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EACH FOR ALL, AND ALL FOR EACH

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Editorial Notes.

New Order :

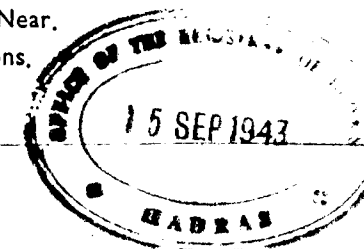
We invite the attention of our readers to a draft report on "New Order" prepared by the Policy Committee of the New South Wales Co-operative Wholesale Society reproduced elsewhere. The potentialities of the co-operative movement in the coming order are succinctly set forth and the faith in the fact that in a co-operative world the only rivalries will be among those anxious to render the most service to mankind is reiterated. Though we have been hearing a great deal about the New Order, no serious attempt has been made by co-operative organisations to consider and formulate what contribution the co-operative movement in India can make for the building up of the New Order. Even in connection with the Committees set up for considering problems relating to post-war reconstruction, not even mention is being made of the co-operative movement. Agriculture and co-operation always go together and any committee

THIS ISSUE CONTAINS

Our "New Order" Policy.
The Role of Food in Post-War Reconstruction.
Rice Position in Madras,

Circulars.

Working of Societies,
Far and Near,
Resolutions.



15 SEP 1943

constituted to deal with problems of agriculture cannot afford to neglect co-operation. We invite an authoritative statement from the authorities on this all-important topic. Having not only stood the strain imposed by war but also contributed a great deal to the solution of war-time problems, the Movement can under no circumstances be relegated to the background. We wish the Central Government and the Provincial Governments to bestow greater attention to this aspect.

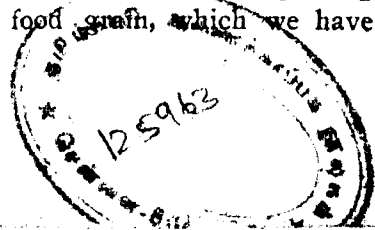
Food Problem :

The International Labour Review is to be congratulated for inaugurating the publication of a series of articles on problems relating to post-war reconstruction. We have in this issue reproduced a well-informed article on the role of food in post-war reconstruction. The article is somewhat lengthy ; but it deals with various aspects of a food plan which, in the opinion of the distinguished writer, should form the starting point for the work of post-war reconstruction. Everybody will agree that we should begin to plan from now if we have to avert the disastrous after-effects of war. It is somewhat encouraging to read the writer emphasising the need for the organisation of a world food policy and towards that end he pleads that the United Nations who have subscribed to the Atlantic Charter must agree to a plan now expressed in concrete terms so that in the initial stages it can be applied in the free countries even during the war and in the occupied countries as soon as they are liberated. The Conference at Hot Springs, we trust, is the harbinger of such action. How it is proposed to implement the decisions arrived at that Conference, the world in distress anxiously awaits. While a general world food policy to give effect to 'freedom from want' is desirable and necessary, actual plans for giving practical effect to it should be on a regional basis. The Governments in India will do well to examine how far their 'Grow More Food' campaign is in consonance with the general food policy and in what respects it requires to be altered to serve this long-range policy. The end of war and the signing of peace are not going to usher in an era of plenty, free from all want. The after-effects of war may prove much more disastrous unless we draw lessons from the past and take adequate measures betimes.

Rice Position :

The Memorandum of the People's Food Committee regarding the position of rice, the main staple food grain, which we have

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reproduced elsewhere is also another important document to which we wish to draw the earnest attention of our readers. It contains valuable suggestions made to conserve the existing stocks, their equitable distribution and the various agencies required for the purpose. It is gratifying to read that the Memorandum emphasises the importance of co-operative organisations both as wholesale and retail dealers. 'Every Co-operative Store or depot which applies for a licence should get it automatically.' This is as it should be as in the working of a co-operative the service-motive is prominent and that fact must secure recognition.

Rationing :

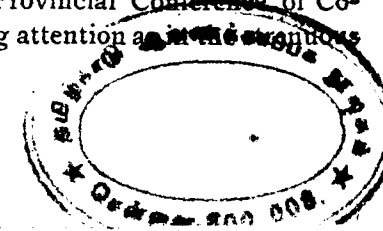
After all the introduction of rationing appears to become an accomplished fact so far as the Madras City is concerned. Though the scheme is formulated more or less on the Bombay model, it looks as though the experience gained in practical working in Bombay has not been availed of. It is not always necessary one should go through similar experiences before altering one's course of conduct. Wisdom lies in taking lessons from the experiences of others and attempt to free ourselves from avoidable suffering. Some of the apparent defects of the scheme proposed to be introduced in Madras are :

- (1) number of cards allotted to each retail shop is large necessitating perhaps waiting queues ;
- (2) freedom given to a card holder to register himself with any retail distributor other than the one entered on the card is not desirable ; if at all only members of co-operative organisations should be given option to register with their co-operatives ;
- (3) fixing definite irreducible minimum hours of sale ;
- (4) fixing definite days for card holders for making purchases, dividing the number equally ;
- (5) provision for supplementary rations on occasions such as religious ceremonies ;
- (6) ensuring quality of rice suited to the needs of different classes of the community, charging if necessary higher prices for better qualities.

Stores Societies :

The resolutions passed at the first Provincial Conference of Co-operative Stores merit more than passing attention as in the numerous

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times through which we are passing the stores have rendered and are rendering distinctive service to the community. When the number of such stores is growing and the opportunities for service are increasing, representatives of these societies were certainly well advised in meeting and taking counsel together on the various problems with which they are faced. We wish we could review at least all the important resolutions passed at the Conference as they embody the wisdom and experience of distributive agencies serving the consuming public. But time and space alike prevent us from doing so. We shall content ourselves by referring to a few most important resolutions which vitally affect the consumers. The Conference proposed that fair price shops should be run by the Government or by co-operative stores or by social service agencies. We heartily support this proposal. In connection with the rationing scheme we have perused the list of retail distributors in the Madras City. We find a number of fair price shops recognised as distributors run by persons whose motives can by no means be considered philanthropic. Nor were they ever even remotely connected with rice trade. How they came to be recognised as retail distributors we are at a loss to understand. The Conference has also suggested that credit societies should be allowed to sell provisions where there is no store society in the area. This is an eminently reasonable suggestion and the by-laws of primary societies do provide for joint purchase and sale. The Conference makes the suggestion that in stores societies which have more than 500 members it is desirable to substitute in place of the General Body meeting of all share-holders, a meeting of a representative body composed of directors, panchayatdars and representatives elected on a territorial basis and that the concerned sections of the Act and the Rules be amended suitably. If we are not mistaken this suggestion has been considered by the Government in its application to credit societies whose area of operations extend to the whole presidency. While we sympathise with the point of view, we feel some method must be found by which the shareholders can, if they so desire, exercise effective voice in the control of the affairs of the societies. There are many other resolutions containing suggestions which can be easily accepted and we request the Department to give them prompt consideration and pass early orders.

Appendix to the Report of the Conference gives transactions of co-operative stores in the presidency, in the first ten months

of the co-operative year, 1942-43. It is noticed the transactions of the T.U.C.S. alone amounted to Rs. 41,97,700 out of the transactions of all wholesale stores of Rs. 89,60,532. The list of primary stores with transactions of over Rs. 20,000 for ten months is sufficiently imposing. We wish it had been possible to give a complete list of 844 stores societies and it would have revealed how the stores movement is spreading in every corner of the presidency.

Preservation of Cattle :

In reply to questions and discussions in the Central Legislature, many facts relating to slaughter of cattle were elicited. They cannot but confirm the impression that the Government have not been as alive as they should be to the importance of cattle even to promote their 'Grow More Food' campaign. In the Council of State, it was pointed out that the slaughter of cattle is now five times the pre-war figure. 2,76,000 cattle slaughtered in one year is no small number. It cannot be all this number is made up of surplus cattle which the National War Front propaganda advises should be got rid of. As we pointed out there is no evidence forthcoming to show that the orders of Government prohibiting the offer of prime cattle for slaughter are being observed. Nor have imports to neighbouring countries like Ceylon been prohibited. We wish the Government are bold enough to face the issue instead of shirking it and see the meat required for the troops is secured from the U. S. A. and Australia instead of permitting even the slaughter of the so-called surplus cattle. It is surprising Sir Jogendra Singh who is always proud to call himself an agriculturist cannot realise that the ground under his feet is being cut and very soon the agriculturist will find himself in a place from which he cannot easily extricate himself. The present suicidal policy must be abandoned immediately and the cattle wealth of the country so very essential for the development of agriculture must be conserved.

We wonder what the proposed Public Health Commission can do when knowingly cattle so very essential for the production of milk are being allowed to be slaughtered. Already the daily production of milk per head of population in India is eight ounces while the consumption is only seven ounces. Even these small quantities both of production and consumption will be still further reduced seriously impairing the health of the community. It is true we should win the war at any cost. But it should not be by killing the goose which

lays the golden eggs. One cannot help indulging in plain speaking when such suicidal policy is being recklessly pursued affecting the vital interests of the country.

Central Land Mortgage Bank :

May we invite the attention of our readers to the valuable contribution on the effects of war on land mortgage banking published in our last issue? The difficulties confronting the Central Land Mortgage Bank are real and they should be solved in a practicable way as soon as possible. The question of reducing the rate of interest for loans to ultimate borrowers should be immediately tackled as otherwise the Bank will have to keep money idle or purchase securities which fetch low rate of interest. There is a feeling that the agriculturist is not now in need of money as agricultural products fetch good prices and he has enough surplus to clear his prior debts. But an average ryot will have very little surplus to sell. And also we have reason to believe that he needs long term money to effect improvements in order to grow more food and he should be enabled to secure the financial assistance required on easy terms to make it worth while for him to devote his time and energy for the purpose. So lowering the rate of interest on loans is one of the means of assistance to the agriculturist. It will also help in finding a suitable outlet for the growing funds in the Bank. Simplification of procedure in regard to granting of loans so that money may be available in time may also be seriously considered. In fact all the points raised in the article merit careful attention and early solution.

Vegetable Raj:

Our readers, we have no doubt, have followed closely the discussions in the Central Legislature on the food problem and must have been surprised to learn from the facts disclosed that while the demand on India's food resources has increased enormously owing to war-time conditions, her food production has gone down considerably. We are told the area under wheat and the yield per acre of paddy in 1942-43 was less than the average of last five years. The causes contributing to this fall are many to some of which we have drawn pointed attention time and again and we wish the National War Front concentrates its attention to the removal of these causes rather than carry on, what we are constrained to say, futile propaganda on 'Grow More Food' campaign. The Front must be finding its achievements somewhat disappointing, nay even disconcerting too.

We find the National War Front has changed, if we may venture to say so, its 'front' and instead of advocating the five-point programme which we have dealt with on more than one occasion, the Front is promoting the establishment of the Vegetable Raj. Realising as we do the importance of vegetables in every man's diet, we heartily welcome this propaganda. But we are greatly distressed to learn the growth of 'British' vegetables is receiving greater attention than the 'country' vegetables. It is needless to point out that in a tropical country like India, conditions are favourable for 'British' vegetables only in a few places. Also the demand for these vegetables is limited. We wish propaganda and facilities for the growth of 'country' vegetables receive greater attention. In this connection we are amused to read an incident referred to in the *Roy's Weekly* which we wish to share with our readers.

Messrs. Pestonjee Pocha & Sons, the well-known seed merchants of Poona, relating their strange experience in a Bombay paper came to the conclusion that good public money is being wasted on advertising the 'Grow More Food' campaign. It took them no less than five months to get a consignment of seeds from Saharanpur to Poona, which is about the period ordinarily necessary for the whole growth of a crop. The five months, we are told, were spent in a desperate hunt for a certificate from a Gazetted Officer of the Agricultural Department to enable the consignment to be booked. The hunt started in the following order: The Director of Agriculture, Poona : The Horticulturist to Government, Poona : The Regional Controller of Priorities, Madras : The Regional Controller of Priorities, Bombay : The Secretary, Board of Transport, Bombay : The Controller of Railway Priorities, New Delhi : The Regional Controller of Priorities, Lahore. And finally they got the certificate, not from any of these people, but from the General Manager, N. W. R., Lahore !

Need we say that such inordinate delays are common in many other departments. If this was the fate of the well-known seed merchants who have contributed a great deal for vegetable gardening, what fate meets the poor and ignorant villager can be better imagined than described.

**The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union,
M. P. C. Bank Buildings, Esplanade, Madras.**

AWARD OF PRIZES.

For the Best Essays on:

1. Co-operation and Post-War Reconstruction.
2. Co-operative Marketing and its Future.
3. Co-operation and Development of Cottage Industries.

The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union will award three prizes of Rs. 100 for the best essay on each of the above subjects. The competition is open to all Research and Post Graduate Students of Economics, Officers of Departments of Co-operation, Agriculture and Industries and Non-officials.

Essays must be sent **on or before 15th of October 1943.** Contributors must not write their names on their essays. They must send the essay to the undermentioned with the name of the writer attached to a slip by Registered Post. A Committee will judge the essays and award the prizes. The prize essay will be printed and published by the Co-operative Union. Essays should be sent to:

V. VIYYANNA, B.A., B.L.
Hony. Joint Secretary.

23rd July 1943.

**Make the most of your
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GROW FLOWERS FOR PLEASURE AND RELAXATION

Our "New Order" Policy.

Our ultimate aim and how to achieve it.

To be worthy of consideration in the building of a New Order the Co-operative Movement—or any other Movement—must be able to supply the needs of the community, and not only the present needs of this or that community, but the progressively expanding needs of all people in all parts of the world. These needs can be supplied only by a system founded on justice; by a system which provides neither incentive nor opportunity for exploitation; by a system so responsive to the will and wishes of the people that it can be adapted to every phase of human activity. Such a system is the Co-operative Movement and such are its capabilities that if put into operation in its entirety without the violation of any of its principles we are confident of its success.

This, then, is our ultimate goal: A scheme of things where every industry is controlled by the people; where co-ordination between industries exists so that conditions of workers in all are comparable; where a co-ordinating authority representative of all related industries will determine the production necessary in each branch so that there shall be sufficient of each article but no waste; where a system of remuneration will operate where all shall benefit equally by increased productivity; where facilities are available for everyone to develop whatever latent talent he possesses; where the opportunity exists for all to follow the occupation for which they show the most aptitude; where the health of each person shall be the concern of the whole community and not depend upon the ability of the individual to pay for a doctor's services, hospital accommodation or medicine and where the dictionaries will have no need to record the meaning of the word "dole," only to mark it "obsolete." It will thus be seen that our goal is a Co-operative world where the only rivalries will be to see who can render the most service to mankind.

In order to achieve this end no violent upheaval is necessary. The foundations are already laid in most countries and the degrees of success already attained against great odds are sufficient evidence that the foundations are sound. It is a remarkable fact that up to the present, Co-operation has only been adopted by the poorer sections of the people as a last resort when Private Enterprise has failed to supply their barest needs. The phenomenal success of Co-operation in various spheres has been achieved in spite of strong opposition from vested interests and the governments controlled by them.

As an illustration of a suggested organisation, we refer you to the appendix (omitted) which, we believe, will clearly demonstrate the practicability of such organisation, if the people are honest, which we believe they are, in their demand for a New Order in which the greatest curse of our present economic system "the profit motive" does not exist.

The starting points in the proposed organisation are the local Co-operative Societies, both producer and/or consumer. Of these some may, for economic reasons, form themselves into regional societies to exploit to the fullest extent some particular project or projects.

To illustrate:—In a district where there are a number of Consumer Societies operating and within reasonable distance of one another, it might be deemed more economical to combine for a part of their activities such as bread-making, one bakery, servicing two or more societies instead of the

present one society one bakery. Producer Societies could do likewise for one or more of their projects.

Notwithstanding these domestic arrangements between societies, all societies would be expected to affiliate with their respective Association. The producer societies with their producer association and the consumer societies with the consumer association, the C.W.S.

The duties of the producer association would be to look after the interests of producer co-operatives and to engage in those activities which are essentially producer, while the consumer association would look after the interests of the consumer co-operatives and engage in those activities that are essentially consumer.

These two associations, both producer and consumer, would then form themselves into a state society whose duties would include the liaison of consumer and producer looking after co-operative interests within the particular State and engaging in those enterprises which may be deemed border-line. We instance such activities as Flour Mills, Preserved Fruits, Jams, Pickles, etc.

With an organisation such as is briefly outlined in the foregoing, in each State of the Commonwealth, the State societies would then form themselves into a National Society, whose duties would include Banking, Insurance, Inter-state Shipping, Mining, Fertilizers, Farm Machinery and those projects which would be deemed to have a National character. Projects such as Boot Factories, Cotton and Woollen Mills, etc., could be under the control of either a State society or the National society, whichever was deemed most suitable.

The National society would speak for the whole of the Co-operative Movement and would be the fountain head on all matters affecting policy, education and social reforms. It would also act as the High Court of Co-operation in Australia.

From this National society the Movement would be affiliated and/or represented with the International Society, whose duties, as the name suggests, would be of an International character, controlling exports and imports, International finance, Overseas shipping, etc.

If given official recognition by Governments really desirous of ushering in a New Order and the advertisement that would undoubtedly follow an investigation of the Movement's potentialities by an independent and influential committee set up by the Governments to study and report on schemes for a New Order, sufficient people would become interested in it to study it. It would then be necessary to develop a comprehensive scheme of adult education on the principles and possibilities of the Movement, in order to show each section of the community how it would apply to his or her special calling.

The education would be made interesting and effective if illustrated by those sections of the Movement already in operation. It is necessary, therefore, for co-operators to see that their enterprises conform to the recognised principles of the Movement and are worthy illustrations in a great cause. This phase of the subject, however, will be dealt with more fully in the next section.

—The Co-operative News, Australia.

The Role of Food in Post-War Reconstruction.

BY SIR JOHN BOYD ORR,

Director of the Rowett Research Institute,

Chief of the Imperial Bureau of Animal Nutrition, Aberdeen.

The Importance of higher standards of nutrition as an essential element in the achievement of "freedom from want" has recently been underlined by President Roosevelt's announcement that he is considering the convocation of a United Nations Conference on post-war food production. The International Labour Office has been devoting attention for some time to the necessity, when framing economic policies with a view to the attainment of social objectives, of making adequate provision for better nutrition. The Review welcomes the opportunity of publishing the following article by Sir John Orr, on acknowledged authority on nutrition questions, who suggests that a food plan would be a useful starting point for the work of post-war reconstruction, explains the urgency of beginning to plan now, and describes the kind of machinery, national and international, that might be used for applying a world food policy.

When the fighting forces of the Axis Powers have been completely defeated, the United Nations will be in control of the whole world. It will be a shattered world. In some countries the political, economic, and social structures will be almost completely destroyed. Even in the countries least affected by the war, they will be badly damaged. It is obvious that the world will need to be rebuilt. This affords an opportunity such as humanity has never had before of building a world in which the great advances of modern science can be applied to the development of an organisation of human society which will be not only free from war, but such that mankind can rise to a level of well-being and culture higher than that dreamed of by social reformers of past ages.

The opportunity will be there, but the immensity of the opportunity is equalled by the immensity of the task. The task cannot be accomplished unless the free nations which have united in the face of the common danger of Nazi world domination remain united to co-operate in building "the new and better world".

It may not be easy to keep the nations united for peace aims after the last battle is won. In the flush of victory there will be a tendency for the great nations to think more of their own nationalist and imperial interests than of the contribution they can make to the common world cause. The fact that they have subscribed to the Atlantic Charter will not necessarily bind them together in a common policy. The abstract terms—even "freedom from want"—may be

differently interpreted by different Governments. The only way to ensure post-war united action is to get agreement now on a plan expressed in concrete terms, above which there can be no ambiguity—not even any pretence of misunderstanding. The plan must deal with something of equal interest to all nations. It must deal with something so essential for the welfare of all people that every Government, whatever its political philosophy may be, will agree to co-operate on a world-wide basis. It must be so simple in its broad outlines that it will be understood by the common people. It must be a practicable plan which we have the physical means to carry to completion. It must be one which can be applied in its initial stages in the free countries during the war, and in the occupied countries as soon as they are liberated, so that there will be no need to wait for a peace conference for a decision. The development of the plan must arise from a war plan and proceed automatically, unless some nation, or group of nations, decides to withdraw from co-operation.

A Food Plan as the Starting Point for Reconstruction.

A food plan based on human needs fulfills all these conditions. In the first place, food requirements for health are known. Standards have been drawn up by authoritative bodies and, in some cases, approved by Governments.¹ Different standards are in sufficiently close agreement for them to be taken together for practical purposes and regarded as the standard for health. The validity of the standard does not rest merely on the statements of scientists or on official approval. The results of many investigations show that people living on diets which come up to the standard enjoy the higher known levels of health and physical fitness, and that, conversely, the further the diet of any group of people falls below the standard, the worse health and physical fitness become. We know also that the standard is practical, because the average diet of well-to-do families who have a wide choice of foods, and whose choice is not limited by purchasing power, does come up to the standard.

Estimates can be made for any country, based on its food habits, of the amount of the commonly used foodstuffs which would be needed to bring the diet of the whole population up to the health standard. Such estimates have been made for the United States. A food plan could, therefore, be worked out in concrete terms of estimated amounts

¹ Cf. for example, BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: *Report of Committee on Nutrition* (London, 1933); H. K. STIEBELING: *Food Budgets for Nutrition and Production Programs* (U. S. Depot. Agric. Misc. Pub. No. 183, Decr. 1933); LEAGUE OF NATIONS HEALTH COMMITTEE, TECHNICAL COMMISSION: *Report on the Physiological Bases of Nutrition* (Geneva, Series of League of Nations Publications, 1936, II. B. 4); NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, COMMITTEE ON FOOD AND NUTRITION: *Recommended Daily Allowances for specific Nutrients* (quoted in *Journal of the American Medical Association*, Vol. 116, 1941, b. 2601).

of the common foods, and we could plan for a definite and limited objective. If we produced more of these foods than the required amount, we should have a real surplus, and a real waste of food. If we produced less, some people would be inadequately fed and there would be a waste of health and life.

Similarity of National Food Needs.

The standard for health is the same for all the people of the world. A child in the poorest family needs the same amount of protein to form muscle, of calcium and phosphorus to form bone, and of all the vitamins and other food constituents, as the child of the millionaire. A child born in China or Africa has the same food requirements as a child born in Europe or America. The same is true of adults. This does not mean, of course, that they must eat the same kind of food. The requisite amounts of essential nutrients can be supplied by a wide variety of foods.

Since nutritional requirements are the same for the people of all races, a food plan based on human needs would be equally applicable to all nations.

Evidence will be adduced later to show that even in the wealthiest countries a large proportion of the population do not enjoy a diet on the health standard. Malnutrition is an acknowledged major social problem in both Britain and the Union States. In all other countries, except the smaller democracies, the food position is worse than in the English-speaking countries. In China, according to Mrs. Tietjens,¹ "half the people never have enough to eat. . . . The poor are always hungry". Malnutrition due to poverty is the really important political problem of India. Here then, we have an urgent need common to all countries. No Government which has subscribed to the Atlantic Charter, with the promise to bring freedom from want to all men, could refuse to co-operate in a plan to supply food on a health standard to all people.

Simplicity and Practicability of a Food Plan.

There would be no difficulty in getting people to understand what was meant by a food plan based on human needs. It could be stated in terms of the amounts of milk, butter, fruit, eggs, meat, and other common foods needed for families of different sizes, as indeed has been done by the Canadian Medical Association for Canadian families.² They would understand that it meant bringing their standard of living, so far as food

¹ Eunice TIETJENS and Louise Strong HAMMOND: *China* (Chicago, Reilly and Lee, 1940).

² CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION: *Food for Health in Peace and War. What Canadian Doctors Suggest for Wholesome Meals at Low Cost* (Toronto, 1940).

is concerned, up to the level of the adequately fed middle classes. The difficulty would be to persuade them that their Governments really meant to carry out such a revolutionary plan.

The plan is practicable. The advance of science has enormously increased our power to produce food. In Britain, even under war conditions, food production has been increased from about 34 to nearly 60 per cent. of the total national consumption. The increase in production for Canada since the beginning of the war is even greater than in Britain in the case of some of the more important foods. The food the people need can be produced if Governments show anything like the same resolution and energy in providing for the primary needs of the people in peace as they have shown in providing food and armaments in war.

Development of a Food Plan from War-time Food Measures.

War has forced Governments to apply a plan now to the extent that food is available. In war, the fighting men must be given a diet which will maintain them in the highest possible state of health and physical fitness. Munition workers must be given food which will maintain health and working efficiency. Governments must therefore take measures to ensure that sufficient food is provided and that it is distributed according to needs. Britain has done this in a thorough manner which reflects the highest credit on the Ministry of Food and the Ministry of Agriculture. Estimates were made of the nutritional requirements of the whole nation. Consideration was given to the kind of food which could most nearly meet these requirements, and which could be produced with the minimum man-hours of labour and the minimum cubic feet of shipping space. Then the available food was distributed in accordance with physiological needs, special measures being devised to ensure that the higher needs of mothers and children for the protective foods would be met. There is not sufficient food in the national larder to bring the diet of the people up to the standard for full health, but since poverty no longer prevents any family from getting its just share of the food available, the poorest part of the population is better fed from the point of view of health than it was before the war.¹

The food plan based on human needs is developing into a United Nations plan. The United States and Canada have adjusted their food production programmes not merely to feed their own people; production is being rapidly stepped up to meet the needs of Britain and in anticipation of supplying the needs of European countries as soon as they are

¹ For a more detailed account of the British measures, of INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, Studies and Reports, Series B (Economic Conditions) No. 35: *Food Control in Great Britain* (Montreal, 1942, vi + 772 p.)

freed. This increased food production is not to meet trade interests, although, indeed, trade may benefit. The aim is to produce what the people of the United States and Canada and the people of Britain and the European countries need. This is a complete reversal of the food policy of the 1930's, which limited supply to economic demand, and even destroyed whatever could not be sold at a profit, with little regard for the fact that many people were suffering in health for lack of the foods which were being destroyed.

Under the stress of war, therefore, we have gone a long way towards a policy of adjusting the production and distribution of food to meet the nutritional needs of the people. And, indeed, the United States and Britain are preparing to extend this policy to post-war relief in Europe. This will include assistance to agriculture, and will thus afford an opportunity of directing European agriculture along lines which will benefit the health of the people of Europe and, at the same time, make that agriculture fit in better with a world food production scheme.

Pre-war European agriculture was to a large extent adapted for national self-sufficiency as a safeguard against food shortage in war. But, if the European countries adopt a food policy based on the nutritional needs of their peoples on the health standard, agriculture will need to be adjusted to a greatly increased production of milk and other protective foods, with a resulting decreased production of certain other foods, especially wheat and sugar, which in any case are uneconomical crops for western Europe from the point of view of world trade. If decisions are not taken now, and long-range plans worked out, post-war food relief will set Europe back again on to an agricultural war policy instead of on to an agricultural nutrition policy. We shall find ourselves back again in 1938.

As will be shown later, there is a large gap between the supply of many foods, such as milk, dairy products, fruit, vegetables, eggs and meat, and the amount needed if the whole world population is to be put on a health standard. A world food plan based on nutritional needs, therefore, would provide a market for many years ahead for all the increased production which war-time food measures are bringing about. It would thus prevent a post-war agricultural slump such as occurred after the war of 1914-1918.

The war food policy, post-war food relief, and a long-range permanent world policy could thus dovetail into each other.

Social and Economic Effects of a Food Policy.

Let us consider what effect a food nutrition policy would have on the promotion of human welfare, which should be the end and aim of

all planning, and also what effect it would have upon agriculture, industry, and trade.

Effects on Health.

Health is the foundation of well-being, and an adequate diet is the foundation of health. Investigations in various countries have shown that below a certain income level, as income per head of the family falls, the diet becomes more and more deficient in vitamins, minerals, and proteins because, unfortunately, the foods rich in these are relatively expensive. As the diet becomes worse, health and physique become worse. Poor diet is accompanied by bad housing and psychological factors which affect health. But the results of experiments indicate that food is the most important health factor.

In Britain, among the people who are worst fed, the mortality rate is 30 per 1,000. Among the people who are adequately fed and housed, the rate is 9 per 1,000. The infant mortality rate is over 100 per 1,000 among the former, compared with about 20 among the latter. Some diseases, such as tuberculosis, are two or three times as prevalent. Stature is three or four inches shorter and physique is worse. Physical disabilities, such as defective sight and hearing, and premature senility are more prevalent. The proportion of children who are mentally defective or backward is much higher. Lack of adequate food is correlated with disease, physical disability, and premature death.

We know that the difference in physical well-being is not due to an inherited difference. When we improve the environmental conditions of these people, health improves. Numerous tests have shown that when children from families whose diet is inadequate are given the same diet as children of well-to-do families, some diseases disappear, the children become obviously healthier, and begin to grow at the same rate as the children of the well-to-do.

One of the most striking demonstrations of the effect of improvement of diet was that which took place in Britain between the war of 1914-1918 and the present war. Owing to various causes, not the least of which were the excellent social and public health measures designed to improve the diet of the poorest, the consumption of the protective foods rose by roughly 50 per cent. Accompanying this improvement in the national diet, there was a corresponding improvement in national health. The average infant mortality rate of all classes in England and Wales fell from over 100 to 52 per 1,000. Tuberculosis decreased by about 50 per cent. the grosser forms of deficiency diseases such as rickets and scurvy which thirty years ago affected more than 50 per cent. of the children in poor families in industrial towns, were almost completely

eliminated, and children leaving school in 1938 were between two and three inches taller than their parents at the same age. Other factors doubtless contributed to this result, but the big factor was the improvement in the national diet.¹

Mr. Churchill has made the noble promise of a better post-war world with a fuller life—the just and true inheritance of the common man. Biologists could make a rough estimate of the additional man-years of life which would be added to the common people of the world if even food only were made available on a health standard. We should save more man-years of life in one decade than have been lost in all the wars of the last hundred years. If it is quality rather than quantity of life he had in mind, an idea of the extent to which quality could be improved can be got by comparing the physique, health, and happiness of families who are well-fed and free from even the fear of want with those of the families of the unemployed.

Alleviation of Poverty.

The chief cause of malnutrition is poverty. No better proof of this could be given than the result of Mr. Seeborn Rowntree's social investigations in England made in 1937.² After an exhaustive enquiry, he tried to ascertain the lowest wage on which a family with three children could be supported. Let us look at the kind of diet in his proposed family budget. To make it as cheap as possible, he cut out butter and whole milk and substituted margarine and canned separated milk, and he assumed that it would be cheaper if the bread was baked at home. He did not enquire how many houses in the slums would have facilities for baking bread. Take the menu for Monday, the first working day of the week:

Breakfast : Porridge and skimmed milk, bacon, bread and margarine (or fried bread), tea ;

Dinner : Beef roll, mashed potatoes and salad, steamed date pudding ;

Tea : Tea, bread and margarine, watercress ;

Supper : Lentil soup (remains) and bread.

That is not a diet on which we can rear a healthy race. It falls far below what we now know to be necessary for health. Imagine a dock labourer, or a miner, after a hard day's physical work, coming home to a meal of tea, bread, margarine and watercress and, for his supper, bread and lentil soup, if there was any left over from Sunday's supper. Yet, Mr. Rowntree was forced to the conclusion that there are millions of our fellow-countrymen who are so poor that they cannot afford as good a diet

¹ Cf. Hugh CLEGG: *Wartime Health and Democracy* (London, J. M. Dent & Sons 1941); also, Sir John Boyd ORR: *Food, Health and Income* (London, Macmillan & Co., 1937, and *Fighting for What?* (London, Macmillan & Co., 1942).

² B. Seeborn ROWNTREE: *The Human Needs of Labour* (London, Longmans, Green and Company, 1937).

as that. These millions comprise a high proportion—nearly one-half—of the country's children. He estimates that, even if the minimum income were brought up to that level, about one-third of the children in Great Britain—those belonging to families with more than three dependent children—would “during five or more of their most critical years be insufficiently provided for even according to the spartan standard set forth in this book.”

It should be noticed that this low standard of living, from which one-third of the children would still be excluded for five years of their lives, was not a picture of actual conditions. This is the *higher* standard which Mr. Rowntree suggested we should try to reach within five years.

Poverty causes malnutrition. It would be equally true to say that the high cost of a diet adequate for health is one of the causes of poverty. The lower the family income per head, the higher is the proportion of the total income spent on food. Among the very wealthy, the amount spent on the common foods needed for health is not more than 1 or 2 per cent. of the total income. Among the working class in Britain, it runs to between 40 and 50 per cent. Among the very poor it may rise to as high as 70 per cent. If a diet adequate for health were made available within the purchasing power of the poorest, there would be a rise in the standard of living, so far as food is concerned, *i.e.*, a rise to the extent of over 50 per cent, of their total expenditure. The food sector of the home front would rise to the level of the lower middle class. Malnutrition, the worst physical evil of poverty, would be abolished, and poverty itself would be greatly diminished.

There is no measure which would do more for the promotion of human welfare than bringing a diet adequate for health within the reach of every family. If to this we could add a home in which families could live in health and in decency, we should have a foundation on which we could build a better civilisation—a civilisation which would have a chance of being stable. We talk about building a new better world. If we are in earnest, we will build from the bottom upwards. We will begin by supplying the primary necessities of life to those who have never enjoyed them.

Effects on Agriculture.

If food needs on a health standard are to be met, there will be a great expansion of agriculture. It will be convenient to use the United States as an illustration. It is estimated that in the United States 40 millions more acres of food and feedingstuff crops would need to be grown. The following table shows the increases of agricultural products needed¹:

¹ Normal yields assumed: acreages listed make no provision for exports.

Crop acreage and livestock production required for improved consumption in the United States.

Commodity.	Actual acreage for domestic use 1936-1940.	Required acreage ¹ for “best adapted diet.”	
	Thousand acres.	Thousand acres.	Percentage increase on actual figure.
Truck crops ...	4,144	7,257	75
Hay ...	69,469	90,258	30
Fruits ...	4,269	5,083	19
Beans, peas, nuts ...	4,484	5,203	16
Potatoes ...	3,949	4,477	13
Sugar, sirup ...	1,510	1,659	10
Feed grains ...	148,252	161,781	9
Food grains ...	62,463	63,359	1
Miscellaneous crops ...	12,781	12,085	...
Total crop acreage ...	311,321	351,162	13
	Actual number of livestock for domestic use 1936-1940.	Required number of livestock for “best adapted diet.”	
	Millions.	Millions.	Percentage increase on actual figure.
Milk cows ...	23'9	33'3	39
Hens (for eggs) ...	369'0	452'9	23
Meat animals slaughtered:			
Sheep and lambs ...	21'9	25'5	16
Hogs ...	60'5	69'3	15
Chickens ...	644'0	699'5	9
Beef cattle ...	15'2	16'2	7
Veal calves ...	9'6	10'1	5

In Britain a somewhat similar increase in the productive foods would be needed. The increase in milk production would be greater. To bring liquid milk consumption up to the level recommended by the Advisory Committee on Nutrition and approved by the Government in 1935², production would need to be nearly doubled. This would necessitate a re-orientation of agriculture towards the production of foods which can be

¹ U.S. BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS: *Estimates of Quantities of Food Necessary to Provide Certain Specified Diets and Crop Acreages and Numbers of Livestock Required for Indicated Production*. Statement prepared by O. V. WELLS and submitted to the Select Committee Investigating Defense Migration, House of Representatives, 13th Feb. 1942.

² MINISTRY OF HEALTH, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON NUTRITION: *First Report* (London, H. M. Stationery Office, 1937).

produced at home as economically as they can be imported. Britain is well adapted for the production of milk, vegetables, and some fruit and there is no reason why eggs and bacon could not be produced as economically in Britain as in Denmark, the Netherlands or the Baltic countries. Fortunately, these products give a big output in money value and require a large amount of labour per acre, a point of social importance in a small, densely populated country.

The additional amounts of these protective foods needed are so large that some of the land at present producing wheat, beef, and sugarbeet, which can all be imported more cheaply than they can be produced, would need to be devoted to dairying, vegetable and fruit growing, and pig and poultry raising. British agriculture would become more like that of Denmark and the Netherlands, where agriculture was prosperous before the war. British imports of wheat, beef, mutton, and sugar would need to be increased to make up for the fall in home production. The increase in the consumption of liquid milk would leave little milk for making butter and cheese, and imports of these would need to be increased to make good the fall in home production and to raise the total supply to the higher level of consumption required for a health basis. If the additional requirements for fruit are found to be of the same order as those for the United States, namely 70 per cent., increased imports would need to be added to increased home production to provide the necessary amounts. The larger dairy cow, pig, and poultry populations would need not only an extension of home grown fodder crops, but also an increase in the amount of concentrates for feedingstuffs, the imports of which in pre-war days amounted to about $8\frac{1}{2}$ million tons per annum. An agricultural nutrition policy thus calls for both increased production and increased imports.

A similar reorientation would be called for in most other European countries. Increased production of the productive foods would be accompanied by increased imports of wheat, sugar, beef, and concentrated feedingstuff such as maize and oil seeds. The extent of the increase in productive foods and of the reorientation of an agricultural nutrition policy for Asiatic countries would be so great that one hesitates even to consider the problem at this stage. Still, the promise of the Atlantic Charter is "for all the men in all the lands." A diet adequate for health must be made available to the people of these lands if this promise is to be fulfilled. There will obviously be a market for all the food which all countries can produce for many years ahead.

But the workers who produce the food deserve as high a standard of living as the workers in industry who consume it, and capital invested in agriculture deserves the same return as capital invested in urban industries. The poverty of the peasant and land worker has

for long been a social injustice, and the low purchasing power of the primary producer a weakness of the economic system. An agricultural nutrition policy must provide not only a guaranteed market, it must also provide a guaranteed price at a level which will provide reasonable remuneration to the land worker. Indeed, that is the lowest price which will call forth the great volume of additional food needed.

A world food policy undertaken on humanitarian grounds would thus inevitably bring about an expanded and prosperous agriculture.

Effects on Industry.

The great majority of farms would need to be reconditioned to enable them to produce at the higher level. A vast quantity of new equipment would be called for. Dairy farms need better water supplies. Electrification schemes for power and domestic use must be provided. The majority of farmsteads in most countries are in disrepair and obsolete in design. Then, if the land workers are to have a standard of living on the same level as workers of equal skill in towns, they must have new houses with sanitary conveniences and adequate furniture.

In the more backward countries, industries will be needed to enable agriculture to function efficiently. In India and China some of the people must be taken off the land for new industries to provide for the needs of agriculture. This will enable the size of the farming units to be larger and, therefore, more efficient. In the Jewish settlement in Palestine, agriculture has been raised to such a high level of efficiency that although the settlement only occupies 7 per cent. of the total land, it is claimed that it produces about 50 per cent. of the total agricultural output. To enable it to reach this high level of efficiency, however, there are three workers in other industries for one in agriculture.

In some countries, such as China, one of the first things necessary to enable the people to be assured of a regular supply of food is improved methods of transport. Starvation has occurred because, though there was food in the country to relieve the famine, it could not be transported to the famine area. The development of these countries calls for a huge output of industrial products not only for land cultivation, but also for railways, roads, and electrification systems.

If the United Nations set out to produce the food the people of the world need, there will be a new era of industrial prosperity. At the end of the war we may not literally beat our swords into ploughshares, but we shall convert tanks and guns into tractors, cultivators,

milking machines, and all the other equipment needed for a world-wide, efficient agriculture. Instead of the stagnation of the 1930's, with town workers who could make the implements farmers need deteriorating physically and spiritually in unemployment, and, at the same time, the land which could produce the food the ill-fed families of the unemployed need lying idle, both town and country workers would be fully employed, creating the new wealth that would lift them both out of poverty, with a resulting expansion of world trade.

Organisation for a World Food Policy.

Each nation would have to set up an organisation for its own national needs, and, in addition, an international organisation would have to be set up to enable the nations to co-operate with each other in regulating food production and to develop their industries and trade on a world basis for their mutual advantage.

National Organisations.

The kind of organisation would vary in different countries according to their existing political and economic structure. It should evolve from the war food organisations so that there would be no sudden break at the end of the war, and it would be desirable to make the fullest use of existing organisations and channels of trade so that the end may be achieved with the minimum disturbance of business.

The following outline¹ is given as an illustration of the kind of organisation which might be devised for Britain. It utilises the agricultural marketing boards created before the war. It could be run on business lines without any bureaucratic interference, and in all its activities, except the central control, be subject to the stimulating effect of competition. Both producers and distributors could be free to run their businesses and make a success of them, and equally free to go bankrupt and be squeezed out by more successful competitors.

The proposal is that there should be a National Food Board, operating through a number of Commodity Boards, for example, for: milk and dairy products; beef and mutton; eggs and poultry; bacon and pork; fruit and vegetables; fish; cereals and feedingstuffs.

The National Food Board should be appointed by the Government after a free discussion in Parliament on the suitability of the men for the posts. The appointment should be made for a period of years so that the Board would not change with any change in Government. The members of the Board should be men financially independent of the

¹ Taken from the author's *Fighting for What?*, *op. cit.*, pp. 49 et seq.

food trade. The Commodity Boards might also consist either of independent men or of representatives of all interests, namely, producers, distributors, consumers, and taxpayers.

The National Board should be responsible for bringing the national supplies of the main foodstuffs up to the level needed to provide sufficient for everybody, and for arranging that sufficient would be available within the purchasing power of everybody. The Board should be voted the necessary funds to carry out these functions, and the annual report of the Board would be discussed in Parliament at the time when the funds were voted.

It is recognised that there would be difficulty in estimating exactly the amount of money needed to enable the Board to get the necessary supplies and also to fix wholesale prices such that an adequate diet would fall within the purchasing power of every family. Data on which an estimate could be made are available in Government departments and from various social surveys. The amount would, of course, vary with the cost of other essentials, such as rent, and with changes in family income; for example, children's allowances would greatly simplify the problem and would decrease the amount needed. This need not be discussed further in this article, which deals more with policy than with method.

The National Board would exercise its functions through the Commodity Boards. It would have complete executive powers and should appoint its own officials. The Commodity Boards would control and ultimately own the key-points of food distribution, that is, the processing centres, such as slaughterhouses, milk depots, and fruit and vegetable canning factories. Each of these processing centres would have storehouses attached to it in which processed food could be kept for a time without deterioration. The Boards would contain their supplies from the home producer or from the importer. They would be the main wholesalers for the foods they handle.

The Commodity Boards would offer the producer a guaranteed market and also a guaranteed price calculated to call forth the total amount needed. They would in turn sell to the trade at a wholesale price calculated to be such that the retailer, giving the minimum distributive service, for example, selling on the cash-and-carry basis, would be able to offer the foodstuffs at a price within the reach of the poorest. Each Commodity Board would be provided with funds to bridge the gulf between what it needs to pay the producer and what it gets from the traders. The amount given to each Board would be decided by the National Board.

Each Commodity Board would thus have a reservoir of money and, at its processing centres, a reservoir of foodstuffs. The rigid connection

between the price paid to the producer and the selling price to the trade would be broken at the reservoir. The Board would therefore be able to maintain prices to the consumer at a constant level all the year round, even though it had to pay the producer a higher price in some season than in others.

The reserve stocks of food at the reservoirs would accumulate in some seasons and be depleted in others, so that a regular supply for the public would be maintained in spite of the seasonal fluctuations in food production. Eggs and milk, for example, would be maintained at the same price throughout the year instead of being dearer in winter, when the need for them is greater.

With the knowledge we now have of the preservation of food, there would be no difficulty in keeping the surplus food of a season for use in a later season. Practically all foodstuffs can be preserved. Fish can be preserved for months and appear on the table as fresh as if newly caught and immediately distributed. The food reservoirs of these Boards would enable food such as fruit and vegetables, which is at present lost in a season of glut, to be preserved and made available for winter use.

The Boards would not need powers of compulsion over the producer. The offer of a remunerative price would be sufficient to call forth the amounts needed. If too much were sold to the Board, the latter would, in the following years, have to reduce the price offered until it reached the level which called forth no more than the amount needed. In this way, the inefficient producer would ultimately be eliminated.

Farmers would know the guaranteed price offered for each of the commodities, and would know that any change would be gradual and that notice would be given some considerable time ahead. They would therefore be able to decide what type of agriculture was most suited to their farms and to arrange for a long-term organisation of production, instead of, as in pre-war days, chopping and changing in an attempt to catch fluctuating market prices.

There is no need for the Boards to have a monopoly. If a farmer could find a special direct market for his product without passing it through the Board, there is no reason why he should not do so provided the food he produces and sells is up to the standard for health demanded by the Board. Any farmer who could produce and market his product without the assistance of the Board would be a public benefactor not only in saving the funds of the Board but also by competing to maintain a high level of efficiency on the part of the Boards.

In the same way, there would be no need for a uniform retail price, with all the inspection and prosecutions needed to maintain uniformity. The service of distribution varies and the cost of it should vary. So long as the poorest people have the food they need with the cheapest service,

there is no reason why retailers should not get as much as they can from the wealthier part of the community wishing an expensive service and willing to pay for it.

The Boards would sell the food at the same price to multiple shops, co-operative societies, and small retailers, and these different methods of distribution could be left to compete with each other; the method which gave the best public service would survive.

There would be no taint of pauperism in this scheme. The wealthiest person could, if he liked, buy the food at the same price as the poorest, and there is no reason why he should not be allowed to do so, because people would be paying for the national food service in proportion to their income. There would be no need, therefore, for any means test.

The setting up of an organisation on these lines would not involve any very drastic change in the food trades. The existing Agricultural Marketing Boards, which deal with some of the foodstuffs, would be taken over as going concerns to form the corresponding Commodity Boards, but, instead of being producers' boards with a monopoly and the power to regulate production and fix prices in their own interest, they would be responsible through the National Board to the whole community—producers, distributors, consumers, and taxpayers.

The above suggestions about the nature of the organisation needed to carry through a food policy based on human needs are not to be taken as a detailed scheme. The outline is given merely to illustrate the fact that an organisation could be built up which would meet the needs of the people and, at the same time, leave full initiative and free business enterprise to both producers and distributors and free choice of food to the people without any inquisition on family income.

International Organisations.

Nations could co-operate in setting up international agricultural and food commissions which, while having no power to interfere with national food organisations, could give information and guidance on the best method of ensuring that the national larders would have sufficient for the needs of the people. They could facilitate international trade in food and in the things needed for food production, and could arrange for the necessary long-term credits which would be needed for the first few years to enable the poorer countries to bring the diet of their people up to the health standard.

These international organisations would be necessary to carry out a world food policy which would move towards and fit in with the international schemes for economic and political organisation that are doubtless being prepared.

It is of interest to note that the food policy suggested here is, in its essential features, the same as that which was beginning to be developed

by the League of Nations in 1935.¹ Between that date and the outbreak of war twenty-two Governments had set up nutrition committees to consider the food position in their countries, and representatives of these committees had met at Geneva to consider the whole position in its health, agricultural, and economic aspects. Had war not broken out, the probability is that the twenty-two nations would have evolved a definite scheme of co-operation, which would ultimately have included all nations.

Need for Planning Now.

If the United Nations are going to adopt a world food policy based on human needs, they should begin to make definite plans now. All of the available information, and there is a great mass of data waiting to be correlated, should be brought together:

- (a) To give a broad picture of the state of nutrition and of agriculture in each country before the war;
- (b) To show the change that has taken place in each country during the war so far as information can be obtained. This picture should be kept up to date so that at the end of the war we may know the starting-point for the long-range policy;
- (c) To make estimates of the extent to which food production and imports would need to be increased to fill the national larders on a health standard.

Having got the information together, there remains the very difficult task of planning how the larders are to be filled and what changes these will bring about in agriculture and international trade in foods, and what effect the policy would have on industry and finance. We have then to consider the kind of organisations needed to carry the policy to completion.

This involves months of work. Further, the policy will succeed only if we have a well-informed public opinion. There would be need to make the general idea of the food policy current among all classes of society in all nations.

Work along these lines is being done by groups in different countries. All of the information should be considered by an international group, including representatives not only of Britain and America, but also of Russia and China, and all of the United Nations should be kept informed of the progress being made.²

¹ LEAGUE OF NATIONS MIXED COMMITTEE ON THE PROBLEM OF NUTRITION: *Final Report on the Relation of Nutrition to Health, Agriculture and Economic Policy* (Geneva, Series of Nations Publications, 1937, II. A. 10); see also INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE, *Studies and Reports, Series B (Social and Economic Conditions) No. 23: Worker's Nutrition and Social Policy* (Geneva, 1936).

² For an example of an international study, see INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE: *Food Consumption and Dietary Surveys in the Americas. Results—Methods*, by Robert Morse WOODBURY Montreal (1942), to which reference is made by Sir Joseph BANCROFT in a letter to *The Times* (9 Dec. 1942) as proof that the world is not "without machinery both for the assessment of want and for that of available supplies. . . Here anyone. . . will see one organisation which covers a great part of the world."

Conclusion.

The difficulties of post-war reconstruction are appalling. The problem is not one of repairing the physical damage. That can be done quickly. The fundamental difficulty lies in the fact that we dare not reconstruct on the old model. The old model broke down in a world war, twice in one generation. This second world war has destroyed the political and economic system on the continent of Europe and threatens the complete destruction of democracy and the extinction of liberty throughout the whole world. Reconstruction of the old model would inevitably bring about another break-down. We must adjust our political and economic structures to suit the new age which the rapid advance of science is thrusting us into before we are ready to deal with it. Economic theories derived from our experience of the past cannot be applied in their entirety to this new age, because we are faced with new physical powers which science is creating; new economic forces we cannot measure; and new spiritual forces which even the wisest can only dimly perceive.

Faced with a problem which no one can read, the only wise course is to go forward one step at a time, doing first the thing we are sure is right. The first step is obviously to maintain the unity of the nations as a supreme world authority to prevent another war. If there is another war, it will probably be a war to preserve the union.

The next task of the United Nations is to provide food and shelter, the prime necessities, on a health standard. Housing, and all the other things which the word "shelter" denotes, varies so much from country to country that it is mainly a national problem. Food, on the other hand, is an international problem which can only be solved by the co-operation of the nations.

I have tried to show that if we put first things first, and begin with this first essential duty, other benefits will follow. A food policy can be the spearhead of a government for agricultural and economic prosperity. It can be used as a self-starter to set the whole system moving, and moving this time in the right direction along a road that will lead to a great expansion of agriculture, industry, and trade which will be stable and permanent because it will be based on the sure foundation of human welfare.

—*International Labour Review, March 1943.*

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Rice Position in Madras.

In view of the importance of the food problem and that too of the main cereal, the following memorandum on the present rice position in Madras Province prepared by the People's Food Committee is published fully :

The Committee have no hesitation in giving their general support to the broad outlines of the policy indicated in the Government's Press Communique of 23rd February last *e.g.* the division of the province into surplus and deficit districts, the ear-marking of specified surplus districts for finding the quantities required by specified deficit districts, the appointment of Government officers for ensuring purchases, the licensing of dealers and the fixing of quotas for each of them by Collectors and the prohibition of export from one district to another except under permits. It is, however, in the planning of the detailed measures for implementing these broad outlines and in their actual working that grave defects have come to light and have caused widespread dissatisfaction not only amongst consumers for whose benefit all this elaborate scheme of control has been devised but among the primary producers as well. The issue of rules and regulations and the clothing of a number of Government officers with powers to put them into effect are by themselves not enough. The framing as well as the application of such rules and regulations and the exercise of powers thereunder, especially in matters relating to primary foodstuffs, demand not only an intimate acquaintance with actual economic and social conditions but also an intelligent discretion guided by human touch which places the efficient satisfaction of the essential needs of the public—particularly the less fortunate sections of it—above the mere clinging to apriori views or to the letter of a rule or order and the consequent obstinate refusal to revise or supersede existing arrangements even when they have failed to give public satisfaction.

2. In the matter of foodstuffs, any system of regulated supply or even of indirect price control will be successful and effective only to the extent that those affected by it in the different localities are, through representatives in whom they have confidence, associated actively in the arrangements made to give effect to it. The Committee would accordingly urge very strongly that representative non-official opinion and service be requisitioned at every important stage of the arrangements. While the ultimate responsibility for both policy and execution should necessarily be with those in whom power is, and should be vested, namely the Government and their officers, it is necessary that on all important matters they should seek and be ordinarily guided by the advice and assistance of non-official leaders. There should, therefore, be a Provincial Food Council presided over, for the present, by the Adviser in charge of Food Administration to advise the Government on all matters of policy relating to food supply; otherwise, and especially in the absence of a functioning legislature, public opinion has, and will have, no organised means of expressing itself on so vital an issue. There should also

be a Food Board for each district, whether it is classified as a deficit or surplus district, presided over by the Collector; similar Boards may be formed for even smaller areas wherever necessary. The constitution of these Boards should be on the same lines as the Provincial Food Council. Among the matters on which these Boards should be asked to advise are the discovery, commandeering and purchase of stocks, the price to be paid for such stocks, the supply and distribution to deficit areas inside the district etc. There should finally be a Food Vigilance Committee for each division in Madras City and for each Ward in a notified municipality and for a group of not more than 5 retail shops elsewhere. In Municipalities the Ward Committees should include the Ward Councillors.

3. Representation on these three classes of bodies should be given to all communities and interests including political parties. Persons belonging to every political party have enthusiastically and actively participated in the work of our Committee and we have reason to believe that co-operation for the solution of the food problem and willing and wholehearted service on the Provincial Food Council, District Food Board and the Food Vigilance Committee can confidently be counted on from members of all parties without exception whatever their political affiliations may be. The Committee would be glad, if so desired, to advise in the selection of the personnel of the Provincial Food Council and would recommend that the advice of the Provincial Food Council should be sought in respect of selections for the District Food Boards and of the latter in the case of selection for the Food Vigilance Committees. It is, in the Committee's opinion, of paramount importance that, in finding the personnel for these bodies, care should be taken to avoid persons who, however wealthy, influential or otherwise desirable, covet merely the honour of a place on these bodies and will occupy only an ornamental position thereon. The choice should, other things being equal, preferably fall on persons of proved public spirit, popular and trusted in the localities and able to do propaganda, persuade and command a following. Active, disinterested public workers, whatever political party they may owe allegiance to, whether Justice, Mahasabha, Muslim League, Communist or Congress, will be suitable categories from which many of these nominees may be selected. The Committee feel confident that on a matter like food supply and distribution, members of all these different political parties will work together without hitch of any description, without any political vantage as their objective and with the sole aim of bringing satisfaction to the public whom they are called upon to serve.

4. Complaints are loud and by no means ill-founded that Grain Purchasing Officers operating in surplus districts are in heavy arrears in regard to the purchase of the quantities assigned to them, that the quality of the stuff bought through them is poor and that there has been considerable and avoidable delay in the transport of grains to the deficit districts. After

giving the matter their very careful consideration the Committee are definitely of the opinion that the primary cause of this unsatisfactory state of things is that, under the existing arrangements, the responsibility for purchase and transport is indefinitely demarcated and is so divided between the licensed wholesale importer into the deficit district and the Grain Purchasing Officer in the surplus district that each is able easily to throw the blame on the other; as also that the Grain Purchasing Officer can always put forth the excuse—in several cases with justification—that he does not get from the Revenue and Police officers of the district the information and willing co-operation which are so necessary for discovering stocks, making purchases and commandeering them, when necessary. It is essential, therefore, that the responsibility for these operations should be fixed on the Collector of the surplus district; at present he hardly knows what the Grain Purchasing Officer is doing. The Grain Purchasing Officer should be his assistant and instrument for grain purchase and transport and should, in all matters of importance and invariably in matters which require the assistance of his Revenue and Police subordinates obtain his orders which should issue in the Collector's name.

5. The present system of making both purchases and transport wait on the convenience of the wholesale dealer in the importing district in submitting an application and making a deposit—not to mention other snags which are involved in his intervention at these stages—not merely contributes to delay but is demonstrably uneconomical. The Grain Purchasing Officer has to arrange for purchases and transport piecemeal for every licensed wholesaler and apparently even for every separate transaction of his! The monthly quotas for the deficit districts assigned to surplus district having been fixed, the Collector of the surplus district knows the total quantities he has to purchase and arrange transport for every month and should, without reference to applications or deposit from private persons be able to so plan out in advance his purchases and transport arrangements as to ensure that the prescribed monthly quotas are despatched in good time to the Collectors of the deficit districts or to officers or other persons nominated by them. Purchases in bulk by the Collector under such conditions should *prima facie* be more economical and will enable Railway authorities to have definite notice in good time of the date of despatch from and the number of wagons required at specified railway stations.

6. As regards the method of purchase, the Committee are doubtful whether direct purchase by Government from producers in the villages will be practicable on a large scale or will yield successful results. The majority of landholders have each only a small surplus to sell and are scattered over a wide area. It is difficult to expect them to cart their produce to the railway station named. Even if the purchase is confined to a limited number of larger landholders, the produce which is in the shape of paddy has to be milled into rice before it is railed. The railing of paddy itself—though in the

importing district it might help storage in good condition for a much longer period than rice—involves a greater strain on wagon space besides necessitating arrangements for milling in the importing area. In view of these considerations, purchases in the surplus district should ordinarily be of rice and should be through co-operative wholesale organisations, licensed mill-owners or other wholesalers in that district approved for the purpose. But where producers either singly or in combination are prepared to undertake supply of rice in bulk purchases should be made direct from them by the Collector, other conditions being equal. Orders should be placed with them—on tender if necessary and possible—for definite quantities of rice of different kinds and qualities to be delivered at the named railway stations in fixed instalments on or before specified dates during the period of one year, nine months, six months or three months, whichever may be considered most suitable for the district. If reasonable tenders are not forthcoming or if, after an order has been placed, the Collector is, at any time during the contract period, satisfied that producers are unreasonably withholding stocks from sale or that mill-owners refuse to mill the purchased paddy, he should immediately remove the difficulty by commandeering the stock and, if necessary, by compelling milling as well under the powers he already possesses.

7. Such a scheme for purchase or commandeering of stocks will, the Committee feel, not work without friction and avoidable and legitimate discontent unless it is linked with control of prices as well. At present there is a measure of indirect price control over purchases with which both producers on the one hand and mill-owners and wholesalers in the surplus districts on the other appear to be equally dissatisfied. There is a ceiling price for the guidance of the Grain Purchasing Officer. He, however, keeps it confidential and it is not known how it is determined. The only person who may be said to have any inkling of it is the licensed wholesaler of the importing district or his agent who gets into touch with the Grain Purchasing Officer when proceeding to the surplus district to make his purchases. Neither the producer nor the local mill-owner or wholesaler from whom the purchase has to be made has any knowledge of it. Producers have accordingly complained that they have been dragooned into selling at an unduly low price by their being falsely told that the Grain Purchasing Officer's ceiling price would be lower than it actually is; and certain mill-owners and local merchants have a grievance that for the stocks commandeered from them they have been paid—in view of the ceiling prices—a price considerably less than they have paid the producers. The Committee are unable to think of any satisfactory grounds for keeping the ceiling price a secret from the vendors while at the same time compelling them to accept a price not exceeding this limit for the produce taken from them. A control which is not open infuses suspicion and a sense of grievance and while interested parties like the purchasing wholesaler from the importing district are able to exploit the secret to which they are not strangers for the purpose of

driving bargains with the producer more favourable to themselves than otherwise, even the warier mill-owner or merchant of the surplus district is some times mulcted in losses of considerable magnitude owing to his having made his purchase at higher prices in ignorance of this ceiling price. This secrecy, to a certain extent, also accounts for the anomaly that in several districts the local merchant and consumer pay a higher price than is paid for exports therefrom to a deficit district. The Committee would, therefore, strongly recommend that wherever maxima of prices are fixed in this regard by Government and the principles on which they are fixed should be made public and that such fixing should be done in the exercise of statutory powers of price control. The Committee cannot too strongly emphasise that where production and supplies are in deficit their control as well as the consequent control of distribution can never be efficient unless it is linked intimately with price control. The one without the other under such conditions offers a direct inducement to evade and circumvent the control that is applied which in consequence tends to become futile, if it does not also cause injury to legitimate interests.

8. Under the Food Grains Control Order, every wholesale trader in food grains has to take out a licence. Such price control as in certain respects is now exercised over wholesalers is by means of directions separately issued under paragraph 9 of the license. Even this authority is apparently lacking in the case of retailers. But both in regard to wholesalers and in regard to retailers the Government attempt at present is to exercise an indirect form of price control by requiring the approved wholesalers and retailers on pain of elimination from the approved list to enter into an undertaking that they will not sell at a price higher than that fixed by the Collector. This arrangement works to some extent in respect of stocks which these men obtain from the Collectors; it leaves untouched the much larger stocks which are marketed in the districts and which are obtained without the intervention of Government agency. Government have taken no power to require the licensing of retail dealers. The result is that there is in every district a very large number of retail shops which are not approved shops and are therefore under no control. It also happens that as, with the exception of Madras, the quantity exported from or imported into the surplus or deficit district as the case may be must bear only a small proportion to the quantity of local production retained for local consumption, price control in respect of exports and imports alone has already demonstrated its ineffectiveness in respect of purchases and sales of stocks not so exported or imported. Partial price control of this description tends only to confusion and chaos and the Committee would strongly urge that Government's responsibility cannot be considered to end with the procurement of the stocks required for export from surplus districts and for import into deficit districts or with the control of the prices of such stocks only; it must extend also to the equitable distribution of the stocks

available in all districts which do not fall within these categories and the proper controlling of their prices as well.

9. Enough mischief has been done in India as a whole by trying to tackle supplies and prices independently in a piecemeal fashion and by partial control in each case through half measures. Price control and supply control are inter-dependent and closely intertwined and must go hand in hand in as comprehensive a manner as possible. The rice position in the Province is sufficiently grave now to demand the adoption of a bold programme of price control despite the fugitive kind of decision that the last New Delhi Food Conference is reported to have taken on the question. Without efficient price control the great efforts that Government are making to ensure adequate supplies in deficit areas will not only fail to yield the results that they should in those areas but will worsen the situation in the surplus areas from which the imports have to be made.

10. The Committee, therefore, recommend that orders should be promulgated under the Defence of India Rules taking power to control retail trading in food grains. It is necessary further that maximum price should be notified periodically for the following :—

(a) a producer's basic price for paddy sold in the villages.

It should have due regard to the cost of production including cattle and implements as it may be estimated for the following season and to the increase in the price index not only of all articles and services which enter into such cost but also of such others like cloth, kerosene oil, salt, sugar, vegetables etc., which enter into the producer's cost of living. It should also provide a reasonable margin of profit.

(b) a wholesaler's price for rice sold to Collectors for export or to retail dealers in the district of production.

This should be arrived at by adding to (a) transport, milling and other incidental and handling etc. charges together with a reasonable profit.

(c) a retailer's price for rice for sales to the consumer in the district.

This should be calculated by adding to (b) the retailer's transport and incidental charges together with a reasonable profit.

These prices should be fixed in each district for the different markets or regions therein by the Collector on the advice of the District Food Board. They should vary according to important kinds and qualities and suitable instructions should be issued for preventing the fraudulent mixing of inferior with superior kinds of qualities before sale at any stage.

11. For ensuring the equitable distribution of the available supplies of rice among all classes of consumers and particularly for enabling the poorer

classes to obtain the minimum quantity of rice required for maintaining average health, the ideal system is specific rationing. The success of such rationing is contingent upon the ability of Government to maintain supplies at or above the limits which the population needs for satisfying its minimum requirements. And this cannot be achieved without effective price control at every important stage in the journey which the rationed commodity has to make from the primary producer to the ultimate consumer. While the Committee recognise that, without experience of actual rationing of any kind, it would be a hazardous experiment to attempt it for the whole of the province at once even in respect of a single commodity like rice, they are distinctly of the view that rice rationing should be introduced into the Madras City at once and extended to other cities and towns at least in deficit districts as early as possible. So far as Madras is concerned the need is urgent and the problem is easy of solution especially if the Committee's main recommendations in respect of stocks and prices are given effect to. Madras district, which is only the City, is a deficit district; there is no local production of paddy; all the rice it needs, therefore, is to be imported from surplus districts. No export from or import into Madras can take place except through Government agency or on Government permits. Exports and imports on Government permits by private agency, will be negligible in quantity. Stocks required for consumption in the City will be received by the Collector of Madras from Collectors of surplus districts and can, without any appreciable difficulty, be stored in half a dozen to a dozen godowns in different parts of the City and issued direct to the 600 or more retail shops that the City demands. The intervention of wholesale merchants between the Collector and the retail dealer is not called for and only serves to increase the cost to the consumer and to open an additional door for leakage and corruption. If the head of every family of consumers will register himself with a specified retailer and if the latter is registered with a specified godown under the Collector's control, the rationing system should work quite smoothly and satisfactorily in the City. The details of the rationing system should be worked out and obtain the approval of the Provincial Food Council before being put into force.

12. The greatest care will be required in the selection of retail licensees. Every co-operative store or depot which applies for a licence should get it automatically. The Committee would recommend that in addition to these co-operative organisations there should, in each division of the City, be at least one retail shop run directly by Government agency and it should, where conditions require it, cater exclusively for those of the poor whose earnings are below the minimum income limit and who consequently qualify for getting their rations at a concessional price.

13. The Committee learn that the import of rice into Madras during the last five months has fallen short of the quota by more than 30 per cent. The balance of 70 per cent. has not all gone into immediate consumption;

some of it has been hoarded. It follows that previously existing stocks both in the possession of Government and private persons have had to be drawn upon for feeding the sales for consumption in the City. The general impression—the Committee are not in a position to vouch for its accuracy—is that there are still in the City concealed stocks of considerable magnitude which feed the black market and which require to be discovered and, if necessary, commandeered especially in view of the Government's publicly expressed inability to give even approximately correct information as to the stocks now available for import from the surplus districts or as to the prospects of the next harvests. A vigorous campaign for the seizure of concealed or hoarded stocks in the City and outside has to be launched and in this campaign the services of the members of the different non-official bodies suggested in paragraph 2 above should be freely requisitioned and should prove of great value. Several of them, provided they are selected on the lines indicated, should be able to do propaganda of an intensive nature and to mobilise for this work the assistance of a large number of voluntary workers anxious to render honorary disinterested service.

14. The Committee have given considerable thought to the question of ensuring an adequate ration to the poorer sections of the population who are wage-earners. It is needless to emphasise the fact that increase in wages in both urban and rural areas has considerably lagged behind the increase in the cost of living. In the absence of any statutory coercion compelling a progressive increase in wages *pari passu* with the increase in the cost of living the workers should be enabled to secure their minimum requirements of foodstuffs, whatever may be the wage in order to maintain their physical health and efficiency. Some increase of wages has occurred in Government employment and in some of the organised industries which are subject to Government supervision and control or are run by enlightened managements. But there is a large section of the wage-earning classes outside the pale of organised industries and they need protection as much as others. They do not possess the bargaining power which labour in organised industries possesses. There is also the large rural working population which even in ordinary times leads a hand to mouth existence. Wages in the countryside were usually paid in kind are now to a much larger extent than before paid in cash. But the money wage bears no relation either to the wage in kind or to the increased cost of living. Profiteering which is so rampant in villages adds to the worker's burdens. The Committee feel that the organisation of retail shops, wherever necessary, in urban and rural areas under Government auspices is an absolute necessity and the prices in these shops should be maintained at least at the present level. These shops should cater to the needs of the labouring classes whose monthly income is below a prescribed limit and sell rice or other grain at a uniform rate. The working of these shops should be supervised by the local Food Vigilance Committees. The level of income

below which and the price level above which a working class family will qualify for this concession should be prescribed by the Government on the advice of the Provincial Food Council. Any loss sustained in running these shops should be met by the State.

15. The case of cities and towns other than Madras is slightly different in respect of rationing. They constitute islands in a production area and though they have to obtain all the rice they require from outside their own limits there is no impediment at present to the movement of stocks to or from the rest of the deficit district in which they are situated. If the whole or a portion of the total import into a deficit district is sufficient to meet the entire needs of all the towns in that area, and where this is not feasible but the Government undertake the full responsibility themselves for purchasing in the district and stocking in the town the quantity that will be necessary for its consumption, rationing could be introduced into such towns on the same lines as for Madras City, Government being solely responsible for both stocks and distribution to retailers in the rationed towns.

16. The question of introducing rationing in the non-urban areas of deficit district might stand over until experience of rationing in urban areas has been gained.

17. Whenever in a district it becomes necessary for the Collector to arrange for distribution of the supplies available to retailers by wholesale agency, the work should be entrusted to wholesale co-operative societies where they exist in preference to mere private traders and merchants.

18. The Committee desire to lay stress on the imperative need for laying on the Collector of each district, advised and assisted by the District Food Board and Food Vigilance Committees, the responsibility for adequate supplies in existing conditions, for their equitable distribution to the different areas and to all consumers in his jurisdiction and for keeping an efficient control over prices, both wholesale and retail. They have not attempted to work out the details of the paid staff and finance he may require for satisfactorily discharging this responsibility. That task is essentially one for Government. The Committee desire merely to indicate that any stinting of expenditure on adequate staffing, even where it cannot be recovered by additions to the price charged to the merchants or consumers, would be false economy and that any hesitation to make advances for purchases which look heavy on paper but most of all of which is bound eventually to be recovered from merchants and consumers would constitute financial chicken-heartedness unforgivable in a matter of life and death to the people. They expect that the Madras Government will on this vital issue act with vision and courage.



Working of Societies.

The Nellore Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited.

The Nellore Co-operative Marketing Federation Limited, Nellore No. V-499 was registered on 27-6-1941 and started on work on 29-6-1941. Its main object is to secure a wide market for the produce of its members. The area of operations of the Federation extends over the entire district of Nellore but the work has upto now been limited to the marketing of Molagolukulu rice of the deltaic parts of the Nellore and Kovur Taluqs.

Share Capital and Membership :—The authorised capital of the Federation is Rs. 1,00,000 made up of 2,000 shares of Rs. 50 each. Membership is open to individuals, co-operative societies and institutions like Devasthanams and Mutts. An individual member is eligible to take shares not exceeding 20. On 30-4-1943, there were 35 individual members and 65 society members with a total share capital of Rs. 13,900.

Funds :—The Federation is eligible to borrow upto five times the paid up share capital plus reserve fund, and the Nellore District Co-operative Bank sanctioned at the first instance a cash credit of Rs. 50,000 which has been increased to Rs. 60,000 since 11-3-1942. The financial accommodation was found to be inadequate and attempts are being made to have it increased.

Business :—Paddy, as it is, is not exported out of the district. It is converted into rice, and marketed. The individual producer has no facility to attend to the process of conversion and hence the rice trade has inevitably been in the hands of middlemen, who receive a substantial share of the profits.

The village dalalies visit market centres, ascertain rates and assist the ryots to sell their produce as and when they choose. The ryots have thus by force of habit and training been in favour of outright disposal of paddy. The Federation, a new-comer into the field of business, has also to follow the practice and make outright purchases. The by-laws of the Federation provide for making outright purchases upto 3 times the paid up share capital.

It is one of the object of the Federation that it should mainly act as the agent of the members in the sale of their produce. Owing to the uncertainty of yield consequent on conversion of paddy into rice, the agriculturists are not in favour of handing over their produce on consignment basis. Pooling of produce is also not common in these parts. In view of this, sale of produce of small ryots on consignment basis has been found difficult and most of the purchases are made outright.

According to the consignment system worked in the Federation the orders secured from its customers are passed on to the member for execution and it takes for itself only a commission of Rs. 0-0-3 per rupee on the total value of sales effected. For the reasons stated previously, the

system has not attracted many a producer. However, a few members have been induced to try the experiment and all of them stood to gain between Rs. 5 to 10 per putty. The system is advantageous in that the member can work out the price he will secure by this method, compare it with the market rate for paddy, determine the extent of gain and then agree to give the produce on consignment basis. The ryots may take time to realise the advantages of this system but when they do, they are sure to adopt it.

The following statement shows the progress of business of the federation.

	Purchases.	Sales.
1-7-41 to 30-6-42 Paddy ...	Rs. 1,64,685-10-0	Rs. 1,61,467- 9-0
*Rice ...	Rs. 23,783- 1-0	
1-7-42 to 30-4-43 Paddy ...	Rs. 39,675-10-0	
*Rice ...	Rs. 28,713-13-0	Rs. 1,26,698-10-0

All sales are on ready money system but short credits were allowed to co-operative institutions which needed them. The Federation has from its start been consistently supplying genuine quality graded rice and thus secured standing customers at Madura, Karaikudi, Coimbatore, Salem, Perundurai, Namakkal, Tiruchengode, Madras, Chittoor, Sholinghur, Tirupathi, Papanasam, Mettur, Trichur, Tiruttani, Puttur, Tinnevely, Tuticorin etc. The federation would have made a mark in the field of rice trade in this district.

Management:—The management of the Federation vests in a Board of Directors consisting of 15 members of whom 6 are representatives of individual shareholders, 5 sale societies, 3 other co-operative societies and 1, the financing bank. The first set of Directors was nominated by the Registrar for a term of 3 years. There is an Executive Committee of 7 members.

Establishment:—The executive administration of the Federation is carried out by a paid secretary. For the present he is a departmental Inspector. He is assisted in office by a typist-clerk. The Federation has opened three branches, each of which has a godown-keeper and a milling assistant. The branch at Nayudupet has since been closed down. Purchases are made at the branches as per rates determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Vice-President. Sales of by-products are effected at the branches while all orders from outside are transacted through the Head Office. Goods to consuming centres are despatched from branches as per instructions of the Head Office.

The Federation earned a net divisible profit of Rs. 4023 for 1941-42. The General body of the Federation which met on 7-2-43 declared a dividend of 6¼ per cent. which is the maximum payable under the rules. A sum amounting to 6 per cent. of the net profits was set apart for payment as rebate on purchases. As this percentage of rebate was considered too low to be attractive to the producer-members, it has since been increased to 25 per cent. of the net profits. It is hoped that this will afford greater incentive to the members to offer their produce to the Federation.

*All purchases of rice are on consignment basis.

Far and Near.

¶ Largest active volcano in the world is Mauna Loa on the island of Hawaii. Its last eruption was in 1936, when Army planes dropped TNT to divert the flow of lava.

¶ Alaska's Coast line is longer than the earth's circumference—26,378 miles.

¶ More than half the World's people live in lands bordering the Indian Pacific Oceans.

¶ A cyclone has been known to travel a thousand miles a day.

¶ Madrid, Spain, has a newly opened theatre for deaf-mutes in which the actors give their lines in sign language.

¶ The total number of present-day spoken languages is placed at 2,769.

¶ The number of stars in our galaxy is estimated to be about 125,000,000,000. At the rate of 125 a minute it would take about 2000 years of continuous work to count all of them.

¶ Two army test pilots have attained a speed of 725 miles an hour in power dives from an altitude of 35,000 feet—faster than the speed of sound at that level.

¶ There are more than 25 million aboriginals in India.

¶ According to the *Linguistic Survey of India*, there are 179 languages and 544 dialects. "For literature, for education, for public life we have only 15 major or literary languages in India."

¶ Iraq has an area of 1,50,000 square miles and a population of 3,000,000.

¶ It is said there has been an average increase of 227 per cent. in the earnings of Bevin Boys after completing their training in the United Kingdom. How does this compare with the increase in the earnings of boys of other nationalities similarly placed?

¶ The total annual production of food-grains in India is about 55 million tons. The point for consideration is whether the production of food-grains is keeping pace with the increase in population. The 'Grow More Food' campaign was long over due and it must stay with us even after the war is over.

¶ It is estimated that there are well over 200,000 acres of teak plantations all over India and about 6,000 acres are being planted newly every year. Is this increase enough to meet India's growing needs for timber?

¶ The British Minister of Agriculture announced the other day that the present figure of 800,000 acres under cultivation must be raised to 1,000,000 next year. Have our Ministers any such definite programme? Are they still groping in the dark with no programme?

¶ It is said cuts ranging from 30 to 75 per cent. of last year's paper consumption have been enforced in all Government Departments of Government of India to meet the acute paper shortage. Besides an outright cut of 5000 tons on over-all consumption, percentage cuts include 50 per cent. on writing paper, 75 and 50 per cent. on envelopes of small and large sizes, 33½ per cent. on blotting paper. It is known what the percentage of cuts imposed in Madras are. There seems to be no cut in large size envelopes in the City Government Offices for those who receive them 'complain' they always receive fresh ones and the use of the economy label appears to be more for the benefit of recipients.

HERE AND THERE.

Resolutions.

Resolutions passed at the Provincial Conference of Co-operative Stores held at Madras on the 5th and 6th June, 1943.

1. Whereas it has been found that the distribution of controlled food-stuffs within a district has not been satisfactory, it is resolved that the distribution should be entrusted to the Co-operative Wholesale Stores, wherever possible, as per the quotas fixed by the Collector, guided by an advisory Committee, consisting of the Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, a representative of Wholesale Stores, two representatives of primary stores and a representative of the merchants dealing in the particular commodity.
2. Resolved that Government be requested to see that the 'Poorman's' or 'Fair' Grain Depots are run not by merchants but by the Government or by Co-operative Stores or by social service agencies.
3. Resolved that Grain Purchasing Officers be requested to render accounts, pass delivery orders and fix prices expeditiously.
4. Primary stores should ordinarily purchase their requirements from the Central Co-operative Stores.
5. District Central Stores should as far as possible purchase their requirements from producers' societies at producing centres and not from local commission Agents.
6. The Central stores should charge the wholesale market rates prevailing in their locality to the primaries.
7. No Co-operative wholesale or marketing society should ordinarily sell goods in retail to individual members if there is a co-operative store in the area functioning.
8. It is desirable to register only one general urban store society in a compact urban area to serve all the population and it is only in exceptional cases that separate societies may be registered for people belonging to any community or establishment.
9. Stores should sell in addition to provisions, paper, cloth, kerosene and in semi-rural areas also agricultural implements, manures, etc.
10. All Co-operative Stores should be encouraged to sell the products of cottage industries and of weavers' co-operative societies.
11. Resolved that credit societies may be allowed to sell provisions, where there is no store society in the area.
12. In store societies which have more than 500 members it is desirable to substitute in place of the General Body Meeting of all shareholders, a meeting of a Representative Body composed of Directors, Panchayatdars and representatives elected on a territorial basis and the concerned sections of the Act and Rules be amended suitably.

RESOLUTIONS

13. Provision may be made in the by-laws of store societies for the payment as bonus to staff of any amount varying with the net profits but not exceeding 15 days pay in the half year.
14. (a) Resolved that it is necessary that a Provincial Organisation of Consumers' Societies be formed in the first instance for the purpose of education, propaganda and training of the staff of co-operative stores, primary and secondary and to act as an agency to collect and distribute information useful to the stores and to serve as a clearing house of information to all stores and be a connecting link between the existing district stores, and that a Committee composed of the following with power to co-opt be appointed to draft a constitution for the same :—

Members of the Committee:—

1. Rao Bahadur S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer, Madras, Convenor.
2. Rao Bahadur M. Giriappa, Madras.
3. Mr. R. Ramaswamy Ayyangar, Madras.
4. Mr. T. G. Ramaswami Ayyar, T.U.C.S., Madras.
5. Mr. E. S. Ramasubbu, Madura, Primary.
6. Mr. N. Subramanyam, Coimbatore, Primary.
7. Mr. Rao Bahadur Dr. T. Madhava Rao, Vizagapatam, Primary.
8. Mr. S. Parthasarathi Naidu, Madura, Wholesale.
9. Mr. A. Hirudayasamy Reddiar, Trichinopoly, Primary.
10. Mr. A. V. Subramanya Ayyar, Tinnevely, Wholesale.
11. Rao Bahadur O. Viswanatha Rao, Nellore, Wholesale.
12. Sri. V. R. Satyanarayana, Cuddapah.
13. Mr. Kommuri Kasi Viswanathan, Tenali.
14. Mr. M. M. Kunhirama Menon, Malabar.
- (b) Resolved also that the same committee be hereby empowered to be in charge of the resolutions passed at the Conference and to take such actions as are necessary to have them implemented.
- (c) Resolved further that all district central stores be requested to give Rs. 10 each and all primary stores not less than Rs. 3 towards the initial expenses.
15. That Government be requested to give preference to the co-operative stores, especially those already dealing in cloth, in the matter of selection of dealers for distribution of standard cloth, and also cloth manufactured by co-operative handloom weavers to the consumers.
16. Resolved that where the quotas fixed are insufficient co-operative stores be not compelled to sell controlled articles to non-members.
17. (a) Resolved that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies be requested to exempt newly opened stores from payment of audit fee until the termination of war or for a period of six years whichever is longer.

- (b) That in the case of older societies audit fees be levied not exceeding $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the gross profit of the year or they be allowed to have their accounts audited by certified auditors.
18. Resolved that co-operative stores be organised throughout the province wherever possible, for exploitation of fire wood in Government Forest Reserve area and the Government be requested to adopt a liberal policy in the matter of leasing out coupes to such stores.
 19. Whereas it is necessary to start co-operative stores or branches of an existing one in big cities or towns to cater essential foodstuffs to the public more regularly, quickly and sufficiently, the Government be requested to aid starting of such stores or branches with a non-recurring subsidy of Rs. 200 per branch or stores towards the initial outlay.
 20. Resolved that Government or the Municipal Council of the locality be requested to grant interest-free loan, repayable after the termination of war or for six years whichever is longer, to co-operative stores intending to open branches within their jurisdiction at Rs. 3,000 per such branch.
 21. Whereas nowadays the co-operative stores in the Presidency are requested to supply the requirements of the public at almost cost price or with a very narrow margin on profit to both members and non-members resulting in enhanced turnover, only and not much profits, it is resolved that Government be requested to exempt all consumers' co-operative stores dealing in essential foodstuffs from payment of Sales Tax until the termination of the war or for six years whichever is longer.
 22. Resolved that the Registrar of Co-operative Societies be requested to impress on Collectors that in the matter of fixing quotas of controlled articles, especially of rice, for retail sale to the members of stores they should base the quotas on the strength of membership in stores.
 23. This conference requests the Government to arrange the supply to co-operative stores of paper at controlled rates for their stationary requirements.
 24. Resolved that a paid Manager or Secretary be appointed in co-operative stores with sales of over Rs. 50,000 per year.



Circulars.

R.C. 6210/43-S.

14th July 1943.

Sub: Co-operative Stores — general working — suggestions for improvement.

Though co-operative stores have been expanding, there is yet much to be desired in their business. The Registrar has had occasions to notice that in some of the stores, the directors do not have either the leisure or the interest to see what is actually happening in their societies; much less do they exercise control or supervision over the employees. Everything is left to the paid employees of the stores. Consequently some of these stores have not been progressing in the manner they ought to. The success of a store depends on the enthusiasm and efficiency of its management, and it is, therefore, necessary that the directors who do not have time and inclination to do their work in a spirit of public service, are requested to give place to persons who have leisure, enthusiasm and energy to attend to their duties.

2. There is also no planning in many of the primary stores. It is necessary that the directors form themselves into small committees such as for purchases, propaganda, selling, etc. so that the work may be got through with promptitude. They should often meet, discuss matters and review the working of the stores and take such steps as are conducive to their efficiency and popularity.

3. Many of the primary stores are not located in the important and busy part of the towns, and there is no sufficient accommodation for keeping large stocks with the result that the stores are not able to make large scale purchases from production centres or from the Central stores. They invariably make their purchases piecemeal from the local merchants whom they seek to eliminate, and for this reason they are not able to sell the goods cheaply to customers or to win the loyalty of their customers. Unless they make bulk purchases from production centres or from the wholesale stores, they cannot withstand local competition from merchants. The premises of the stores should be big enough to stock sufficient commodities and should be in central places to which all can be expected to come and purchase their requirements. Placards or notice boards should be put up by the stores in such a way as to attract the attention of the general public.

4. Shop-keeping, too, is, in many cases, not good. There is no method or system in the keeping or display of articles; all are thrown in confusion. There is no neatness or attractiveness in the arrangement. Shop-keeping is an art and would surely pay. Primary stores should give their attention to this.

5. The share capital position of many of these primary stores is not satisfactory. The stores are therefore unable to raise sufficient working capital from the financing banks and their progress is retarded. There is now plenty of money, all over the country, especially in the deltaic areas, due to the increased prices of agricultural commodities. What is wanted is only a drive on the part of the stores to collect more share capital. If only the directors can take greater interest, surely the stores will be able to secure adequate share capital.

6. The district officers are requested to bring to the notice of the stores societies in their jurisdiction the suggestions made above and see that before long, the stores establish themselves firmly in the retail distributive system of the province and become *pucca* business institutions able to withstand any competition from the local dealers. The Deputy

Registrars and the special staff should spare no pains to see that the stores societies are made efficient and popular centres of retail distribution.

R.C. 6209/43-S.

16th July 1943.

Sub: Co-operative Stores — Improvement of — “Suggestion Book” in stores — maintenance of —

In the course of inspection of an urban co-operative stores the Additional Joint Registrar observed that a book was kept in each branch to enable the customers to record their suggestions for the improvement of the working of the stores. There is also a box just like a tappal box in public offices, into which customers can drop written complaints against employees of the stores. The box is locked and the key is kept by the Honorary Secretary himself. This is a healthy provision for inviting helpful suggestions from the public for improving the working of the stores. This will also have a salutary effect on the conduct and behaviour of the employees.

The arrangement of having a ‘suggestion book’ in every stores is commended to all stores for adoption. The stores may be advised to take action on any helpful suggestions made by customers. The Deputy Registrars are requested to bring the above suggestion to the notice of all stores societies.



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