to be given at all by the ordinary co-operative society they must be in strictly limited quantities.

LAND MORTGAGE BANKS.

The unsettled condition of the money market affected also the operations of the Central Land Mortgage Bank which experienced considerable difficulty in selling its debentures. One result of this financial stringency was that the organisation of new banks was suspended as there was no prospect of a steady flow of funds to supply the needs of the new banks. Further steps for establishing new banks can be undertaken only after conditions become more favourable. The Government remitted the duty charged under the Indian Stamp Act on deeds of transfer in respect of the debentures of the bank. This concession has greatly facilitated the transfer of debentures.

SUPERVISION.

With more experience it is now possible to speak more definitely on the vexed question of the relative value of Federations and Bank Administrative Sections. Personally, I am quiet convinced that it was never desirable to create separate bodies to attend to supervision and propaganda. This involved additional and unnecessary expenditure and, in my opinion, there was never any justification for the view that Central Banks, if entrusted with these functions, would tend to lay undue stress on the financial aspect. Directors of Central Banks are usually keen co-operators—not mere financiers—and I have never seen any signs of their ignoring the co-operative side of their work. The real rock, however, on which both Federations and Administrative sections of Central Banks may founder is the difficulty of getting Unions to agree to centralized control of staff and finance. The experience of the last year has shown that, when a Federation or a Central Bank tries to exercise real control over the work of supervisors or to distribute supervision fund according to the needs of a localities, it usually meets with strong opposition from the unions, even in good areas. Yet these two points centralization of control over staff and supervision fund are undoubtedly of the greatest importance and it has been most disappointing to find as many Unions unwilling to surrender what they call their "Independence." Some Union Directors have behaved as if the deprivation of their power of appointing supervisors meant the end of their power to do good work—as if they sought and retained office merely for the patronage they secured. They do not appreciate the desirability of having the power of appointment concentrated in an outside authority, away from the influence of local faction and favouritism. With the spread of democracy the tendency in every branch of administration has been to limit the powers of appointment of local officers and to concentrate it in an outside authority. The Registrar, for instance, is no longer considered competent to appoint a routine clerk. It is particularly unfortunate that this desire for patronage should show itself in co-operative institutions. *Union Directors were never intended to be mere controlling authorities over a paid staff. They are supposed to work personally and to use their local influence and in so far as they hand over their duties to paid employees, they are failing in their functions. Similarly as regards finance; whenever a Federation or the Administrative section of a Central Bank has allotted for expenditure in a union area less than the supervision fund collected in that area, there has been an outcry, which has revealed a woeful lack of the true co-operative spirit, an unwillingness to admit that in co-operation the strong should help the weak.* I earnestly hope that we shall have less of this seeking after power in future and that Union Directors will recognize that centralization of control and finance is essential and that they hold office not for the sake of the patronage and power it confers, but for the opportunity it gives them of using their personal influence for the good of the movement.

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There is a good amount of dissatisfaction against local supervising unions, because they have not been able effectively to control their affiliated societies. It is found that in many cases the management of the union is in the hands of persons who are themselves defaulters in respect of loans taken by them from their societies and are therefore reluctant to take action against defaulters in other societies. This attitude has considerably lowered the prestiege of local unions in the eyes of the financing banks and in some cases banks have actually pressed for the abolition of the unsatisfactory unions. While it is true that supervision, to be effective, should be in the hands of local men of influence and capacity, it must also be admitted that the movement is not at present getting full value for the large sums spent by unions—Rs. 7·72 lakhs and the large staff employed—607 supervisors.

AUDIT.

The audit of all societies except two was completed before the close of the year. The audit could not be finished before the close of the year in these two societies as the books were not avilable. The system of issuing summaries of defects noticed in audit to Central Banks, Federations and Unions was continued in the year. The Federations and Unions arranged to get the defects remedied and have reason to think that this system is helping the Federations and Union to rectify the affairs at least in some of the societies.

A large number of prosecutions of office bearers of societies that came up before me indicated *that the quality of audit must be still further improved.* Some at least of these offences could have been detected earlier or prevented by suitable measures if audit had been done with greater care and attention to the verification of assets. Very strict orders have been issued on the subject to Deputy Registrars, and I trust that this serious blot on the administration will soon be removed.

Editorial Notes

Co-operation in Madras.

We draw the special attention of our readers to the extracts appearing elsewhere in this issue from the Annual Report of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies on the working of the Co-operative Societies' Act II of 1912 in this Presidency for the year 1930-31. We are glad to note the change in the angle of vision of the Registrar and are thankful to him for the sympathy he exhibits towards and for the accommodation he obtained from Government for the benefit of the poor ryot and for recognition of voluntary effort on the part of the non-officials.

This year's report is a deviation from the previous ones in more than one way. It forms a very interesting reading. The Registrar attributes the failures of some societies to the "Five year plan" adopted in 1921 and does not place much importance on separate bodies intended specially for supervision and propaganda. He pleads for the centralization of control over staff and supervision fund and deplores at the tendency of union directors to retain patronage in their hands and for the woeful lack of co-operative spirit in most of the unions. He is of opinion that the movement is not at present getting full value for the large sums spent by unions—7·72 lakhs and large staff employed—607 supervisors.

Regarding financial matters, the Registrar admits that "Centralization of the movement" combined with a lac of fore-thought on the part of its leaders, brought about a shortage of loanable funds in Financing Institutions. He is now for giving more freedom to the Presidents of Central Banks to negotiate with the would be depositors and is not for tying the hands of the local men as was done in the past.

The Registrar is also fully aware of the defects in organising societies, defective supervision and imperfect audit which in his opinion has still to be improved. He has therefore adopted a policy of restricting the registration of fresh societies and weading out speedily the bad ones. He is also conscious of the fact that there are yet about 30,000 villages in this Presidency not yet served at present by co-operative credit societies and desires to a wait for a time till the number of unselfish and public spirited enthusiasts capable of giving unremitting care and attention for the efficient management of societies, increases.

It will be noticed from our contemporary the "Madral Journal of Co-operation" that the cost of establishment for the running of co-operative department has nearly doubled itself in the course of six years and is excessive in view of the fact that the department has given up registering fresh societies, and also the task of supervision. Even audit of some societies is now undertaken by certified auditors and by audit unions without any expense to the department. The cost of working the department is always compared with the working capital of the societies which in our opinion serves no useful purpose. We are quite sure that a few big institutions managed by efficient people paying also for their audit, increased their transactions in such manner as to make people ignore the existing conditions and the loss of working capital by the liquidation of a large number of co-operative institutions in the presidency. The number of institutions may diminish, the work of the Department may be lightened, yet the working capital is bound to increase with the development of a few big institutions. We are therefore of opinion that the comparison of the cost of working the Department with the working capital of the societies is of no use. On the other hand it will be a distinct advantage if the cost of working the department is compared with the number of institutions specially attended to by the departmental officers. We also notice that, excepting a favoured few, all other non-credit societies are on the verge of liquidation. We trust that the Registrar will see that all non credit institutions are properly encouraged and specially attended to by the Departmental officers instead of simply passing the liquidation orders on the recommendation of his subordinates. We also hope that he will see to the improvement of the earning capacity of the members by introduction of special activities in the existing societies to increase their incomes.

Corporation of Madras.

We had occasion to note in our last issue about the inability of Co-operative institutions to pay the company's tax now levied by the Corporation of Madras. Till recently they were exempted from the levy by an order of Government. Out of 145 societies now in existence in the city, 55 societies belong wholly to Depressed class and work with little or no profit. Some of the societies are working at a loss. Other societies also excepting a few cannot be said to be making profits in the sense in which it is understood in commercial circles. When the registrar was addressed on the matter by the Madras District Co-operative Central Bank, Ltd., he assured it that he moved the Government to exempt Co-operative societies in the city from the levy of the said tax. (A copy of his communication is published elsewhere in this issue). The societies in the city may wait till we hear definitely from the Registrar as to the action taken by the Government on his communication.

Depressed classes—Enblock amendments.

It has been brought to our notice that all depressed class societies are asked by the department to amend their by-laws as per a new model now introduced by it. Whatever might be the justification for the introduction of the model in the mufassil, its introduction here works a real hardship in some cases. To mention only two instances, that in the recent model, the maximum borrowing power of the members of societies is fixed at Rs, 250 only and the rate of interest on loans at 1½ pies per rupee per mensem. There are some institutions in the city whose members are, under existing bye-laws, allowed to borrow more than Rs. 250 and we are at a loss to understand how the model can be safely introduced without infringing the present rules and how loans already advanced exceeding the new limit can be allowed to remain. If such amendments are introduced without consulting the financing bank it will seriously affect the financial position and will lead to difficulties. The fixing the rate of interest uniformally at 1½ pies per rupee per mensem does not find favour in some societies, for in a city like this, the societies have to incur some expenses in working them and also keep some profits for bad and doubtful debts. The fixing the rate of interest at 1½ pies, does not leave sufficient margin of profit for the aforesaid purposes. In some cases, we are sure, it will make the societies work at a loss. We trust that the authorities concerned will give due consideration to these observations and allow the dedressed class societies to retain such of their existing bye-laws as of a distinct advantage to them.

Sir K. V. Reddi.

We beg to offer a most cordial and respectful welcome to Sir K. V. Reddy, *Kt.*, who has come back to our midst after completing his term of office as Agent-General to the Government of India in South Africa. He was the first Minister of Co-operation under the Reforms. We all remember the work he did to encourage and develop the Co-operative Movement in this Presidency. He was the President of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union and presided over the 13th Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference in December 1924. His practical outlook, keen sense of duty and his deep sympathy with the movement will be of great help to the City Co-operators.

Co-operation and Guild Life.

BY MRS. M. ROBERTSON,

(Woonona Co-operative Society Guild Leader.)

A great deal of the increased interest being manifested in the co-operation during the past year can be directly attributed to the operation of the women's guilds. To my way of thinking, the chief function of the guilds is to educate co-operative members in such subjects as the histroy of the movement, management, and problems of finance.

Not so long ago it was considered immoral in a woman to express a desire to know and understand anything outside of her own kitchen, but fiminist movements primarily, and finally the War, succeeded at least in partially emancipating woman from the slavery of the home.

In the co-operative movement woman has always held (theoretically, at least) a position of absolute equality with man, but in practice, it did'nt work out that way. Even to-day, how many women can we point to as Directors in societies or holding high executive positions in the movement? I don't know of even one in N. S. W.

The education received in the guilds is doing much to fit woman to take her rightful place in co-operation, and I claim that woman's place is beside man, on directory boards, helping in management, and, above all, bringing her home experience to bear on the question of buying.

We must not neglect the lighter side of guild life in our anxiety to educate ourselves. To many women the guild room and the guild meeting is a welcome change from the daily domestic round and a place of relaxation, where they can discuss with their working class sisters those economic problems that go to make up three parts of working class life. The business finished, a cup of tea, served by the committee, and a pleasant evening can be spent with song, story and dance. The toiling wife and mother is refreshed and strengthend again to make up her daily round with her mind fixed ahead on the oasis in the desert of working class life-the guild night.

(From Co-operative news).

News and Comments

COLLECTIVE LIFE ASSURANCE.

The system of Collective Life Assurance which the Co-operative Insurance Society has operated since 1904 has proved a great advantage in the development of Co-operation. From time to time the expenses charged to societies have been revised in order to give the individual members the fullest advantage. Economy in administration at headquarters and the adoption of mechanical methods in much of the routine work has enabled societies to receive concessions of a tangible value. In 1914 the charge to societies was reduced from 5 to 3 per cent, and now the Directors of the Insurance Society have decided to reduce the charge for expenses to 1½ per cent. In communicating this information to the retail societies, Mr. J. P. Jones, the general manager, has reminded committees of the necessity for a periodical inspection of insurance policies with a view to bringing them into line with present values, and so ensuring the stability of the society from this important point of view.

(From Producer.)

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE.

During 1931 business in the Insurance world had to encounter many difficulties, but the co-operative Insurance society was able to make good progress towards assuring the lives of co-operators.

In the ordinary section the new life business completed by the Co-operative Insurance Society amounted to£16,41,300 as against £ 13,14,006 in 1930. This was an increase of £ 3,27,294, or nearly 25 per cent. In the industrial section no fewer than 584,999 policies were issued for total new yearly premiums of £ 5,37,796, as against 511,300 policies for £ 4,72,036 premiums during 1930. This represented an increase of 73,699 policies.

Evidently the agents for the co-operative Insurance Society have been getting well to work during times of Industrial depression. Their activities can be materially assisted by societies mentioning the matter of co-operative insurance in their balance sheets. Through the association of the Co-operative Insurance Societies with the Co-operative Weaving Societies all retail societies are naturally interested in the progress of the movement as a whole. Hence the interest which every local society should display in familiarising its members with the work of co-operative insurance.

(From Producer.)

THE FIRST YEAR OF CLUSA SERVICE, INC.

A year ago a service to provide insurance for co-operators and co-operatives was a pious hope and a faint beginning. Now it is an accomplished fact. During its first fiscal year, which has just closed, Clusa Service, Inc. placed insurance, the premiums on which amounted to over $ 10,000. On much of this it made substantial savings for the policy-holders. Automobile insurance of co-operators, for instance, was placed in a large and reliable company at 25 per cent less than most companies charge. Up to 30 per cent was saved on fire insurance. The biggest savings were made on the Co-operative League Bond, which covers officers and employees of the member societies of the League. Some societies paid for this coverage half or less of what they had been paying.

The year 1932 should double the 1931 figures, and prove once more in a new field that whatever people want they can get co-operatively.

(*From Co-operation.*)

DEFYING THE DEPRESSION.

While humanity clamours for a new social order, co-operation is the way out, and will, if properly understood and applied, provide a remedy for poverty and distress, as its possibilities are unlimited.

(*From the Co-operative news*).

A DEMONSTRATION TRAIN.

The Bengal Co-operative Journal has many articles dealing with the wide-spread and varied manifestations of the movement in Bengal. A demonstration train has been run through the province on behalf of the Co-operative Department, thus spreading a knowledge of co-operative principles in a novel and effective way. An entire carriage was reserved for a variety of co-operative exhibits, representing, in a graphic manner, to illiterate people, the benefits of co-operation and its achievements in the Province. Not only did a large number of people pass through the Exhibition carriage each day, but great gatherings of men, women and children listened to the popular lectures, illustrated with cinema films and magic lantern slides, that were held every evening at open-air meetings after the exhibition was closed. Thus the good news spreads. (*From Producer.*)

SHOES FOR THE NEEDY.

With every ten pairs of shoes ordered by Austrian Co-operative Societies, during a ten weeks' period, from the Austrian wholesale, the latter gave one pair gratis with the understanding that it would be given to an unemployed member. At the same time the price of the shoes was reduced to the point that the whole sale was making no margin, in order that more might take advantage of this offer.

(*From Co-operation.*)

City News.

Government Orders on the recommendations of Economic Depression Enquiry Committee relating to Co-operative Department.

(RECOMMENDATIONS AND ANSWERS.)

R.—Training of staff for conducting trading societies—

Ans.—The Co-operative Training Institutes provide adequate theoretical training for this purpose. As regards for practical training some of the successful trading societies in the Presidency have agreed to take apprentices and to give them training for a period of three to six months. This information is being circulated to training institutes by the Registrar who will recommend to the societies, applications from candidates desirous of training at their expense.

R.—Co-operative marketting of Food grains—

Ans.—The Registrar has been asked to report on the methods by which co-operative marketting of food grains can be stipulated in this province.

R.—Organisation of more co-operative sale societies—

Ans.—The Government consider that the sale societies already existing should be developed further before new societies for other crops are organised.

R.—Organisations of sale societies for Weavers as at Salem—

Ans.—The Government have examined the feasibility of organising more weavers society on the lines of Salem Society in seven centres mentioned by the Committee. Except in Coimbatore, where such a society has recently been started the weavers in these areas are not enthusiastic about forming such societies and there is not the necessary human material to manage them properly. It is not therefore possible to adopt the recommendation at present.

R.—Financial help to Weavers Society—

Ans.—It is reported that the Salem Weavers Society is able to get the required funds from the District Bank, and there is no need for any financial help from Government. The question of giving seme help to the Society newly formed at Coimbatore is under consideration.

R.—Central Officer to correlate the work of Weavers Societies—

Ans.—The Government do not consider that any such officer is necessary until more societies of the type of the Salem Society are organised.

R.—Deputation of an officer to study co-operative marketting in different countries—

Ans.—The Government accepts the suggestion. To minimise expenditure the opportunity on the absence of a suitable officer on leave in England will be taken to depute him for the purpose.

R.—Recruitment from business communities for staff in trading societies—

Ans.—The recommendation is under the consideration of the Goverment.

Corporation of Madras.

Co-operative Societies—Company's Tax.

The Registrar in his Communication No. F.6876/31, dated 26th February 1932, to the Madras District Co-operative Central Bank, Ltd., writes as follows :—

"I have requested the Government to exempt Co-operative Societies in the City of Madras from payment of Company's tax either by making provision in the Co-operative Societies' Bill now under consideration or by amending the City Municipal Act."

The Madras District Co-operative Central Bank, Ltd.,

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 1932.

Receipts.

Head of Account.	For Feb. 1932. Rs.	A.	P.
Share capital (societies)	31	0	0
Do. Individuals	20	0	0
Current deposits—societies	89,690	2	1
Do. Individuals	35,439	6	6
Fixed Deposits—societies	6,055	13	11
Do. Individuals	10,225	0	0
Recurring deposits	329	0	0
Thrift deposits	2	13	0
Reserve Fund deposits	2,275	1	1
Savings deposits – Individuals	1,971	15	5
Suspense	7,878	1	9
Loans—Long-term	27,409	0	0
„ Short-term	1,971	0	0
Interest received on loans	8,577	1	5
Interest received on investments	634	15	3
Overdraft loans repaid by societies	1,38,889	11	9
Entrance fees	2	0	0
Commission on cheques	3	13	0
Loan application forms	0	4	0
Treasury Bills	50,000	0	0
Advance for Electric Metre	50	0	0
Rent	50	0	0
Telephone charges	5	0	0
Books and forms	0	4	0
Madras Co-operator	21	8	0
Bills account	40,266	11	7
Security deposit	100	0	0
Provident Fund Establishment No. I	60	6	0
Do. No. II	11	4	0
Withdrawals from current account in :—			
1. Indian Bank, Ltd.	46,041	14	8
2. Imperial Bank of India, H.O.	1,11,122	12	11
3. Do. Mount Road Branch	1,750	0	0
4. C.C.C. Bank, Ltd.	6,250	0	0
5. Krishna Dt. Co-op. Bank Ltd.	1,600	0	0
6. Pro. Co-op. Bank, Ltd., T. Br. Act No. 3 ...	2,03,744	6	8
Opening Balance	817	15	6
Total ...	7,93,298	6	6

Disbursements.

Head of Accounts.	For Jan. 1932. Rs.	A.	P.
Current deposits - societies	1,19,902	2	9
Do. individuals	35,451	7	2
Fixed deposits—Individuals	1,300	0	0
Recurring deposits	29	0	0
Reserve fund deposits	5	0	0
Savings deposits—Individuals	1,482	1	5
Establishment No. I	513	8	0
Do. No. II	265	10	0
Mis. contingencies No. I	61	2	9
Do. No. II	17	0	0
Stationery No. 1	44	11	9
Furnitures	62	1	3
Petty Cash	15	0	0
Books and Forms	0	8	0
Interest paid to societies	625	0	0
Do. Individuals	190	12	0
Loans Disbursed to societies - Long-term ...	6,500	0	0
Do. Short-term ...	5,100	0	0
Do. Individuals ...	200	0	0
Overdraft Loans to societies	1,39,437	6	5
Rent	200	0	0
Electric charges	13	5	0
Telephone charges	43	7	0
Development Scheme	14	8	0
Advertisement charges	16	10	8
Suspense	7,850	13	0
Madras Co-operator	147	10	0
Bills account	38,062	8	11
Adjusting heads	0	5	3
Rubber stamps	2	12	0
Shares with the South India Co-op. Insurance Society, Ltd.	1,000	0	0
Remittances to current account in :—			
1. Indian Bank Ltd., ...	48,743	1	0
2. Imperial Bank of India, H. O.	1,13,125	5	9
3. Do. Mount Road Br.	1,834	14	0
4. C. C. C Bank Ltd., ...	6,016	8	4
5. Bombay Provincial Co-operative Bank, Ltd. ...	134	8	0
6. Kistna Dt. Co-operative Bank Ltd. ...	570	0	0
7. Pro. Co-op. Bank, Ltd., T. Br. Act No. 3 ...	2,64,283	14	7
Closing Balance	35	11	6
Total ...	7,93,298	6	6

G. SRIRAM BABU NAIDU,
Secretary.

சென்னைக் கூட்டுறவினன்

மலர் II.] மார்ச்சு 1932 [இதழ் 9.

கூட்டுறவுச் சங்க வெண்பா.

மக்களிடைச் சேர்க்கை மிகுமா வொற்றுமை நல்குஞ்
சிக்கன வாழ்வைச் செய்விக்கும்—ஐக்கியமாய்
நாட்டு மனம் பெருக்கி நல்கு ரவைத்தேய்க்குங்
கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கமெனக் கூறு.

கூட்டுறவு அர்பன் பாங்கியின் கடமைகள்.

(ஸ்ரீமான் வி. ஸி. ரெங்கசாமி பி.எ.)

அர்பன் பாங்கிகளின் முக்கியமான கடமை என்னவென்றால் மெம்பர்களிடமிருந்து, அவர்கள் மாதந்தோறும் வரும்படியிலிருந்து மிகுதி வைக்கும் பொருட்களை வசூலித்து அவர்களை அனுவசியம் செலவு செய்யாமல் திரவியத்தை கஷ்டகாலங்களுக்கு உபயோகிக்கும் வண்ணம் பாங்கிகளில் தவராமல் சேமித்து வைக்கச்செய்வதே. அவ்வாறு மெம்பர்கள் செய்வதில் பயன்கள் இரண்டுண்டு. (1) மெம்பர்கள் அவர்கள் ஆஸ்தியை விருத்தி செய்கிறார்கள். (2) பாங்கியில் போட்டுவைக்கும் திரவியம் சிறுவியாபாரிகளுக்கும், கைத்தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் கடனாக கொடுக்கப்பட்டு தொழில்களை மேன்மேலும் விருத்தி செய்கிறது. ஆனால், மேற் கூறினவாறு நமது ராஜதானியில் அர்பன் பாங்கிகள் உதவிபுரிவது இல்லை. அர்பன் பாங்கிகளும், கூட்டுறவு ஜில்லா பாங்கிகளும் அனுவசியமாக டிபாசிட்டுகள் வட்டியை உயர்த்துவதில் போட்டி போடுகிறார்கள். டிபாசிட்டுகள் வட்டி உயர்ந்தால் கடன் வட்டிகளும் சேர்ந்தாற்போல் உயருகிறது. மேலும், பாங்கிகளில் டிபாசிட்டுகள் சேர்ப்பதைவிட கடன் கொடுப்பதில் மாத்திரம் அதிக கவனம் செலுத்தப்பட்டு வருகின்றது. கூட்டுறவின் சங்கங்களின் முக்கிய தத்துவம் என்னவென்றால் ஜனங்களுக்கு செல்வம் சேமிக்கும் வழியைத் தேடிக்கொடுப்பதே. கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களில் செக்குகள் உபயோகப்படுத்துவதிலும் ஹுண்டிகள், பில்லுகள் பிரபலப்படுத்துவதிலும், நம் நாட்டில் ஜனங்கள் அதிக ஊக்கத்துடன் பாடுபடவேண்டும். இப்பொழுது சாதாரணமாக அர்பன் பாங்கிகளில் பிராமிசரி நோட்டுகளின்பேரில் கடன் கொடுக்கப்பட்டு வருகிறது. வியாபாரிகளுக்கும், தொழிலாளர்களுக்கும் ஹுண்டிகள் அல்லது பில்லுகள் பேரில் வேண்டும்பொழுது பண உதவிபுரிந்து, பில்லுகளில் குறித்த காலங்களில் அவர்கள் பணத்தைக் கட்டும்படிக்கும் முறைகளை போதனை செய்யவேண்டும். வியாபார ஸ்தலங்களில் இவ்வகை பில் டிஸ்கௌண்டு செய்வதை விருத்திசெய்யுமாறு அர்பன்பாங்கியார்கள் தகுந்த உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களை நியமித்து பம்பாய் முதலிய இதர நாடுகள்போல் பாங்கி விவகாரங்களை மேன்மேலும் அதிகரிக்கவேண்டும்.

பத்திராதிபரின் குறிப்புகள்.

சென்னையில் கூட்டுறவு இயக்கம்.

1930—31 வருஷத்திய, கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களின் ரிஜிஸ்திராரின் ரிபோர்ட்டு, இப்பதிப்பில் மற்றொரு பக்கத்தில் காணலாம். சர்க்காரல்லாத இதர கூட்டுறவாளர்கள் சங்கங்களுக்கு நன்மைசெய்வதைப்பற்றியும், ஏழை ஜனங்களின்மேல் ரிஜிஸ்திரார் பச்சாதாபப்படுவதையும், மேற் கூறிய ரிபோர்ட்டில் காணலாம்.

சங்கங்கள் சீர்கேடான ஸ்திதியிலிருப்பதற்கு காரணம் 1921-ம் வருஷத்தில் இயற்றிய 5 வருஷத்திய ஏற்பாடென்று கூறப்பட்டிருக்கின்றது. மேன் பார்வைக்காகவும், கூட்டுறவுமுறைகளை பிரசாரம் செய்வதற்காகவும் ஏற்பட்டுள்ள சங்கங்களைப் பற்றி அதிக கவனம் செலுத்தப்படவில்லை. யூனியன்களில் செலவு செய்திருக்கும் ரூ. 7·72 லக்ஷத்திற்குத் தகுந்தவாறும் யூனியன்களில் ஏற்பட்டிருக்கும் 607 சூப்பரவைஸர்களுக்குத் தகுந்தவாறும் கூட்டுறவு இயக்கத்தில் பயனேற்படவில்லை.

ரிஜிஸ்திராரவர்கள், செல்வ விவகாரங்களைப்பற்றிக் கூறும்பொழுது சில பாங்கிகளில் கடன்கொடுக்கப் பணமில்லாமல் கஷ்டப்பட்டதை ஒப்புக்கொள்ளுகிறார். பாங்கி டைரக்டர்களே டிபாஸிட்டர்களோடு கலந்துகொண்டு விவகாரங்களை இடையூறின்றியில் நடத்தவேண்டியது அவசியமென்று இப்பொழுது ரிஜிஸ்திராரின் நோக்கம்.

சங்கங்கள் ஸ்தாபனம் செய்வதிலும், மேன்பார்வையிட ஏற்பட்டுள்ள சங்கங்களிலும், சங்க தணிக்கைகளிலுமுள்ள பிழைகள் அவருக்குத் தெரிந்திருக்கிறது. அதற்காக இப்பொழுது ஏற்பட்டிருக்கிற உபாயமென்னவென்றால், புதிய சங்கங்கள் ரிஜிஸ்தர் செய்வதை நிறுத்துவதும், சீர்கேடான சங்கங்களை ரத்துசெய்வதுமே. இந்த இராஜதானியில் சுமார் 30,000 கிராமங்கள் கூட்டுறவு சங்கங்களால் உதவி அனுபவிக்காமலிருக்கின்றன.

இது இவ்வாறிருக்க, 6 வருஷகாலங்களுக்குள் சர்க்கார் செலவு இருமடங்கு அதிகமாயிருக்கிறது. சர்க்கார், சங்கங்கள் ரிஜிஸ்தர் செய்வதிலும், மேன்பார்வையிடுவதிலும் வேலை குறைவுபட்டிருப்பதால், மேற்கூறிய செலவு அதிகமென்று ஏற்படுகிறது. சில சங்கங்களில் தணிக்கையும் சொந்தமாக நடந்துவருகிறது. சர்க்கார் செலவுசெய்யும் தொகை எப்பொழுதும் சங்கங்களின் ஓர்க்கிங் காபிடலோடு ஒப்பிடப்படுகிறது. அவ்விதம் செய்வது பிசகென்று எங்களுடைய அபிப்பிராயம்.

ஏனென்றால், சங்கங்களில் ஓர்க்கிங் காபிடல் அதிகமாகுவது அசாத்தியமான காரியமல்ல. சில சங்கங்கள் திறமையான உத்தியோகஸ்தர்களால் நடத்தப்பட்டு லேவாதேவி அதிகமாகி ஓர்க்கிங் காபிடலும் ஜாஸ்தியாகிவிடுகிறது. இப்படி சொற்ப சங்கங்கள், ஓர்க்கிங் காபிடலை விருத்தியாக்குவதால் இதர சங்கங்களின் நிலைமையே தெரிகிறதில்லை. ஒருபக்கம் சங்கங்கள் எண்ணிக்கைக்குறையும், சர்க்காரின்வேலையும்

குறையும். ஆனால், சில சங்கங்களின் ஒர்க்கிங் காபிடலோ அதிகமாகிக்கொண்டே வரும். ஆகையால், சர்க்காரின் செலவு ஒர்க்கிங் காபிடலைக்கொண்டு ஒப்பிடக் கூடாது. சங்கங்களின் எண்ணிக்கையுடனே ஒப்பிடவேண்டும்.

தவிரவும், தொழிற் சங்கங்கள் விருத்தி செய்வதில் பிரயாசை ஒன்றையும் காணேம். சில சங்கங்கள் ரத்துசெய்யப்படும் ஸ்திதியிலிருக்கின்றது. ஆகையால், தொழிலாளிகளின் வருமானத்தை அதிகரிக்கவும், அதற்குத் தகுந்தவாறு சங்கங்களில் ஏற்பாடு செய்யவும் ரிஜிஸ்திராரவர்கள் கவனம் செலுத்துவாரென நம்புகிறோம்.

சென்னை கார்ப்பொரேஷன்

சென்ற பத்திரிகையில் கூட்டுறவுச் சங்கங்களுக்கு கார்பொரேஷனால் விதித்த கம்பெனி வரியைக் கட்டுவதற்கு சக்தியற்றிருக்கிறார்களென்று கண்டிருக்கிறோம், இதுவரையில் சங்கங்கள் வரி செலுத்தினதில்லை. நகரத்திலிருக்கிற 115 சங்கங்களில் சுமார் 55 சங்கங்கள் கீழ்தராஜாதியர்களுக்கு ஏற்பட்டவைகளே. இச்சங்கங்களில் சில நஷ்டமடைந்துகொண்டேயிருந்தன. மற்ற சங்கங்களும் சொல்லத்தக்க லாபம் சம்பாதிக்கின்றனவென்று சொல்ல முடியாது. இதைப்பற்றி மதராஸ் ஜில்லா பாங்கியார் ரிஜிஸ்திரார் அவர்களுக்கு எழுதினபொழுது, ரிஜிஸ்திரார் அவர்கள் கவர்ன்மெண்டாருக்கு எழுதி மேற்கூறிய வரி கட்டுவதை நீக்கிவிட ஏற்பாடு செய்வதாக வாக்களித்திருக்கிறார். ஆகையால் மறுபடியும் ரிஜிஸ்திராரவர்களிடமிருந்து முடிவான பதில் வரும் வரையில் சங்கங்கள் காத்திருக்கலாம்.

கீழ்தா சங்கங்களின் பைலா சீர்திருத்தங்கள்.

எல்லா கீழ்தா சங்கங்களும் ஓர் புதிய மாடல் பைலா பிரகாரம் பைலாக்களை சீர்திருத்தம் செய்யவேண்டுமென்று டிபார்ட்மெண்டாரால் அறிக்கை செய்யப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அச் சீர்திருத்தங்களால் சங்கங்களுக்கு பயனென்றும் ஏற்படாது. உதாரணமாக புதிய மாடல் பைலாவில் ஒரு மெம்பர் ரூ. 250 வரையில் கடன் வாங்கலாமென்று கண்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால், சில சங்கங்களில் பழய பைலாப்படி ரூ. 250-க்கு மேல் வாங்கலாமென்று கண்டிருக்கிறது. ஒருவன் பழய பைலாப்படி ரூ. 250-க்கு மேல் கடன் வாங்கியிருந்தால் அவனுடைய கதி புது பைலாப்பிரகாரம் எவ்வகையாகும்? மேலும் இவ்வகை சீர்திருத்தங்கள் பண உதவி புரியும் பாங்கியாரோடு ஆலோசியாமல் ஏற்படுத்துவது அநேக கஷ்டங்களை விளைவிக்கும். தவிறவும் சங்கங்களின் வட்டியை ரூபாய்க்கு மாதம் 1-க்கு 1½ பைவீதம் விதிக்கவேண்டுமென்னு கண்டிருக்கிறது. . இதனால் சங்கங்களுக்கு வரும் சொல்ப லாபமும் குறைந்து சங்கங்கள் வேலை நடத்துவதற்காக செலவு செய்யும் தொகை சம்பாதிப்பது அரிது. இவைகளை மேலோர்கள் ஆலோசனைசெய்து தற்காலத்தில் கீழ்தா சங்கங்களில் அனுசரித்து வரும் பைலாக்களையே ஸ்தாபனம் செய்யுமாறு வழியைத்தேடுவார்களென்று நம்புகிறோம்.

ஸர் கே. வி. ரெட்டி அவர்கள்.

ஸ்ரீமான் ஸர் கெ. வி. ரெட்டியவர்கள் தென் ஆப்ரிக்காவில் இந்தியா கவர்ன்மெண்டிற்கு ஏஜெண்டு ஜெனராலாகயிருந்து இப்பொழுது அவருடைய உத்தியோக காலம் பூர்த்தியானதும் மறுபடியும் நம்மிடையில் வந்திருப்பது சந்தோஷத்தை யுண்டுபண்ணுகிறது. அவர் வருதலை ஆவ[illegible]ன் எதிர்பார்க்கிறோம். அவர் கூட்டுறவுக்காக பிரயாசைப் [illegible] ஞாபகத்துக்கு வருகிறது.

சென்னை [illegible] கூட்டுறவு யூனியனில், பிரசிடெண்டாகவிருந்தும், 1924ஞு டிசம்[illegible] 13-வது சென்னை மாகாண கூட்டுறவு கான்பிரன்சில் அ[illegible] வகித்திருக்கிற[illegible] இந்தமகானின், உதவியை, பின்னும், நாங்கள் நாடுகி[illegible]

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