தமிழ்நாடு அரசுக் கல்லூரி

INDIAN INFORMATION



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MANUFACTURE OF FERTILIZERS: U. K. TECHNICAL MISSION IN INDIA



Professor E. Ahmed Shah, Captain Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann, Pandit R. N. Kunzru, Rao Bahadur N. Sivaraj and Syed Miran Mohamed Shah, members of the National Defence Council, India, recently toured the Middle East, visiting active battalions, training establishment and special leave camps for Indian troops of this Command. This photograph was taken at an Indian soldiers' club.

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AIMS:—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading, but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

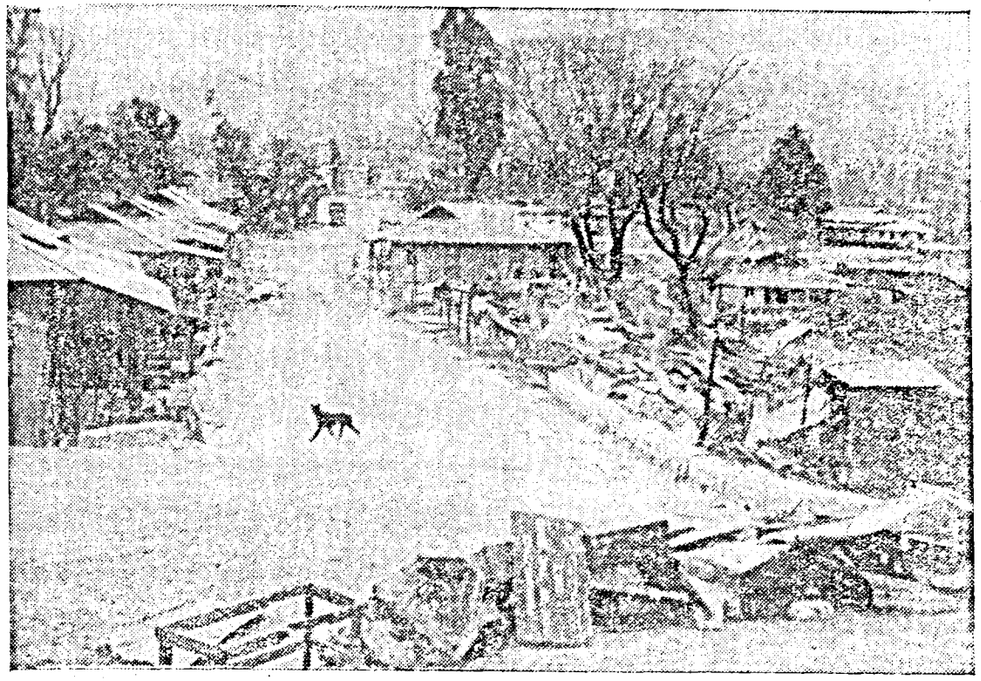
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source. It follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Issued Fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.

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COVER PICTURE: Air Crew of an I.A.F. Vultee Vengeance Squadron operating on the Burma Front. (See page 3).



Kohima Village: War has swept through this once beautiful Naga Village, now a mass of ruins.

ASSAM GOVERNOR DISCUSSES REBUILDING OF KOHIMA

PROBLEMS connected with the rebuilding of Kohima were discussed when the Governor of Assam, H. E. Sir Andrew Clow, visited the town on June 13, writes an Indian Army Observer.

His Excellency showed great interest in the housing and food problems. He also visited civil dispensaries and acquainted himself generally with the health administration of the homeless. It was a demonstration of the complete co-operation which exists between the civil and military authorities when the Governor, accompanied by Mr. C. R. Pawsey, C.I.E., M.C., Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills, went into conference with high army officers.

His Excellency, accompanied by Lady Clow, spent about three hours visiting military hospitals at Dimapur, where he chatted with both Indian and British patients. He promised every assistance that the Assam Government could give for the comfort of the men fighting for the defence of India. The Governor and Lady Clow also visited Indian and British canteens in the town.



H. E. Sir Andrew Clow.

"Revisiting Kohima after the victory our forces have won there has been an inspiring experience," said Sir Andrew. "Everywhere there are signs of the hard struggle to evict the Japanese, but the line of battle has now been rolled so far away that the Nagas are bringing their women and children back to what is left of their homes.

"Pioneers are clearing up the chaos on the various hills where our troops have made history, while traffic of all kinds passes through safely, supplying those who are carrying on the battle o the South. Arrangements are in train to elp Nagas whose villages have been freed from he enemy. Villagers may be seen taking home arpaulins sent by the Viceroy for those who would otherwise be without shelter, while rice s being distributed daily to those who need it.

"Everywhere, the troops and their commanders are welcomed as those who have by now repelled the invaders from all but a fringe of the Naga Hills, and there is every reason for hoping that the Province of Assam will very shortly be clear of the enemy and all the forces on this front will be free to concentrate on Manipur."

The Governor toured the shattered town, ccompanied by Mr. Pawsey, and the command- g officer of the Assam Regiment, who pointed t landmarks of the savage battle.

known Soldier"

The Governor saw the wreckage of the Deputy Commissioner's bungalow. The site is now dotted with the graves of British soldiers. One of these, tucked away in a corner by itself, has a rifle planted at the head and a bayonet stuck in the ground at the foot. On top lies a twisted steel helmet. *Against the helmet rests a small square of wood on which is inscribed, simply, "Unknown Soldier."*

Nearby, adds the Observer, we came across a bush on which a few roses are struggling for existence—a strange sight among all this desolation.

His Excellency concluded his tour by talking for some minutes with a party of Nagas on their way home. The Nagas are so keen to return to their shattered homes that they do not mind sleeping in the open in our lines. They have selected strange resting places: one Naga has spread his sheet on raised ground in the midst of ruins; a woman sleeps at the edge of a bomb crater while another has selected a niche between two broken-down walls. *It is obvious why they have selected these spots: once, they were the sites of their homes.*

The Nagas are all cheerful and serene. Ten minutes after she had arrived at the ruins of her home, for example, Vizai, the wife of an



Mr. C. R. Pawsey, Deputy Commissioner of Naga Hills, who remained with the garrison in the Kohima box during the recent fighting.

Assam Regiment V.C.O., settled down to preparing tea for her young sister and children. One widow, Nikhu, more fortunate than her friends, sat in her comparatively intact home, offering shelter to anyone who passed by.

The Nagas are all busy removing the ravages of war so that they can return to the undisturbed peaceful life of farming among their beautiful hills.

GOVERNOR DECORATES HEROES OF ASSAM RIFLES

HAV. ASBAHADUR GURUNG and RFM. GANDARU RAJBANSHI were two proud soldiers of the Assam Rifles whom the Governor of Assam, decorated with the I.D.S.M. on June 13.

Their fellow troops lined up smartly for the occasion, presenting a fine picture of brave men who had not very long ago taught the enemy a lesson. His Excellency, accompanied by Lady Clow, had visited the unit specially for the purpose of congratulating the heroes of his province and to pin the medals of bravery on their chests.

At Manpa, on the Chindwin, a platoon of the Assam Rifles thrice repulsed attacks by an enemy force nearly 400 strong. The defenders' successful stand was the result of bravery and

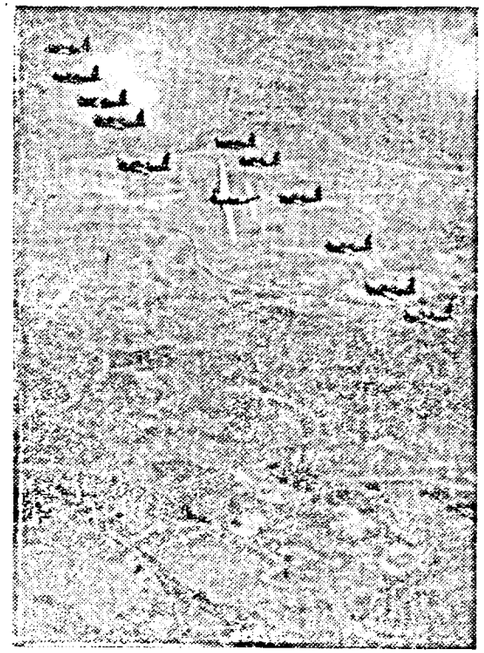
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 33)

I.A.F.'S RECORD IN BURMA

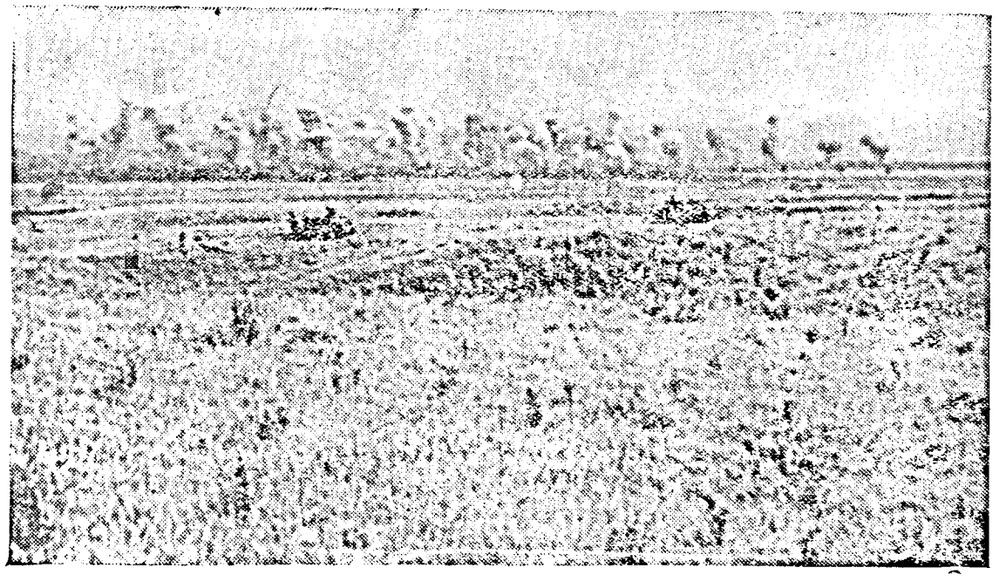
WITH the coming of the monsoon over Burma Indian Air Force squadrons have been in action on the Arakan and Imphal fronts for six months. During that period the I.A.F. has operated in increasing strength and has made no less than 6,000 sorties and recorded 8,200 operational flying hours.

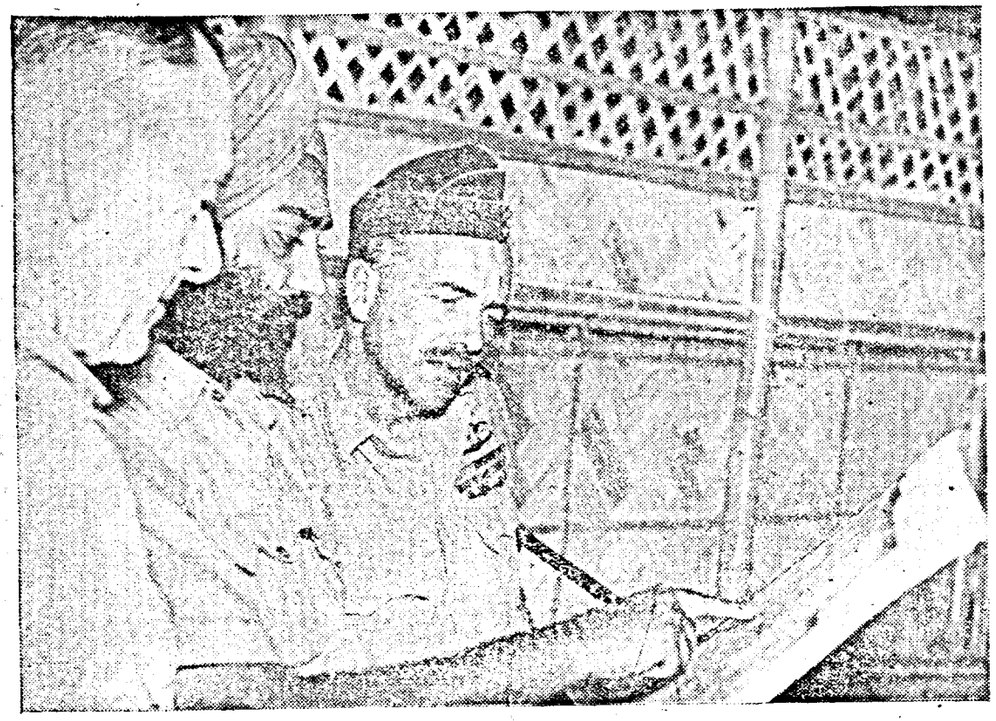
Flying as part of the Third Tactical Air Force, I.A.F. Vengeance dive-bombers have pounded enemy strong-points hidden in the hills and jungles, and Hurricane reconnaissance aircraft have flown by day and night on photographic and tactical reconnaissance for the 14th Army. Hurricane fighters have given escort to troop-carrying and supply-dropping Dakotas and Allied shipping, and Hurricane ground attack 'planes have ranged deep into Burma, smashing enemy movement with their cannons wherever they have detected it.

The first I.A.F. squadron to go into action last November was the one commanded by SQUADRON-LEADER MEHAR SINGH, first Indian Air Force Officer to be awarded the Distinguished Service Order. His pilots have rendered valuable service to the Army in bringing back scores of photographs of enemy troop



Formation Leader of a Vultee Vengeance Squadron peels off to make initial dive on a target in the Arakan. (Below) Bomb-strikes on an enemy-held village.





Squadron-Leader Mehar Singh showing a photo-mosaic prepared by his squadron to Air Marshal Sir John Baldwin.

movements, jungle hide-outs and gun positions. These have given army commanders accurate intelligence of the enemy on which to base their plans. In one day alone the squadron took 250 reconnaissance photographs and within 24 hours the photographic section had made 1,000 prints for study by commanders and Intelligence officers. Operating from one of the most forward airfields on the Arakan front, this squadron has carried out 2,000 sorties, totalling 1,500 operational flying hours. In February, when the battle of Buthidaung was at its climax, its pilots were averaging four sorties a day. Some made as many as six sorties daily.

Pin-Point Bombing

Another I.A.F. squadron, flying dive-bombers has been paving the way for the Army to advance by softening up the enemy's defences with 500 lbs. high explosive bombs. During April this squadron made several hundred sorties and dropped 330,000 lbs. of bombs. In dives from 10,000 ft. to 2,000 ft. the pilots have dropped load after load of bombs on Japanese gun-positions, supply dumps, communications and troops. The Army has frequently praised the squadron for its accurate pin-point bombing.

On the Imphal front, I.A.F. reconnaissance and dive-bombing squadrons have been as great a menace to the Japs as the I.A.F. squadrons in the Arakan. One fighter reconnaissance squadron on offensive sorties, in April, fired as many as 120,000 rounds of machine-gun ammunition. In two months the pilots logged more than 1,000 flying hours. A dive-bomber squadron on the same front also has an excellent record, particularly during April, when it unloaded 375,000 lbs. of high explosives on enemy-held country.

These I.A.F. squadrons are flying modern aircraft best suited to their particular tasks, aircraft which are, type for type, the same as flown by the R.A.F. on similar duties. The well-proven ability of the pilots and the high standard of aircraft serviceability maintained by the ground crews, have resulted in a low casualty rate and very high morale among the pilots.

AIR MARSHAL BALDWIN'S TRIBUTE TO I.A.F.

Air and ground crews of the Indian Air Force operating on the Burma Front have been personally congratulated by AIR MARSHAL SIR JOHN BALDWIN, Air Commander of the Third Tactical Air Force, on their achievements.

The following letter from the Air Marshal has been received by the Commanding Officers of Indian Air Force squadrons of the Third Tactical Air Force.

"For the first time in India's history squadrons of fighters and dive-bombers manned by Indian pilots have operated in strength against the enemy. As part of the Third Tactical Air Force, which I am proud to command, the air and ground crews of the Indian Air Force have made a magnificent contribution to our success. You and your pilots have won honour and glory. S/LDR. MEHAR SINGH, who commanded one of your squadrons was awarded the D.S.O. for his brilliant exploits against the Japanese. S/Ldr. Mehar Singh is the first of your fellow-countrymen in the I.A.F. to win this decoration.

Strong, Hard-hitting Force

"Another of your commanding officers, S/LDR. ARJAN SINGH, has been decorated with the Distinguished Flying Cross. No. 1 I.A.F. squadron which participated with distinction in the Burma Campaign of 1942 is back again on operations.

"The Indian Air Force is 11 years old. In these 11 years you have built up a strong, hard-hitting force. I should like to place on record my appreciation of the unity and strength achieved by the Indian Air Force in flying, fighting and bombing side by side with the R.A.F. and U.S.A.A.F.

"A big job has got to be done. We are fighting a ruthless and well-equipped enemy, as you are aware, but I have no doubt of the outcome. Carry on with the good work and when victory is won, India will owe a great debt of gratitude to her flying sons of the Indian Air Force."

VICEROY VISITS ASSAM TO SEE WOUNDED SON

H. E. the Viceroy has returned to Delhi after a brief visit to Assam. He went there to meet his son who had been seriously wounded with the Chindits at Mogaung but has now been safely evacuated and is progressing satisfactorily, though he has lost left hand, said a Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House on June 19.



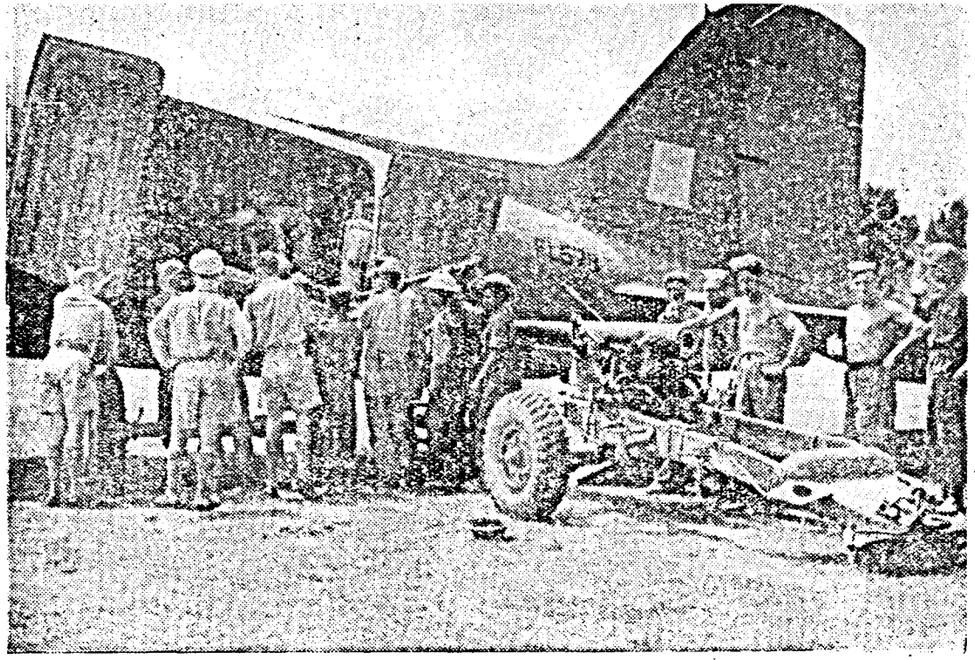
INDIANS TAKE GERMAN PRISONERS IN ITALY

On the capture of Roccasecca by Highland troops of the 8th Indian Division after a short fight a column of Punjabis and "Bengal Lancers" struck north in pursuit of German paratroops retreating in disorder. The road runs through a deep defile parallel to the Melfa torrent and when the armoured cars stopped at a broken bridge the Indians went ahead scrambling over rocks.

A company under Major Girdhari Singh crossed the torrent and searched the ground as far as the Colle la Valle capturing some paratroops who offered half-hearted resistance. They were famished and, pocketing their pride, asked their captors for food.

The rifle troop of the Lancers under Lieut. Iqbal Singh also secured prisoners while armoured cars were shooting at odd groups of the enemy. Lance Duffedar Sultan Singh and Sowar Manphul Singh, both of Rohtak, captured nine Germans armed with two machine-guns and three Schmeiser automatics.

Hundreds of Italians streamed past the Indian column returning to their homes. They had left the Liri Valley months ago and spent the winter in the snowy hills. Men, women and children carried their belongings on their heads. They greeted the Indians with great joy.



Heavy guns being loaded into one of the transports during the Fifth Indian Division's move by air from the Arakan to the Imphal front.

FIFTH INDIAN DIVISION TRANSFERRED BY AIR

IN a broadcast, on June 4, an R.A.F. officer on the Headquarters staff of Air Command, South East Asia, reviewing the war in the air over Burma, said that May had been one of the most useful months yet experienced by the Allies.

The Japanese had tasted the effectiveness of the direct support given to our forward troops and had had to stand by while we attacked his tortuous lines of communication. The enemy's fighter losses in combat and on the ground had been heavy, considering his limited resources, and he had been forced to abandon, temporarily at any rate, his high-level bombing tactics. In contrast, the Third Tactical Air Force and the Strategical Air Force had continued their operations on an ever-increasing scale.

Referring to the transfer of the entire Fifth Indian Division by Troop Carrier Command from the Arakan front to the Imphal plain, the speaker said that the success of this historic operation opened up new possibilities regarding the mobility of ground forces in an area where speedy transport was difficult, if not impossible.

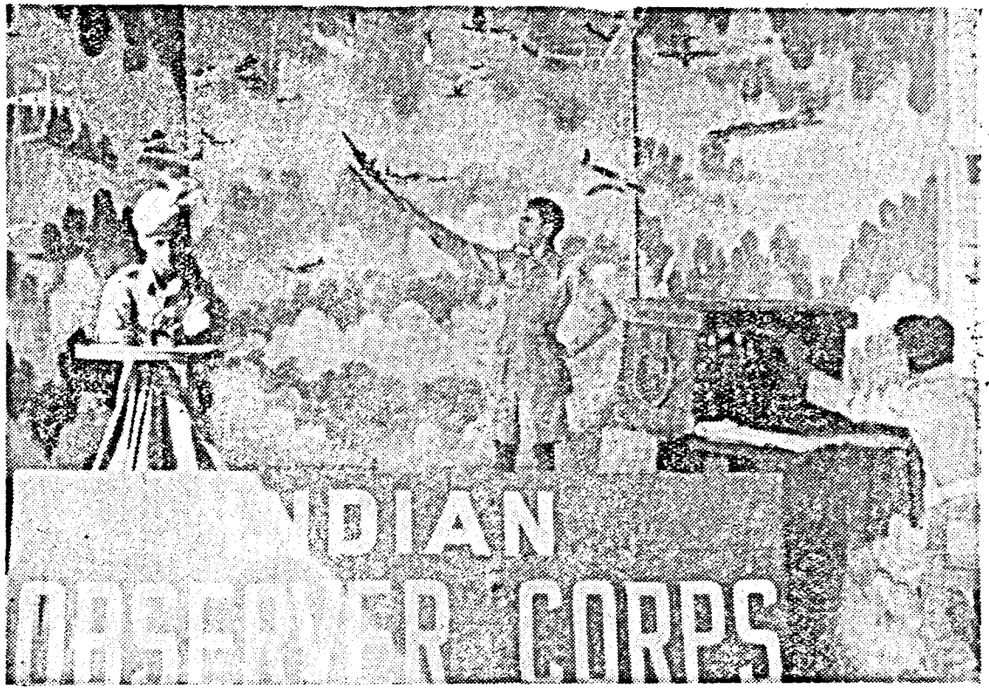
The odd intruders and lurking fighters which attempted to "interfere with the suburban train-like schedule of the transport aircraft carrying supplies to the Chindits and other forces which



Mullsh reluctance.

lie, like a cancer, deep inside the Japanese body" were dealt with by fighter escorts and air umbrellas over the enemy's home bases.

"The Japanese Air Force may attempt a face-saving comeback", concluded the speaker, "but the longer Tojo leaves it the more tremendous the task facing his forces."



The Indian Observer Corps section at the War Services Exhibition illustrates every aspect of the work of the Corps.

THEY SEARCH THE SKIES FOR JAP RAIDERS

SERVING with our forces on the Burma front are the highly trained personnel of the Indian Observer Corps who act as spotters of approaching enemy aircraft.

Taking over this work from the ground observers of the R.A.F. who have been released for other work, these men perch themselves on jungle-clad hill-tops and other vantage points to provide our forces with early warning of approaching enemy planes. Inside India, they collaborate with the civil defence authorities in a similar capacity.

Owing to the varying terrain of the country and to the shortage of telephone and telegraphic equipment, the Indian Observer Corps works by wireless, using mobile wireless observer companies. They have, on occasions, been the only communicating link between our forward units and rear formations.

In order efficiently to carry out the duties of plotting, "telling" and recording at the I.O.C. Centres, a reasonable standard of education is expected from recruits to the Corps. They undergo a very full programme of training including a "Battle-course". In the field, under the command of a senior N.C.O., the crews maintain their equipment in sound working order. As they often work in isolated positions they are well equipped with ammunition and rations.

Life in the Corps has plenty of variety and provides an opportunity to learn the trade of wireless operator and wireless mechanic which may be applied to civil employment in post-war India.

PERSIAN NATIONALS' GIFT

Persian Nationals of Kerman have made a further splendid contribution of over Rs. 24,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, of which over Rs. 23,000 have been contributed by residents of the Yezd area. H. E. the Viceroy has expressed his deep appreciation of these gifts.



Knitting comforts for troops.

WORK OF INDIAN COMFORTS FUND

BANANAS from Brazil are the latest additions to the food parcels despatched to Indian prisoners of war in Europe. They are sent in the form of flakes—8 ozs. per prisoner every week—the supplies coming free from the Government of Brazil.

The number of Indian prisoners in German hands able to be "serviced" by the Indian Comforts Fund remains 11,500. During 13 weeks, ended April 29, 1944, states the Quarterly Report of the Fund, 142,874 food parcels were packed and sent to Geneva for Indian prisoners who also received 6,240 half-yearly next of kin clothing parcels. A further consignment of Indian games and musical instruments received from India has also been dispatched to Indian prisoners. The report adds that evidence continues to be received that parcels of food, clothing, tobacco and other amenities are reaching the prisoners' camps regularly.

Entertainments

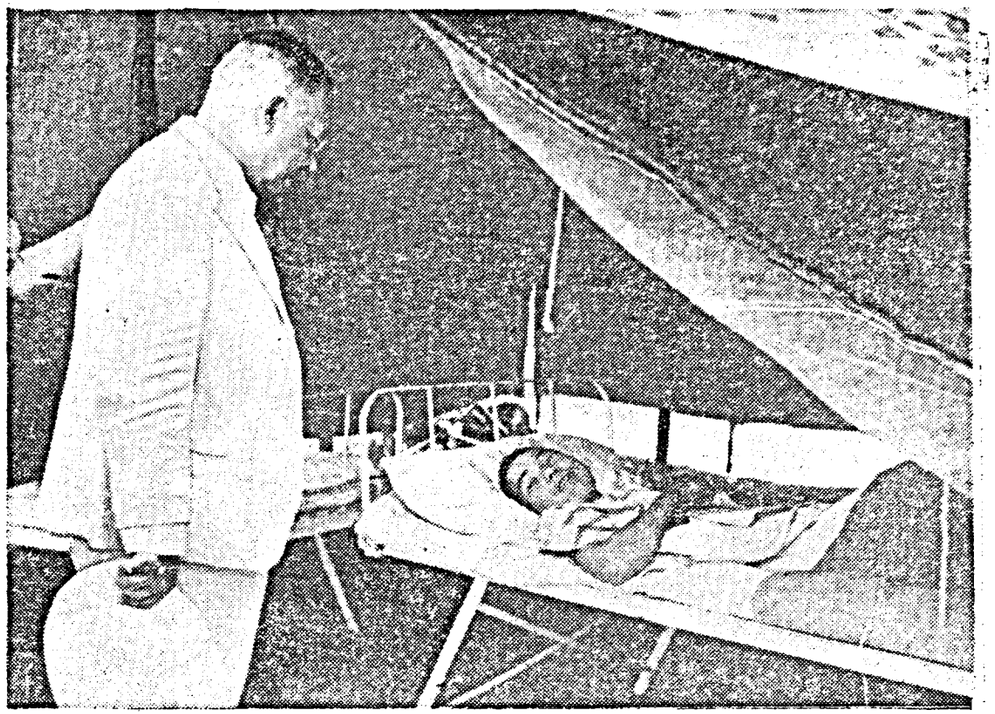
For the Indian seamen, the Fund distributed, during the period, 6,789 bundles of clothing, while entertainments were continued for them at the ports when opportunity offered. Indian seamen patients in hospitals were not forgotten and special comforts, games and hospital bags were sent to them. The usual supplementary clothing was issued when a new large batch of Bevin Boys arrived in England during March.

The work of the Indian Comforts Fund continues to receive public attention and in this year's Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy there is a picture by Flora Lion, R.P.S., of a corner of the food packing centre at the India House. A number of distinguished visitors including H.H. the Maharaja of Kashmir, the Hon'ble Sir Firoz Khan Noon and the Argentine Ambassador visited the Fund during the period under review.

The balance in favour of the Fund on April 30, 1944, was £23,865. The War Organisation of the Indian Red Cross and St. John now finance all the work of the Indian Comforts Fund in connection with Indian prisoners of war in Europe.

FIVE-YEAR PUBLICATION PROGRAMME

The Government of India have appointed Mr. R. P. Patwardhan, Poona, Dr. B. A. Saletore, Ahmedabad, Professor Mohammad Habib, Aligarh, and Dr. T. G. P. Spear, New Delhi, as the Honorary Editors for Volumes 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the Fort William and India House Correspondence to be published under Scheme I of the Five-Year Publication Programme of the Imperial Record Department.



Sir Sultan Ahmed stops at the bedside of a wounded Jap prisoner during his recent visit to the Burma front.

PRISONERS OF WAR INQUIRY CENTRE

TO assist relatives and friends of prisoners of war and interned civilians in the Far East to obtain official information on subjects affecting their interests, the Government have opened a special bureau at the Prisoners of War Inquiry Centre at Curzon Street House. This bureau is intended particularly to advise relatives and friends who are not certain which department to address in order to obtain such information as is available.

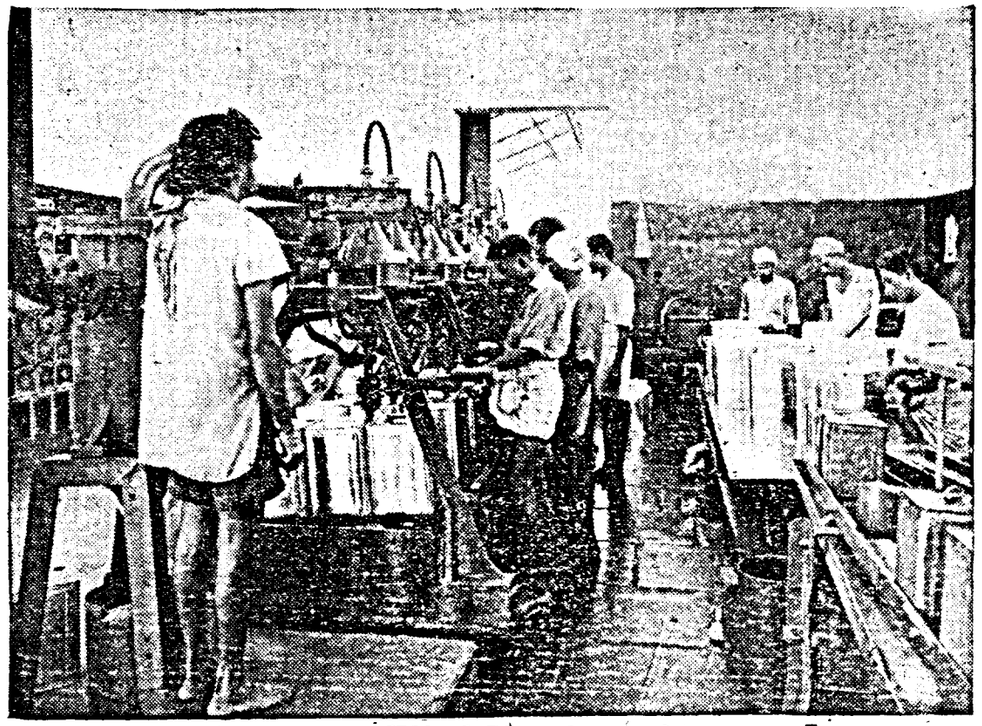
Inquiries, whether by personal call or letter, will be dealt with as quickly as possible. **Correspondence should be addressed to the Prisoners of War Far East Inquiry Centre, Curzon Street House, Curzon Street, London, W.1.** Inquiries about individual prisoners of war and their camp addresses and general matters relating to their own service or territory will continue to be dealt with, as heretofore, by the department administering the service or territory to which a prisoner of war belongs.

A handbook for the information of relatives and friends of prisoners of war and interned civilians in the Far East is being prepared and when available a copy will be sent free to each recorded next of kin. The handbook will be on sale to the public.

"NASIRABAD"

The inhabitants of Nasirabad (Baluchistan) have just completed the collection, within a few months, of Rs. 70,000 for a Spitfire to be called "Nasirabad." Zamindars, both rich and poor, and all the officials serving in the Sub-Division, contributed. Nasirabad is also growing rice for the famine areas of India.

Under existing war conditions, money orders cannot be sent to Royal Indian Navy personnel serving afloat, or in shore establishments whose postal address is care of a Fleet Mail Office. The most convenient method of remitting money in such cases is by postal order.



A filling machine in a big oil installation in South India. Four-gallon tins are being filled with kerosene oil.

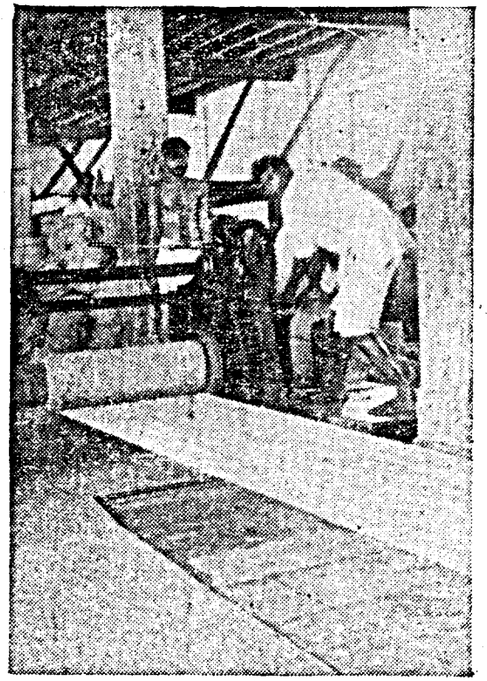
PROGRESS OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

THE April issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research* contains a large number of articles of special interest to Indian Industries.

Among the investigations carried out under the auspices of the Council of Sceintific and Industrial Research in India, mention may be made of the preparation of photographic sensitisers. Six sensitisers of special value to the manufacture of photographic plates have been produced from materials available in the country. Two, designated "Sensitine D" and "Sensitine Q", are new to the industry and have been reported for the first time. Both are powerful orthochromatic sensitisers.

The increasing application of plastics in industry has necessitated the discovery of new plastics answering a variety of exacting requirements. The future of the plastics industry in India depends largely on the production of new plastics, possessing different mechanical and physical properties, including resistance to solvents and other chemicals. The utilisation of horn wastes, available in large quantities as a by-product from a number of cottage industries producing buttons, combs, umbrella handles, etc., as a raw material for the plastics industry has been investigated in great detail in the laboratories of the Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, with spectacular results. One of the products developed, SHP-71, possesses remarkably good mechanical and physical properties, and the process developed for its production is now being commercially exploited by a firm in South India.

Immature coconuts and coir find a variety of industrial applications. A commercial process for the production of hard boards from immature coconuts has been developed under the auspices of the Ceylon Coconut Board. The material, called "Coconite", possesses excellent heat and sound insulating properties and can be used with advantage for the interior panelling of railway coaches and public buildings and also for the production of gin-washers required



Coir bags and matting are in great demand for the fighting forces. Here, coir matting is being stretched under great pressure to test its strength.

by the textile industry. From the coir, excellent shock-proof packing materials and hard boards, resembling "masonite", can be produced. The raw materials required are available abundantly in Ceylon and South India and their utilisation for the manufacture of several useful products, for which there is a considerable internal market, opens a new field for the development of the coconut plantation by-product industry.

Substitutes for Kerosene Oil

The prevailing scarcity of kerosene oil for civilian use has necessitated the development of substitute illuminants. Systematic investigations on vegetable oils, carried out in the laboratories of the Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, have established the suitability of blends of vegetable oils with either kerosene or fuel oil as illuminants, which can be used in the common hurricane lanterns and Miners' safety lamps. The development of these blends is of particular interest, as they will be useful not only in tiding over the present emergency period, but also in peacetime.

The introduction of the South African Wattle bark into the Indian tanning industry during the Great War of 1914-18, and the reasons which have led to its extensive adoption, resulting in the total displacement of the indigenous tanstuffs which were in vogue for centuries in India, constitute a story of absorbing interest. The story has its lessons, which should be taken advantage of for rehabilitating the indigenous industry. In an interesting article appearing in the Journal, Rai Bahadur B. M. Das has given a clear analysis of the situation, and has suggested various measures requiring immediate attention for restoring Indian tanstuff to their rightful place in the tanning industry. The need to establish a Central Tanning Research Institute with well-equipped chemical laboratories, a tannery and a workshop is stressed.

A survey of the lithium minerals in India, processes for the rot-proofing of heavy textiles, manufacture of calcium gluconate and purification of glass sands are among the other interesting articles appearing in the Journal.

The number also includes an article on the far-famed House of Tatas and a note on the grants announced by the Government of India and Tatas for the foundation of a network of national laboratories for the promotion of Scientific and Industrial Research in India.

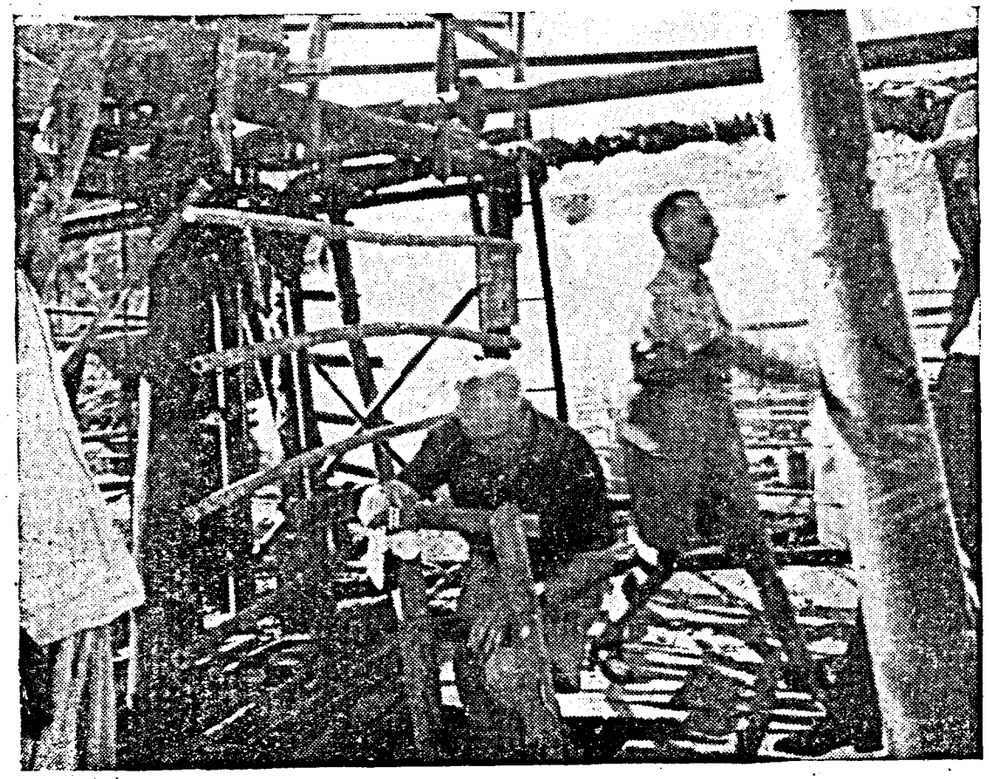
UROLAC

Investigation of the physical characteristics of modified lac resins has led to the development of a new composition designated Urolac containing urea and lac in definite proportions, which holds promise of finding extensive industrial applications.

Urolac is comparatively resistant to the action of dilute acids and alkalies and gives films showing uniformity of spread and thickness, which are rendered infusible by baking. The incorporation of urea raises the dielectric strength of lac films by about 20 per cent. The work relating to the production and properties of urolac is described in the May issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*.

The petrol shortage has led to a phenomenal increase in the number of producer-gas plants for use with transport vehicles in India. Several enterprising firms have started the fabrication of plants for operation with charcoal. The need for testing these plants and tendering scientific advice to manufacturers for improving them was recognised by the Road Branch of the Department of War Transport some time ago. The first station was established in Madras. A Central Testing Station for testing plants and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)



H.E. the Viceroy at the Kodarma mica mines in Bihar

MEASURES TO ORGANISE INDIA'S MICA INDUSTRY

TO deal with the immediate problems of India's mica industry, the Central Government have amended the Mica Control Order, 1940. The objects of this amendment are to prevent thieving and illicit trade in stolen mica, to improve the administrative machinery and to vest the Provincial Governments with a certain amount of discretionary authority in granting dealers' and miners' licences.

The amendments, as published in the *Gazette of India*, dated June 3, 1944, provide, in the first place, for the appointment, by the Bihar Government, of a Mica Controller who will take over all duties now performed by the District Magistrate in connection with the Mica Industry in Bihar. The Provincial Government will appoint an Advisory Committee to advise the Controller on all matters connected with the administration of the Control Order.

Under these amendments the sale or transfer of crude or block mica which has not been sorted into certain prescribed sizes mentioned in the amending Order has been prohibited. It is hoped that this step will enable Government to overcome one of the major obstacles in the healthy development of India's mica industry, *i.e.*, the problem of theft resulting in illicit trade in mica.

The amendments further provide for raising the initial fees and the renewal fees for licences and certificates payable under the existing order. The object of this provision is to prevent the growth of small dealers who cannot be expected to have any substantial stake in the industry and who may directly or indirectly encourage thieving and other predatory habits.

The multiplicity of the licensees' agents is another difficulty in the way of efficient control of the mica trade to-day. It is felt that a large



The cutting of mica to the required shape is done mostly by women and children.

number of agents who have no long-term interest in the mica trade is a menace to the industry. The amending Order empowers the Mica Controller to verify that "all operations under a proprietor's certificate or under a miner's and dealer's licence are carried on *bona fide* on behalf of, and for account of, the proprietor or licensee concerned."

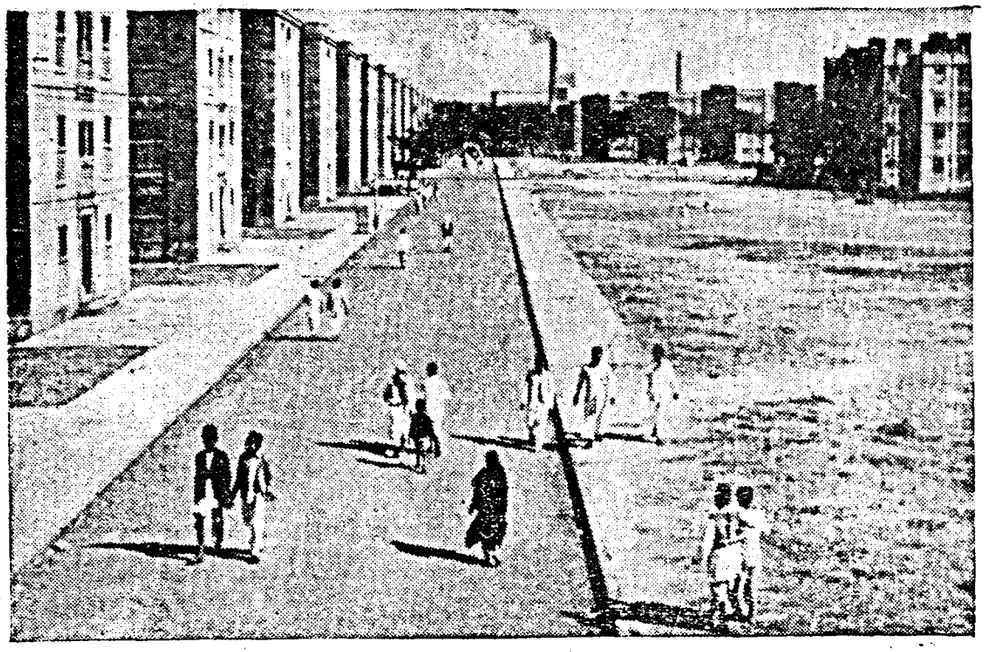
The Provincial Government, who had so far no effective control over the licensee or the certificate holder, have now been vested with discretionary authority to cancel a miner's or a dealer's licence. There is, however, no intention of using this authority arbitrarily and it has been provided in the amendments that before cancelling any licence the Provincial Government will give an opportunity to the licensee or the proprietor to show cause why his licence should not be cancelled, said a Press Note issued by Labour Department on June 3.

LATEST FOOD INDEX NUMBER

The Economic Adviser's All-India Index of Wholesale Prices of Food Articles (New Series: Base—last week of August 1939) worked out to 228.4 for the week ended June 10, 1944, as against 227.9 for the previous week, said a Press Note issued by the Economic Adviser's Office, Government of India, on June 23.



A miner easing out a "book" of mica.



Bombay City Workers' "Chawls." These are of concrete and each contains about 80 rooms.

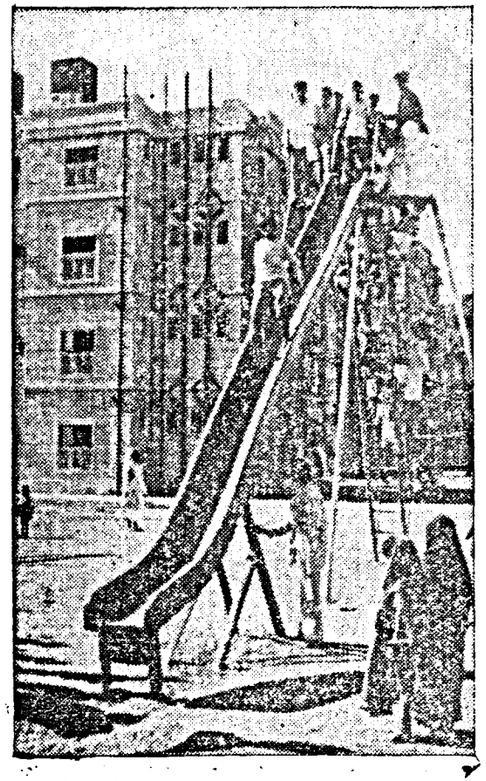
SOCIAL SECURITY MEASURES FOR INDIAN LABOUR

A GENERAL *questionnaire,* intended to collect factual data for evolving a plan of social security for India's industrial labour, has been issued by the Labour Investigation Committee, appointed by the Central Government, to various Provincial Governments, Chief Commissioners, Labour Commissioners, All-India Employers' and Labour Organisations, Universities and other educational institutions.

The *questionnaire* covers labour problems like existing labour legislation, wages and earnings, employment, working conditions, migration, indebtedness, age and mortality statistics and welfare activities. At the same time it seeks to elicit official and non-official opinion on the risks of insecurity arising in the case of industrial labour, and on the various security measures, such as health insurance, unemployment insurance, invalidity pensions, old-age pensions, widows and orphans pensions, industrial insurance, maternity insurance, etc. The recipients of the *questionnaire* are asked to mention difficulties which they foresee in the way of the introduction of social security measures for workers in India and to say whether a programme of social security is unattainable on the grounds of finance.

Earlier in the *questionnaire* the Labour Investigation Committee have asked for information on surveys of labour conditions undertaken in Provinces or States, and have invited opinion on the legislative measures for the regulation of labour conditions which are of fundamental importance as a condition precedent to the formulation of a social security programme.

Inquiries into wages and earnings have been framed to secure information regarding the basic wage rate for different types of workers, the changes that have taken place in these rates, the principles underlying the fixation of basic wages, allowances and bonuses paid in addition to the basic wages, attempts to standardise the wage rate and the effects of efficiency schemes on employment, wage rates, earnings, production and working conditions. There are 16 questions covering the problem of employment and dealing with aspects like day-to-day relationship between employer and worker, modes of recruitment, labour turn-over, absenteeism, promotion, and holidays and leave with pay.



Children's playground near the workers' tenements in Bombay is a very live place out of school hours.

In addition to this general *questionnaire,* the Committee propose to issue a few special *questionnaires* in regard to certain specific industries. Information will also be collected through sample and *ad hoc* surveys to be conducted in various industrial centres.

CONTROL OF RECRUITMENT OF LABOUR

By a Notification published in the *Gazette of India,* dated June 9, 1944, the Central Government have directed that Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules is applicable "for controlling the recruitment and employment of labour in such areas as may be specified in the Order, with a view to securing that sufficient workers are available for essential undertakings."

This amendment will, in the first instance, enable the authorities to take further steps to control the recruitment of colliery labour by contractors, and to maintain colliery labour in adequate numbers in the coalfields, said a Press Note issued by Labour Department on June 9.

INDUSTRIAL STOPPAGES IN BRITISH INDIA

Two hundred and twenty-three industrial stoppages involving 1,06,791 workers and resulting in the loss of 5,16,400 man-days, occurred in British India during the second quarter of 1943 as against 128 stoppages involving 1,17,332 workers and resulting in the loss of 8,21,341 man-days in the corresponding quarter of the previous year.

During the year under review there were three stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers. Ten thousand or more man-days were lost in seven stoppages. Textile (cotton, silk, woollen and jute) mills accounted for 39 per cent of the total number of stoppages, 69 per cent of the workers involved and 74 per cent of the man-days lost.

In 137 stoppages, or 61 per cent of the total, the demands related mainly to wages or bonus. The number of stoppages in which the workers were wholly or partially successful was 112, or 52 per cent of the total number of stoppages which ended during the quarter and 44 per cent of the workers were wholly unsuccessful.

INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

for research on gas-producers was recently started in the laboratories of the Director of Scientific and Industrial Research. An article appearing in the Journal describes the main features of producer-gas plants, and the testing equipment, and gives the results of tests on 37 plants manufactured by 13 different firms.

The mode of occurrence of garnets, their distribution in India and Burma, industrial uses, tests and specifications for abrasive garnets and production and prospects for an abrasive industry in India, are described in detail in an article appearing in the Journal.

No systematic effort appears to have been made, so far, to develop an abrasive industry, although garnet sands suitable for employment as abrasive occur in abundance in Bihar, Madras and Ajmer-Merwara. Hundreds of thousands of tons of garnet, it is believed, are thrown away in dumps during the mining of manganese ores. Prospects for an abrasive industry are bright, and any attempt to organise such an industry has every chance of success.

A call to industrialists to organise Co-operative Industrial Research Association is made in an editorial.

INDIA SUPPORTS THE PHILADELPHIA CHARTER

AN account of the part played by India in achieving the ideals of the International Labour Organisation and in developing a forward labour policy was given at the 26th Session of the International Labour Conference at Philadelphia, on April 25, 1944, by Sir Samuel Runganadhan and the Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Prior, Delegates of the Government of India.

An important result of this conference was the Philadelphia Charter, a declaration of the aims and the principles which should inspire the policy of I.L.O. members. SIR SAMUEL RUNGANADHAN said:

I consider it a great priviiege to take part in the deliberations of the International Labour Conference at this important and historic Session. This Session of the Conference is of peculiar importance because we are endeavouring to re-state the essential aims of the International Labour Organisation in order to bring them in closer accord with the needs of the present and post-war world, to define the future policy and programmes of the I.L.O., and to equip the Organisation as an effective instrument of international collaboration so as to enable it to make major contribution to the solution of the complex problems of post-war reconstruction. The Organisation, as you are aware, has a past history of solid achievement behind it, and it is our duty at this Session so to prepare the ground that, in the years to come, in those years in which the I.L.O. will have duties to perform more important than ever before, it shall be suitably equipped to carry out those duties. The Conference is, therefore, of such importance that I would have liked the Government of India to have been given a longer time in which to consider the reports prepared by the Office, and to come to their decisions, and I hope that this may be possible in future.

Philadelphia Charter

I welcome, and in this matter I speak with the authority of the Government of India, I welcome the proposal to reaffirm in the form of a solemn declaration the fundamental principles on which the International Labour Organization is based. Article 41 of the Constitution affirmed the principles which have been the guiding policy of the I.L.O. during the past quarter of a century and which have stood out in our respective countries as a goal to the attainment of which we all aspire. But with the lapse of time, it is necessary to reaffirm those principles, not only because by doing so we bring again into prominence a statement of policy which all must recognise as a means of establishing, in the words of the Atlantic Charter, "peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want," but we must reaffirm them also because it is necessary to specify those principles in greater detail, and to add, where necessary, matters which progress in our social thinking has shown must necessarily be included in any statement of social policy.

It is right and proper that the reaffirmation of the principles should be in the form of a solemn declaration, and that the declaration should be accepted by all Governments as the goal at which they must aim.

But just as in Article 41 it was recognised that "differences of climate, habits and customs, of economic opportunity and industrial tradition make strict uniformity in the conditions of labour difficult of immediate attainment," so it is necessary in our declaration to make it clear that it is a target which is desirable that all countries should reach as quickly as possible, but which, owing to those differences, some nations may take longer to attain than others. As I have said, the Government of India welcome the framing of this declaration and consider its adoption at this Session most opportune.

India and I. L. O.

India has, during the last 25 years, fully supported the ideals and principles laid down by the I.L.O., despite difficulties arising from the great size of our country, from its low standard of living, from its lack of industrial development, and from the number of Governments of which it is composed. We have ratified many Conventions, and where ratification has not been possible, we have endeavoured to legislate and direct our social policy and labour policy in accordance with the principles underlying those Conventions in so far as the conditions of our country make this possible.

We continually keep under review the possibility of further ratifications and of surmounting difficulties which may stand in the way of ratification, and we shall welcome any assistance which the I.L.O. can give us in this task. For this reason, we welcome the proposal that the fullest information shall be given to the I.L.O. as to what we are doing in regard to Conventions which we have been unable so far to ratify, and as to our difficulties in regard to them, because we believe that by so doing we shall secure valuable assistance in helping us to meet those difficulties. Further, we should welcome the strengthening, whether in India or in Montreal, of that part of the Office of the I.L.O. which deals with matters relating to India.

I must now pass on to mention briefly what is not only a measure of our present difficulties in labour matters, but also a great opportunity for the future of the world. I refer to the immensity of our population and to its low standard of living. The latest census figures give a total population in India (British India and the States) of nearly 400 millions—a vast number, but with a per capita income, and consequently a standard of living, extremely low by Western standards.

The Indian delegate, Sir Shanmukham Chetty, in the 1941 Conference emphasised how much the collective prosperity of the world depended on raising the standards of living of the vast millions of Asia. He pointed out that "the strength of a chain is in its weakest link. The appalling poverty of the masses in India and in China and in other Asiatic countries is today the weakest link in the chain of international economy. It will be the task of this great Organisation to strengthen that weak link in the years to come. I hope and trust that the labours of this Organisation will be devoted more pointedly and more earnestly to this great task." And again he said that "the economic stability of the world depends on the prosperity and the purchasing power of the vast agricultural masses."

I wish again to emphasise these points. They are, to my mind, points that all members present here should keep in the forefront of their minds; that they are of the utmost importance, not only to those Asiatic countries, but to the world as a wnole. The Honourable Minister for Supply and Shipping of Australia in the course of his speech yesterday, stated that "the critical factor controlling the raising of the standards of living and the level of trade throughout the world will be the kind of domestic policies which are followed by the larger economies, such as the United States of America and the United Kingdom."

Duty of I.L.O.

In my view, it is more important that the domestic and foreign policies followed by the Asiatic countries, with their vast agricultural population, should be such as will ensure that the standards of living of those masses are raised, and that that large body of persons become, as they should be, large consumers of the world's productive capacity, which we know is fully adequate to meet all requirements.

It is only thus, in my opinion, that we shall be able to absorb the world's maximum production. If we are to succeed in raising the per capita income and standard of living of those large masses, we can only do so by increasing employment, and we shall need the assistance of men of goodwill throughout the world.

It is here that the I.L.O. has, to my mind, a definite duty. It has a duty to ensure that the principles which it enunciates are secured. It is its duty to ensure that at all international conferences, with whatever subject they may be dealing, the main ultimate objective of securing, in the words of the Atlantic Charter "improved labour standards, economic advancement and social security" is kept prominently before those responsible for settling the policy of those conferences. That is, the I.L.O. must take on, as suggested by the British Foreign Secretary, the duties of an organisation responsible for the implementation of Article V of the Atlantic Charter. It must be the watchdog in the world of international policy in the interests of social policy and full employment.

It is, however, necessary, that the I.L.O. should be careful how it performs this duty. It has a right to ask to be present at all international conferences at which economic matters are discussed, as such matters must necessarily have a bearing on social policy and full employment. The Governing Body has already secured for us representation along these lines in the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, and we must continue to press for further representation on other bodies.

Economic and Monetary Decisions

But the I.L.O. should not ask to be allowed itself to make decisions on economic and monetary matters—to do so would be to go outside the field in which its unique structure makes it peculiarly competent to take positions. The duty of the I.L.O. in relation to economic, monetary and cognate matters, is to point out through its representation at international conferences—and the nature of the representation would vary with the nature of the conferences—the probable effects on social policy and full employment of the proposed decisions. It is the duty of the I.L.O. to point out those effects fearlessly, recognising its responsibility. It is its further duty to take cognisance of such decisions, whether in Governing Body or in full Conference, and to ask where necessary for a joint discussion in some form of sub-committee, where this seems necessary.

But it should go no further and should leave the final decisions to those who by their experience are fully competent to take them.

I have just referred to the unique structure of our Organisation. I mean, of course, its tripartite constitution. I regard this as the essence of the strength of our Organisation, and as the main reason why it has been able to hold its own through the years and perform work of such value to all peoples. Therefore, while I

agree with the Government delegate from Australia that full employment must be the cornerstone of any post-war policy, I would regard it as a step both retrograde and inadvisable that our Organisation should, in effect, as he proposes, abdicate its tripartite function and hand over a policy in regard to which it has already, as he has shown, done much in the past, to a body composed solely of Government delegates.

Regional Conferences

It remains for me to mention briefly two further proposals which, it is hoped, will increase the influence of the I.L.O., and help it in carrying out its objectives. I refer to the proposals for industrial committees and regional conferences. I welcome in principle the proposal for industrial committees, and I share the view of those who hold it important to enlist "that most powerful bond of unity between men and women which comes from working in the same industry or occupation." I cannot, however, see any advantage in discarding our tripartite organisation in the creation of such committees. There may be some technical matters which are better considered by employers and workers together, without the presence of Government representatives. But, if so, as the Office suggests, tripartite industrial committees should, in such matters, operate through bipartite subcommittees.

The Government of India also support in principle the proposals for regional conferences, and are in favour of holding an Asiatic regional conference as soon as conditions permit, though details will need careful consideration. They believe that such a conference will be of value on co-ordinating progress, in pooling experience and in mutual discussion of difficulties.

India's Tripartite Organisation

They are already themselves taking such steps as they can to achieve similar results in India itself. India is a vast country, containing a number of large provinces and States with autonomous powers in labour matters, and with problems that may vary from province to province. The Government of India have, accordingly, set up a Tripartite Labour Conference at which are expressed the views of employers and workers and of representatives of those provinces and States. There is at the meetings of that Conference, and its standing labour committee, a pooling of experience, mutual discussions of proposals, and a direct common approach to the various problems that arise. The Government of India believe that the setting up of this tripartite organisation, following on the lines of the International Labour Organisation here, will have the effect of co-ordinating labour policy in India, and that the mutual discussion which takes place among government, workers and employers, will lead to a better understanding of the problems that may arise, a better solution of those problems, and a better standard of administration.

As a result of the resolution passed at the last plenary session of the Tripartite Conference, a special Committee has been set up to hold a factual enquiry into labour conditions throughout India. *As soon as that is completed, a planning committee will be set up to frame a social security policy.* Meanwhile, progress is being made in the immediate framing of a scheme for sickness insurance, which it is hoped will shortly be ready for consideration.

Reconstruction Planning

Furthermore, the Government of India are also paying close attention to reconstruction. A Post-War Reconstruction Committee was set up at an early stage of the war, and the machinery for reconstruction planning was reorganised in 1943, and a strong organisation, with which non-officials are associated, is giving close attention to the problem and has already made progress in some aspects of post-war planning. A Health Survey and Development Committee has been set up, with terms of reference covering a wide field, and is in process of making its enquiry. *Our present Viceroy, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, has already, in one of his recent speeches, stated that he places the task of social reconstruction as one of the immediate aims of his policy.* India, therefore, recognises the problem it has to face, is thinking for itself and making plans under the guidance of the general policy laid down by the I.L.O. But the Government of India support the proposal for regional conferences because they believe that such conferences of Asiatic peoples (whose importance to the whole future of the world, as I have stressed in the earlier part of my speech, is so very great)—these conferences of Asiatic peoples must be useful in giving guidance as to the manner in which those parts of the policy of the I.L.O. which cannot at once be carried out in their entirety in Asiatic countries can be so adapted as to secure the maximum progress towards the end which we all desire—the provision and maintenance of full employment and full security for the whole population of all countries of the world.

I conclude, therefore, with the hope that in spite of minor differences of opinion, the present Conference will unanimously accept the solemn declaration which has been placed before it, as one embodying the future policy of this great Organisation, and one which might well be regarded as a world charter of social rights for peoples of all countries.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

U. K. MISSION TO ADVISE INDIA ON MANUFACTURE OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZERS

A TECHNICAL MISSION from the United Kingdom, headed by Mr. G. S. GOWING, of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., together with one other member of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd., and one of the Power-Gas Corporation Ltd., the latter representing the Association of British Chemical Plant Manufacturers, is now on a visit to India to advise on the production of artificial fertilizers for increasing food supplies. The Mission, acting for the Government of India, will undertake the following:

(*i*) Investigate and report to the Government of India on the technical problems involved in the manufacture of Sulphate of Ammonia in British India in quantities up to 350,000 tons per annum.

(*ii*) Recommend, in the light of the raw materials and power available in India, the most economic method of manufacture.

(*iii*) Indicate the approximate capital cost of the plant or plants to be installed, and calculate the approximate cost of operations and production of finished Sulphate of Ammonia.

(*iv*) Recommend the most suitable site or sites for the erection of the plants concerned, taking into account the raw materials available and the most economic distribution of the finished products.

(*v*) Estimate the amount and approximate value of plant which it will be necessary to import from outside India making the fullest possible use of materials and labour available in India.

(*vi*) If, for any reason, it should appear that nitrogenous fertilizer, in a form other than Sulphate of Ammonia, can be more satisfactorily manufactured under Indian conditions generally or locally, consider and recommend from a technical point of view, the most economic method of manufacture of such alternative fertilizer.

(*vii*) Estimate the capital and operating cost of manufacture of such alternative nitrogenous fertilizer.

DISCUSSION WITH COMMITTEE

To receive the Technical Mission the Government of India appointed a Committee with Sir James Pitkeathly, Officer on Special Duty, Department of Supply, as Chairman and with the following as Members:

Mr. R. W. Targett, Director General of Supply; Mr. S. C. Roy, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner with the Government of India; Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Director of Statistics, Department of Food; Dr. L. E. G. Clegg, Director, Geological Survey of India; Mr. H. M. Mathews, Electrical Commissioner with the Government of India; Sir T. Vijayaraghavachariar (Prime Minister, Udaipur State) on behalf of the Chamber of Princes; Sir Gopalaswamy Ayengar, Chairman, Travancore Chemical and Fertilizer Co., Joint representatives of Travancore and Mysore; Sir Jnan Chandra Ghosh, Director, Indian Institute of Science; Mr. Kapilram H. Vakil, Managing Director, Tata Chemicals Ltd.; Mr. P. R. Crerar, Director of Chemicals, Department of Supply; Dr. M. S. Patel, Deputy Director, Chemical Directorate, Department of Supply; Mr. C. C. Broughton, Works Manager, Cordite Factory. Mr. J. B. Langford, I.C.S., Deputy Secretary, Department of Supply, will be Secretary to the Committee.

After preliminary discussions with the Committee and examination of the statistics and information, which have been collected in advance by the Departments of Government, the Mission will proceed on tour, and will visit those areas and sites, which may be considered suitable for the erection of plants and the economic manufacture and distribution of artificial fertilizers.

The Provinces will be associated with the Mission through their selected representatives, who will deal with all enquiries and tours, and will prepare and submit any suggestions and information desired to be placed before the Mission.

REQUEST TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

The Central Government have asked the Provincial Governments to collect information which may be useful to the Mission in its investigations. The points on which information is particularly required are: probable localities and sites for factories; availability, sources and probable costs of raw materials (anhydrite or gypsum, hard coke and steam coal); availability of water, electric power and transport facilities, availability of both unskilled and skilled labour, their wage rates and housing arrangements;

local demand for products; and workshop facilities available to undertake the manufacture and maintenance of engineering plant and equipment.

Information thus collected will be placed at the disposal of the Technical Mission during their visits to various Provincial centres and Indian States. The Mission, accompanied by Sir James Pitkeathly and Mr. Broughton, is expected to visit Patna, the coalfields in Bihar, Calcutta, Tatanagar, Cuttack, Madras, Aruvankadu, Kirkee, Bombay. The two Indian States included in their tour programme are Mysore and Hyderabad.

The Mission

The leader of the Mission, Mr. G. S. GOWING, has been for some years past Works Manager of a large ammonia plant in the United Kingdom. He has been associated with the development of nitrogen fixation at Billingham since 1924 and was responsible for the designing and starting of an ammonia plant in South Africa. MESSRS. T. H. RILEY and J. RIGG, the two other members of the Mission, have considerable experience in designing, erecting and working nitrogen fixation plants. Mr. Riley has paid visits to Japan, Australia, Canada and France.

Mr. Rigg has been associated with the designing, erection and running of nitrogen fixation plants in the United Kingdom in the large parent factory of Imperial Chemical Industries, and several other plants which the Imperial Chemical Industries have built for war purposes. He was Deputy Works Manager of a large sulphate of ammonia factory, designed and built by Imperial Chemical Industries.

INCREASED RAILWAY TRAFFIC EARNINGS

The Railway Board's latest traffic returns show a continued increase in earnings, the figures of Class I Railways (Budget Lines) from the beginning of the financial year to May 10, showing an increase of Rs. 1.86 crores or 9.49 per cent more than the actuals for the corresponding months of last year. These figures show that railways are continuing to improve on their operating performance.

The total number of broad and metre-gauge wagons loaded has increased by 2.9 per cent. The tonnage lifted remains approximately the same but military movements are increasing at the expense of civil traffic. The bulk of the increased earnings, however, appears to be due to increased movements of military personnel and of passengers.

CONTROL OF CAPITAL ISSUES

A PRESS Note issued by the Government of India on June 9, 1944, stated:

Experience shows that the definition of securities in Defence of India Rule 94-A relating to the control of capital issues has not been easy to understand owing mainly to the fact that it begins with the word "includes"; and the Government of India have decided to substitute a more precise definition which will convey their intentions without ambiguity.

The one now adopted may be described in popular language as covering, on the one hand, not only shares, stocks and debentures but also all documents creating secured loans and as excluding, on the other hand, documents relating to unsecured loans. The occasion of this amendment has been taken to republish the whole Rule and the exemption order issued under it in a revised and consolidated form. Most of the amendments made may be regarded as formal drafting changes; but apart from the revision of the definition of securities, attention should be drawn to another change.

Companies incorporated outside British India may refrain from seeking consent to the issue in British India of the whole of an issue of shares, but at present in the absence of such formal consent, the shares issued outside British India cannot be sold to or bought by any person in British India. Provision has, therefore, been made for the grant of recognition to issues made outside British India, and for the exclusion of securities that receive such recognition from the ban on dealings in them in British India.

It need hardly be said that recognition will not be granted to any issue which would not have received consent if that had been applied for. The only change in the exemption order that calls for mention is the simplification of the wording of the order relating to securities issued to banks to cover overdrafts, etc.

COMPANIES REGISTERED IN INDIAN STATES

The Government of India have decided that every application for the consent of the Central Government to an issue of capital by a company registered in an Indian State which has introduced its own control over Capital Issues should be accompanied by a statement whether an application has been made to the State authority relating to the same issue of capital and what that authority's orders, if already passed, have been, said a Press Note issued by Finance Department on June 9, 1944.

PROFITEERING: RIGID ENFORCEMENT OF ORDINANCE

WHEN the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance was first promulgated, it was the general, if not universal, belief that it would remain mere paper legislation and that such omnibus control could not but prove ineffective and impracticable. Difficulties there were and still exist. It would be foolish to ignore them or even to minimise them, but it can be said, without undue optimism, that the fears and misgivings which were entertained at that time have by experience been found to be exaggerated. You would naturally expect me to give you some facts in support of my view, and I propose to do so in this talk.

Newspapers bear testimony that cases of hoarding and profiteering are being daily reported, investigated, detected and tried all over the country. There has been no discrimination, racial, political, communal or otherwise, in the selection of persons against whom the law has had to be set in motion. Firms which have been prosecuted include European firms of Calcutta, Lahore and Delhi and some leading Indian firms of Delhi, Lucknow, Lahore, Peshawar, Calcutta, Madras, Cawnpore, Ahmedabad and Bombay. We were told that the public would not be forthcoming with complaints, but fortunately this fear has also been proved wrong.

By Mr. C. C. Desai, I.C.S., Controller General of Civil Supplies

[*A broadcast from the Bombay station of All India Radio on June 13, 1944*]

We are daily receiving complaints from the public, including many ladies, and they have obviously not fought shy of lodging information. Difficulties in attending court as witnesses have not deterred victims of profiteering from handing over the guilty greedy. It is not that we receive complaints only from Government servants; it is not that we receive complaints only from Europeans; we receive complaints from all classes of people, Indian as well as European, rich as well as poor, individuals as well as firms.

The Press, which is highly critical of all Government controls, has been extremely sympathetic and helpful in giving publicity to, and in mobilising public opinion in support of, the control measures.

I have culled a few interesting court cases to show the tightening grip of the Ordinance. In the United Provinces alone, in a single month 217 cases were instituted under the Ordinance. Of these 199 have been decided so far, 168 resulting in convictions. Punishments in the United Provinces have been deterrent and the result has been more reasonable prices. In Delhi, 95 cases were registered during a period of 10 weeks. Of these, 28 have already been sent to courts. In some, the offenders have been sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment while in others, heavy fines have been imposed. In a single month, the Bombay Government sanctioned 35 prosecutions under the Ordinance. They included cases of over-charging, refusal to sell, failure to issue a cash memo and failure to exhibit price lists. The cases were drawn from all over the Province.

Most of the cases decided relate to profiteering. A fine of Rs. 1,000 was imposed on a shopkeeper of Bareilly for charging four annas extra on a packet of cigarettes. A cycle dealer was sentenced to a fine of Rs. 1,200 for charging 12 annas extra for a cycle tube and for refusing to issue a cash memo. A retail dealer in Bombay was fined 3,640 pice (Rs. 56-14-0) for charging one pice extra on a box of matches! In another case of overcharging by one pice, a fine of Rs. 700, or in default 2 months' rigorous imprisonment, was imposed.

A merchant in Ferozepur was sentenced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment for selling a piece of leather at double the control price. A dealer in Calcutta has just been sentenced to 3 months' rigorous imprisonment for selling some tins of Black and White cigarettes at Rs. 16 per tin against the controlled rate of Re. 1-14-0. The convictions of the Assistant Manager and Saleswoman of a European firm in Calcutta, for selling a fountain-pen at above the controlled rate resulted in the Assistant Manager being fined Rs. 500 and the Saleswoman being fined Rs. 100. An agency report from Lucknow recently said that the Ordinance was being rigidly enforced by the authorities over there. Three cases of arrests in a single day were mentioned. At Gorakhpur, a boy of 14 figured as the principal accused in a case of profiteering. He was found guilty, but was released under the First Offenders' Act on execution of a bond for better behaviour in future. The proprietor of the shop was sentenced to 4 months' imprisonment and fined Rs. 1,000. The offence was the sale of a tin of cigarettes at a profit of more than 100 per cent. *It is significant to add that the plea of the proprietor that he was absent from the shop at the time of the sale was of no avail to him.*

The proprietor of an electrical concern at Madras was sentenced a fortnight ago to undergo 3 months' rigorous imprisonment for selling electric bulbs at profits ranging from 450 per cent to 600 per cent. The proprietor of another firm was sentenced to a similar term of imprisonment on a similar charge. The trying magistrate observed: *"The accused sold his goods three weeks after purchase at prices which were atrociously in excess of what he had paid. The object of the Ordinance is to put down precisely this sort of gross anti-social conduct."*

Refusal to sell goods and to issue a cash memo are offences under the Ordinance. Observing that refusal to sell was an intolerable offence, as it meant that the customer must either yield to the greed of the profiteer or go without the article, a Delhi Magistrate sentenced a dealer to a fine of Rs. 1,000. The dealer had quoted an excessive price for a gramophone record album and on demand of a cash memo refused to sell the album at all. Similarly, a cycle dealer in another town was arrested for refusing to sell cycle spare parts which he had in stock. A dealer in Cawnpore was sentenced to pay a fine of Rs. 200 for refusing to issue a bill.

And, remember, shop assistants who aid and abet the guilty profiteer and who really act as the agent or the tool of the proprietor, will not escape punishment. A shopkeeper and his assistant in Calcutta were found guilty of selling a tin of boot polish for Rs. 1-9-0 as against the controlled price of 0-9-0. They were fined Rs. 500 and Rs. 100 respectively. The practice under the Ordinance is to prosecute both the proprietor and the salesman, one as the principal accused and the other as the abettor. *I hope the cases related by me are sufficient to carry conviction in any quarter as to the earnestness of Government to enforce this control rigidly and relentlessly.*

Price Inflation Checked

Ceiling prices have been announced under the Ordinance for a large number of consumer goods, such as woollen cloth, fountain-pens, cycles and cycle spare parts, photographic materials, cigarettes, artificial silk yarn, cartridges, electric bulbs, razor blades, radio valves and parts, boot polishes and, more recently, silk cloth. Before the promulgation of the Ordinance, prices had soared more than 300 per cent. for almost all these items; they exceeded even 500 per cent in the case of boot polishes, woollen goods and cartridges. The Ordinance aimed at checking this tide of price inflation and at bringing an appreciable reduction in prices in order to afford relief to the average consumer. The Ordinance has not been without its effect. The upward trend of prices has been definitely arrested and in many cases there has been a fair fall in prices. I have collected figures showing the percentage reduction so far effected over peak prices in the case of a number of items of which ceiling prices have been fixed under the Ordinance.

The average reduction in cycles and cycle parts has been 36 per cent, in fountain-pens 53 per cent, in woollen goods 54 per cent, in razor blades 55 per cent, in cartridges 55 per cent, and boot polishes 62 per cent over the prevailing pre-Ordinance prices.

Although these results could not but be viewed with satisfaction, I am free to admit that the current prices are still far above the pre-war levels or above the increases which have been allowed to take place in such countries as the United Kingdom, Australia, Canada and South Africa. It is not possible to attain the results achieved in those countries in view of the delay in starting this campaign against profiteering. It would be futile to try to force the prices down too far or too fast until the supply position improves and, secondly, until there is a corresponding fall in the cost of living all round.

"A Square Deal for All"

The intention of Government, let me emphasise here, is, as announced by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, at the time of the promulgation of the Ordinance, to operate the law in consultation with all interests concerned, particularly the trade and the consumer. We want a square deal for all. It is obvious that although the bulk of the mercantile community has been guilty of gross profiteering in the past, it serves a vital purpose in the economic life of the country. Without their advice and co-operation no control could be effective, howsoever strong and vigilant the enforcement machinery may be. Accordingly, a number of advisory and consultative trade panels have been constituted. They relate to wireless sets, books, woollen goods, silk fabrics, toilet goods, wines, fountain-pens, and arms and ammunition.

Two new panels relating to cycles and optical goods have recently been formed. More will be set up as the necessity for them is felt. Government have also set up a Central Consumers' Council composed of prominent non-official men and women.

So far I have spoken of what Government is doing to control the tendency to hoard and profiteer. I wish, however, to emphasise that all these efforts of Government would be of no avail unless public co-operation is forthcoming and fortunately for us it has been made available in larger and larger measure wherever we extend our operations. Our biggest headache, of course, is the black market. Here, too, public consciousness and public co-operation are the best solvent.

The public can co-operate, firstly, by refusing to buy anything at uncontrolled price except in a grave emergency, and, secondly, by giving information of every case in which an unreasonable or uncontrolled price has been charged. Constant vigilance against anti-social elements should be the public watchword.

To prevent leakage of goods into black markets, Government is likely to adopt in the near future a system of controlled distribution of goods, imported as well as indigenous. Consumer goods will be distributed to reliable traders so as to obviate chances of their leakage into black markets or of profiteering. When the scheme is actually launched, I shall explain it in greater detail.

Black Markets

But black markets will still persist in respect of old stocks. After all, black markets exist in all countries, including even those where public opinion is highly organised. I cling to the belief, even at the risk of being caricatured as an optimist in the Press, that, given public co-operation and public awakening, the black market can be reduced to minimum dimensions, in which state it could well be ignored.

Such are the facts and I have let them speak for themselves, because there is no better corrective to facile optimism or cynical despondence than hard, proved facts. I have toured extensively all over the country, from Shillong in the East to Peshawar in the West, gathering at first-hand the reactions of the different interests concerned. There is no gainsaying the fact that the grip of the Ordinance is getting tighter and tighter. Ours is an uphill task, but there will be no relenting, and the Ordinance will be evoked to the requirements of the country, without let or hindrance, without fear or favour.

RIGHTS OF OWNERSHIP OF NEWSPAPERS

The Government of India have issued an amendment to the Newspaper Control Order, 1942, prohibiting the acquisition of rights of ownership of newspapers except with the permission in writing of the Central Government previously obtained. This brings it into line with the Paper Control Order, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department on June 17, 1944.

INDIA'S IMPORTS FROM CANADA

FROM being of minor importance among Canada's principal export markets, India now places Canada in the fifth position among all the principal sources of her supply for 1942-43, according to a report by Mr. Paul Sykes, Canadian Trade Commissioner in Bombay.

"Current surveys relating to the maintenance or expansion of post-war Canadian trade with India," says Mr. Sykes, "may benefit to some extent from a review of recent changes in conditions in India and the effect which they may have on its eventual importance as a consumer of exportable Canadian goods."

"India," the report states, "is one of the leading trading nations of the world. For several years before the war, the average annual value of imports was 500,000,000 dollars and that of exports 6,00,000,000 dollars. Total trade values for 1938-39 and 1930-40, which were slightly higher than in preceding years, amounted to 1,050,000,000 dollars and 1,230,000,000 dollars respectively. These figures may be compared with Canada's total trade values for the calendar years 1938 and 1939 of 1,526,000,000 dollars and 1,687,000,000 dollars.

THE I. L. O. CONFERENCE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

MR. PRIOR, speaking from personal knowledge of the working of India's Tripartite Organisation, said: "This is perhaps a unique development and one which seems to us to be full of possibilities. We have to start by feeling our way; but the one yearly conference we held and the three quarterly conferences of the Standing Labour Committee are helping us not only to feel but to find our way. And, speaking for myself, I find each session that we hold more interesting than the last."

Mr. Prior assured the Conference that the Government of India were fully prepared to develop and were doing what they could to develop a forward labour policy to reach a stage at which they should be able to ratify more and more conventions and follow more and more recommendations. "But we do ask," he pleaded, "that those conventions and recommendations be framed for Asiatic countries to give us a target which is possible of attainment, a target perhaps well in advance, but a target which takes into account differences of national conditions. Conventions and recommendations framed otherwise lose for us realism and cease to be the spur for achievement that they should be."

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS MOTOR VEHICLES

A CENTRAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE and five Regional Committees have been set up by the Central Government to provide machinery for the active participation of industrial and commercial interests in the disposal of stocks of motor vehicles which are no longer required by the Defence Services and are available for civilian use. This machinery will enable Government to regulate the disposal of surplus stocks at reasonable prices with the minimum disturbance to the existing economy of the country and secure, at the same time, the most beneficial utilisation of the material available for disposal.

Under this scheme India has been divided into 5 zones, and a Regional Committee, consisting of 3 representatives of the motor industry and a representative of Supply Department, has been set up in each zone. The Regional Committee will function at the zonal centres, i.e., Lahore, Madras, Calcutta, Bombay and Cawnpore.

These Committees will act as technical advisers to Government and their functions will include classification of Mechanical Transport Vehicles into three categories: (*i*) vehicles that do not require extensive repairs but can be reconditioned; (*ii*) vehicles which are beyond economic repair but can be fabricated into trailers or bullock carts; and (*iii*) vehicles which can only be broken up and sold as scrap. They will, at the same time, allocate the work of repair, reconditioning, breakdown, etc., to dealers in their zones and will advise the Central Advisory Committee generally on local problems.

The Central Advisory Committee which is to function in Delhi, consists of a representative elected by each of the five Regional Committees and three representatives of Government nominated by the Supply, War Transport and Finance Departments.

The following non-official members have been appointed:

Mr. Ram Gidwaney (Messrs. Naraindas & Co.); Mr. P. Reid (Messrs. Simpson and Co., Ltd., Madras); Mr. H. N. Nicholls (Messrs. G. Mackenzie & Co.); Mr. Nurmahomed Chinoy (Bombay Garage), and, in his absence, Mr. S. J. MacCann, of Messrs. United Motors; Mr. Halwasia (Messrs. Bajoria Halwasia Co., Lucknow) ; Mr. B. O. Stevenson, General Manager, Ford Motor Co., of India, Bombay (in his absence, Mr. E. A. Sulley); Mr. E. S. Yocum, General Manager, General Motors (India) Ltd., Bombay and Mr. W. J. McCallum (Representative in India of Albion Motors).

The Central Advisory Committee will deal with all matters of policy in respect of disposal of vehicles which are no longer required by the Defence Services and will issue directions for their disposal to the Regional Committees. It will be empowered, *inter alia*, (*a*) to fix the rates at which vehicles shall be sold and/or reconditioned and all other financial arrangements, (*b*) to decide the executive duties, functions and procedure for Regional Committees, and generally to advise on all matters concerning the disposal of vehicles, said a Press Note issued by Supply Department on June 15, 1944.

MATERIALS ECONOMY OFFICER

To advise on the conservation of raw materials and the utilisation of scrap, the Government of India in the Supply Department have appointed Mr. AFTAB RAI, Deputy Director General in the Directorate General of Supply, as Materials Economy Officer. He will undertake extensive tours and visit both Government and Contractors' factories, to advise on matters of production and suggest ways and means to conserve raw materials to the maximum extent compatible with efficiency. He will also examine 'Specifications', if need be, to ensure economy without detriment to quality.

The Materials Economy Officer will also examine the reasons for heavy rejections and advise on methods to remedy the defects. He will, for the present, confine his investigations to the more important contracts, said a Press Note issued by Supply Department on June 5, 1944.

RAILWAY GRAINSHOPS CATER FOR 805,000 EMPLOYEES

The war has necessitated Government tackling a number of new and unexpected problems. During the last 18 months the Indian Railway Administrations have, for instance, in addition to their other onerous duties, accomplished a big task in catering for the requirements of their staff. It is no small organisational achievement to have opened shops to supply 805,000 employees with a much wider variety of goods than under ordinary rationing schemes.

During the last financial year sales to the extent of 1,02,00,000 maunds have been effected while total purchases have involved an expenditure of Rs. 20.17 crores. Distribution expenses are remarkably low, while the relief afforded has materially lightened the household problem of the employee, particularly in those areas where prices have ruled highest.

PAPER FOR CIVILIAN CONSUMPTION

THE position created by the acute shortage of paper for civilian consumption in India since the outbreak of war has been engaging the continuous attention of the Government of India. On the basis of a release of 30 per cent. of Indian mill production for civilian consumption and taking into account the likely imports, the total quantity of paper available for non-Government use is estimated to be 35 per cent. of requirements.

The position has, however, recently deteriorated, since the production of Indian paper mills has declined on account of shortage of coal and bamboo. Moreover, stocks in the country have been getting gradually used up.

Stringent Measures

It has, therefore, become necessary to adopt far more stringent measures of control relating to the use of paper to ensure an equitable distribution of available supplies. The Government of India have accordingly issued two Orders, namely, the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944 (which supersedes but incorporates and extends the provisions of the Paper Control Order of 1942), imposing further restrictions and prohibitions on the use of paper for various purposes, and the Paper Control (Distribution) Order, 1944, regulating the distribution of Indian Mill-made as well as imported paper for non-Government civilian consumption.

Among the more important restrictions imposed by the Paper Control (Economy) Order are those limiting the consumption of paper by newspapers and periodicals, printing presses, publishers and manufacturers of exercise books, account books, and other articles made from paper to a certain percentage of their consumption during a basic period. All these classes of consumers are to submit periodical returns of their consumption to the Paper Controller, who has been appointed by the Central Government to administer these orders and who will be stationed at 7, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta. The wrapping and packing of articles in paper is also prohibited by the Order, with effect from September 30, 1944, unless special exemption is secured.

Under the Paper Control (Distribution) Order, importers and manufacturers of paper are required to submit monthly returns to the Paper Controller of the stocks of paper held and disposed of by them. Persons manufacturing or importing paper are not to dispose of their stocks except in accordance with instructions issued by the Paper Controller. Pending such instructions distribution can be carried on as heretofore. All persons holding stocks in excess of one ton should declare their stocks, as on June 12, 1944, to the Paper Controller, on or before July 15, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department on June 11, 1944.

FIRST HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN AUSTRALIA



Dr. Sir R. P. Paranjpye.

The Government of India have selected DR. SIR RAGHUNATH PURUSHOTTAM PARANJPYE for appointment as the first High Commissioner for India in the Commonwealth of Australia, said a Press communique issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department on June 15, 1944.

FOOD SITUATION IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN REGIONS

THAT provincial administrations show to-day a keener appreciation of the All-India food position, while naturally concentrating on solving their own local food problems, is the view held by the Hon'ble Mr. B. R. Sen, Director-General, Food, who has returned to Delhi after a tour of Bombay, the Central Provinces and Madras.

The object of his visit was to establish personal contact with Provincial Food Administrations and discuss with them the food position in their respective areas, with special reference to problems of storage of foodgrains, their procurement and price fixation. The measures necessitated by the recent damage to the local wheat crop were discussed with the Central Provinces authorities, while in Bombay, discussions centred mainly on the Bombay Government's "Grow More Food" Bill, its compulsory levy scheme of grain procurement, and the prices fixed for the new millet crop.

Commenting on the situation in Malabar, which was discussed with the Madras Government, Mr. Sen stated that the position had been difficult mainly because of delays in arrival of quotas, but arrangements have been made for timely despatches, and in future the full monthly quotas would be received on schedule. Action is also being taken to requisition locally-produced rice in Malabar. These measures should ease the Malabar food situation.

Mr. Sen was accompanied on his tour by Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, Director of Statistics, Food Department.

GRAIN STORAGE

Enquiries made in the Central Food Department show the progress that has been made in providing storage accommodation for foodgrains, since last March, when the Director-General, Food, stated in the Council of State: "Steps are being taken to arrange for storage. Lack of storage arrangements in some of the main supplying provinces proved a serious handicap last year in procurement operations."

Accommodation in the Government storage depot at Karachi has been doubled while new constructions contemplated in the Punjab, Central Provinces, Orissa, Assam and the Eastern States will provide accommodation for nearly 200,000 tons. The cost of these new constructions is likely to be met by the Central and Provincial Governments in equal measure. It is also learnt that accommodation for another 60,000 tons has already been hired in the Punjab which will be increased up to 150,000 tons as and when necessary.

It is pointed out that storage plays an important part in Government's plan of food procurement, as only through adequate storage accommodation will it be possible to preserve supplies in good condition, maintain an even flow of rail movement throughout the crop period, take full advantage of any extra transport facilities which are offered from time to time, and permit the unimpeded continuance of procurement by eliminating checks on marketing and outward movement.

TRAINING OF AGRICULTURAL STAFF

To help the "Grow More Food" campaign a scheme of intensive short-term training of agricultural staff has been suggested to Provincial Governments by the Education, Health and Lands Department of the Government of India. Needs of Provinces, it is understood, are being ascertained and arrangements are in hand to start training courses at the various Agricultural Colleges.

The shortage of trained staff has become acute with the progress of the "Grow More Food" campaign and more men are needed for further development of the campaign. The scheme will cover non-graduate, graduate and gazetted staff. Besides Agricultural Colleges, Government farms and well-managed private estates will be asked to train personnel. The trainees will receive practical instruction in all aspects of crop production and suitable treatment for each crop in particular areas to obtain the optimum outturn from the land.

The employment of retired agricultural officers and the release of trained men from the army are also being considered.

NEW SOURCE OF VEGETABLE RUBBER

A garden plant imported into India many years ago for its flowers is considered one of the most promising plants for additional wartime supplies of vegetable rubber. For over a year the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, has been experimenting on it and the experience gained has now been published in a leaflet.

The plant (*Cryptostegia grandiflora*) is indigenous to Madagascar and probably to Africa. The leaflet gives some hints on the choice of plantation site, seed collection and the method of regeneration. It also explains how to protect the plantation from insects and weeds. It is estimated that the cost of plantation of about 5,000 acres will be about Rs. 200 per acre and of this about Rs. 100 will represent expenditure on tools, equipment, buildings and capital assets.

VICTORIA CROSS FOR SIKH NAIK

HIS Majesty the King has approved the award of the Victoria Cross to No. 13058 NAIK NAND SINGH, of the 11th Sikh Regiment, for outstanding gallantry and leadership in action against the enemy in the Kalapanzin Valley, Arakan Front, on March 12 last. *This is the eighth Victoria Cross won by men of the Indian Army in this war, seven having been awarded to Indians and one to a British Officer.*

Six times wounded in the assault, Nand Singh led the leading section of his company against Japs entrenched on a steep hillside and, in the words of another company commander, "literally carried the position single-handed." He personally killed seven Japs in capturing three trenches.

On the night of March 11-12, 1944 (the citation states), a platoon of the enemy 40 strong with medium and light machine-guns and grenade dischargers infiltrated into a position held by the 11th Sikhs covering the main Maungdaw-Buthidaung road, on the feature known as East Finger in the Kalapanzin Valley. The position occupied by the enemy dominated the road and had to be recaptured at all costs. The enemy had enough time during the night to dig deep foxholes and underground trenches in the steep sides of the hill.

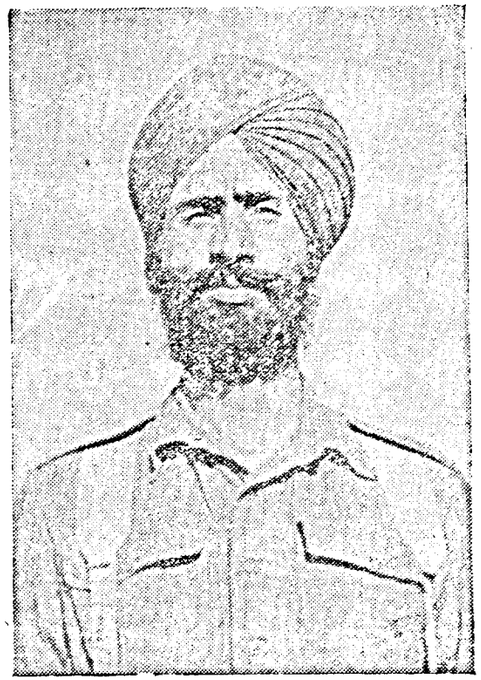
Stormed Trenches Despite Wounds

Naik Nand Singh was commanding the leading Section of the platoon which was ordered to retake the Japanese position. He led his men up a very steep knife-edged ridge and soon came under enemy fire. Although wounded in the thigh, he dashed forward and took the first enemy trench on his own, at the point of the bayonet.

He then crawled forward alone towards a second trench under heavy fire. A grenade burst just in front, wounding him in the face and shoulder, but he pushed on and took the second trench with the bayonet.

Some minutes later, when the whole of his Section had been either killed or wounded, Nand Singh scrambled out and charged into a third trench. Once again he captured it, killing the occupants with the bayonet.

With these three trenches taken, the rest of the platoon managed to advance to the top of the hill and deal with the remainder of the Japanese party. Although only 24 strong, the platoon killed 37 out of the 40 Japs in their well-constructed position and captured all their arms and equipment. Nand Singh himself accounted for seven of the enemy.



Naik Nand Singh.

It was Nand Singh's dash and determination, coupled with complete disregard for his own safety despite six wounds, that led to the rapid capture of the hill and extermination of the enemy.

This lean, ascetic-looking, 28-year-old Sikh has proved himself a solo fighter of magnificent courage and skill. Details of his exploits on March 12 will doubtless reach his family and the girl to whom he is betrothed in the little village of Bahadurpur in Patiala State whence Nand Singh hails. The village is well-named, for it is the home of brave men. Naik Nand Singh enlisted on March 24, 1933, and in 1936-37 served on the North-West Frontier. He also took part in the first Burma campaign of 1942. On September 1, 1942, he was promoted to Lance Naik and to Naik on January 24, of this year.

To reach the 11th Sikhs was not a very simple matter, writes a 14th Army Observer. During the previous days and nights they had won two resounding victories over superior enemy forces and were able to contribute handsomely towards a successful Allied drive up the Manipur Road in the northern tip of the Imphal Plain.

I set out with a mule convoy of ammunition, food and water trekking across fields and streams and through scrub and light jungle. The Sikhs were virtually behind the enemy, enclosed on three sides by him and were brazenly being supplied by a route which passed his positions in full view and was actually patrolled by him.

A very stiff climb brought us up to the spur. Amid welcoming cries of "Sat Sri Akal" we passed through the first platoons till we reached Battalion H.Q.—just a little bunker like all the rest of them with only a telephone to distinguish it. We waited for the Commanding Officer to follow us up; we had met him down by the riverbed, having his first bath for weeks. *He arrived with a towel round his middle and explained that his only clothes had been washed in the river and must be allowed to dry.*

Then the Colonel was called to the phone. It was a General on the line—none other than the man who had previously been Colonel of this battalion. The present C.O. is not a demonstrative man, but I could gather from the tone of his voice that some unusually good news had come through. Suddenly he put down the receiver and bounded off to the outer perimeter of the position. We heard him shout down through the trees to a patrol which was just moving off, and a moment later Naik Nand Singh was being shaken by the hand as we all fell over ourselves with excitement to meet the latest V.C. of the war.

S/LDR. ARJAN SINGH AWARDED DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HIS Majesty the King has approved the immediate award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to SQUADRON-LEADER ARJAN SINGH, Indian Air Force. He is the fourth Indian officer to win this distinction.

The citation promulgating the award says: "S/Ldr. Arjan Singh is a fearless and exceptional pilot with a profound knowledge of his specialised branch of tactical reconnaissance and he has imbued those under him with the same spirit." The citation refers to him as a fine Leader and concludes: "The success of his squadron reflects the greatest credit upon him."

Arjan Singh was born at Kohali in Lyallpur, the Punjab, 25 years ago. His father, Sirdar Kishan Singh, is a District Engineer on the Ceylon Government Railway and his only brother, Leading Aircraftsman Surat Singh is now undergoing a Pilot's course in Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme.

Arjan Singh was studying for his B.A. at the Government College, Lahore, when at the



Squadron-Leader Arjan Singh.

age of 19 he decided to join the Indian Air Force. He was successful in a competitive examination held in Delhi in August, 1938, for entry into the R.A.F. College at Cranwell, England, where he received two years of up-to-date instruction in both flyirg and ground subjects. He returned to India, when he was commissioned in the Indian Air Force.

During the early part of the war, Arjan Singh, then a junior officer, took part in tribal operations on the North-West Frontier. On one occasion his aircraft was badly damaged by machine-gun fire from hostile tribesmen, and he had to make a forced landing in a nullah, from which he carries to this day a scar on his face.

In the Burma Campaign

During the first Burma campaign S/Ldr. Arjan Singh acquitted himself well in a communication flight, carrying important despatches and equipment. Now he is once more on the Burma Front, this time as Commanding Officer of the famous No. 1 Indian Air Force Squadron, whose crest bears the motto "In Unity Lies Strength"—which conveys the true fighting spirit.

The success of this squadron has been due in no small measure to the unceasing effort and hard work of its flying and ground personnel. Their achievements have not been gained without loss but they have never been deterred. The squadron's flying personnel is 100 per cent Indian.

AMENITIES FOR INDIAN SEAMEN

HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY has made a grant from the War Purposes Fund of Rs. 1,00,000 for the provision of amenities for Indian seamen in Indian ports, and an equal amount for the provision of amenities for British and Allied seamen.

Although amenities for seamen, like Seamen's Home and Sailors' Clubs, exist in some of the major ports where amusements and residential accommodation are provided, the Government of India feel that public and private activities in this connection require co-ordination and extension.

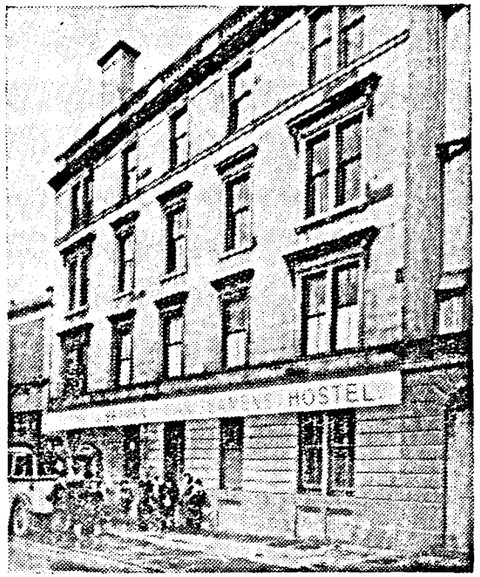
Special Officer Appointed

A post of Special Officer for Amenities for Seamen in India has, therefore, been created, to which Captain O. G. Rowland Jones, an officer of the Asiatic Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., has been appointed. This officer, who is already in Delhi, will shortly begin work.

Government have also under consideration the creation of a special post for looking exclusively after the welfare and amenities of Indian seamen.



Indian Seamen playing checkers (draughts) at the British Merchant Navy Club for Indian Seamen in New York.



The new Indian Seamen's Hostel opened at Glasgow by the Mission to Seamen with a grant of £2,000 from H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.

Government have already appointed an Indian Welfare Officer for Seamen in Calcutta, which is the largest recruiting centre for Indian seamen. The main duties of this officer are to look after the boarding and lodging of Indian seamen in Calcutta, arrange for their medical attendance, establish contact with the families of seamen who are prisoners of war, secure regular transmission of news to them from their families in this country, and generally to look after the working conditions of Indian seamen.

ADDRESS SLIPS FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS' RELATIVES

Indian soldiers are to be supplied with printed slips containing their addresses. To ensure correct delivery of letters these slips will be sent to relatives who are expected to stick them to envelopes.

This move has been decided on by the Army Postal Service in India to overcome the difficulty caused by insufficient and inaccurate addressing of correspondence intended for troops and to ensure prompt delivery of letters.



Sisters of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. at a casualty clearing station in the Arakan.

DISABILITY PENSION FOR NURSING OFFICERS

The rates of disability pension and pensions for dependants of Nursing Officers of the Indian Military Nursing Service have been revised by the Government of India and the improved rates will have retrospective effect from September 15, 1943.

The disability pension of Nursing Officers has been raised to Rs. 100 a month for total disability and a proportionate rate for less disability.

Dependants of Nursing Officers of the I.M.N.S. killed in action have also been made eligible for the award of "dependants pension" as for Commissioned Officers of the I.M.D. (British Cadre).

Surviving husband, or parents, or brothers and sisters of an officer of the I.M.N.S. killed in action may, under certain conditions, get a pension from Rs. 45 to Rs. 70 per month according to the rank of the officer. Each eligible child may receive a pension of Rs. 24 per month if the father is alive and Rs. 40 per month if fatherless. The grant will, however, depend on the pecuniary needs of the dependants and the fact that they were largely dependant on the officer at the time of her death, said a Press Note issued by the Office of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, on June 14, 1944.

NAVAL W.A.C.(I)'S HOSTEL AT CHITTAGONG

Girls of the Naval Wing of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) who have volunteered for service in forward areas are doing valuable work for the Royal Indian Navy at Chittagong.

They are engaged in important secretarial and signals duties, and their presence is also valued because every girl who joins the Naval Wing of the W.A.C. (I) released a man for active service.

Regard for their welfare has been shown by providing the Naval W.A.C. (I) at Chittagong with a comfortably furnished hostel, one of the rooms of which can be used for dances. High ranking officers of all three Services attended the opening ceremony recently.

The girls of the unit at Chittagong come from various parts of India and Burma, and are proud to be doing their bit in the war against the Japanese.

NEW RADIO PROGRAMMES FOR TROOPS

Broadcasting for troops in India is to be extended. The All Forces' programme broadcast for British troops from the New Delhi station of All India Radio which was introduced last February is to be increased from nine to 30 hours a week. In addition, the Middle East programme for Indian troops is to be extended from 30 to 45 minutes.

Both programmes are to be radiated on All India Radio's new 100-kilowatt transmitter, one of the most powerful in the East. It is expected that they will be clearly heard in the United Kingdom.

The increased "listening time" begins on July 1, when British servicemen will be able to hear the following programmes: 07.00-08.30 daily "Reveille," 13.00-14.30 daily, lunch time music; 18.30-19.30 daily, All Forces' hour. In addition "Hippodrome" will be broadcast every Tuesday and Wednesday from 22.00-23.00. At present the All Forces' programme consists only of the daily 18.30-19.30 and twice-weekly "Hippodrome" broadcasts.

"The programme is intended mainly for the 14th Army but we boast all-India coverage," said an officer of the Welfare and Amenities Directorate who is in charge of the broadcasts. "We particularly want listeners' reports on reception."

The frequencies on which the new British programme will be broadcast are not yet known but servicemen may listen in from June 20 to 30 to the present 18.30-19.30 programme on 25.27 metres. Announcements will be made each evening during this period giving all the necessary information.

Criticisms and suggestions and also requests for special items will be welcomed from members of the services and also from any civilian listeners interested. Letters should be sent to the Broadcasting Section, G.H.Q., New Delhi.

The programmes consist of variety, dance music, music hall, organ music and classical items, in fact the whole range of entertainment, "with as little talking as possible."

Indian troops in India and Ceylon have their own broadcast programme, on wavelengths of 31.3, 41.15, and 60.48 metres, which is broadcast from New Delhi every evening from 19.45 to 20.25. There is also a programme for Indian troops in the Middle East, broadcast on 25.5 and 31.2 metres, from 23.30 to midnight nightly. The Middle East programme has been extended from 30 to 45 minutes from July 1. Indian troops overseas, wherever they may be, will now have not only more listening time and more varied entertainment than before but also clearer reception of these broadcasts.

The Indian programmes consist of news commentaries and "flashes," in dialogue form, in Hindustani, news from the soldiers' villages, eye-witness accounts and topical stories on Indian troops' war experiences, and entertainment items —musical, dramatic and humorous. Messages from Indian soldiers' relatives to their menfolk in the forces are also featured.

The Indian programmes are arranged by the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate in collaboration with All India Radio.

FRONTIER FRUIT FOR THE ARMY

Thousands of tons of dried fruit grown in the North-West Frontier Province have been issued to army supply depots. To cope with the heavy wartime demand for dried fruit, sun-drying stations have been established at fruit-growing centres on a co-operative basis under the control of the Department of Agriculture.

The development of the fruit industry started several years ago in the province with the importation of fruit trees from other countries and by their distribution among fruit-growers. Now a well-organised system of drying and preserving surplus quantities of fruits has been developed.

Starting from the preliminary sun-drying process and passing for a short period through the drying chamber method the scheme culminated in the setting up of a dehydrating plant of the latest design on the model of those used in the U.S.A. An agricultural experimental farm has now been started.

Ten acres are reserved for vegetables for military units. Peaches and other fruits are dehydrated and jams and marmalade are prepared locally for army canteens and messes.

RAZOR BLADE ECONOMY

At an average of 300 blades an hour, 2,500 used razor blades are being re-sharpened daily by a Lahore firm. This is one of the latest economy measures which the Army in India has introduced; soldiers return their used blades when issued with fresh ones.

The machinery was imported from Germany before the war and subsequently bought by the firm. The workers engaged are Punjabis, nearly all from Lahore.

Artillery boards for the army are also being made by this firm.

Biography

SIR GORDON JOLLY

MAJOR-GENERAL SIR GORDON JOLLY, Chief Commissioner of the Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation, was born in Edinburgh on April 6, 1886. Like many Scotsmen who have served India well, he is a son of the Manse. In making medicine his career he was to follow the examples of two elder brothers—Dr. William Jolly, who became Professor of Physiology in the University of Cape Town, and Lieut.-Colonel George Jolly, I.M.S.

Gordon Jolly was educated at Watson's College, and Edinburgh University. Two of his school-fellows who have held high positions in India are Sir John Anderson, and Sir Thomas Rutherford. His time at the University coincided with what has been called the Golden Age of medicine there. The Professors of the time had studied under such great men as Lord Lister, the father of antiseptic surgery, and Sir James Young Simpson, who introduced chloroform. Having qualified, the young doctor gained experience, as assistant to his uncle, Dr. Thomas Adam, and made a voyage to India and back, as ship's surgeon. It was then that he decided on a career in the East, and entered the Indian Medical Service in 1908, becoming X-ray Specialist to the Quetta Division in 1910.

During periods of home leave, Gordon Jolly studied tuberculosis under Sir Robert Philip, then the world authority on that disease. In 1913, he took the Diploma of the Royal College of Edinburgh and Glasgow, in Public Health. Later, he studied Tropical Diseases and Hygiene at the London School of Tropical Medicine, and came under the influence of such famous pioneers as Sir Patrick Manson, Sir James Cantlie, and Sir Ronald Ross. He took the London Diploma of Tropical Medicine, and won the Duncan Medal for the best student of the course. Unfortunately the medal was never to reach him, for the ship carrying it East was sunk in the autumn of 1914.

Service in East Africa

At the outbreak of the Great War, Captain Jolly was given command of the First Field Ambulance Unit that sailed for the War Zone in August 1914. He was the first I.M.S. officer to leave this country on active service, and reached East Africa at the beginning of the campaign. It is of interest to note that he was



the only officer of the original Indian Expeditionary Force to go through the entire campaign. At the conclusion of hostilities, he sailed for Europe in medical charge of the ship which repatriated the German General von Lettow-Vorbeck and his staff.

For his services in Africa he was mentioned in despatches, and was awarded the C.I.E. for distinguished service in the Field, while still a Captain. He had the honour of being decorated by His Majesty King George V, at Buckingham Palace, in 1919.

In his early days Captain Jolly's interests lay towards medical research, and he first discovered the value of berberine in the treatment of Oriental sore.

After the war, Captain Jolly was seconded to the civil side of the I.M.S., and appointed Medical Officer of Health, Delhi, in 1921. Among his duties were included charge of the Jail, no sinecure at that stormy period, and the secretaryship of the New Delhi Municipal Committee, then in its early childhood. He was responsible for the health arrangements of the Durbar camps, when H.R.H. the Prince of Wales visited the old Moghul capital that year.

The following year he was sent to Burma as Assistant Director of Public Health. He organised, and largely designed the Harcourt Butler Institute of Public Health in Rangoon, becoming its first Director. Later he was appointed Director of Public Health of the province, in which he was to spend eleven years. In these years he developed not only a profound understanding and knowledge of the Burmese and their country, but a deep-seated affection for both.

Founded First Health Unit in Burma

In a busy life as Health Administrator, Colonel Jolly found time to pursue his interest in medical research. He surveyed, and successfully tackled malaria in the Arakan, organised a campaign against Yaws, conducted research into plague, and investigated leprosy, and several other diseases. Concurrently with the Rockefeller Foundation he conceived the idea of the "Health Unit" as a demonstration and training centre in Public Health methods.

At the invitation of the Rockefeller foundation, he visited America in 1928, discussed his ideas with them, and founded the first Health Unit in Hlegu—a township adjoining Rangoon.

In 1926, Colonel Jolly was despatched to Rome, to represent the Government of Burma at the first International Conference on Malaria, where he met Mussolini. From there he went on to Geneva for the first International Conference on Child Welfare. He represented Burma at an International Medical Conference at Bangkok, the Government of India at the Far Eastern Bureau of Tropical Medicine at Singapore, and again at the *Bureau International d'Hygiene Publique* at Paris, and at the British Commonwealth Economic Conference held in London in 1936.

In 1933, Colonel Jolly was recalled to India to be Deputy Director-General of the Indian Medical Service, serving under Sir Cuthbert Sprawson, and when in that post was made Honorary Surgeon to the Viceroy. Within two years he was acting Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India, and in that capacity framed the quarantine rules to prevent that terrible scourge, yellow fever, entering the country by air-borne traffic from Africa. In 1937, Colonel Jolly was transferred to the Punjab as Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals. Two years later, at the age of 53, he was appointed Director-General of the Indian Medical Service.

In the four strenuous years that followed, General Jolly was made an Honorary Physician to the King in 1939, and a K.C.I.E. in 1941, and found time to visit Egypt, Iraq, China and Burma. From Chungking he gave an interesting broadcast on the gallant fight the people were putting up against Japanese air aggression.

Sir Gordon was given the local rank of Lieut.-General in 1940, and held that rank till he retired from the Indian Medical Service in 1943.

In his 35 years service, he has always been closely connected with the Indian Red Cross Society, and the St. John Ambulance Association and Brigade.

In Burma he reorganised the Burma Red Cross Society after the Great War, and was its first Honorary Secretary. In 1935 he was Chairman of the Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau, of the Indian Red Cross Society. In the Punjab he became Vice-Chairman of its Red Cross Organisation, and of the Branch St. John Ambulance Association, and was appointed an Officer of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

In 1939, General Jolly was appointed Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, a post which he occupied for four years, and during the same period found time to act in a like capacity for the Tuberculosis Association of India, where his specialised training and experience proved of great value. His services to the St. John Ambulance Association, of which he was Surgeon-in-Chief in India, were recognised by his appointment in 1944 as a Knight of Grace of the Venerable Order of St. John of Jerusalem.

General Jolly has been a member of the Central Joint War Committee since its formation. He brings to his new task knowledge of its scope and administration, from both an executive and medical point of view. His experience of Red Cross work in India and Burma should stand him and the Joint War Organisation in good stead.

HEROES OF ASSAM RIFLES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

determination on the part of every man under the inspiring leadership of officers and N.C.O.s. LIEUT. GODFREY, who commanded the platoon, has been awarded the M.C. and his second-in-command, SUB. BINDRAMAN RAI, the I.O.M. (2nd class).

Hav. Asbahadur with his *kukri* killed three of the five Japs who penetrated the platoon lines; the rest were finished off by Rifleman Rajbanshi in the same manner. The havildar later led a patrol two miles out of his perimeter to find out the enemy's position when they had retired after putting in three unsuccessful attacks. The rifleman showed equal bravery in carrying away a wireless set from right under the enemy's nose.

Hav. Asbahadur hails from village Chiruah in district Sangja Nawakot and Rfm. Rajbanshi from village Manipur Sipapara in district Golpara.



Patients in an Indian Military Hospital in the Middle East doing embroidery work. All the material for this is supplied by the Indian Red Cross.

CRAFTS TAUGHT TO HOSPITAL PATIENTS

KNITTING, weaving, embroidery, gardening and carpentry—these and a dozen other arts and crafts are taught to convalescent patients in military hospitals in India. Red Cross workers are making full use of facilities to train the men in useful occupations.

In the military ward at the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium at Kasauli several patients mastered in two lessons the mysteries of turning the heels of socks. In Lahore, one worker succeeded in teaching embroidery to a patient whose right arm had been amputated above the elbow.

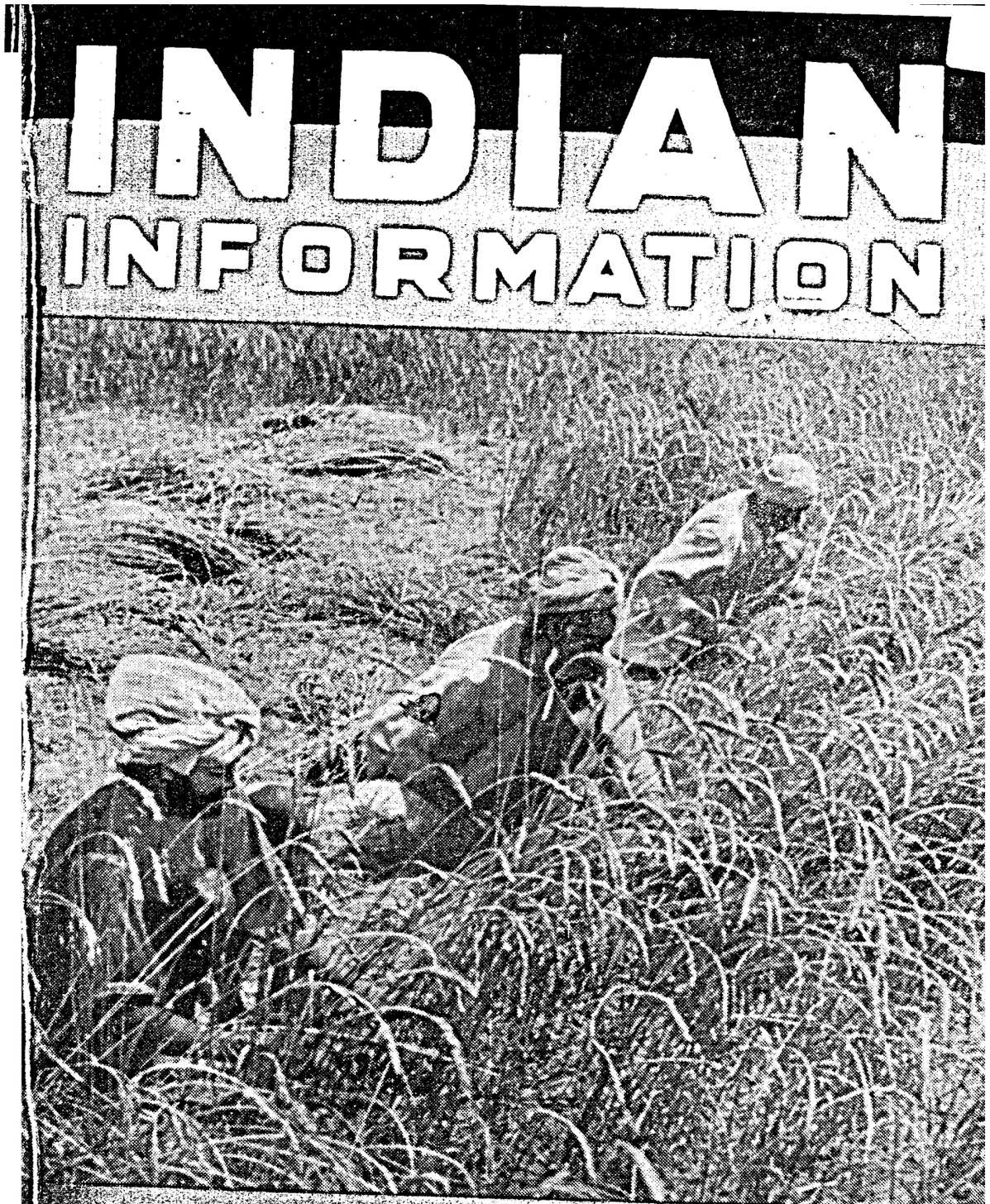
Knitting, weaving on slate looms, French knitting, sewing and embroidery have proved most popular at the Indian Military Hospital at St. Thomas's Mount, Madras. Great progress has been made in diversional therapy work in the Murree and Rawalpindi area. Leather work, such as wallets, purses and belts, and various items of fretwork, toy aeroplanes and jigsaw puzzles are turned out, while several men proved most successful at drawing and painting and executed some excellent designs for tapestry and embroidery work. In this area, it is also hoped to start classes for convalescents in carpentry, wicker-work, weaving and other crafts which they might turn to profitable use after the war. A vernacular library has been opened in the Indian Wing of the Military Hospital at Quetta.

Red Cross depots are doing valuable work in various parts of the country. At Calcutta, the convalescent depots are supplied with gardening and carpentry tools and to a hospital catering for Burmese units a number of Burmese jackets have been issued.

From a Red Cross depot started at Imphal, units in forward areas have drawn stocks of Red Cross material.

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INDIAN INFORMATION



No. 141: July 15, 1944
Fortnightly by the Information Officer Government of India.

H. E. THE VICEROY ON AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA



Jeep drivers Mohd. Akbar and Sher Mohd. (of the Punjab) who accompanied the 8th Indian Division, make friends with Italian children in Rome. They were the first Indians to enter the Italian capital after its fall.

Vol. 15, No. 141. INDIAN INFORMATION JULY 15, 1944

AIMS:—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading, but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

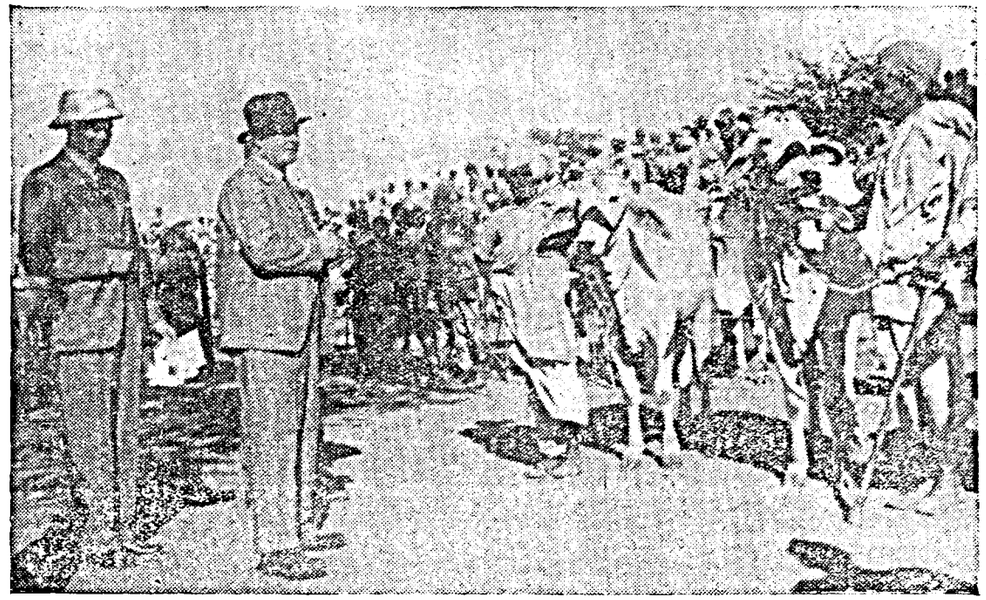
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source, it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Issued Fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.
Associate Editor: P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: Harvesting wheat in the Punjab.



Village folk and townsmen gathered to greet H.E. the Viceroy when he visited the Delhi rural area recently. Here, Lord Wavell inspects cattle belonging to villagers.

AGRICULTURAL DRIVE: VICEROY'S MESSAGE TO POLICY COMMITTEE

"AGRICULTURE must take a high place—perhaps the highest place of all—in our plans for development of India after the war. Unless we succeed in raising substantially the standard of living in our villages, not only for the small farmer but for all who make their living on land, India cannot become wealthier or healthier or a better educated country," said H.E. the Viceroy in a message to the Post-War Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries which met in Simla on June 26. The session lasted four days and the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, presided.

The Viceroy's message continued: "There are two ways in which we can make progress: we can bring more land under cultivation; and we can make better use of the land we cultivate already. The first of these methods is obviously important, and in considering it you will also doubtless remember the need for extending our forests and preserving, and perhaps extending, our grazing grounds.

"It is to the second method that I wish to draw particular attention because, although you are concerned principally with post-war development, your advice on this method will have an important bearing on our wartime food problem. The use of all possible sources of irrigation, supply of manure, supply of improved seed, and protection against pests and diseases, must be vital elements both in our short-term and in our long-term programmes. I am confident that we have behind us a great deal of knowledge, the fruits of many years of research work, and that the toughest part of the problem will be to translate this knowledge into action. Much has been done already but our districts are not adequately staffed, and I shall not be satisfied until we are organised both at the Centre and in the provinces so that there is an agricultural plan, not only for each district but for each village or group of villages.

Need for Trained Personnel

"The crux of the problem is trained personnel. You may think that it is impossible to expand and recognise provincial agricultural departments thoroughly enough, or quickly enough, to get early results, but I suggest you

consider what has been done in industry during the war. We cannot produce in a few months scores and hundreds of men with degrees and diplomas—we need them and must set about training them now—but we can surely produce for the immediate future improvised staffs of practical men who can get our agricultural drive going. I should like to see selected landowners—men of education and modern ideas about agriculture—taking part either as temporary officials, or as trainers of subordinate staff, and I am sure we need bold and practical training schemes, with courses simplified so that we may make a real start in the field.

Great Opportunity

"There also seems to me to be here a great opportunity for young India; for the many thousands of ardent young men, who believe in India's future, who have a country background and upbringing and have received a university education. They could do no greater service to India than to qualify themselves by a course of training to assist Government in their plans for the agricultural development of India.

"I wish the Committee all success in their vitally important deliberations. If they can produce a practical and progressive plan by which we can increase our agricultural production, not only after the war, but now, they will have rendered great service."

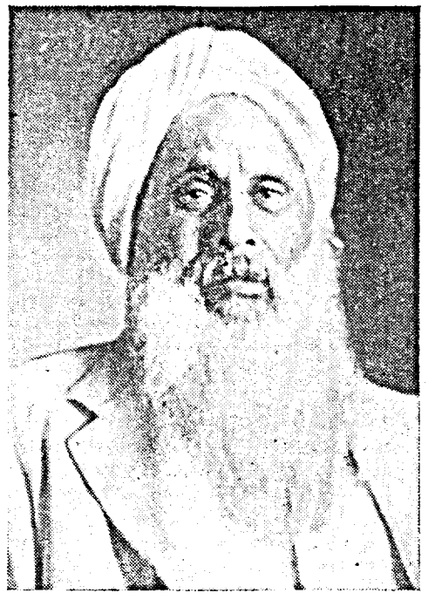
SIR JOGENDRA SINGH'S SPEECH

Addressing the Committee, the HON'BLE SIR JOGENDRA SINGH said:

Gentlemen,—May I offer you a warm welcome and my sincere thanks for the trouble you have taken in coming to Simla? I am afraid you have been put to considerable inconvenience and discomfort, but the work on which you are about to enter is of national importance—the shaping of the future of our primary industry —and with this thought let us begin our work.

I am not going to weary you with a long speech. You have before you valuable notes prepared by a committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Sir Herbert Howard, Dr. Baini Prashad and Dr. Burns which present a picture of our present and future problems. Discussions in this Committee will help in placing the various problems in their proper perspective, but what we need is quick decisions and equally quick action.

May I at the outset invite your attention to the realities of the situation? The total area of India is 1,000 million acres and of this only 360 million acres are cultivated, giving 0.9 of an acre per head of population. In addition every



Sir Jogendra Singh.

100 acres of cultivated land has to provide fodder for 56 cattle. Further only 1-5th of the area cultivated, that is, 56 million acres are irrigated while the remaining 288 million acres depend entirely on a precarious rainfall. It is this 360 million acres which have to produce food for our entire population and provide employment.

Eighty-seven per cent of our population lives in the villages; of this 1-5 or 68 millions are landless labourers. They constitute 17 per cent of the total population of the country.

The new times have choked the normal channels of agricultural improvement; men of light and leading who could bring enterprise and new knowledge go to towns and never return to their village homes.

Balanced Diet

A large proportion of our population is under-nourished and heavily in debt and is, therefore, incapable of taking full advantage of the available resources. Sir John Megaw has pointed out that only 30 per cent of our population is adequately nourished. According to Dr. Aykroyd a balanced diet should have, in addition to 18 oz. of cereals a day, at least 8 oz. of milk, 1½ oz. of fat, 3 oz. of pulses and 10 oz. of vegetables and fruits. It should provide 2,600 calories. If foods other than cereals are not

available, 26 oz. of cereals would be needed per person per day to supply the necessary calories.

Our first and foremost need is to provide an adequate quantity of good nourishing food for all the people who inhabit this land.

The requirements of the different varieties of food have to be worked out by nutrition experts. The present production is approximately known. On this basis the increased production needed can be worked out for each Province and State. It is for the Committee to propose appropriate measures to increase the production of foods needed and to suggest how to distribute the same so that even the poorest and the humblest worker gets what he needs and to work out a development programme on an all-India basis.

Methods of Increasing Production

The possibilities of increasing production are: (a) by bringing new areas under the plough and (b) by carrying on more intensive agriculture.

The most important means for the development of new lands is irrigation and in some places drainage facilities for colonization, such as housing, finance, etc. are also needed. I may add that an area of no less than 250 million acres is classified as culturable waste and fallow. This area is mostly unproductive because the rainfall is scanty and there are other factors which make cultivation difficult or unprofitable. These lands await capital and enterprise for their development. It is for the Committee to suggest what action should be taken for the purpose.

The intensification of agriculture depends on seven factors, good cultivation, seed, irrigation, manure, drainage, bunding and crop management. This includes crop rotations and the growing of two crops in succession on the same plot of land in one year where only one crop was grown before.

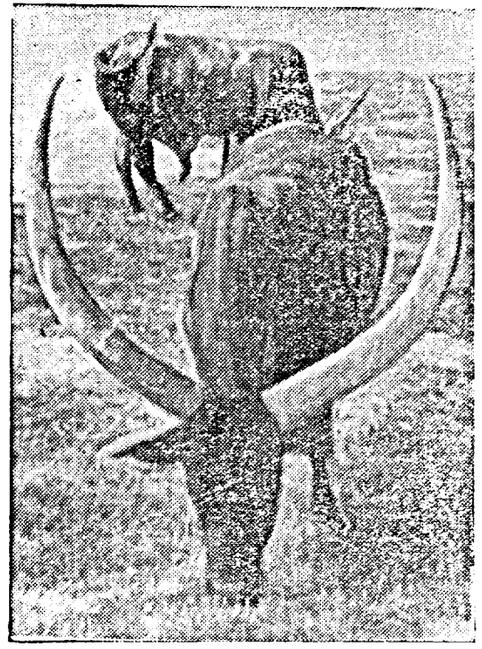
I am sure you will agree that Provinces and States should, in the words of Dr. Burns, plan to cut out waste of all kinds, waste of fertilising material, of water and of soil and plan to utilise these to the maximum capacity.

Surveys

One of our great difficulties is lack of accurate knowledge. This can only be supplied by undertaking surveys. This Committee might formulate the principles and the lines on which surveys by Provinces should be carried out regarding increasing production:—

(i) From lands already under the plough;

(ii) By utilisation of lands now producing nothing, by bringing them under crops or trees or even grass.



Mysore cattle.

(iii) By protecting catchment areas and preventing land erosion.

(iv) By extending irrigation from all the available sources.

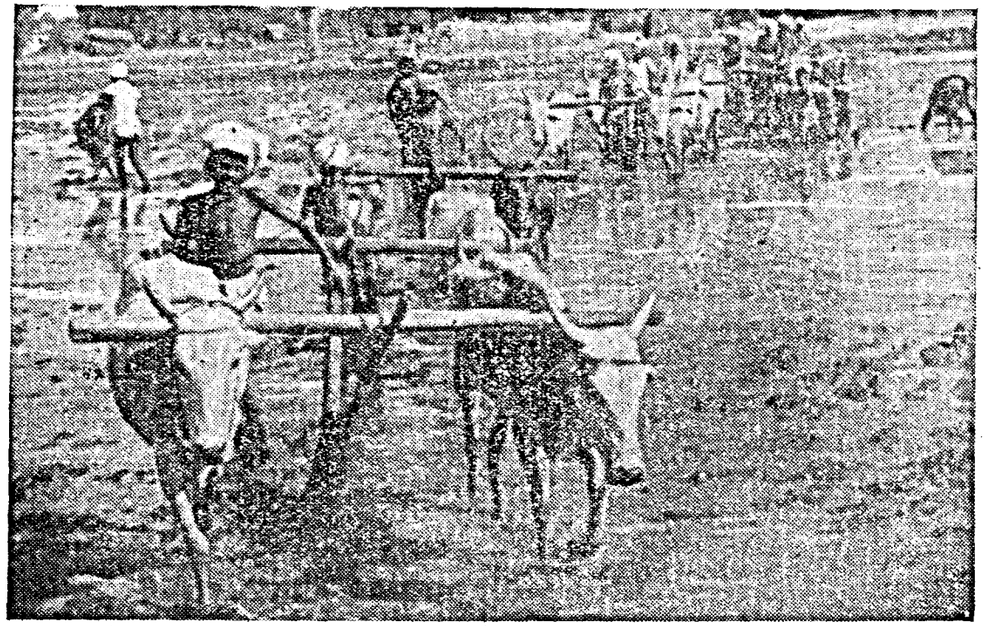
(v) By husbanding all our indigenous sources of manure such as town refuse, farmyard litter, leaf mould, green manure, oilcake, bone-meal, etc.

It is essential to examine the whole field and lay down definite lines of investigation for the Provinces and States.

Good Seed and Water

One of our most urgent needs is the production and multiplication of good seed of different kinds of crops grown. We will need nucleus seed farms for the production and testing of new seeds under special officers dealing with each crop and large seed farms under good management for seed multiplication. It is the large private farms that have done so much for production of seed and improvement of yields in the Punjab.

Then, the greatest need in most parts of India for increasing production is water. It has to be considered as to how proper irrigation



Ploughing land for rice cultivation.

facilities can be provided for 4-5ths of the cultivated area which at present depends on uncertain monsoon rainfall. At the same time it has to be determined what the policy of Government should be in respect of the financial returns from such works.

Manure

Our land has been starved and its fertility stabilised at a very low level. Proper application of manure can substantially increase yields. Dr. Burns holds that if we husband our manurial resources we can produce about one crore tons of compost manures. It may take a few years to produce fertilisers, but we can produce compost at no remote future if we start systematic work on its production. We may appoint a Sub-Committee to prepare a working plan for the production of compost, utilisation of town refuse and crushing of all the oil seeds to increase the production of oilcakes.

It can be safely asserted that if we could provide good seed and adequate manure for all the land under cultivation and proper irrigation, we can increase the yield by 50 per cent.

We are told that milk production should be increased by 300 per cent to meet the normal demands of our population. I am confident from the results that have been achieved that if we feed and breed our cattle and follow the laws of animal husbandry we can increase our milk supply considerably in the course of the next ten or fifteen years. "It has been observed," says Dr. Burns, "that in selected herds where systematic breeding control and extensive culling has been practised, the average yield has been increased 400 per cent in about 25 years."

The Military Dairies have shown the way; we can begin by organising civilian dairies on the same lines. We can start collective dairies in all the towns by bringing the cattle kept by the individual town dwellers under proper management. Indeed, though I see little prospect of collective agricultural farming in India which is only possible if there were more land available, I feel there is an assured prospect for collective dairies under State supervision.

I feel that a Sub-Committee should examine the problem of organising collective or co-operative dairies in all the towns. I may add that the question of utilising *Gaushalas* for cattle improvement is already being examined by a Committee under the capable guidance of Sir Datar Singh.

Again, the economic aspect of production needs attention. A cultivator cannot be expected to increase production, if the increased production is to reduce the money value of his labour.

In order to maximise production we may have to guarantee to the cultivator an assured market for his produce at a remunerative price. This is a difficult problem but it has to be faced, not only in the interest of agricultural production, but in the interest of the general economy of the country.

It is on the purchasing power of the bulk of our population that the future expansion of industry and indeed the raising of the standard of living of both rural and urban population depends. It is on creating an effective and increased demand for goods that employment for nearly 68 million landless village labourers can be found.

I am sure you will agree that an assured market and the maintenance of a suitable level of prices giving a fair monetary return is the most effective incentive for the producer to use all its energies to make every clod productive. It is probable that as soon as European agriculture begins to recover the period of shortage will merge into surpluses and there is a prospect of disastrous and long drawn out slump in prices such as we experienced in the thirties.

Distribution Problem

The equitable distribution of what is produced so as to ensure a sufficiency for all, particularly for agricultural and town labourers, is an equally important problem. Whatever the cost of minimum food requirements, they have to be made available to all if freedom from want is to be secured. The cost of transport is an important point in this connection. It has some times been suggested that transport should be treated as a service Department rather than as a revenue-earning proposition and that the poor and needy should be subsidised. The advice of the Committee as to how the problem of equitable distribution is to be tackled would be much appreciated.

Agricultural Finance

The problem of agricultural finance and liquidation of agricultural debt is closely linked with prices. We cannot place an agriculturist in a position to make the most of his land unless we arrange to liquidate agricultural debt and arrange both short-term and long-term finance.

An agriculturist cannot repay his debt because the interest he agrees to pay is beyond his capacity and his borrowing reduces him to a position of serfdom to his creditor. There is no reason why for short-term loans an agriculturist should not bring his grain to elevators or warehouses established at convenient marketplaces, by the State and raise money at usual bank rates. If this is done and decent warehouses are established, the Reserve Bank may be prepared to make advances at usual rates of interest. The building of elevators would incidentally lead to standardisation of the produce and placing it in the best possible market.

The co-operative movement has done a good deal of spadework and I am holding a Registrars' Conference in Bombay in August under the auspices of the Reserve Bank of India to explore further possibilities of development. In this connection the role of money-lenders who could be led to organise themselves into modern village bankers, co-operative credit societies, commercial and State Banks has to be considered.

Consolidation of Holdings

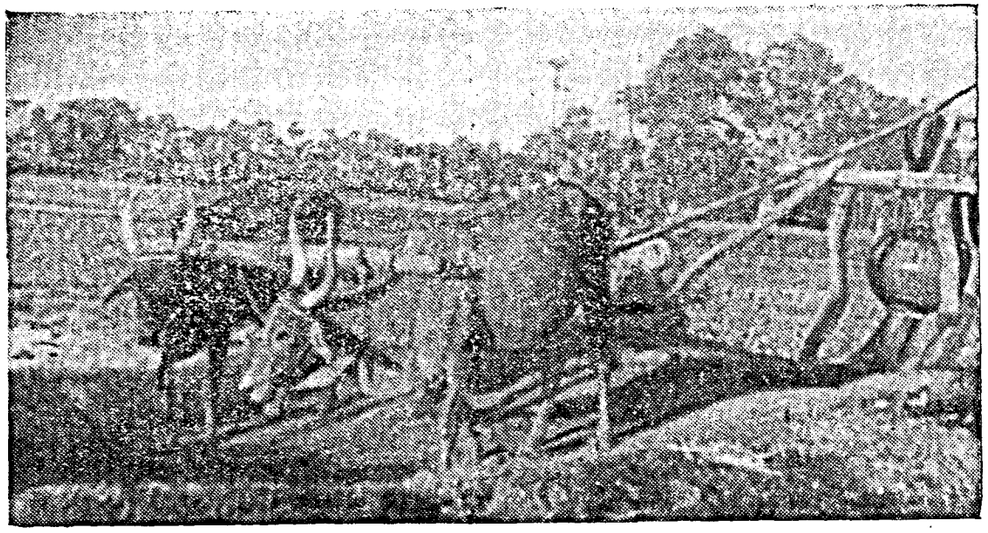
The problem of land tenure and sub-division of holdings is inextricably mixed up with land revenue and ownership in land. These are primarily the concern of the provinces. We can, however, consider ways and means to intensify the campaign for the consolidation of holdings. In the Punjab, on the voluntary basis, it made great headway under the inspiring leadership of my old friend, Mr. Calvert. There is great scope for consolidation of holdings in all the provinces. It may eventually lead to what some people desire, a law to prevent fragmentation, but the Committee will have to consider whether the time for legislation has arrived or will not arrive until half of our population ceases to depend for its subsistence on land.

The master plan must take into account the demand for raw material for the growing industries of the country and production with or without processing for the export market. These will provide opportunities for developing areas which need capital, knowledge and organisation to become productive; commercial crops such as sugarcane, cotton and fibres, tobacco, fruits and vegetables can bear higher cost of production than cereals and under scientific cultivation are capable of giving very high returns.

Development of Forests

In my speech at the Forest Rangers' Convocation at Dehra Dun, I dwelt on the need of conserving and extending our forests and developing village forests and utilisation of our minor forest resources. Sir Herbert Howard has clearly set forth that we must have 20 to 25 per cent of the total area as forests as a safeguard against erosion, and to supply our fuel and timber demands. This plan aims at placing another 100,000 sq. miles under forest, that is, almost doubling the present area. He has shown that even where rainfall is 10 to 15 inches per year, trees can be grown.

In Sind with irrigation, trees have been raised on almost desert lands. We have vast



Drawing water to irrigate the fields.

areas which yield nothing and which can be put under forests. Indeed, to save our land afforestation is a vital necessity. This is an inter-State and inter-provincial problem. The question of the appointment of a Land Utilisation Commission may be considered by the Committee.

Need for Trained Personnel

Finally, no progress is possible without training and recruitment of staff for carrying out plans which may emerge as the result of our deliberations. It stands to reason that if an all-India Agricultural Policy including irrigation, forestry and land management is to be initiated and Provinces and States are to be assisted we must have an adequate Central Staff of highly qualified men who can guide and assist the Provinces in translating potential possibilities of agricultural development into actualities.

Remember it is for the first time we are taking up the problem of feeding, clothing and housing our population, in a decent manner. We have to explore the deep and mighty resources of production with sympathies which must transcend the narrowness of provincial and inter-State boundaries. It needs the wholehearted co-operation of the Provinces and States. I think we can rely on their co-operation, for no Province or State is going to refuse what is for its good. The Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research provides a model which may serve for creating a Central Joint Authority to carry out the policy and purpose which receives the approval of all the Provinces and States.

Our problem is to set the wheel of wealth in motion to make agricultural production remunerative, to improve the urban wage, to create demand for goods and with it new avenues of employment, thus opening out an essential and enormous field of endeavour.

I am sure in our search for material wealth we will not forfeit our spiritual heritage which, in spite of chronic poverty, has given us a measure of contentment and dignity to grace the graceless present.

I may observe in passing that our Policy Committee will formulate the lines of post-war development and these will be considered by the Government as a whole. The planning contemplated by the Committee is naturally a long-term one; such developments as are calculated to yield a material increase and are taken up immediately will merge into the long-term programme.

Now, gentlemen, let us proceed with our discussion in a businesslike manner, and determine what action should be taken to increase production and secure its equitable distribution so as to improve the standard of living of the people as well as their health and efficiency in the interest of moral and material progress of our people.

POLICY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

After a lengthy discussion of problems relating to various aspects of agriculture, the Policy Committee passed a number of resolutions one of which recommends a comprehensive plan for more efficient means of production and the organisation required for research and development. The establishment of a Federal Department of Agricology (agriculture and animal husbandry), as a separate and self-contained Department of the Central Government has been suggested as also that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research should become a Federal Council of Agricology dealing with both research and development.

The Committee has also laid down that those items of work should be taken up first which are likely to give the maximum amount of food in the minimum possible time and has proposed that the main functions of the Centre should be to help, guide and advise provinces so as to secure co-ordinated development and production. Agricological development is the function of the provinces but it should be helped in the same manner as agricological research is assisted at present.

Agricological Planning

The ultimate object of agricological planning, according to one resolution, is the promotion of the welfare of people and the improvement of their standard of living. It is necessary, the resolution adds, to secure an adequate quantity of nutritive food for all people as also other requisite goods and services. The land and water resources of the country constitute its capital wealth.

The Committee, therefore, recommends that production of food should be increased and an adequate quantity of nutritive and protective foods provided to meet the requirements of the existing population as well as the five million more people that are being added every year.

Production of raw materials should be increased to meet the growing needs of industry as well as the requirements of export while maintaining a proper balance between food and cash crops. Plans for the development of agricology should be further suitably co-ordinated with those for industry and other aspects of national economy.

The requirements of the people should as far as possible be produced in the country.

Agricological industry should be reasonably profitable and those engaged in it helped to acquire additional purchasing power. Suitable steps should be taken for the proper conservation and development of the land and water resources of the country.

Proper arrangements should be made for the equitable distribution of what is produced so that no person may suffer from want, and protective foods should be made available at suitable rates to people with inadequate diets and low incomes without detriment to the interests of agriculturists.

Crop Production

The Agricological Council will ascertain the requirements of different types of agricological produce for the country as a whole and draw up provisional production targets to meet, in the shortest possible time and in any case within 10 years, the needs of the people, industry and export.

The Committee has proposed that the All-India targets should be broken into separate targets for each province and the provinces should further lay down targets of production for each district, tehsil and village in consultation with agricological interests. To help in this work a Provincial Development Committee should be set up and similar organisations constituted in districts and villages.

Revised targets should then be fixed for every village in consultation with panchayats, co-operative societies and other organisations on the basis of what is possible and this process may be worked up to determine Provincial and Central targets. When the targets have been finally fixed, the Provincial, district and village organisations should supervise and control the execution of the plan with the help of trained staff.

Production Plans

The Committee has further proposed that suitable staff should be appointed to ascertain acreages under different crops and to carry on crop cutting experiments to find out the approximate yields of crops in each area. Requirements of industry and export trade should also be determined and taken into consideration in framing production plans.

The Committee has recommended that the Government should guarantee to producers an assured market at a remunerative price for agricultural produce. A sub-committee will report on how to fix remunerative prices and have an assured market.

A Sub-Committee has been appointed to suggest within three months the ways in which agricultural indebtedness can be reduced and

short-term and long-term finance provided for agricological operations under efficient control.

Provincial Governments have been urged to examine land tenure systems in their areas and determine what alterations are needed to ensure maximum utilisation of land resources and adequate protection for agricological labour.

The Committee considered at length the provision of facilities for the adoption of more efficient means of production and the organisations required for research and development, the training of personnel and exploratory surveys. It has been proposed that a Central Land Utilisation Board should be set up to plan and co-ordinate work in respect of soil erosion, forestry, land reclamation, irrigation works and other forms of land improvement with the necessary finance and staff.

The extent of culturable waste and the causes which prevent it from being cultivated should be ascertained and the requisite facilities provided for utilising such land to the best advantage.

A Sub-Committee is to be appointed to suggest how production of milk and fish may be increased.

On the research side the setting up of a Central Department of Agricology has been suggested as also that the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research should become a Federal Council of Agricology dealing with both research and development, that Agricultural and Animal Husbandry Research Institutes should be strengthened, and Central Commodity Research Stations established for the more important commodities. Staff should be appointed at the Centre to help and advise provinces on agricology and the staff maintained by provinces should be strengthened.

The Committee has further recommended that the Central Government should provide an assured and steady source of income for the various Central organisations and activities proposed for agricological development, such as might be secured by the proposal to reserve for the purpose one half of the profits of the Reserve Bank accruing to the Government of India.

The items of work which the Committee recommended should be taken up first include training of staff, essential surveys, manufacture or import of machinery for cultivation, irrigation, hydro-electric power and fertilizers. Other items of improvement which provinces may take up include irrigation, manure, land improvement, seed, cultural practices, grading of cattle for milk and draught and the provision, of better marketing facilities.

The Committee also considered the rehabilitation of existing forests and the development of new forests and village plantations. It is proposed that each province and State should aim at having not less than 20 per cent, and if possible 25 per cent, of its total area under forest and so distributed that the villager may be enabled to satisfy his requirements of agricultural timber and fuel within a reasonable distance of his home.

A classification should be undertaken forthwith of uncultivated land to determine the areas in which timber can be grown or forest management introduced. Soil conservation circles should be formed in each Province and State to deal with land management, the regulation of grazing with due regard to the needs of the cattle population and growing of trees whether as a protection against floods, erosion or desiccation or to supply the needs of the rural population.

The Committee has also recommended that steps should be taken to develop industries for the utilisation of minor forest produce which will provide avenues of employment for the growing population in forest tracts.

The Committee has requested Provincial Governments to communicate their views, criticisms and concrete suggestions in respect of the various recommendations of the Committee within three months.

The meeting also passed a resolution, moved by Sir Chunilal Mehta, placing on record the Committee's appreciation of the very useful and important memoranda on Agricological Development in India prepared for the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, on Forests by Sir Herbert Howard and on Fisheries by Dr. Baini Prashad and approving in general the recommendations made in the memoranda.

Next Meeting in October

In his closing remarks, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh said they would meet again in October to carry on the work they had started. The message from H. E. the Viceroy, he added, was a mandate to do in the Agricultural Department what other countries were doing.

SIR CHUNILAL MEHTA said they had a very big problem before them but they had the great advantage in having an agriculturist himself at the head of the Agricultural Department. He had no doubt that Sir Jogendra Singh would be able to put his tremendous programme into practical shape in a much shorter period than they had thought. If the Committee was able to help in the framing of the Agricological programme, they would all have the satisfaction of having done something for the welfare and progress of the country and in raising the purchasing power of the masses.

AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

A RS. 1,000-Crore plan for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry with the immediate object of increasing production by 50 per cent in the next 10 years and ultimately by 100 per cent in 15 years is suggested in a memorandum prepared by a Special Committee for the consideration of the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Besides the capital expenditure of Rs. 1,000 crores, the plan provides for recurring annual expenditure of Rs. 20 crores. or, in other words, average total expenditure of nine annas per acre per annum when all the culturable area has been brought under cultivation.

The plan aims at securing enough food of the right kind for every individual and improving the standard of living of the people. Production of cereals, it suggests, should be increased by 10 per cent, pulses by 20 per cent, fats and oils by 250 per cent, fruits by 50 per cent, vegetables by 100 per cent and milk by 300 per cent. The immediate targets for animal foodstuffs are an increase in the production of oil cakes and other concentrates by 400 per cent and fodder by 55 per cent. There is no marked shortage of industrial crops so far as quantity is concerned. Higher production of cash crops of better quality and a proper balance between food and cash crops, however, is indicated.

Reclamation Schemes

Agricultural production can be increased by bringing more land under cultivation, by preventing lands from going out of cultivation and by increasing the outturn from land actually under cultivation. Two crops may be grown from the same plot of land where one is grown at present. Out of 610 million acres of culturable area, 250 million acres are uncultivated or fallow. The memorandum suggests a survey to find out what exactly prevents large blocks of land from being cultivated and the preparation of reclamation and anti-erosion schemes. Bigger and better crops will need water in the right quantity at the right time. Besides irrigation by canals, water may be lifted by mechanical means where irrigation by flow is not possible, more tube-wells and ordinary wells should be sunk, tanks already existing may be repaired and more built to conserve surplus rain water, and bunds and drains should be constructed where necessary.

Where water is available, production can be increased by suitable manuring. It is estimated that 2½ million tons of nitrogen are required annually. This, according to the memorandum, can be made good from farmyard refuse, compost, green manure, oil cakes and inorganic fertilizers. Manure dumps should be dug for the proper preservation of cowdung, town waste converted into compost on the method evolved at Bangalore, green manure should be utilised wherever possible, oil seed production increased and oil cakes used as manure, and as a first step machinery should be imported for the manufacture of 350,000 tons of chemical fertilizers and the manure given at cheap rates to cultivators.

Production can be increased by about 10 or 15 per cent by the use of better seed. A seed farm should be set up in every district to produce pedigree seed and to arrange for their multiplication, storage and distribution. This should be combined with sound cultural practices, including the best rotation of crops. Scope for tractor cultivation and other kinds of power implements should be investigated. This should be introduced where suitable together with consolidation of holdings and consolidated and co-operative farming.

For marketing, villages should be organised to act co-operatively and to sell the surplus produce jointly. The memorandum suggests that Government should guarantee to cultivators an assured market at a reasonable price.

To increase fruit production the present low-yielding inferior quality trees should be replaced by new ones producing a larger quantity of fruit of superior quality. A fruit technological institute should be set up along with regional stations to ensure that these products are prepared in hygienic conditions.

Animal Husbandry

The problems connected with cattle improvement are feeding, breeding, management and disease control. The animals should be bred for qualities, such as disease resistance, economic feeding, longevity and productivity. A nutritious diet supplemented by special minerals such as Calcium and Phosphorus is suggested. The animals should be properly housed and groomed, and there should be proper salvage of cows and buffaloes when they go dry. They may be further helped by the adoption of both preventive and curative measures.

The memorandum recommends that the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute and the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute should specialise in research of a fundamental nature. Their programmes should be co-ordinated with those of provincial departmental research institutes and Universities. Commodity Research

Stations with their own regional or provincial stations should be established for each major commodity. In addition there should be an experimental farm in each division.

Improvements on the scale contemplated in the plan cannot be brought about unless the necessary staff exists. It is, therefore, emphasised that first priority of action must be given to the training of staff of all grades in the necessary numbers. Simultaneously the surveys which are necessary before schemes for reclamation of waste lands and for maximum utilisation of water resources can be drawn up should be taken in hand. In every Tehsil and District, an agricultural association should be set up. For every village there should be a village guide who will act as a link between the technical experts and the cultivators and will be the departmental correspondent for his village.

The order of priority for the more important items of improvement is as follows:

(1) Irrigation, by the construction of tanks, wells and canals.

(2) Manure, where water is available. The manufacture of ammonium sulphate in adequate quantities in India is a crying need.

(3) Land improvement especially by the construction of contour bunds, afforestation and the digging of drainage cuts.

(4) Tillage, for which experimental farms in typical areas are needed to ascertain the best cultural practices.

(5) Seed, including the establishment of seed farms and stores.

(6) The grading up of the cattle and the provision of cattle and sheep farms for each recognised breed.

PRODUCTION OF INDIGENOUS MANURE

Production of indigenous manure is being encouraged by the Agriculture Section of the Education, Health and Lands Department of the Government of India. It has been suggested to Provincial Governments to promote green manuring for irrigated areas and those with a rainfall of more than 50 inches a year. For other areas, a scheme to procure oil cakes and ensure their proper distribution has been suggested.

Production of green manure crop is to be encouraged without decreasing the area under *kharif* foodgrains. Large tracts of land which are to be used for growing wheat in October and November, 1944, and for sugar-cane in February and March, 1945, are likely to remain fallow in the coming months (July-September). If green manure crop is grown in these areas, not only manure will be secured but increased yield can also be obtained from subsequent wheat and cane crops.

There are large stocks of oil cakes in some areas. It has been suggested to Provincial Governments to ascertain what stocks are available and to arrange for their proper distribution.

Provincial Governments have been asked to prepare plans and indicate approximately what acreage is proposed to be green-manured and areas proposed to be manured with oil cakes. The Government of India will give financial assistance for increasing acreages to be manured with oil cakes or green manure.

"FINIS" TO HORSE RACING FOR DURATION OF WAR

Horse Boxes Converted into Food Vans

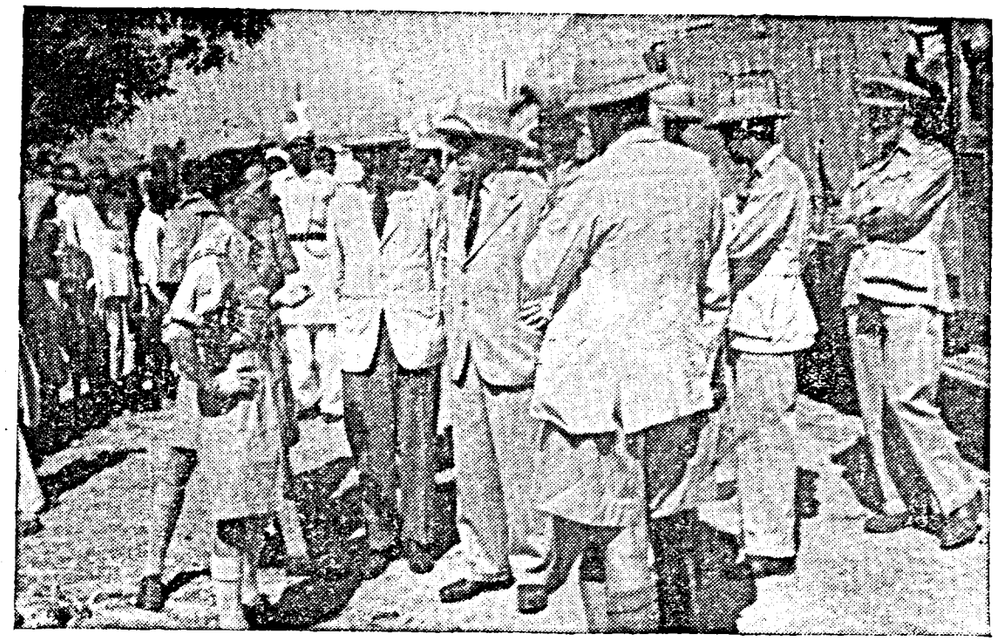
The Priorities Organisation of the War Transport Department, Government of India, has put a ban on the movement of horses, other than those of Government officers on transfer, except with the special permission of the Priorities Authorities.

This order would appear to put "finis" to horse racing in India for the duration of the war, since most, if not all, the horses are believed to have been moved to their normal summer quarters. But those whose favourite sport is likely to be affected can take comfort from the fact that a number of horse boxes have, or are being, converted into food vans and others into ambulance vans for sick and wounded troops.

HOARDING AND PROFITEERING PREVENTION ORDINANCE

Under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, a Notification has been issued by the Controller General of Civil Supplies in the *Gazette of India*, dated June 17, 1944, exempting chillies and tamarind from the operation of Section 7 of the Ordinance, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on June 20. It added:

Section 7 of the Ordinance lays down that no person shall have, in his possession at any one time, a greater quantity of any article to which this Section applies than the quantity necessary for the reasonable needs of himself and his family for a period of three months. This Section does not apply to a dealer in respect of any article sold by him.



H.E. the Viceroy discussing relief work during his visit to the distressed areas in Bengal.

COMMISSION TO INQUIRE INTO CAUSES OF FOOD SHORTAGE IN INDIA IN 1943

A PRESS Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on June 23, stated:

In pursuance of the undertaking given to the Indian Central Legislature at the end of last November, the Government of India have promulgated an Ordinance providing for the constitution of a Commission of Enquiry with the following terms of reference:

"To investigate and report to the Governor-General in Council upon the causes of the food shortage and subsequent epidemics in India, and in particular in Bengal, in 1943, and to make recommendations as to the prevention of their recurrence, with special reference to—(*a*) the possibility of improving the diet of the people and the quality and yield of food crops, and (*b*) the possibility of improving the system of administration in respect of the supply and distribution of food, the provision of emergency medical relief, and the emergent arrangements for the control of epidemics in famine conditions in those areas and in those aspects in which the present system may be found to have been unsatisfactory.

"The Commission will, in the first instance, direct its enquiries to the case of Bengal and in advance of its final report make recommendations in relation to that province."

Scope of Enquiry

It will be observed that the Enquiry is not to be confined to Bengal and that measures to prevent epidemics arising out of famine conditions are also covered. It is not the intention that the Commission, in its consideration of emergent arrangements for the control of epidemics, should impinge on the functions of the Health Survey and Development Committee which has already been set up by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Sir Joseph Bhore to make recommendations for the improvement of health conditions in India generally, in connection with post-war reconstruction plans.

• The names of the Chairman and Members of the Commission will be announced separately.

MORE FOODGRAIN IMPORTS

A PRESS Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on July 1, stated:

His Majesty's Government, who are in close touch with the food situation in India, have informed the Government of India that arrangements will be made to ship 400,000 tons (1,08,00,000 maunds) of wheat to Indian ports, before the end of September 1944.

This quantity is in addition to 400,000 tons of foodgrain imports, mostly wheat, arranged since October 1943, shipments of which continue and have almost been completed.

Foodgrain shipments to India during the 12 months, October 1943 to September 1944, will therefore amount to 800,000 tons. His Majesty's Government will review the position early in August 1944, and again early in November 1944.

FOOD MEMBER'S STATEMENT

The Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member to the Government of India, has issued the following statement:

The announcement that India is to have a further 400,000 tons (1,08,00,000 maunds) of foodgrains by October 1944, in addition to 400,000 tons already received, will be welcomed by all those who have taken an intelligent interest in the food problem of this country. Considering the difficulties of shipping as a result of the war situation in Europe, this is no small contribution to the immediate needs of India.

His Majesty's Government have definitely promised to review the situation in August and again in November, and I have every hope that they will continue to send substantial imports. These imports will have a very good effect on the prices in this country, as it is expected that the imported cost of the foodgrains will be appreciably below the statutory maximum prices fixed for wheat in the Punjab and elsewhere. While the Food Department has spared no effort in securing these imports, it must not be assumed that Provincial Governments under the general direction of the Central Government, will not do their best to procure all the available supplies in the country.

No one will be permitted to hold back foodgrains in the hope of making profits at a later date. It has not been our policy so far to requisition from the producers, but the Food Department is anxiously watching the situation and we hope very much that it will not become necessary to resort to requisitioning from the grower. The extension of rationing to the cities of India makes it all the more necessary that procurement should proceed according to plan.

OFFENCES AGAINST FOOD LAWS

THE question of securing expeditious trial and exemplary punishments for offences against food laws has long been engaging the attention of the Central and Provincial Governments. Steps already taken in this direction have been to amend the Defence of India Rules so that certain offences can now be (1) tried by 2nd Class Magistrates and (2) according to summary procedure by Magistrates specially empowered in this behalf.

A further step taken in this direction has been to amend sub-rule (4) of Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules by which it has been made compulsory for a Magistrate to impose, as an additional penalty in case of a conviction for breach of food laws, forfeiture of stocks involved in the prosecution, unless for reasons to be recorded in writing, the Magistrate thinks that this penalty should be waived in a particular case.

NO EXPORTS OF FOODGRAINS

A Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on June 23, stated:

There is no truth whatever in the report to which publicity has been given that the Government of India contemplate exporting 6,000 tons of rice to Ceylon. The Government of India stand by their declared policy that no exports of foodgrains will be allowed so long as the present emergency lasts, except small quantities required for merchant ships sailing from Indian ports.

AUSTERITY MEALS

Owing to the food situation, certain Provincial Governments have limited the number of courses that can be served in catering establishments while others have restricted the number of guests that can be invited to feasts. The Central Food Department has asked provincial administrations, which have not already done so, to pass similar orders.

INDIAN ARMY CLUBS AND HOSTELS IN ROME

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of £3000 from the War Purposes Fund for setting up two clubs and leave hostels for Indian Other Ranks and one club and leave hostel for officers of the Indian Army in Rome.

Buildings for these clubs had been earmarked before the fall of Rome and two of them are now open, whilst the third is expected to open soon.

INDIAN WATERWAYS EXPERIMENT STATION

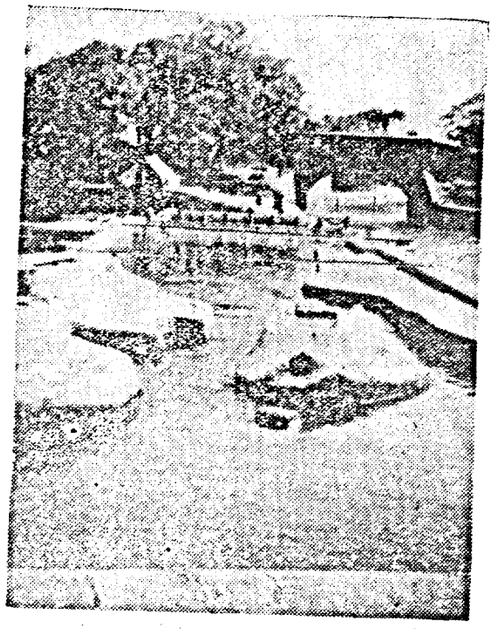
THE name of the Central Irrigation and Hydrodynamic Research Station, Poona, has been changed into "Indian Waterways Experiment Station," according to a Notification published in the *Gazette of India*, dated June 24, 1944.

The Station, recently put on a permanent basis by the Government of India, was originated 24 years ago under the Bombay Government at Poona by Mr. C. C. Inglis, then Executive Engineer, Special Irrigation Division.

In its early days, experiments were conducted at Hadapsar with models designed to solve various hydrodynamic problems concerning irrigation in Bombay and Sind—especially in connection with the design of the Sukkur Barrage Scheme and the Deccan Canals, then being constructed.

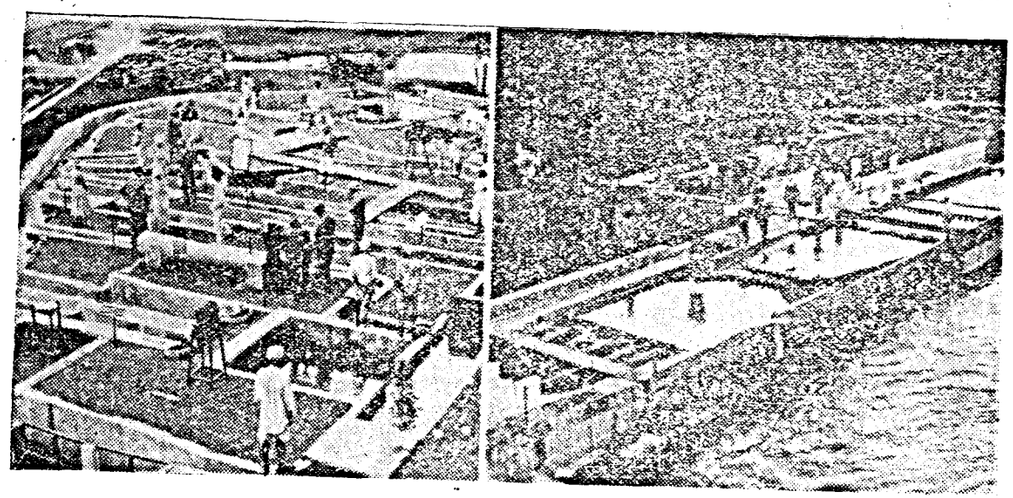
Outstanding Features

In 1925, it was found that the discharge available at the Station was insufficient for carrying out several large-scale model experiments simultaneously; and, as exceptional facilities existed at Khadakwasla situated about 11 miles from Poona, where water could be drawn straight from Lake Fife, new models were constructed there. In 1934, the original station was totally transferred to Khadakwasla, where it has been working ever since. In 1937, it was taken over by the Government of India to serve the whole of India. Mr. Inglis was appointed its first Director, a position which he still holds.



Model of the Lloyd Barrage at Sukkur, with Bukkur island in the foreground.

The outstanding features of the Station are that there are 11 independent sources of supply,



A few of the model experiments at the Indian Waterways Experiment Station, Poona, (Right) Model of a canal fall.



Lord Wavell inspecting the Sukkur Barrage, the greatest irrigation scheme in the world, which gives life to 5,500,000 acres of desert land.

the discharge of each of which can be maintained absolutely constant; no pumping is required; water is free from sand and is normally clear except during floods in July to September, and the temperature of the water is constant throughout the day and varies very little throughout the year. The Station comprises an area of 16 acres. Twelve models are normally under investigation at the same time, in addition to some 20 demonstration models.

Important Investigations

During the last 7 years, over 100 important investigations have been carried out at the Station. These included the protection of bridges over rivers and the prevention of excess sand entering canals. This was applied in many cases, the most important being the right bank canals at Sukkur which were rapidly going out of service due to the excessive charge of bed sand entering them.

River training, in tidal and non-tidal waters, was another important line of research; and a number of important principles have been established in connection with the value of attracting, deflecting, and repelling spurs for controlling rivers; the factors determining the size and shape of meanders, the relation between rainfall and run-off; the effect of silt washed into rivers when hill denudation occurs; and the rate of silting of reservoirs.

INCREASE IN BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY TRAFFIC

Achievement of American Military Units

A feature of recent railway returns has been the remarkable increase in traffic last year on the broad and metre gauge sections of the Bengal and Assam Railway.

It is true that to meet the operational needs of the railway, most of the imported engines of high tractive power have been concentrated on this railway, that 3,482 broad-gauge and 12,369 metre-gauge wagons are shown up to that date to have been drawn from other railways to the detriment of traffic on those railways, and that the U.S. military railway units have rendered very great services on the northern metre-gauge section. Nevertheless, an increase of 80 per cent in traffic is no mean achievement and reflects credit on both the operating and construction staff.

While there are, of course, complaints at the restrictions imposed by the priority authorities regulating civil traffic, the restrictions will not be grudged in view of the punctual manner in which troop movements for the operations on the Eastern frontier have been carried out and the great increase in stores movements for this front and for China.

WORKING OF THE TEXTILE CONTROL SCHEME

Mr. M. K. Vellodi's Radio Talk



Mr. M. K. Vellodi.

"THERE is no definite shortage of cloth as such and the Textile Control Board and the Government of India are fully alive to the necessity of a gradual reduction in the prices of cloth and its equitable distribution," said Mr. M. K. Vellodi, C.I.E., I.C.S., Textile Commissioner, Government of India, in a recent broadcast talk from the Bombay Station of All India Radio, reviewing the working of the Textile Control Scheme during the past year.

Here is the full text of the talk:

By December 17, 1943, the position was that large quantities of hoarded cloth had been brought to the surface; the prices of cloth had been reduced by about 40 per cent from the peak levels of March|April|May, 1943; the movement of cloth had been rationalised; the prices both *ex*-factory and retail had for the first time begun to be printed on the article itself; Government Standard Cloth had begun to appear in large quantities in the rural markets of the country; and the several successive steps taken by the Government of India, the most important of which was the closure of Cotton Futures Market in Bombay and its subsequent reopening under restricted conditions had considerably narrowed the speculative horizon. It will only be the incredulous, the unappreciative, or the ignorant that will fail to notice that a great step forward had been taken towards the reduction of prices in these various measures taken by the Textile Control Board and the Government of India.

Prices Brought Down

The two objectives of control were firstly, a substantial reduction in the prices of cloth and of yarn and secondly, a considerable increase in their production within a reasonable period of time. A comparison of to-day's prices with those that obtained immediately prior to control will show that considerable success has been achieved in regard to the first objective. The price of Grey Drill which was Rs. 0-7-1 per lb. before the War had reached a figure of Rs. 2-10-0 per lb. in June, 1943. In January, 1944, the ceiling price for this quality was fixed at Rs. 1-12-10 per lb. which was reduced in March to Rs. 1-10-2 and again in May to Rs. 1-7-9 per lb. Bleached *Mull Mull* which was quoted at Rs. 1-0-4 per lb. before the War rose to Rs. 6-4-0 per lb. in June, 1943. In May, the Industry's Committee of the Textile Control Board fixed the ceiling price of this variety of cloth at Rs. 3-5-5. Leopard cloth which was sold at Rs. 0-8-2 per lb. before the War and which in June, 1943, was quoted at Rs. 2-11-3 to Rs. 3-0-0 per lb. has a ceiling price to-day of Rs. 1-11-0 per lb. 20's yarn, which was quoted at Rs. 0-6-1 per lb. in August, 1939, went up to Rs. 2-6-9 per lb. in June, 1943. The ceiling price for this yarn as fixed in May, 1944, is Rs. 1-3-0 per lb.

On an average, therefore, the prices of Cotton Textiles have been reduced by approximately 50 per cent from the peak levels in the middle of last year, and to-day remain at a level round about three times the pre-war prices, the cost of production having risen roughly 2½ times pre-war cost.

I would like to emphasise the fact that these reductions in prices were imposed on the industry by the industry itself; a fact the importance of which is not adequately appreciated, and which to my knowledge has not been even attempted by any other industry of the same magnitude in the country.

High Level of Production

Similar progress has not unfortunately been recorded in respect of the second objective, *viz.*, increased production, though production has been running at a fairly high level throughout this period. The increasingly difficult position regarding supplies of coal in certain producing

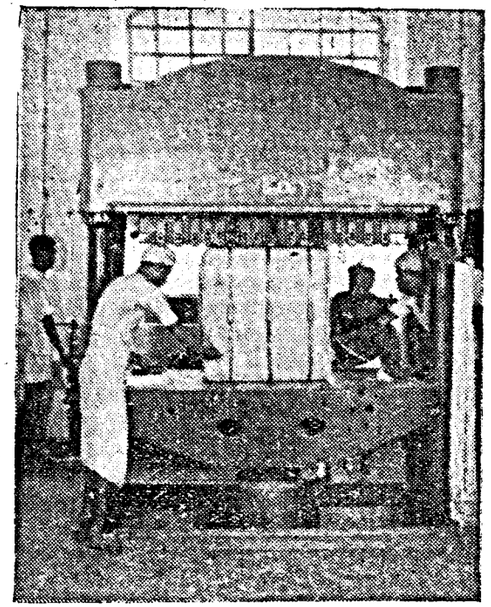
centres, the restricted supplies of essential stores and the comparative shortage of trained labour to meet further increase in output have set their limits to production though as against an average annual production of 3,500 million yards prior to war, the Textile Mills in this country are now producing round about 4,800 million yards of cloth per annum. Handloom production, partly no doubt due to the absence of any control over its prices, has increased considerably and appears rapidly to be reaching the 2,000 million yards mark. Out of a gross total of 6,800 million yards of cloth produced in the country roughly 1,200 million yards are absorbed in export and the requirements of the Defence Services. We should still, however, have nearly 5,600 million yards of cloth for distribution in the country as against 6,400 million yards prior to the war.

Evil of Black Market

Having brought down prices, having organised the movement of cloth on a more rational basis, having brought to the surface large stocks of hoarded cloth, the Textile Control Board and the Government had every right to expect that there would be no further serious impediments to the fruition of their labours, and that cloth and yarn would reach the consumer in reasonable quantities and at reasonable prices. The best-laid plans of mice and men, however, gang aft aglee and the Textile Control proved to be no exception. The black market—that bogey of all controls—began to raise its ugly head. In the wholesale markets of the country cloth began to be sold at not 10, not 20, but 50 to 60 per cent over the control prices.

Buyers from upcountry coming to the manufacturing or very large distributing centres found that every door was barred with gold and opened but to golden keys. It is difficult to find a parallel to such grinding and extortionate spirit. At the meeting of the Textile Control Board held last April, no less a person than the Chairman made pointed reference to the existence of this evil and advocated that the most stringent measures should be taken to suppress it.

The Textile Control Board and the Government endeavoured to meet this new danger in a two-fold manner, firstly, by introducing certain measures to canalise the distribution of the production of the mills and secondly, by investing the Textile Commissioner with powers to prescribe the manner in which manufacturers and dealers may effect sales or distribute their goods. Under the provision of Clause 18-A of the Control Order, it is now laid down that no textile manufacturer shall sell the products of his mill to any dealer other than the one who



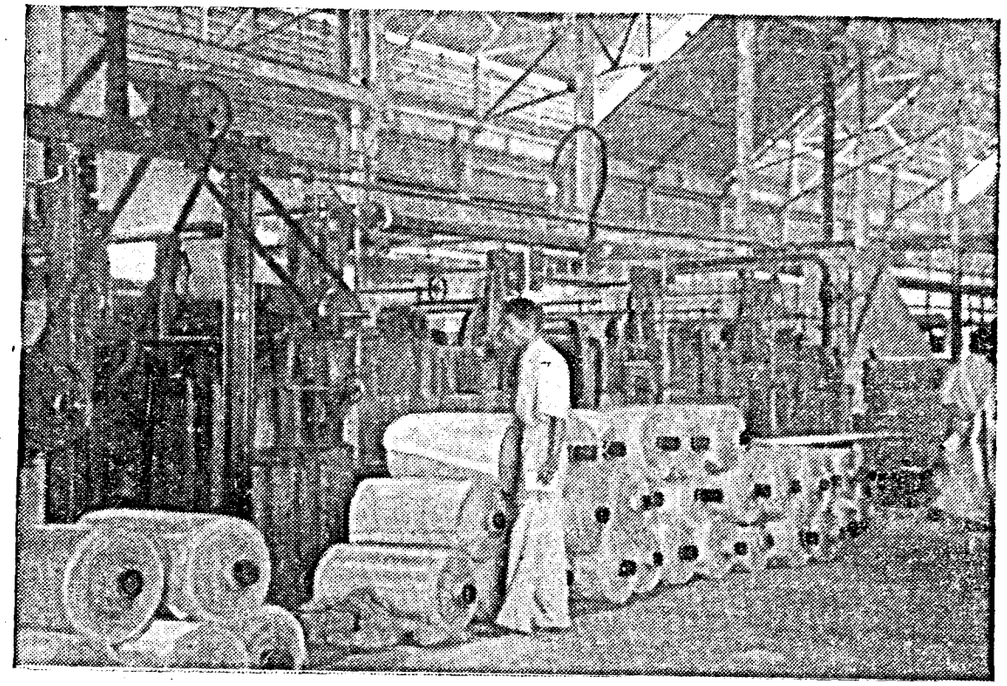
Stitching a bale of cloth after pressing, in a big South Indian Cotton Mill which produces large quantities of cloth for the Indian Army.

had dealt with the mill in 1940-41-42. Under the extended powers granted to him the Textile Commissioner is to-day controlling the distribution of the production of 10 mills in the Bombay Province and 2 in Madras, while taking the entire control over the manufacture and production of two other mills in Bombay City. Simultaneously a vigorous drive against black markets has been launched in many provinces resulting in the unearthing of hoarded stocks and the inflicting of punishment on certain distributors.

Licensing Retail Shops

Prominent mention should be made in this connection of the measures taken by the Bombay Government in licensing nearly 300 retail shops to which goods are supplied directly from the mills whose production has been controlled by the Government of India. The remainder of the production of these mills is being supplied direct to the dealers in certain selected provinces *viz.*, Sind, the Punjab, U.P., Bihar and Madras. This process of direct distribution from the mills to the dealers in the consuming centres is an interesting experiment which is full of possibilities for the future.

Both these measures, *viz.*, canalisation of the distribution and the executive action taken by the Governments have been the subject of criticism in certain quarters. It is said that the restriction of direct dealings with the mills

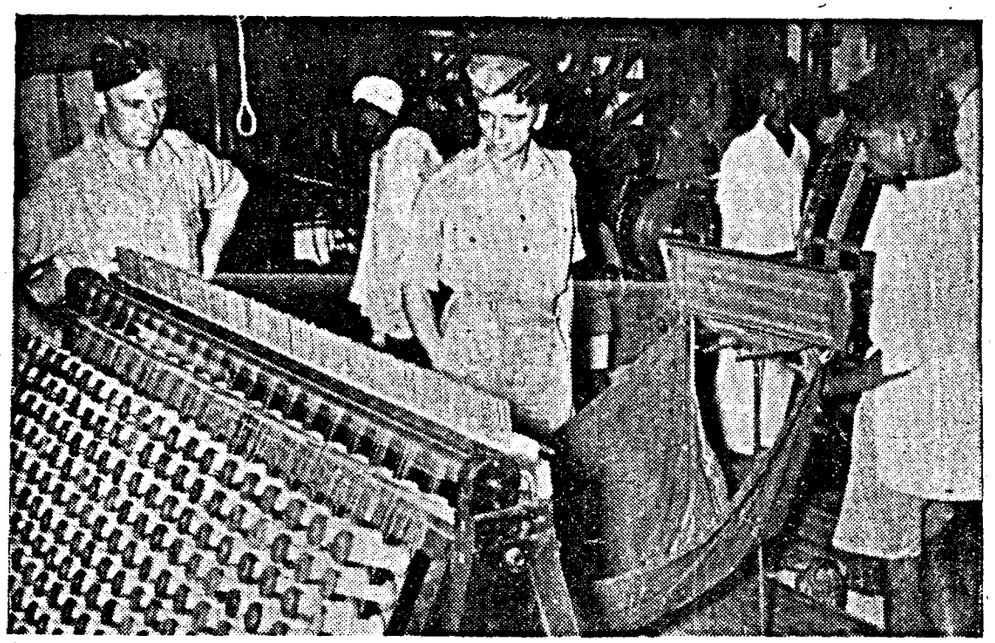


One of the many machines used in the dyehouse for the manufacture of khaki cloth in a Cotton Mill.

to those dealers who were in the business in 1940-41-42 has imposed an unmerited hardship on several genuine dealers who had come into existence in 1943 and subsequently. It is said that the action taken by the Government of India and the Provincial Governments in controlling production and eliminating, at least for the time being, some of the more prominent dealers is bound to dislocate the ordinary channels of trade and make the distribution of cloth more difficult. It is argued that punitive measures or disciplinary action will not by themselves cure the evil or stop black-marketing. To these critics I will only say this, that the provision of food and raiment to the people of a country is a duty cast on the State; in the case of cloth in this country fortunately, the industry had itself come to the assistance of the Government in an organised manner. By mutual consultation and discussion, the Textile Control Board and the Government had concerted certain measures for the gradual reduction of the prices of cloth and yarn and for its equitable distribution. Is all this work to be set at nought merely because there is no limit to the cupidity of certain section of the industry and the trade? There can, I think, be only one answer to this question.

No account of the Textile Control can be regarded as complete without a reference to the manufacture and supply under Government auspices of what has come to be known as Standard Cloth. In spite of the very heavy handicaps that the scheme of Standard Cloth has had to contend with, this cloth has been very popular in the countryside. Out of 570 million yards of Standard Cloth so far supplied to Provincial Governments and States over 357 million yards of the cloth have been sold. Several Provincial Governments have unequivocally testified that the introduction of Standard Cloth has been the best scheme devised by the Government of India for the amelioration of the masses of this country. It is still the cheapest cloth that is sold throughout the country and what is more important is obtainable by the people at the accredited prices.

The unprecedented demand for cloth from countries outside India led, in 1941-42, to the indiscriminate export of large quantities of cloth resulting in the dumping of very inferior quality of cloth in the foreign markets. In order to minimise this evil, the Control Board and Government have now evolved a scheme for the restriction of profit margins on exports of cloth and yarn and also for the regulation of their quality.



Two British soldiers watch the manufacture of parachute silk in a silk weaving factory in Mysore.

An early introduction of this scheme would enable the Indian Cotton Textile Industry to create and maintain a favourable atmosphere for Indian goods in the markets of the importing countries.

From this brief review I think it will be clear to you that there is no definite shortage of cloth as such and that the Textile Control Board and the Government of India are fully alive to the necessity of a gradual reduction in the prices of cloth and its equitable distribution. But certain facts have to be faced and these are that though there is no general shortage of cloth there is only a limited supply; that there is plenty of liquid money in the country; and that particularly in the finer varieties of cloth, demand is far larger than supply.

Any large increase in the production of fine cloth is out of the question: for, firstly, though we do import a fair quantity of foreign cotton much of this goes to the production of cloth for Defence requirements and secondly, we do not now import any foreign yarn. Fine Cloth will, therefore, continue to be in short supply and may even have to be rationed. There is, however, need for a more rationalised production of cloth by the elimination of the myriad varieties and the concentration of production on certain well-known lines which are most commonly used by the people of this country and by the manufacture of cloth and yarn from Indian rather than foreign cotton which would, apart from being a patriotic act, also prove of invaluable assistance to the Cotton grower. There is also the need for recognition by the Government of India of the Cotton Textile Industry as a national asset which would imply a readiness by the Government to render timely and generous aid to the industry in providing machinery and parts of machinery. Coupled with these, there should be a rationalised and organised system of distribution based, if possible, on the co-operation of the trade, which should, however, keep fully in view the limitations imposed by the restrictions on transport and the necessity of accepting reasonable margins of profits in the interests of the consumer.

One last word. What is the future of this control? How long will this control last? These are questions to which it is not possible to give a decisive reply. It seems, however, fairly clear that even if the war were to end in the near future the demand for cloth throughout the world will be so great that in the interests of the people of this country, if for nothing else, control in some shape or form over the manufacture and distribution of cloth will be necessary for a fairly long period after the war.

STANDING LABOUR COMMITTEE DISCUSSES RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNIONS

PROPOSALS to secure compulsory recognition of Trade Unions and the appointment and constitution of boards of recognition, as embodied in the Indian Trade Unions (Amendment) Bill, 1943, were discussed at the fifth meeting of the Standing Labour Committee held in New Delhi on June 27. The Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presided.

The employers' and the workers' representatives explained their views on the criterion for judging the representativeness of a trade union.

While the employers' representatives generally favoured the idea of bringing together employers and workers, they seemed to be of the opinion that this co-operation should be on a voluntary and non-legal basis. It was stated that with the healthy growth of trade unions, there would be no difficulty as regards recognition.

The workers' representatives favoured the idea of compulsory recognition and at the same time pleaded that the scope of the amending bill should be widened to confer more rights and privileges on trade unions.

Statistics of Trade Disputes

The Committee then discussed a proposal to improve the existing statistics of trade disputes in order to have uniformity in the method of compilation and to improve their utility for purposes of comparison as between provinces in India and with other countries. It was suggested that the machinery provided by the Industrial Statistics Act of 1942 empowering the Provincial Governments to secure statistics should be utilised. This procedure would be, moreover, on the lines of the system adopted by the International Labour Organisation. There was general approval of the proposal.

The Committee, however, discussed the alternatives of serving notices on all employers irrespective of the number of their employees or only on those employing 10 or more workers. Draft rules and forms for the collection of statistics under the proposed procedure were circulated to the members of the Committee.

Visit to Cloth Mills

After the meeting, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar and the members of the Standing Labour Committee, on the invitation of Sir Shri Ram, visited the Delhi Cloth Mills, where they saw various manufacturing processes as well as the labour welfare work undertaken by the management. Sir Shri Ram accompanied the party to the workers' quarters and explained the sanitary arrangements and facilities as regards water for drinking and bathing. The Workers' Colony has a school, a dispensary and a library, equipped with a radio set which was tuned in to a film song radiating from A.I.R., Delhi.

The party also saw a swimming pool varying in depth to suit the novice as well as the expert swimmer. At the workers' sports club a *kabbadi* match was in progress. Nearby was a workers' theatre where, it was stated, historical and other plays, all acted by the workers were staged occasionally.

The following delegates and advisers representing the Central and Provincial Governments, Indian States, All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, Employers Federation of India, All-India Trade Union Congress, Indian Federation of Labour, and other employers and workers attended the meeting:

The Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary, Department of Labour, and Mr. S. Lall, Joint Secretary (Central Government); Sardar Bahadur Isher Singh, Labour Commissioner, Nagpur, and Mr. C. K. Vijayaraghavan, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner, Madras (Madras and Central Provinces and Berar); Mr. S. V. Joshi, Labour Commissioner, and Mr. V. P. Keni, Assistant Labour Commissioner (Bombay); Mr. A. Hughes, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner (Bengal); Mr. J. E. Pedley, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner (United Provinces); Mr. M. H. Mahmood, Director of Industries, Punjab, and Mr. P. K. Kaul, I.C.S., Secretary to Government, Electricity and Industries Department, Punjab (Punjab, Sind and N.-W.F.P.); Mr. A. S. Ramachandran Pillai, Labour Commissioner, Assam, and the Director of Development and Chief Inspector of Factories, Orissa (Assam and Orissa); Mr. K. S. Srikantan, Director of Industries, Indore, Mr. B. S. Desai, Assistant Director of Labour, Baroda, and Mr. N. D. Gupta, Labour Officer, Gwalior (Baroda, Indore and Gwalior States); Mr. E. I. Chacko, Director of Industries and Labour Commissioner, Travancore, and Mr. M. A. Mirza, State Labour Officer, Hyderabad, Deccan (Mysore and Travancore States); Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Chamber of Princes); Sir Shri Ram, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai and Mr. D. G. Mulherkar, Secretary, All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers (All-India Organisation

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 57)

WORKING OF FACTORIES ACT IN 1942

INCREASED employment of workers, longer working hours and employment of semi-trained and sometimes untrained personnel are some of the factors responsible for an increase in the total number of accidents in factories in British India from 48,736 in 1941 to 54,174 in 1942, according to the Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, during 1942. The fatal and serious accidents increased, respectively, from 271 to 323 and from 8,374 to 9,111; and the average per 1,00,000 operatives was 2,374 as against 2,260 during the previous year.

In Bombay, the largest number of accidents occurred under non-machinery headings; the most serious accident reported from that area was in Alexandra Mills, in which 7 lives were lost and 69 persons were injured. In Bengal, among other reasons, lighting restrictions in connection with A.R.P. were also said to have contributed towards increased accidents. In Madras, as many as 843 accidents occurred in Railway workshops, out of a total of 4,135.

Safety Devices

The report mentions that the questions of fencing dangerous machinery and other safety devices seem generally to have received the attention of employers. The small amount of new safety construction during the year is attributed to shortage of material, particularly iron bars. It is, however, stated that the need to concentrate on the production of war materials with the staff available prevented the diversion of maintenance workers to undertake fencing repairs and construction even when a certain amount of material was available for the purpose. This was specially true of Bengal where priority had to be given to urgent increased production in practically all industries. In spite of these adverse conditions a great deal of fencing was carried out either voluntarily or by order. In other Provinces safety construction was undertaken to the extent possible under conditions of shortage. A number of Provinces commented that no special efforts were made to encourage safety habits among labour.

During the year under review the number of factories actually working increased from 11,868 to 12,527—the increase being only among perennial factories. Seasonal factories, on the other hand, registered a small decrease from 3,693 to 3,681. Among the provinces that showed the increases, the most prominent were Madras, Bombay and the Punjab. Bengal recorded a decrease of 109 factories.

The proportion of notified factories increased from 31 per cent in 1941 to 32.2 per cent in 1942 in the case of perennial factories; and from 8.5 per cent to 10.4 per cent in the case of seasonal factories. As regards perennial factories the proportion of notified factories was largest in the case of Bombay (74.4 per cent) followed by the Central Provinces and Berar (44.4 per cent), Assam (39.8 per cent), Sind (31.1 per cent) and Madras (29.1 per cent).

The number of women employed decreased from 2,62,132 in 1941 to 2,61,704 in 1942; the number of adolescents increased from 26,163 to 26,330 and the number of children rose from 10,376 to 11,804. The percentage of women to the total factory population stood at 11.4.

PROGRESS OF LABOUR WELFARE

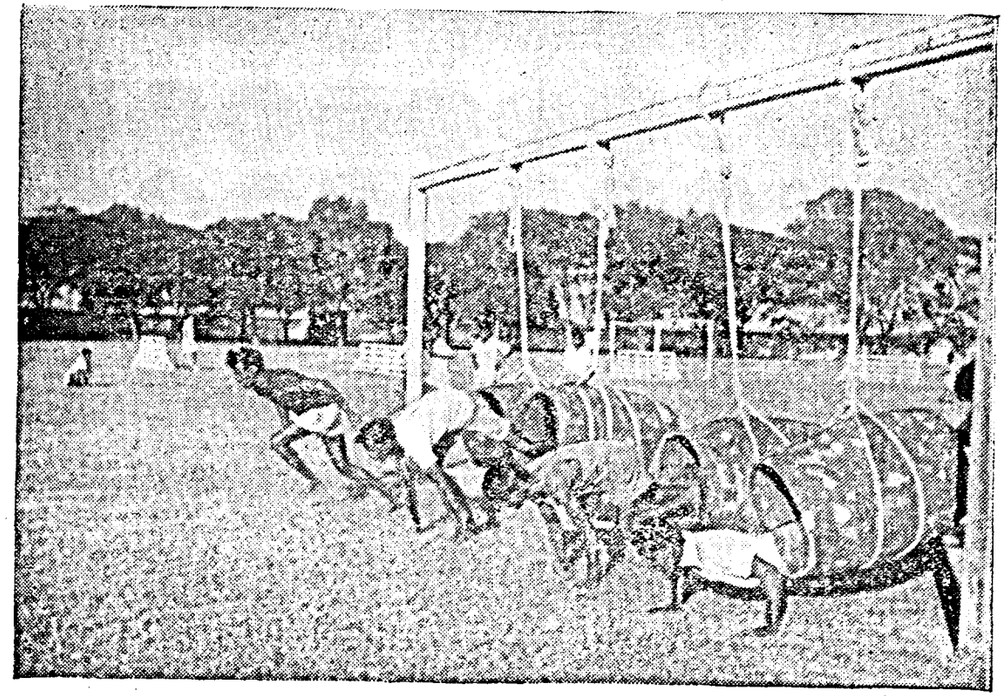
A special scheme of payment whereby workers reporting for duty after each air raid alert received As. 12 as "siren allowance", is mentioned in the report as an instance of the allowances which contributed to the increased war-time earnings of industrial labour in India.

The report says that there was a general increase in the wages of the workers and that dearness allowance, bonus and overtime work contributed to the increased earnings during the year. In Bombay, in the smaller concerns such as ginning, brick, *bidi* and *gur* factories, increases from 25 to 30 per cent were reported. Benefits in kind, such as grains at concession rates, also assisted the workers substantially. In Bengal, although the workers in the jute mills suffered a reduction in income due to diminished working hours, the increased rates of dearness allowance, cheap grain facilities, etc., tended to compensate partly for this loss.

Air-Conditioned Factories

In the engineering industry in Bengal, although the basic wages remained stationary, the workers benefited generally owing to the increased overtime work. In the Punjab, the wages of all classes of labour were reported to have advanced by 25 to 30 per cent as compared with the previous year. A slight rise in the wages was also reported from Sind and Ajmer-Merwara.

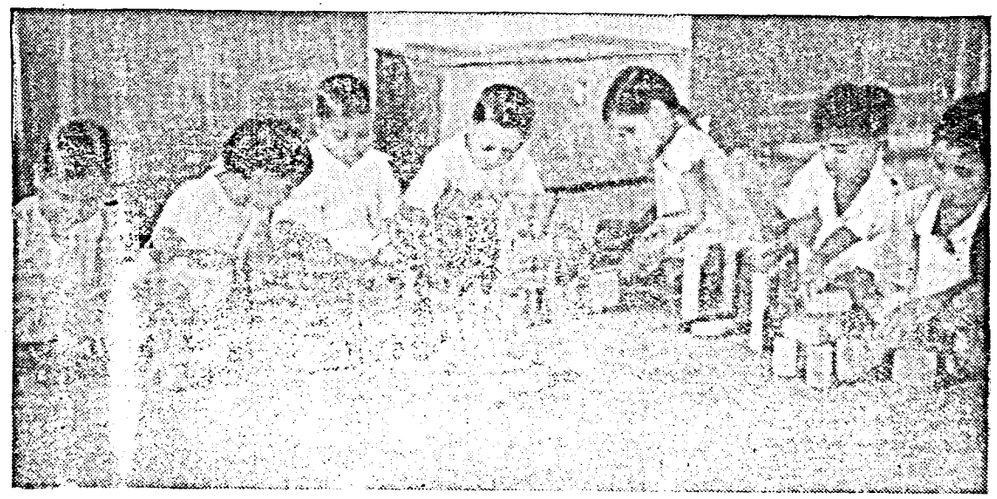
Although due to the shortage of construction materials, progress as regards ventilation and humidification was not as satisfactory as would be desired, the report mentions some instances where the employers went to the



Obstacle race: Annual Sports held by a South Indian Cotton Mills Welfare Committee.

extent of installing cooling plants in the factories. This was done in one mill in Bombay at a cost of about Rs. 40,000 with the result that afternoon temperatures were reduced from 99.0 to 82.6. Two ordnance factories installed cyclone dust extraction plants with good results.

In the United Provinces, the installation of an air-conditioning plant in a local factory was



A Kindergarten class run at a cotton mill school.

said to have improved working conditions considerably. Several firms in this Province took advantage of the boom period in trade to effect improvements, although the tendency was unfortunately to deal 'piecemeal' with such questions. No improvements were noticeable in the Punjab. In Sind, lighting and ventilation arrangements continued to be satisfactory. In Bengal, the standards of ventilation and lighting were, to an extent, affected by A.R.P. restrictions and by the construction of blast walls to protect vital plants and machinery.

During the year under review, the provisions of the Factories Act as regards sanitation and health were reported to have been well observed. Owing to the increased employment of workers, additional latrines had to be constructed in many factories, but lack of building material was largely responsible for holding up progress. In Bombay and some other provinces, a higher standard of internal and external lime-washing was attributed to larger profits. The report, however, mentions that great difficulty was experienced in Bombay in obtaining provision of minimum standard in factories of the engineering and allied trades, in which a large increase in workers was noted.

In Bengal

In Bengal, while the long-established concerns adhered to the relevant provisions of the Act, sanitary arrangements in many of the small new establishments which had sprung up due to war needs, left much room for improvement. This was attributed to the fact that the owners of these small concerns appeared to be sceptical about the survival of their concerns after the war and consequently did little to improve sanitary conditions.

A few cases of cholera and small-pox were reported from Titaghur and the Dooars in Bengal. The prevalence of black-water fever in the tea-districts was more severe than usual. A few cases of small-pox were also reported from Sind.

In spite of war conditions, says the report, welfare work in factories continued to progress. Reports were received from 118 creches out of 130 creches functioning in factories in Bombay. It is stated that despite the satisfactory efforts of lady inspectors and the management of many mills, the attendance was most disappointing. Due to continued prosperity of the industry during this period substantial improvements could be effected as regards mill dispensaries.

Cheap grain shops were a very popular feature of these welfare activities. In Bengal, on account of the rising cost of essential foodstuffs, and to meet possible shortages, the majority of the larger factories laid in food reserves and maintained cheap foodgrain shops.

The establishment of workers' canteens, however, made little progress. This is partly attributed to the workers living in the immediate vicinity of factories and consequently having their mid-day meals at their homes. In Madras and U.P. the employers continued to pay their best attention to existing schemes of welfare such as recreation, educational and medical facilities, canteens and arrangements for supplying foodstuffs at concession rates.

TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHEME: ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In pursuance of the Resolution published in the *Gazette of India* on March 11, 1944, the Central Government have appointed an Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of Railway, Supply and Labour Departments and engineering employers to review the existing methods and syllabuses of training under the Technical Training Scheme and to advise how they should be adjusted to meet the present-day needs of the industry, said a Press Note issued by Labour Department on June 22.

It added: The Committee consists of the Secretary to the Government of India, Labour Department, as Chairman; Director of Training, Technical Training Scheme, as Vice-Chairman, and the following members:

Khan Bahadur M. D. Sheikh, representing the Railway Department; Mr. H. I. Matthews, Deputy Director of Ordnance Factories, and Mr. A. R. Winton, Labour Officer (Director-General Ship Repairs and Construction) representing Supply Department; Messrs. A. W. Taylor and E. W. A. Richardson, representing Indian Engineering Association; Dr. John Matthai, representing Employers' Federation of India; Mr. G. L. Mehta, representing All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers; Dr. Nand Singh, representing Engineering Association of India; Mr. M. Subba Rao, representing the Cotton Textile Industry and Mr. V. Ramakrishna, I.C.S., Chairman, Madras National Service Labour Tribunal. Mr. N. Bhattacharya, Senior Regional Inspector, Technical Training Scheme, Central Circle, has been appointed Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee will meet as required at important industrial centres, and it is expected that the first meeting will be held sometime towards the end of July or early in August.

COMPENSATION FOR DISABLED WORKERS

THE number of cases in which compensation was paid to workers and the amount of compensation paid increased, respectively, from 37,181 to 42,603 and from Rs. 15,52,068 to Rs. 18,19,505, according to the annual report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, during the year 1942. Of the total number of accidents 923 resulted in deaths, 2,187 in permanent disablement and 39,493 in temporary disablement; and the compensation paid for these three groups was Rs. 7,66,219; Rs. 5,87,006 and Rs. 4,66,280.

Both from the point of view of compensation paid and the number of accidents which occurred, Bombay was leading. The number of accidents in this Province increased from 12,600 in 1941 to 13,300 in 1942, while the total compensation paid increased by about Rs. 1,00,000, amounting to Rs. 4,61,287 in 1942. The number of accidents in Bengal increased from 4,677 to 5,553 and the amount of compensation paid declined by about Rs. 3,000. There was a slight increase in the number of accidents in Bihar and a decrease in the amount of compensation paid. In Madras, there was a slight increase both in the number of accidents and in the amount of compensation paid. The average sum paid per case during 1942 was Rs. 42.5 as against Rs. 41.7 per case in the previous year.

Serious Accidents

Four cases of serious accidents were reported from Bombay, involving a loss of about 76 lives. In some of these cases compensation was deposited voluntarily either by the employers or the insurers, but in other cases such claims were hotly contested at almost every stage. In one instance it was, however, possible for the poor and illiterate dependants to prove their case against the recalcitrant employer with the help of the Bombay Claims Agency. The report mentions that the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act were widely known among the workers in the larger industrial areas like Dhanbad and Dhalbhum in Bihar.

In Bombay, the insurance companies cooperated in the speedy disposal of cases and the Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, was actively helping the workers. Through the assistance of this Association increasing amounts of compensation were secured for the workers during the year. The Association handled 174 claims as against 138 claims during the previous year, of which 139 cases were successful. The amount of compensation secured during the year was Rs. 28,402 as against Rs. 16,817 in the previous year.

In some Provinces there were relatively more accidents among the workers of the lower-wage categories. The importance of employers taking keen interest in the safety of workers and of carrying on extensive propaganda and instruction among the workers to make them "accident conscious" is emphasised in the report.

During the year under review 91 per cent of employers in Bombay submitted returns required under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Defaulters were high among the Municipalities and local District Boards and the cinema film producing companies—only about 58 per cent of these responded. In Madras returns were called from 3,027 establishments of whom 2,906 or 96 per cent responded.

WAR RISKS (GOODS) INSURANCE ORDINANCE

A Press communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on June 20, stated:

The Government of India have decided to amend the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance, 1940, so as to cover damages occurring as the direct result of any explosion or fire which involves any explosives or munitions or other dangerous things required for war purposes, and which happens or is caused by or through or in connection with the manufacture, storage or transportation of any such explosives, munitions or other dangerous things.

In view of the additional risk to be now undertaken, the rate of premium payable in respect of goods subject to compulsory insurance under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme for the quarter beginning July 1, 1944, has been fixed at one anna and three pies per month or part of a month for each complete sum of Rs. 100.

RECOGNITION OF TRADE UNIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 53)

of Industrial Employers); Mr. H. S. Town, Mr. C. C. Miller, M.L.A., Mr. J. Latimer and Mr. T. S. Swaminathan, Secretary, Employers' Federation of India (Employers' Federation of India); Mr. S. S. Mirajkar, Mr. V. Chakkarai Chettiar, Mr. Kazi Mujtaba and Mr. V. G. Balwaik (All-India Trade Union Congress); Prof. B. N. Banerji, Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, Mr. Abdul Sattar and Mr. V. G. Karnick (Indian Federation of Labour); Rai Bahadur Shyam Nandan Sahaya (other Employers); Mr. S. C. Joshi, M.L.C., and Mr. P. T. Dewara (other workers).

FOOTWEAR PRICES CONTROLLED

THE Footwear Control Order, 1944, issued in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated June 29, 1944, controls the prices of all men's and women's footwear sold in India except "made to measure" and imported footwear, the prices of which will continue to be regulated as at present under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on June 28. It added:

As it is not possible, owing to the scattered and unorganised nature of the Indian shoe industry, to limit production to certain specified types and to fix a controlled price for each type, maximum prices varying from Rs. 18 to Rs. 2 have been fixed for 10 general categories covering the whole range of men's, women's and children's footwear. In effect, therefore, the Control Order fixes an overall maximum price of Rs. 18, above which it is illegal to sell men's or women's footwear of any description apart from imported and "made to measure" footwear.

Prices Graded

The prices of each style of shoe are graded according to quality at three levels, (A), (B) and (C). Thus the ceiling price of Rs. 18 which is fixed for the dearest style of men's shoes will apply only to quality (A) shoes. The ceilings for quality (B) and (C) shoes of this style will be Rs. 16 and Rs. 12, respectively.

The control order also fixes specific prices for certain "Flex" and "Bata" ranges of shoes to which the manufacturers of these brands have agreed to restrict their production of civilian footwear. The highest retail price specified for Flex footwear is Rs. 15 and for Bata's Rs. 16-15-0.

The prices for Flex and Bata shoes come into force immediately but the general prices take effect only from September 1, 1944, so as to give retailers time to clear off stocks of the more expensive styles of footwear.

Cottage Industry Safeguarded

The maximum prices at which manufacturers, factors and wholesalers are to sell footwear have been fixed in addition to the retail prices. In order to safeguard the interests of cottage manufacturers who sell their products through factors, it has also been laid down that the cottage manufacturer must receive not less than 72 per cent of the retail price of the footwear.

Manufacturers are also required to mark each pair of footwear with their name or brand, the size, the quality according to the (A), (B) and (C) categories laid down in the Order and the retail price. Retailers are required to display price lists showing the controlled maximum prices.

Effect of Control Order

The effect of the Order will be to discontinue the production of so-called luxury footwear except the made-to-measure variety, but the prices fixed will be adequate for the manufacture of good serviceable boots and shoes. In fact, most of the footwear sold in the past year or two at Rs. 30 or Rs. 40 per pair is not worth more than Rs. 18 since leather for the manufacture of really superior civilian footwear is not now available owing to Defence demands. The control order should, therefore, result in considerable saving to the consumer. The prices fixed in the Schedule are based on current actual prices of raw materials etc. and the whole Order has been framed after extensive discussions with the trade interests concerned.

DISPOSAL OF STOCKS OF EXPENSIVE SHOES

Another Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department on July 1, stated:

Some misunderstanding appears to exist regarding the time given for disposal of stocks of expensive shoes under the Footwear Control Order, 1944.

The general maximum prices fixed for shoes other than the Flex and Bata shoes specified in the Order will not have effect till September 1, 1944. The more expensive types of Bata shoes for which specific prices have not been fixed in the Order may, therefore, be sold at their original prices until September 1, 1944.

AMERICAN SILVER FOR INDIA

The United States Government have agreed to supply the Government of India 100 million ounces of silver for coinage and for sale to the public, if required, in furtherance of the Government of India's anti-inflationary policy.

The Government of India have undertaken to return a corresponding quantity of silver to the United States Government over a suitable period after the end of the war. Deliveries have already begun, said a Press communique issued by Finance Department on June 15, 1944.



Anti-Malaria Units operating on the Assam-Burma Front, spray anti-mosquito oil on contour drains near military camps.

ANTI-MALARIA UNITS ON THE ASSAM-BURMA FRONT

DRESSED in special uniforms and with malarial knapsack sprayers on their backs, men of anti-malaria units on the Assam-Burma front are now waging a war of their own, writes an Indian Army Observer.

While our soldiers are hammering the Japs, these men are fighting, in a less spectacular way, another enemy whose destruction is just as important—the mosquito. With the approach of the monsoon, anti-malaria units are now working harder than at any other time of the year. Hundreds of Indian soldiers from Bihar, Orissa and many parts of Central India are running a race with time to prevent *Minimus Anopheles*, the insect Mata-Hari, from getting a hold on the fighting men.

Apart from distributing anti-malaria creams and oils and enforcing anti-malaria regulations the most vital and difficult job of these units is to go into thick jungles around military camps and locate and disperse stagnant pools of water which are common in the rain-drenched, tree-covered hill country on this front. *The most effective check is exercised by digging contour drains which take away the water which keeps oozing out of the roots of trees and bushes.* Besides the constant danger of leeches and snakes, these men must be ready to face Jap snipers when working in forward outposts.

PERMANENT COMMISSIONS IN I.A.F.

The opening of a register for permanent commissions in the Indian Air Force has been sanctioned by the Government of India. War-time serving officers who are not more than 27 years of age are eligible to have their names included in the register for consideration.

The number of permanent commissions in the Indian Air Force which may be granted after the war will largely depend upon the size and general composition of the post-war Indian Air Force.

Air Headquarters, India, however, now desire to have an indication of the number of officers who wish to be considered for the grant of permanent commissions when the time comes.



Lall (left) and his father, Bahadur of Tabu, Attock, are both in the same Camel Company of a North-West Frontier Unit.

INDIA HAS PROVIDED 60,000 ANIMALS FOR WAR SERVICE

THERE are few ponies and mules in India that have not been given the once-over by Remount Purchasing Officers who daily scour the country, right up to the borders of Tibet and Afghanistan, in search of animals which will be fit for military service.

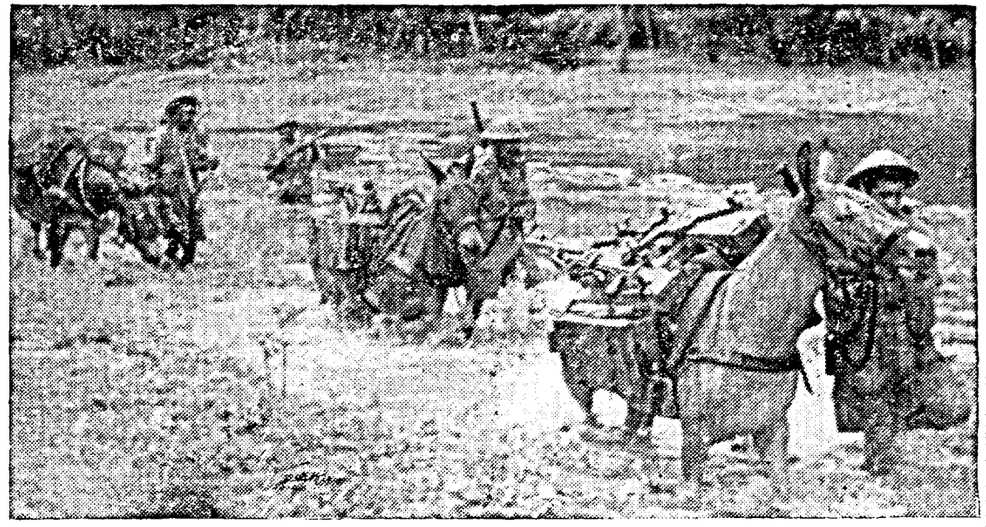
The Army Remount Department has bought over 60,000 animals in India for active service in this war. More than 30,000, including donkeys, have been imported from South Africa, others coming from the Argentine and North America.

Whatever the animal—excepting war dogs—the Remount Department is responsible for its procurement, purchase or breeding, and training, except for a percentage of army transport animals which are trained by the R.I.A.S.C. Horses, mules, donkeys, bullocks and even camels are handled by this vast purchasing organisation.

But for the extensive horse and mule breeding encouraged by the Army through the Remount Department, India, during the past 40 years, India would never have been able to meet the brunt of "animalisation" from her own resources. Over three out of every five animals at present serving the 14th Army are India-bred.

Breeding is the result of the mating of Government-owned horse and donkey stallions with breeder-owned mares. There are over 10,000 approved breeders—evidence of how agricultural economy is helped by the demands of the army. Even the bullock, which plays a more important role in the economy of the country than horses or ponies, has been harnessed for war work. You will see him pulling supplies in a cart, reducing petrol consumption in back areas, or else serving far forward as pack transport.

It was the late Major-General Wingate who applied the bullock to jungle warfare. The bullock, with its cloven hoof, is "amphibious"—it can go through thick, sticky mud; is less susceptible to certain diseases of Burma.



Troops guarding India's Eastern frontier do not rely on motor transport—and the mule is coming into his own again.

At the Saharanpur Remount Depot, animals go through a battle course. They have to swim, jump in and out of trucks, enter 'planes, experience the noise of battle, cross rickety bridges, etc., such as exist in jungle country.

Even after the unit muleteer takes over his animal, Remounts haven't finished: they are responsible, too, for maintenance in the field which calls for a huge maintenance organisation along extended lines of communications, sometimes across the north of India, from the port of Karachi to the frontline in Assam and North Burma. Once the Remount Officers have delivered the animals, they constantly check their suitability, welfare and efficiency.

Selection of Animals

Indigenous equines, prior to the heavy demands of South East Asia Command were sent to France, Mid-East, Greece, East Africa, Iraq and Iran and Hong-Kong.

Some idea of the care which Remounts attach to the selection of animals is shown by the fact that nearly 30,000 ponies were examined before 4,200 were provided for Chinese Forces.

But for the adequate supplies of these pack animals, operations in the East would have been greatly embarrassed—a tribute indeed to the foresight of this Army Department.

BRITISH SOLDIER'S TRIBUTE TO GURKHAS

A British soldier serving with Gurkha troops in Burma paid this tribute to them in a letter to his family:

"British and Indian troops have fought and beaten the Japs in many a clash. This is a striking achievement when it is realised that the British are fighting in a country that must be terrifying to any man not born in it.

"The Gurkha is a man born to the hilly jungle; for that reason he can live in it and on it like none other. He finds his way about in the wildest country, as if possessing some extra instinct that we seem to lack.

"One of the late General Wingate's units of which I was a member was composed of Gurkha and British troops. There was a period when our supplies failed to arrive. If it had not been for Johnny Gurkha teaching Tommy Atkins how to live in the jungle, the white soldier would probably not have survived the ordeal."



A line of Army trucks ready to move.

"KEEP MOVING" IS ARMY TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE'S MOTTO

WORKING on an elaborate system of priorities with a constant call on all types of transport by land, sea and air the Indian Army's Directorate of Transport has a motto which is put to practical effect every day of the week—"get everything moving and keep it moving."

Since the outbreak of the war this Directorate has been one of the hardest worked in G.H.Q. One of its achievements has been the close and successful co-operation between military and civil organisations. In the control of movement over the whole of India staff officers and technical experts, many of them leading business men, work side by side. Demands for transport are made on the various civil transportation agencies, the only exception being the Bengal and Assam Railway, a section of which is now operated by American personnel.

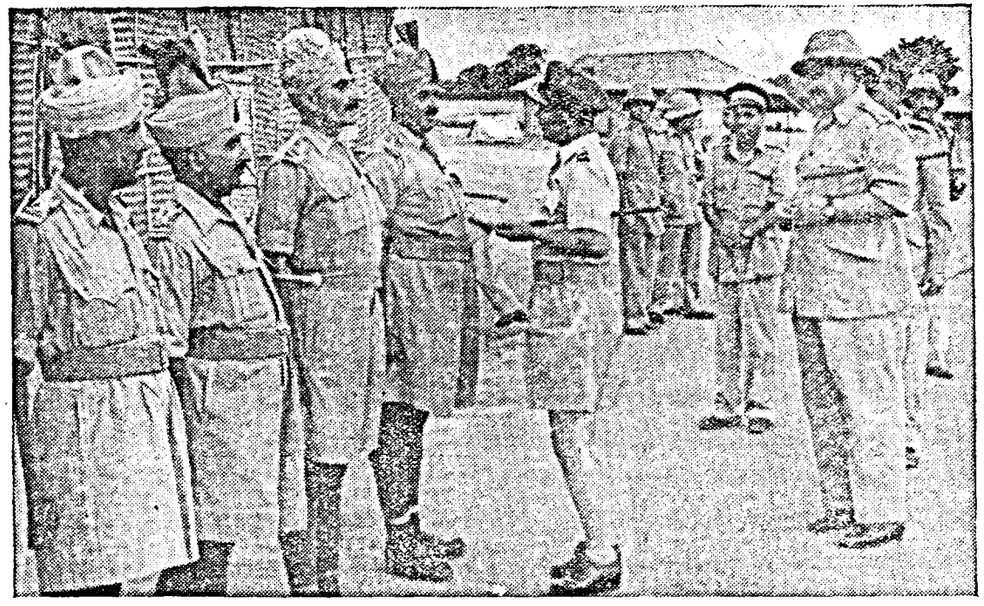
The steady and constant flow of supplies and men which never for a moment ceases all over India is the direct concern of Movements Directorate and its sister Directorate of Transportation.

The heavy demands on the country's rolling stock and the ever-present shortage of locomotives, which is the principal reason for the "travel only when you must" campaign, have presented a very real problem. This is now being overcome to some extent by the importation, in large numbers, of locomotives from the U.S.A. for the broad-gauge railways of India, which are being assembled by civil agencies.

Little is known by the public of the working of Milrail, the Movements Directorate's technical railway branch. Military movement on operational routes over the whole of the country is worked out by senior railway officials lent to the Army. These experts are responsible for arranging special timings by rail routes which must fit in with the timings of other rail traffic and also with shipping to which various ports are allotted for the prompt receipt and disposal of men and supplies. To ensure smoothness of operation Milrail closely liaises with Sea Transport Officers at the various ports.

Bombay, with its modern facilities, is one of the finest examples of efficient inter-linking of movements and transportation this war has produced. But all goods are not only moved by rail from this port. It is the concern of the Directorate to ensure that every lorry which leaves Bombay for the interior carries a load,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 68)



H.H. the Nawab of Bhopal talking to officers of a battalion of Bhopal Infantry, who are undergoing intensive training in India, during his recent visit to the training centre.

BHOPAL RULER VISITS HIS TROOPS

H.H. the Nawab of Bhopal has spent a few days with a battalion of Bhopal Infantry who are undergoing intensive training in India.

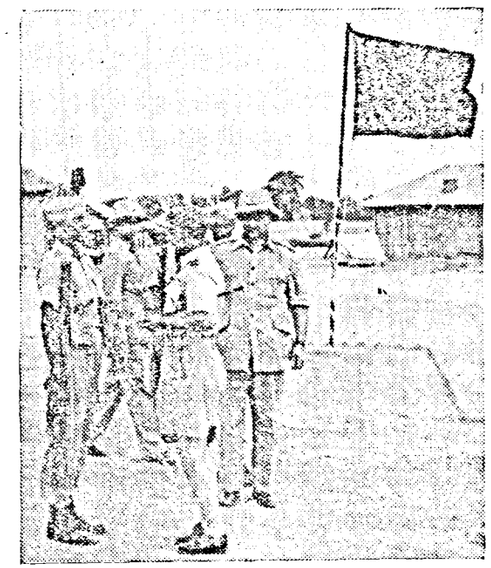
His Highness saw his troops on parade and also while carrying out jungle exercises. In addition he visited a British regiment in the area and saw a mock demonstration of aircraft strafing ground targets.

He made a point of discussing current affairs with all the officers of his battalion. On his departure from the battalion lines he was cheered all along the route by his troops roaring the greeting *Alahazrat Zindabad* ("Long Live our Ruler").

ANOTHER I. A. F. SQUADRON IN BURMA

Another Indian Air Force squadron has joined the Third Tactical Air Force on the Burma front.

Flying Hurricanes, the Indian pilots, whose average age is 20, went into action six weeks ago and have logged 850 operational hours on patrols, escorts and day and night strafing of the enemy in the Arakan and Imphal areas.



His Highness inspects the Quarterguard of one of the State battalions.



A Red Cross work party in Sangli, Deccan States.

AMENITIES FOR WAR PRISONERS IN EUROPE

IN the fifth year of its working, the Indian Comforts Fund, London, packed and despatched to Geneva 647,224 special weekly food parcels, 24,764 clothing parcels and large consignments of books, games, gramophone records and musical instruments for distribution among Indian prisoners of war in Germany.

The food parcels, according to the annual report of the Fund for the period April 1943 to March 1944, are "caste-proof" and designed by nutritional experts to be a fitting supplement to camp rations. A weekly cigarette (or tobacco) ration accompanies each parcel from Geneva.

Clothing parcels are designed to last six months and are also sent to Indian civilian internees. Invalid, medical, surgical and occupational parcels are made available on the recommendation of medical officers. In addition, hair oil and consignments of books, games, gramophone records, musical instruments and special articles for Sikhs are despatched to the Indian camps.

For Indian Seamen

For Indian seamen, the Fund packed and distributed at ports 25,447 bundles of clothing. Entertainments were arranged and grants varying from £115 to £1,250 were made to the institutions for Indian seamen at London, Glasgow, Falmouth and Swansea. Games, gramophone records, books and cigarettes were sent to Hostels and Clubs at the ports and special comforts and occupational parcels to patients in hospital. A special supply of fresh fruit was arranged during the month of *Ramzan*.

The Fund maintained, during the year under review, an average of over 2,500 knitting parties comprising some 100,000 Indian knitters and 6,668 lbs. of wool were bought and distributed free of cost to registered knitting parties. Total dispatches during the year were 276,473 knitted garments and 196,123 bought made garments.

RED CROSS POSTAL MESSAGE SERVICE

The Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation announce that postal messages of 25 words (excluding the name and address of both sender and addressee) relating to personal or family matters only can now be dispatched through the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, to civilian internees in territories in the Far East to which the Red Cross Postal Message Service applies, *viz.*, Japan, Korea, Formosa, Shanghai, Hong-Kong, Occupied China, Thailand and French Indo-China. Message forms can be obtained from the Officer-in-Charge of the following Red Cross Bureaux, Banqueting Hall, Government House, Madras; Prince of Wales Museum, First Floor, Fort, Bombay, and D-3, Clive Buildings, 8, Clive Street, Calcutta



Loading one of the fleet of utility wagons which distribute Indian Red Cross stores to Military Hospitals

INDIAN WAR PRISONERS ARE TAUGHT BASIC ENGLISH

Indian prisoners of war in Europe are being taught basic English. The scheme began last year, when as an experiment the Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation started sending Basic English books for Indian prisoners in Europe to the Relief Division of the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva. About 6,000 Basic English books have been sent.

"Although we have had no official reports as to the progress made we have reason to believe that these experimental despatches have proved a success and are greatly appreciated," said a Red Cross official. "Further consignments of Basic English books are now on order."

The books comprise 45 sets for teachers and 270 sets for learners, covering the various stages of the Basic English course. All parcels despatched were packed ready for transmission from Geneva to teachers and learners in prisoners of war camps in Europe, thereby obviating the process of unpacking and re-packing at Geneva.

Consignments of the books have been sent in the exact sequence in which they will be required for the various stages of the course. To help teachers detailed instructions as to the aim, scope and method of teaching have also been sent.

Senior British officers of camps have been asked by the International Red Cross Committee to select prospective teachers. They were later required to choose willing learners from among the Indian prisoners, at the initial rate of six learners to each teacher.

The scheme applies only to European camps. No educational books can yet be sent to prisoners of war camps in Japanese-occupied territories.

AMENITIES FOR AIRMEN

His Excellency the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 from the War Purposes Fund for the establishment of clubs, and provision of other amenities, for airmen of the R.A.F. and I.A.F.

FIRST SIKH ARMY OFFICER TO WIN D.S.O.

Lt.-Col. Sarbjit Singh Kalha

LT.-Col. Sarbjit Singh Kalha, 1st Punjab Regiment, of Nawanpind, District Gurdaspur, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Order for "careful planning and bold execution of his task" in operations to clear the Ngakyedauk Pass. He is the first Sikh officer in the Indian Army to win the D.S.O.

Closely following on his success in the Arakan comes news of Lt.-Col. Sarbjit Singh's nomination for a course at the Staff College, Camberley, a distinction which has fallen to few Indian Army officers.

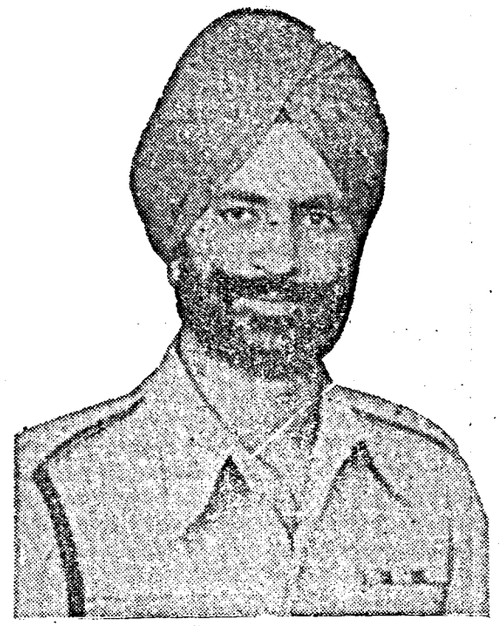
As officiating commander of his battalion Lt.-Col. Sarbjit Singh was ordered to attack and capture two prominent features. The success of the whole operation depended on this task. "That it was carried out with such success reflects great credit on Lt.-Col. Sarbjit Singh, who displayed military skill and determination and a willingness to take risks to achieve his object unusual in such a young officer", says the citation. "The success of the operation was largely due to his vigorous action."

Lt.-Col. Sarbjit Singh is 29. He graduated from the Khalsa College, Amritsar, and passed through the Indian Military Academy, gaining his commission in 1936. He had his "battle inoculation" early in his career when he took part in the 1936-37 Waziristan operations.

In 1942 he was promoted acting major and second-in-command of his battalion. He was in the Arakan in 1943 and during the operations there commanded his battalion for two months, during which time he was mentioned in despatches. His battalion was engaged in February this year at the Ngakyedauk Pass and he was again temporarily in command for several weeks.

War Service Record of the Kalhas

Few families in the Punjab can equal the war service record of the Kalhas of Nawanpind, writes an Indian Army Observer. Of the five sons of the late Rai Sahib S. Sunder Singh Kalha the eldest, Sardar Sahib Gurcharan Singh Kalha, who is the head of the house, is an honorary recruiting officer and the other four are all Indian Army officers, each one in a different branch of the service.



Lt.-Col. Sarbjit Singh Kalha.

Major Rajinder Singh Kalha, who passed out from Sandhurst, transferred to the Survey Department of the Government of India but has now reverted to the military department and is commanding an Indian Field Survey Company in Assam. The third son, Capt. Mohinder Singh Kalha, is in the Indian Artillery. Lt.-Col. Sarbjit Singh Kalha, D.S.O., is in the 1st Punjab Regiment and the youngest son, Lt. Daljit Singh Kalha, R.I.A.S.C., was captured at Tobruk by the Germans in 1942 and is still a prisoner of war.

ORISSA COMPANIES OF INDIAN PIONEERS

The province of Orissa, which has provided men in large numbers for India's fighting forces, is henceforth to be associated with certain units of the Indian Pioneer Corps. In future, all companies which have been recruited exclusively from among Oriyas will be given the title "Orissa" and will be designated "No. (Orissa) Company, Indian Pioneer Corps".

Several such companies have been raised, and some of them are serving in the 14th Army area where they have done valuable construction work.

A POSTHUMOUS V.C.

L/Cpl. Harman's Heroic Deed

A LANCE Corporal who alone charged an enemy post, shooting four Japs and bayoneting another, returned to his section post, wounded, and said a few minutes before he died, "I got the lot: it was worth it." He has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for this heroic action during the siege of Kohima.

He was Lance Corporal John Pennington Harman, aged 28, of a battalion of the Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment. His millionaire father is well known for his association with Lundy Island, in the Bristol Channel. The citation states:

"In Kohima on April 8, 1944, L/Cpl. Harman was commanding a section of a forward platoon. Under cover of darkness the enemy established a medium machine-gun post within 50 yards of his position which became a serious menace to the remainder of his company. Owing to the nature of the ground L/Cpl. Harman was unable to bring the fire of his section on to the enemy medium machine-gun post.

"Without hesitation he went forward by himself and using a four second grenade which he held on to for at least two seconds after releasing the lever in order to get immediate effect, threw it into the post and followed up immediately. He annihilated the post and returned to his section with the medium machine-gun.

Supreme Devotion to Duty

"Early the following morning he recovered a position on a forward slope 150 yards from the enemy in order to strengthen a platoon which had been heavily attacked during the night. On occupying the position he discovered a party of enemy digging in under cover of medium machine-gun fire and snipers. Ordering his Bren gun to give him covering fire, he fixed his bayonet and alone charged the post shooting four and bayoneting one, thereby wiping out the post.

"When coming back he received a burst of enemy machine-gun fire in his side. He walked back to his trench, took off his equipment and lay down saying 'I got the lot; it was worth it.' Five minutes later, after refusing medical attention, he died.

"L/Cpl. Harman, whose heroic action and supreme devotion to duty were a wonderful inspiration to all, was largely responsible for the decisive way in which all attacks were driven off by his company."

I was the first outsider to hear of Harman's gallantry, writes an Indian Army Observer. Wounded officers and men of his battalion, who had been the mainstay of the defence of Kohima during those rough days in April, greeted me with the story when they were brought out of the battle-field.

Harman had a very good reputation in the battalion, even before he revealed this supreme example of courage.

1939-43 STAR FOR SERVICEWOMEN

For the first time large numbers of women in India are wearing the ribbon of a campaign medal. They are members of the nursing services and the W.A.C. (I), who qualify for the 1939-43 star as a result of service in Burma during the campaign of 1942 and on India's Eastern frontier.

Women of the nursing services, facing the same front-line perils as their soldier-patients, were among the first to wear the ribbon. They belong mainly to Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, the Indian Military Nursing Service, the Territorial Auxiliary Nursing Service, a British organisation which is now working side by side with the Indian nursing services and the Royal Indian Navy Nursing Service.

First Service Medal for W.A.C. (I)

Other women who are wearing the ribbon are the "Wasbie" girls of the Burma border, the canteen workers of the Women's Auxiliary Service (Burma), whose mobile canteens, which often move into forward areas, are such a boon to the men at the front.

The 1939-43 star is the first service medal granted to the W.A.C.(I). Among those who are wearing the ribbon is the Acting Chief Commander, Mrs. M. E. Douglas, who also wears the ribbon of the M.B.E. which she was awarded in the King's Birthday Honours List.

Serving with the W.A.C.(I) are women who have first-hand knowledge of what war with Japan means. They are some of those who came down the long road to India after the Japanese occupation of Burma. The medal, which they wear with such pride, is for them a reminder of service that is past and an encouragement for hard work still to come, as servicewomen in uniform they take up the fight again

COMMANDER OF 26TH INDIAN DIVISION



Major-General Lomax

"ANYONE who underrates the Jap is a fool," is the forthright view of MAJOR-GENERAL C. E. N. LOMAX, C.B.E., D.SO.. M.C., commanding the 26th Indian Division which has been inflicting heavy casualties on the Japanese in the 14th Army Area. "The Jap has courage and considerable tactical skill. *With these soldierly qualities one usually finds some code of honour. The Jap has none.* This year's campaign in the Arakan has proved that we have the answer to his methods."

Grey-haired, grey-eyed, with a clipped moustache, Major-General Lomax gives one the impression that if there is a chance of moving our forces still further forward against the Jap, he will not spare any effort to do so. Born in 1893, he joined the Welch Regiment in 1912. His father, who was in the same regiment was killed in Africa. In the Great War he served with the regiment and also for a period commanded the 21st Battalion of the Manchester Regiment winning the D.S.O. and Bar, and the M.C.

He subsequently saw service in Ireland and Shanghai and in 1936 commanded the 2nd Battalion of the Welch Regiment in Agra. In 1939 he took command of the 16th Brigade in Palestine and was at Sidi Barrani with the 4th Indian Division during which time he was awarded the C.B.E. and a second Bar to his D.S.O.

After taking part in the Syrian Campaign his brigade relieved the Australians in Tobruk in 1941. He took the Brigade to Ceylon in March, 1942, and in June of that year he became Major-General Commanding Trincomalee Fortress.

In April 1943, he took over command of the 26th Indian Division and has been harassing the Jap ever since. A tribute was paid by the men of the Division to their Commander when they presented him with a caravan on the anniversary of his assuming command.

14TH ARMY'S FRONT-LINE VEGETABLES

Less than 50 miles behind the fighting, several thousands of acres of paddy fields are being converted into vegetable plots for the 14th Army, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Mr. Charles Thomas Bogg, with 20 years' experience of market gardening in Burma, who is in charge of these plots and others on the Assam front, said, "In less than two and a half months from now I expect to issue monsoon vegetables like beans, cucumbers, sponge and gourds at the rate of one ton per acre per annum."

The *malis* (gardeners), who are mostly Christians from Ranchi and Chota Nagpur areas, are formed into *mali* units each of about 800 strong. They get free rations and clothing, besides pay, and serve under a six-month contract. In charge of every ten men is a trained *mali* with considerable local experience.

Manure for the garden is made locally by preparing "compost" from tank weeds, jungle growth, grass scrapings, cattle manure and lime. The gardens are situated near tanks or other sources of water supply so as to be able to carry on without interruption after the rains are over. At some places disc ploughs and harrows, operated by bull-dozers, are used.

ARMY TRANSPORT DIRECTORATE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 62)

whether commercial or military. By this means it has been possible to move several thousand tons of supplies a month from Bombay alone.

Freight by air is a more recent venture, of which increasing use is being made in the rapid transit of goods across the country. In all three spheres work goes on night and day to move troops and to keep the services regularly and consistently supplied.

NAVAL SURGEON WINS THE M.B.E.



Surgeon-Lieut. C. M. Dave

TWO difficult operations, performed at sea while a convoy was proceeding through enemy-infested waters in the Atlantic, have earned for SURGEON-LIEUTENANT CHANDRA M. DAVE, Royal Indian Naval Volunteer Reserve, the M.B.E. (Military Division).

Surgeon-Lieutenant Dave, whose home is in Allahabad, belongs to the Medical Branch of the Royal Indian Navy. He received his medical training in Great Britain, and during the voyage —his first in one of H.M.I. ships—his professional skill saved two men's lives.

The first patient was an Indian rating of the sloop in which he was serving. The rating was suffering from acute appendicitis with complications, and, while the warship was kept as steady as possible, an operation, difficult in the best of circumstances, was successfully performed.

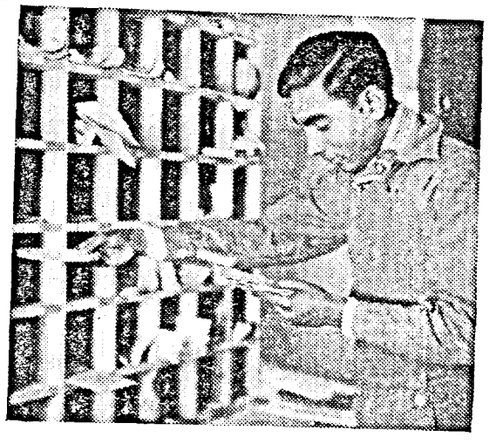
Later in the voyage, Surgeon-Lieutenant Dave responded to a call for assistance from a ship of the Royal Navy, to which he proceeded in a sea-boat to perform a major abdominal operation on a youth of 17 belonging to the U.S. Merchant Navy. Although few of the necessary instruments were available, he displayed such skill that the patient's condition, which had been critical was satisfactory eight hours later. On another occasion Surgeon-Lieutenant Dave was transferred from an H.M.I. ship to a merchant vessel to attend men wounded in a bombing attack.

In the words of the Commanding Officer of H.M.I. sloop, "his conduct and bearing, together with his surgical skill, have been of the highest order throughout these operations."

DEVELOPMENT OF ARMY POSTAL SERVICE

One of the achievements of the Army Postal Service has been the rapid development of base depots. These are situated in Bombay, Karachi, Calcutta, Colombo, and in Egypt, Italy and Iraq. Advance Base Post Offices are spread over the whole of India, including a new one recently opened at G.H.Q., New Delhi.

There are also about 24 Burma Post Offices and two Burma Advance Base Post Offices, all manned by personnel of the old Burma Posts and Telegraphs Department. These are to be used to replace Indian post offices, in certain areas. It is intended that they should eventually return to Burma as part of the rehabilitation process.



I.W.D. Ghanish of Madura (South India) sorting out incoming mail at the Indian Field Post Office in Cyprus. Though very small, this Post Office daily handles about 2,500 letters and 53 parcels. Money Order and Savings Bank facilities are also provided.

BRITISH SOLDIERS SEE INDIAN VILLAGES

IN a village on the North-West Frontier of India the local court was sitting when a dozen British soldiers filed in and took their seats behind the presiding magistrate.

"This man is charged with cutting a branch from a tree belonging to the Public Works Department", the magistrate told them after introductions had been made. "Here is the axe with which the accused is said to have done it but it appears that the branch has since been misappropriated by some other person."

The visitors tried to follow the argument as the magistrate resumed his examination, breaking off now and then to explain the procedure or to translate the evidence. This incident was part of a plan to enable British servicemen at Peshawar to meet the country people of the Frontier Province and to see at first hand their ways of living. Under arrangements made by the Frontier Governor, small parties of soldiers and airmen, all volunteers, spend a week-end in the villages under the guidance of a local official who was trained in England but is himself a native of the district. They are encouraged to ask as many and whatever questions they wish.

They Eat Indian Dishes

Each party learns from those who carry on the work of revenue collection, irrigation, law, policing and local industry. They also experience the hospitality of the Pathan, as proverbial in India as that of his fellow-mountaineers in Scotland. They eat Indian dishes, freely helping themselves with their fingers out of a common dish.

The visits are quite informal. A typical programme includes staying in a country rest-house in an old fort; explanation of district administration by the Assistant Commissioner; a visit to a primitive sugarcane-crushing mill and water-driven flour mill; lunch and tea as guests of a local landowner; a visit to a village court and police-station and to the headworks of an irrigation canal which had brought prosperity to the district.

One party learned the art of net-fishing in a nearby river and in exchange taught their hosts to play football.

"We all voted it the best week-end we had spent in India and felt that we have learned more in that short period than in all our stay", reported an artillery unit which sent a party on one of these visits.

NOEL COWARD IN INDIA

Noel Coward, the British actor and composer, who has just completed a tour of the forward areas in Burma where for nearly a month he gave two performances daily to British troops, arrived in New Delhi on July 9. During his three-day stay in the capital he was the guest of H.E. the Viceroy and Lady Wavell.

He gave a show for members of all Allied services at the Irwin Stadium on July 11 and a public performance at the Regal Cinema on July 12 for tour expenses and services welfare funds. For the latter show there was also a full supporting cast of stars from the Allied services.

From New Delhi Mr. Coward travelled south to give shows to servicemen. He went to Ceylon to complete a full programme.

With Mr. Noel Coward in this tour was his well-known accompanist, Mr. Norman Hackforth, and Major M. Umferville, A.D.C. to Lord Louis Mountbatten, who is a close friend of Mr. Noel Coward and on whose suggestion the tour was undertaken.

The tour was organised by the Director of Welfare, G.H.Q., India Command.

"UNIO" STARTS WORK

THE United Nations Information Organisation has been set up in London. UNIO, as the new body is likely to be called, will present a co-ordinated picture of the war-winning activities of the Allies and will promote co-operation among different national information services. At the offices of the new organisation (38, Russell Square, W.C.) representatives of 18 Governments of the United Nations signed a resolution which declared that it was desirable to develop further means of co-operation in the essential task of keeping public opinion throughout the world informed about matters of common interest to the United Nations.

Mr. K. G. Grubb, Overseas Controller of the Ministry of Information, presided, and the other nations subscribing to the declaration were India, Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Czecho-Slovakia, Denmark, France, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, the Union of South Africa, the U.S.A. and Yugoslavia.

The new body will extend the work done so far by the Inter-Allied Information Committee and will provide a reference library on current international affairs. It is understood that the U.S.S.R. will have an observer present at its

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 71)



A happy group of Indian and Canadian soldiers in Italy.

INDIAN AND CANADIAN TROOPS IN ITALY

INDIAN troops in Italy have been working with Canadians using Sherman tanks. Indian troops have never had better tank support than they received in the Gari crossing, writes an Indian Army Observer. They have learned to appreciate the help which tanks can give them in fighting in close country and they certainly, admire the dash with which the Canadians have gone ahead of the infantry in order to destroy enemy tanks and self-propelled guns and thus facilitate the advance. The Canadians have taken great risks, in their opinion justifiable, and the results have been magnificent.

Tribute to Indian Soldiers

The Canadians for their part like the Indians. "They are hard-working and cheerful," one Canadian told me, "and Jeez, can they fight!"

During the Gari (or Rapido) crossing a Mahratta anti-tank troop was attached to a Canadian armoured regiment who were under command of the Indian Division. The troop commander, a young Sikh, Lieut. Harcharan Singh Butalia, had a Sherman tank at his disposal. When the battle started and all tanks were thrown in, the Canadians gave Butalia a 17 W|T set instead. They call him "Butch" or sometimes "Canuck Singh".

An officer from a Canadian support battalion, Lieut. Wilson, came on attachment to train Mahrattas in the use of 4.2 mortars. He and two sergeants stayed with the Mahrattas for two months and Wilson became so devoted to the Mahrattas that he contemplated a transfer to the Indian battalion if it was possible. He led a platoon of the men he had taught into action; although he knows little Urdu he and the men make themselves understood mainly through Italian.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 70)

meetings. The first Chairman is Mr. D. J. F. de Man, Deputy Director of the Netherlands Government Information Bureau. Mr. V. J. G. Stavridi has been appointed Secretary-General. Mr. Brendan Bracken, British Minister of Information, has been elected Honorary President.



Left foodless by the retreating German Armies, who commandeered all available supplies, citizens of Santa Franceska swarmed around men of the 8th Punjabis who distributed chappatis in the market square shortly after occupying the town.

INDIAN MAJOR IS "ONE-MAN AMGOT"

"CHARITY begins with chappati," commented Major Girdhari Singh, M.C., of a Punjab Regiment, when I visited Santa Franceska and found him directing the efforts of his unit's cooks in the distribution of food to refugees and villagers, writes an Indian Army Observer in Italy. Life in the village is proceeding normally—a bare 24 hours after the ejection of the Germans—emphasising the organising ability of this Punjabi officer.

In his self-appointed role of "One-Man Amgot", Major Girdhari Singh has already attained the reputation of Solomon with the villagers of Santa Franceska. The Officers' Mess was in continuous service as both information bureau and police court.

Lunch on the day of my visit was interrupted by a summary hearing of three cases of petty larceny and two requests for information by refugees separated from their families. In all cases complete satisfaction was given, even to the return of the stolen property.

Major Girdhari Singh earned a reputation for daring on the Sangro and has been in some of the bitterest fighting since the Gari crossing. He enlisted as a sepoy clerk.

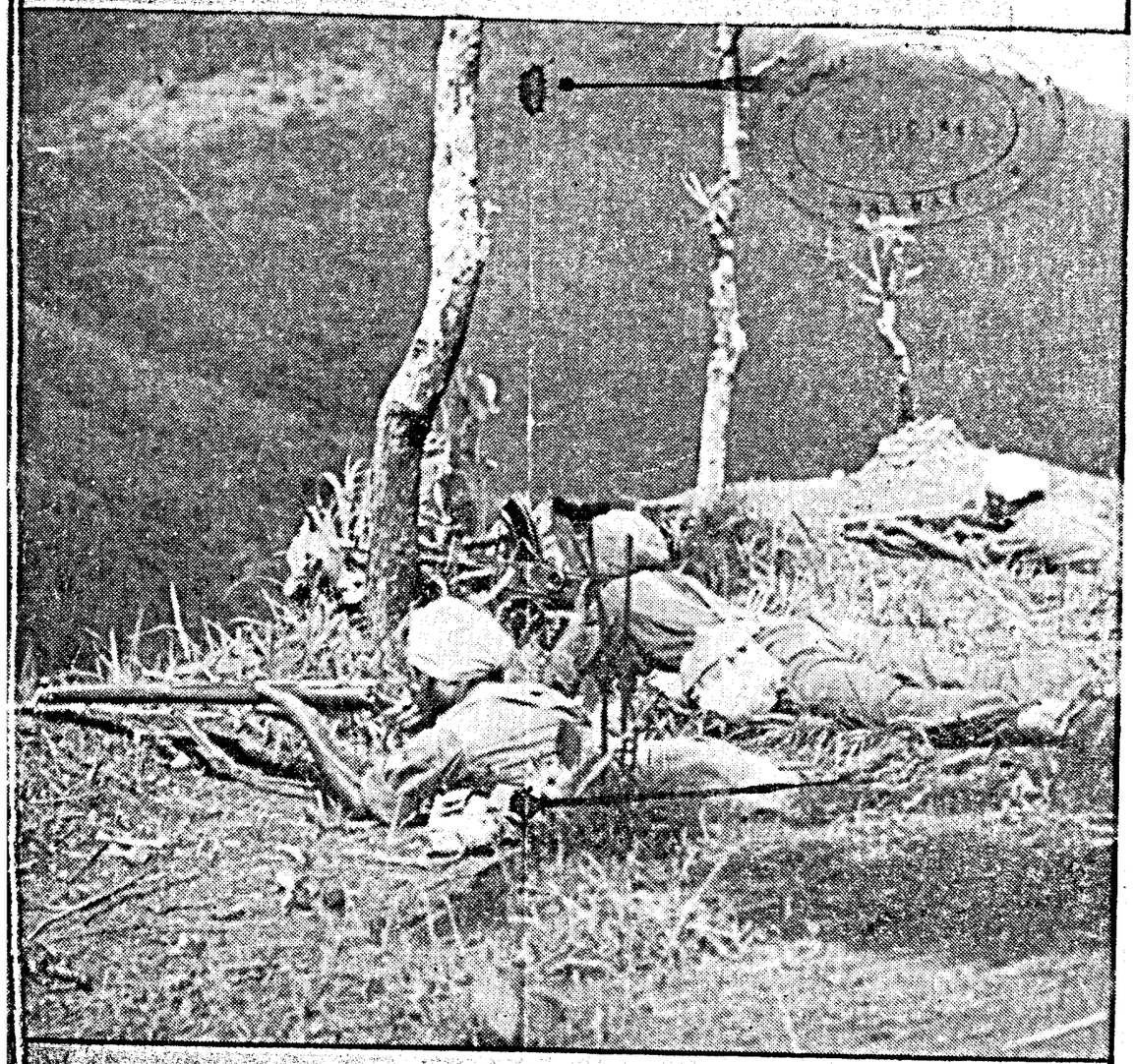
VICEROY'S GIFT TO THE ARMY

The sum of Rs. 1,300 has been personally donated by H.E. the Viceroy for the benefit of the Indian Army as a token of gratitude for the fighting effort of Indian Army formations when under his command.

This gift, which has been sent to H.E. the Commander-in-Chief by Lord Wavell, "to be placed in some account for the benefit of the Indian Army," represents the sums paid for an article called, "The Might of the Tiger," written about the Indian Army by Lord Wavell for an American journal before he was appointed Viceroy. The article was published both in the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom.

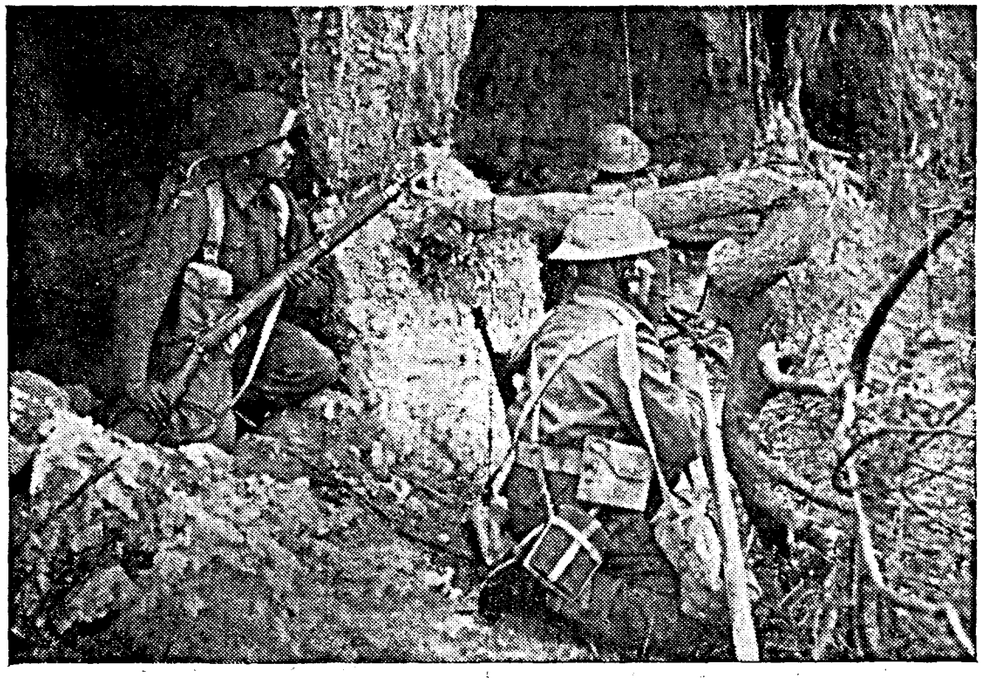
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INDIAN INFORMATION



142: August 1, 1944
Fortnightly by the Information Officer Govt of India.

● INDIA'S PART IN THE FOURTH YEAR OF WAR ●



On the Italian Front—Mahratta gun posts in caves.

Vol. 15 No. 142. INDIAN INFORMATION AUGUST 1, 1944

AIMS:—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Issued Fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.
Associate Editor: P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: Sikhs in action on Imphal Front.



Punjabis of the 4th Indian Division led the attack on Wadi Akarit position. Picture shows the O.C. giving orders to attack.

INDIA'S PART IN FOURTH YEAR OF WAR

LOOKING back over the past year (1942-43) India can, with justifiable pride, pay due tribute to her soldiers. In a year during which some of the most crushing defeats were inflicted by the United Nations forces on the Axis, men from India played a vital and prominent role.

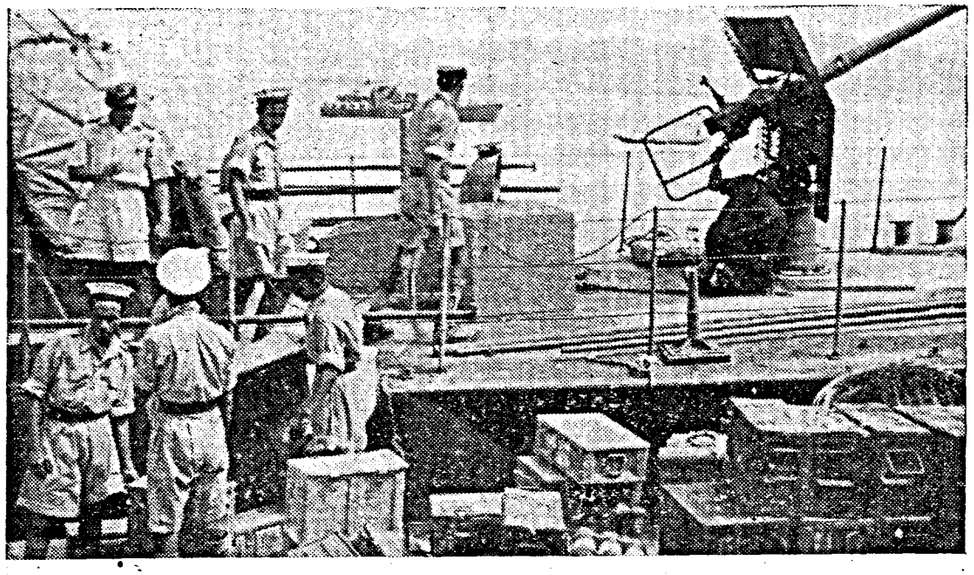
The brilliant achievements of the famous 4th Indian Division in North Africa will go down in history. These men lived dangerously, under conditions of acute discomfort for long periods. Many gave their lives that freedom might live; others languish in prison camps, but all combined to add another glorious chapter to the annals of Indian military history.

Behind the feats of the "Fighting Fourth" on the battlefields of Tunisia lie the efforts of their countrymen on the home front, the men in forge, factory and field who helped to make India a veritable arsenal.

On the Eastern Frontier of India the Arakan campaign which started in mid-December 1942 and ended with the withdrawal of our forces from Maungdaw and Buthidaung in May 1943, was an inconclusive and depressing stalemate. Nevertheless, during this campaign—never intended as a major offensive into Burma proper, much was accomplished. Although the primary objective was not achieved, that of the capture of Akyab, valuable experience in enemy tactics was gained, and our Indian and British troops inflicted considerably more casualties on the Japanese than were suffered by them.

Wingate Expedition

The audacious penetration into the heart of enemy-occupied Burma by a self-contained and independent force from India was one of the outstanding military feats accomplished against the Japanese during the year. Led by Brigadier O. C. Wingate, D.S.O., this force, which included a number of Gurkha and Indian troops, blew up bridges, cut railway lines, and attacked the enemy wherever they were found. They were



Ammunition being taken on board an R.I.N. ship of the Arakan Coastal Forces at a forward base.

instrumental in keeping a large Japanese force busy running hither and thither in vain efforts to trap them.

India's war effort has doubled and re-doubled itself these last 12 months. Further expansions have taken place in all fighting services, and the strength of the Army in India rose to the neighbourhood of 2 million—an increase of 8 lakhs from last year's figures.

The expansion of the Royal Indian Navy in all its various branches has steadily continued throughout the twelve months. The number of officers and men has now increased to a figure ten times what it was when the war broke out.

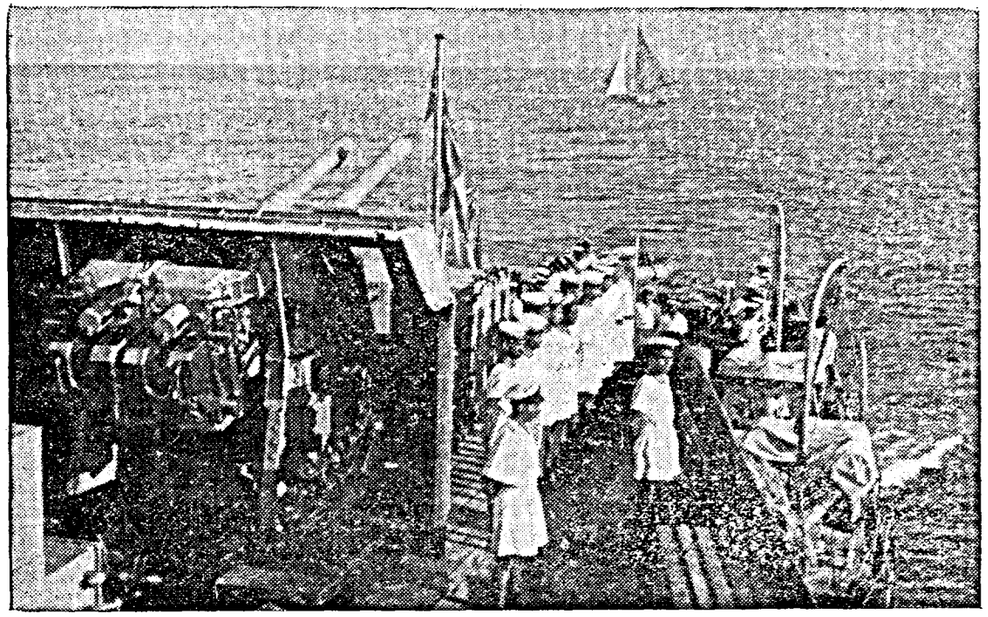
In the Arakan Campaign R.N., R.I.N. and Burmese Coastal forces did Trojan work continually harassing and intercepting Japanese reinforcements and supplies proceeding up the Arakan coast and on the Mayu River.

In Mediterranean waters also H.M.I. ships formed part of a screen of escorting warships that took the formidable armada of several thousand transports and landing craft from N. Africa to the S.E. sector of Sicily in the second week of July 1943. That the United Nations losses on the passage across were so small, and that supplies and reinforcements reached our troops in a steady flow, is a tribute to the thoroughness with which the Royal Navy, the Royal Indian Navy, and the Allied Navies performed their task.

The Indian Air Force, ten years old on April 1, 1943, has continued to expand by leaps and bounds. Outstanding developments were firstly, the appointment of an Inspector-General whose primary function was to develop plans for the setting up of a self-contained Indian Air Force —manned, serviced, and administered by Indians, and the other, the appointment of Wing-Commander S. Mukerjee of Calcutta to command a station at Kohat—the first Indian Air Force Officer to be given charge of an operational station.

During the year, one of the squadrons operated over Burma carrying out important reconnaissance work. They penetrated deep into enemy-occupied territory and returned to base with important photographic records. On the North-Western Frontier, the Indian Air Force continued to be entirely responsible for "Watch and Ward" duties.

Two new arms have been added to the Indian Defence Forces—the Indian Army Medical Corps and the Corps of Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers. The first was formed by amalgamating all branches of the Indian Military Medical Services, the I.M.S., I.M.D. and I.H.C. into one homogeneous organisation. Members of the I.M.D. were considered for emergency commissions into this new corps,



R.I.N. ratings drawn up at "Stations" on entering a harbour in the Mediterranean.

and a parallel development of great significance was the granting of similar emergency commissions to licentiate medical practitioners recruited direct from civil life.

The I. E. M. E. was formed to take over the engineering functions and technical personnel hitherto controlled by the Indian Army Ordnance Corps. To young Indian engineering students on the threshold of their careers the new Corps which came into being on May 1, 1943, offered a unique opportunity.

India's supply services rapidly expanded during the year in order to meet her various large commitments at home and overseas. Her contribution in the supply field to the victories in North Africa calls for special mention.

Apart from the men and the machines of the Allied forces, India was almost wholly responsible for the supply of bulk stores to this theatre—from railway wagons to landing craft and electric torches. Many hundreds of steel huts and sheds for housing troops in training and similar structures for military garages, hospitals and aeroplane hangars were fabricated in India from Indian steel. Medical stores, tent equipment, munitions, etc., were sent out in gigantic quantities.

THE ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

IN Indian waters, in the Atlantic and Mediterranean, over the wide expanse of the Indian Ocean, in the Persian Gulf and Red Sea, and off the Arakan coast the Royal Indian Navy has played its part during the fourth year of war.

Throughout the 12 months the sea-going force, naval personnel and facilities ashore have continued to expand. At the same time, carefully planned consolidation of progress made in the past has helped to maintain a high standard of efficiency. During the year, therefore, the Service has been able to increase its contribution to the United Nations' war effort at sea. It was again called upon to join in combined operations, this time in the Mediterranean, while the development of India's light Coastal Forces attracted attention as a result of the good work done by its motor launches in co-operation with those of the Burma Navy off the Arakan coast.

These operations, however, represent only two aspects of the Royal Indian Navy's many-sided work. In the first place, it is responsible for India's local naval defence, which it ensures chiefly by minesweeping and patrolling and by escorting merchant vessels in coastal waters.

Secondly, it assists in escorting convoys on the high seas, a class of work which the growth of the sea-going force has enabled it to undertake on an increasing scale.

In helping to escort the Eighth Army, its reinforcements and supplies from North African ports to Sicily, the Royal Indian Navy for the second time in this war participated in major operations against Italian territory. In 1941, our warships had assisted in the campaign against Italy's possessions in East Africa and on the Red Sea Coast, convoying troops and supplies, minesweeping and in other ways furthering the successful operations ashore. The blows dealt to Italy in the North Eastern corner of Africa were followed by the destruction of Axis military power on the southern shores of the Mediterranean. During this period India's naval strength had been concentrated in the Eastern sector of the global war in order that it might help to meet the Japanese menace.

In the summer of 1943, however, the situation permitted of some Indian warships being spared for the convoy operations that were an indispensable part of the campaign against Sicily —a campaign of immense significance to India if only because of Sicily's important position flanking the Mediterranean route to the East.

"Zero Day"

In the second week of July 1943, H. M. I. ships formed part of the screen of escorting warships that took the mighty armada of several thousand transports and landing craft from North Africa to the south-eastern sector of Sicily. They helped to ensure that troops, equipment and supplies were put safely ashore on "Zero Day", July 10; and they joined in escorting transports back out of the danger zone the same afternoon.

Throughout this period, and during subsequent weeks when they were at sea escorting reinforcements and supplies for the Sicilian battlefront; they were ready every moment to play their part in repelling attacks on vulnerable ships under convoy—attacks that might be made by submarine, by aircraft or by surface craft. That the United Nations' losses on passage across the Mediterranean were so small, and that reinforcements and supplies reached our troops in a steady flow, is a tribute to the thoroughness with which the Royal Navy, the Royal Indian Navy and the Allied Navies performed their task.

Earlier in the year, during January and February of 1943, and in another part of the world, along the Arakan coast, it was a question not of escorting large convoys but of harassing the enemy's lines of communication. Here the recently formed Coastal Forces of the Royal Indian Navy came into their own. These Forces comprise flotillas of swift, well-armed motor launches equipped to deal with submarines, aircraft and certain types of surface craft.

Many of these craft have been built in India, where personnel has been trained to handle them and shore facilities have been gradually built up. In the Arakan campaign came Coastal Forces' first opportunity to show their mettle. Our troops were engaged in the Mayu peninsula, and it was essential to intercept Japanese reinforcements and supplies proceeding up the coast and on the Mayu river. In applying themselves to this task Coastal Forces' personnel did much good work, as a description of some of their exploits shows.

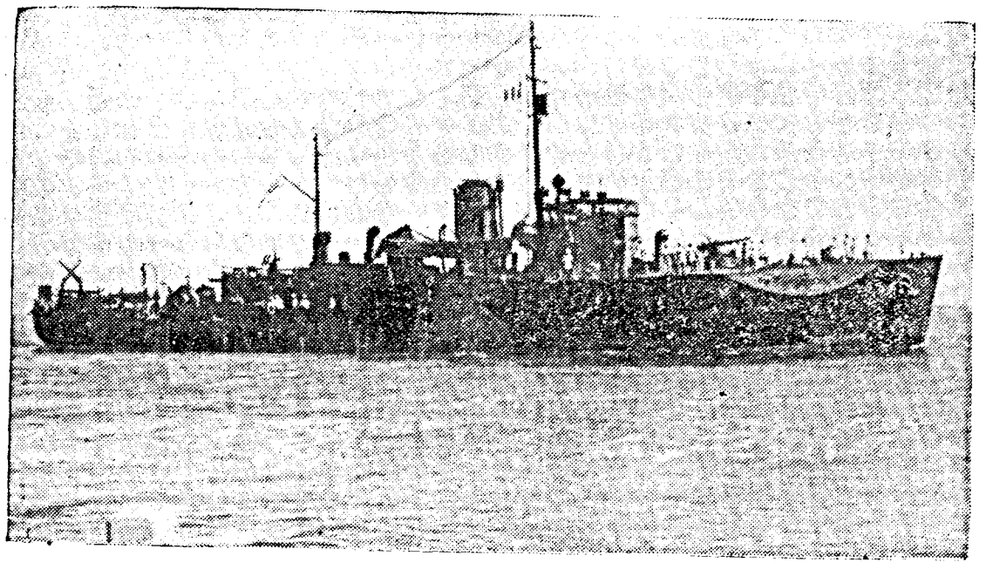
Action Against Japanese

While patrolling along the Mayu peninsula on the night of January 24, one of our launches spotted and chased an enemy launch, which she put out of action by forcing it to run ashore. Proceeding to the mouth of the Mayu river, the Indian launch observed a heavily camouflaged coastal craft, which she rammed and sank, with a loss of at least 50 Japanese.

In February, launches of Coastal Forces participated in the raid on Myebon, a Japanese-held coastal township 50 miles south of Akyab. After our launches had given the place a preliminary bombardment, troops landed on the waterfront and blew up jetties, godowns and other buildings, while some of the launches destroyed river-craft by gunfire. In addition, the operation yielded valuable information.

During the same month one of our launches set ablaze and sank a coastal craft laden with reinforcements and ammunition for Akyab and almost certainly sank another craft similarly laden. A number of Japanese soldiers lost their lives and others were taken prisoner. On several occasions Coastal Forces bombarded the Japanese position at Donbaik on the Mayu peninsula. Our launches harried the enemy in a number of other ways, and by their work showed again and again that they could render valuable assistance to our land forces.

During 1942, nearly half the total number of miles steamed by His Majesty's Indian ships were covered in escorting merchant vessels and protecting them against attack by sea or air. In this total are included miles steamed by Indian warships engaged on coastal convoy duties, which fall under the heading "local naval defence"; but a large proportion of the whole is accounted for by escort work on the ocean passages. During the year the Service assisted more largely in convoying shipping in the Indian Ocean. For security reasons no country publishes details of its



H.M.I.S. "Bengal."

naval convoy work, but it can be said that at all times in the areas in which H. M. I. ships operate convoy duties call for unremitting vigilance and a high standard of efficiency.

H. M. I. S. "Bengal's" Feat

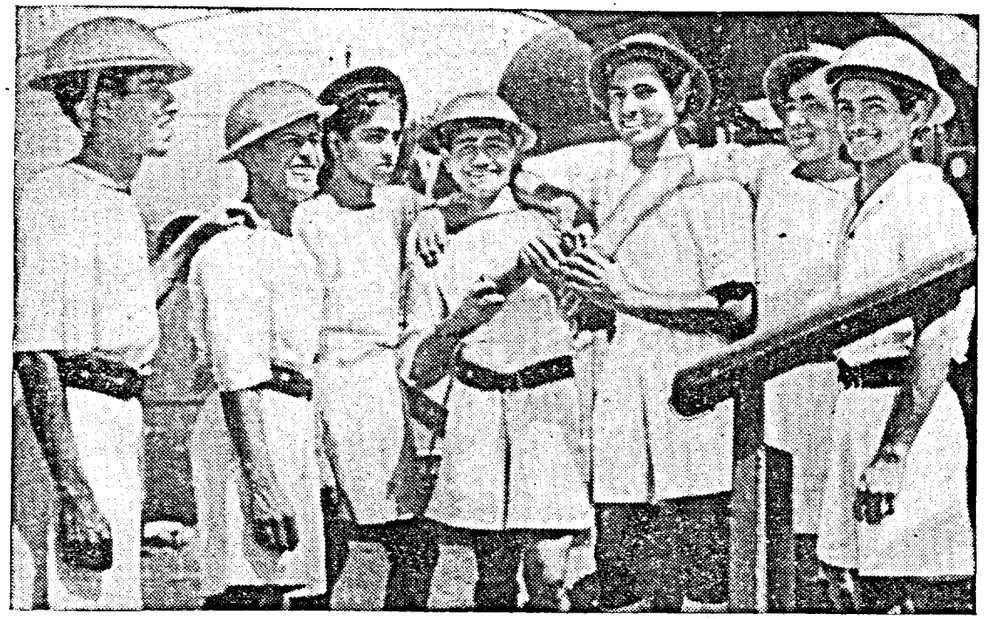
The gallant action fought by H.M.I.S. *Bengal* on November 11, 1942, vividly illustrates the kind of emergency escorting warships may suddenly have to meet. On her maiden voyage to India from the builder's yard in Australia, H.M.I.S. *Bengal* escorting the Dutch tanker *Ondina,* encountered two much larger and more heavily armed Japanese raiders in a lonely part of the Indian Ocean. The *Bengal,* a vessel of under 1,000 tons built for minesweeping and anti-submarine duties, mounted a 12-pounder gun; the *Ondina,* of 6,341 tons, was armed with a six-inch gun. Their opponents were of 10,000 and 6,863 tons, respectively, and each possessed six 5.5-inch guns and was able to bring a broadside of four guns to bear at any one time. The raiders were also equipped with torpedo tubes and aircraft.

On sighting the enemy the *Bengal* headed straight for the nearer and larger of the raiders, hoping by this means to enable the tanker to escape, but with true seaman's gallantry the master of the tanker stood by and also engaged the enemy. Working like men inspired, the *Bengal's* Indian gunners maintained a high rate of fire in reply to the far heavier bombardment to which their ship was subjected. After their sixth round, an explosion and a large fire broke out in the after-part of the enemy vessel, which subsequently sank in flames after a violent explosion.

Action was continued against the second raider, which damaged the tanker and caused her crew temporarily to abandon ship, but after the sinking of her consort the Japanese vessel made off. In the engagement the *Bengal* suffered some damage, but both she and the tanker were able to proceed to port. For their part in the action the Commanding Officer of H.M.I.S. *Bengal* (Lieutenant-Commander W. J. Wilson, R.I.N.R.) received the D.S.O., two ratings were awarded the I.O.M. (2nd Class), and six ratings the I.D.S.M. Two officers were mentioned in despatches.

Escort Work

Valuable escort work has also been done by vessels of the Royal Indian Navy on their way to India from the United Kingdom where they were built. It will be recalled that the two sloops *Sutlej* and *Jumna* completed in the United Kingdom early in 1941, spent the first part of their commission in the Battle of the Atlantic before coming into Indian waters. In addition to helping to escort convoys, vessels on passage to India during the twelve months under review



"No praise is great enough for their magnificent conduct in the face of the greatest danger." Thus Lieut.-Commander Wilson, Commanding Officer, summed up tributes paid to these Indian gunners of H.M.I.S. "Bengal."

have had spells of minesweeping and patrolling in important shipping channels. The duties carried out by these vessels may be instanced by the experience of one of them, which steamed over 16,000 miles in 106 days at sea, helping to escort over 180 ships, one of which she towed for 200 miles. On one occasion she attacked an enemy submarine with depth charges and is believed to have badly damaged it.

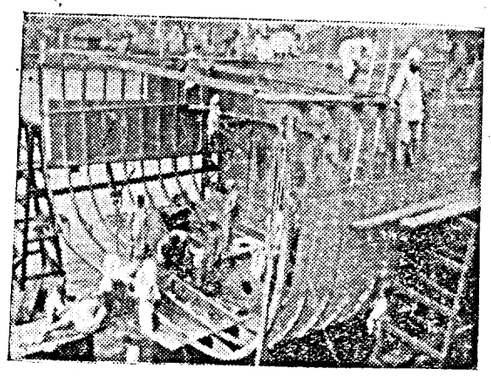
This outline of the Navy's operational work during the year may be fittingly concluded with a reference to the fact that in the war up to September 1943, thirty-five officers and men had received awards and 20 had been mentioned in despatches. The awards include one D.S.O., six D.S.Cs. and ten I.D.S.Ms., all earned for gallantry in engagements at sea. The actions concerned took place in widely separated parts of the Indian Ocean area, from the Persian Gulf to the Sunda Straits, from Massawa to Batavia and Akyab, and away South in the Indian Ocean more than 1,000 miles from the nearest land. Indian and British officers shared almost equally those honours for which they were eligible, while Indian ratings monopolised the D.S.M. and I.D.S.M. awards.

The expansion of the Royal Indian Navy in terms of personnel, ships and training facilities has continued steadily during the year. The number of officers and men has now increased to a figure ten times what it was when the war broke out. Striking evidence that the lean times of the earlier war period are now past is provided by the growth of the sea-going force. The number of Naval vessels at the outbreak of war was small, and to meet immediate needs they were supplemented by the addition of auxiliary vessels taken from the Merchant Service. These have rendered India sterling service, but the Navy of to-day very largely consists of new construction ships built in India, the United Kingdom and Australia since hostilities began.

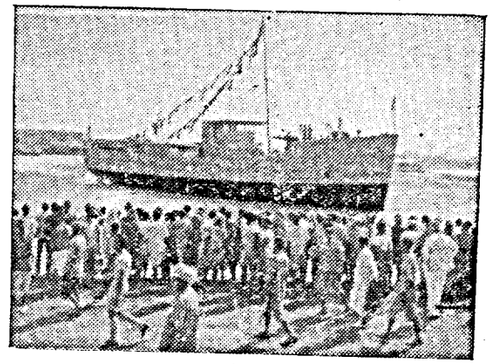
Fulfilment of the programme of shipbuilding began in 1940 with the launching of the two sloops, the *Jumna* and the *Sutlej*, in the United Kingdom. In the following year the number of launchings rose sharply, all three countries contributing, and in 1942, there was a still more notable quickening of the pace at which new construction was coming forward. During the 12 months of 1942 the number of warships of 11 classes launched was 2½ times that recorded in 1940 and 1941 reckoned together.

The new construction included vessels for escort, minesweeping and anti-submarine duties and motor launches for Coastal Forces. During

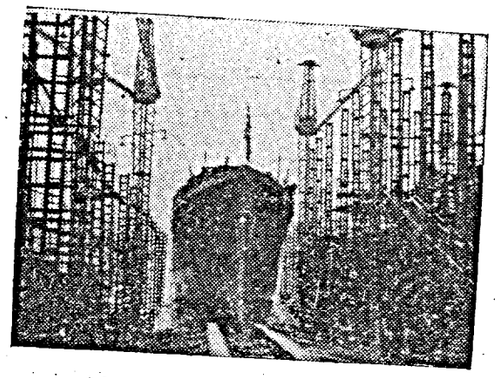
Royal Indian Navy's New Ships—



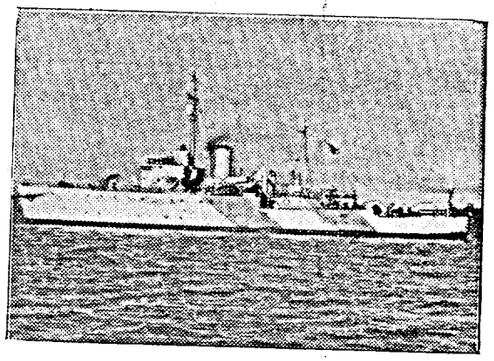
Basset trawler under construction in an Indian shipyard.



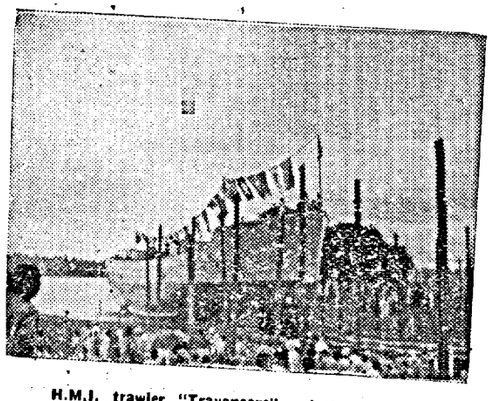
H.M.I.S. "Baroda".



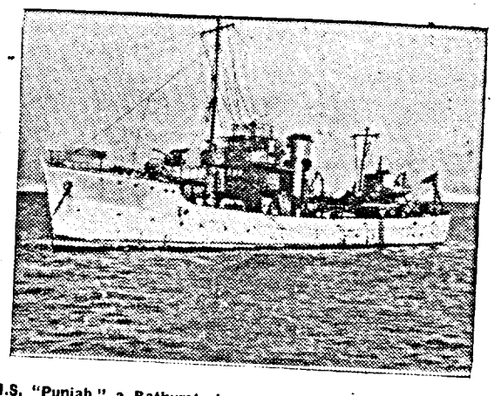
A new sloop going down the shipway.



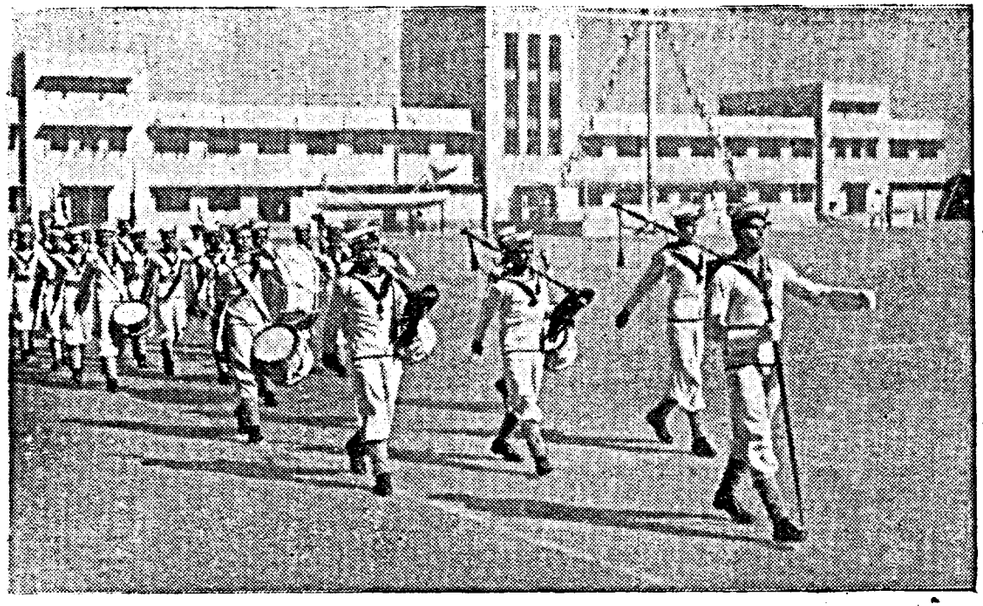
H.M.I.S. "Poona," a warship of the Basset class.



H.M.I. trawler "Travancore" enters the water.



H.M.I.S. "Punjab," a Bathurst class warship.



The band of H.M.I.S. "Bahadur," R.I.N.'s training establishment in Karachi, marching across the parade ground.

1942-43, the sea-going force continued to grow steadily, a notable development being the launching in the United Kingdom of more sloops for India's Navy. One of these vessels, H.M.I.S. *Godavari*, was honoured by a visit from His Majesty the King-Emperor while she was with the Home Fleet in August. At the end of the year many more vessels were on the stocks in this country and overseas.

A feature of India's present-day Navy is the large and increasing number of Indian officers who are in command of H.M.I. ships or who hold other important appointments ashore or afloat, including key staff appointments. This fact was recognised by the decision to send an Indian officer, Lieutenant-Commander H. M. S. Choudri, R.I.N., on a tour of the United States to lecture on the Navy's development.

Shore Establishments

As to Shore Establishments, a feature of the year has been the increased training facilities provided. The influx of recruits from all parts of India continued and new establishments and additions to existing establishments have come into being. Extra accommodation provided in earlier years to cope with the growth of the Service has in some instances been outgrown.

A new initial training centre for recruits to the Seaman and Stoker Branches started work during the year; hitherto these recruits had begun their training in the Depot established in 1941 on the Castle site in Bombay. This initial training centre also houses the Cookery School, where the Navy's cooks learn to prepare varied and appetising meals for their future shipmates.

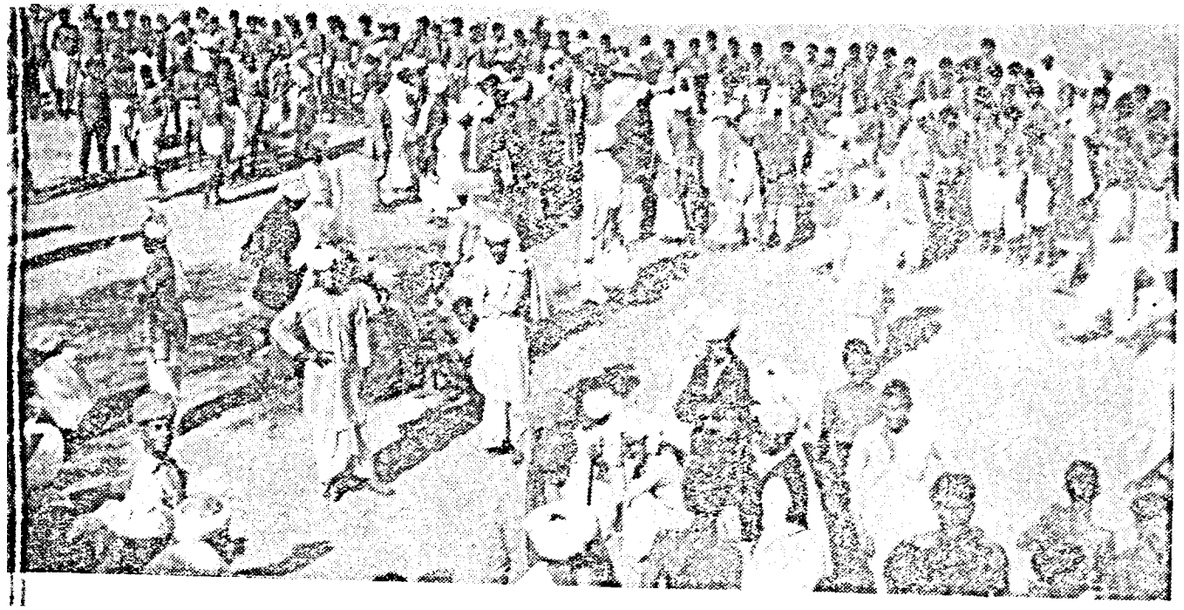
The Gunnery School moved from the Dockyard in Bombay to more commodious quarters, in anticipation of a further transfer to a fine new School under construction in another part of India. Plans were also sanctioned for the transfer to another locality of the Mechanical Training Establishment, where the Navy prepares engine room, electrical and ordnance artificers and shipwrights for their important duties. Largest of the Navy's Specialist Schools is the Signal School, where personnel under training has increased many times in recent years.

The Anti-Submarine School, formerly in Bombay but now established elsewhere, is able as a result of its move to turn out more men trained in the detection of lurking submarines. Ratings of the Royal Navy as well as of the Royal Indian Navy are to be found in its classes. H.M.I. Torpedo School was opened in November 1942 for the instruction of Naval personnel in the handling of torpedoes, depth charges and mines and the operating of ships' electrical equipment.

The Navy's Welfare Organisation began work on March 1, 1943. Welfare had hitherto been the concern of the Personnel Branch, but the expansion of the Service made it essential to set up a separate section of the Branch for this work. Two Welfare Touring Officers were appointed, one to tour the East Coast, and the other the West, in order to ensure that ships and establishments have amenities necessary for the comfort and recreation of their personnel.

Arrangements have been made for the "adoption" of a number of H.M.I. ships in various parts of India, and ships as well as shore establishments have been supplied with wireless sets for the use of their complements. In March, the old R.I.N. Benefit Fund was converted into the Royal Indian Naval Benevolent Association, and its funds have been considerably increased. A large sum of money has been collected for the R.I.N. War Purposes Fund. A summer rest camp for ratings from the Calcutta area has been established in the lower Himalayas, and plans are in hand for similar camps for other areas.

The Royal Indian Navy now has its own Medical branch under a Surgeon Captain. Excellent medical facilities have always been provided for Naval officers and men, but the medical personnel has been Naval only in part. Officers of the I.M.S. and I.M.D. serving in ships and establishments have now become Naval officers, and the staff has been increased. Further, a brand new hospital in Bombay has been taken over for the treatment of Naval personnel.



Recruiting for the army in Northern India.

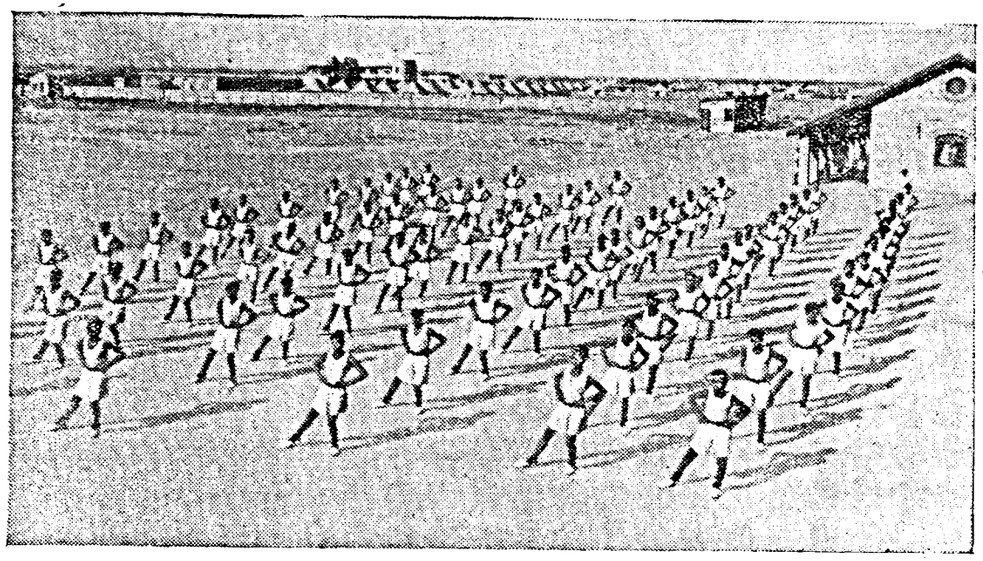
THE ARMY

AN interesting development with far-reaching possibilities in the method of recruiting in India was the permanent adoption in the fourth year of the war of a new system of selecting officers for all the Services.

Instituted in February 1943 as an experiment, the system requires all candidates for commissions to pass through a number of scientific tests lasting three days designed to test their mental abilities, power of leadership and all the qualities demanded of leaders of men in action. By the new system it is hoped that the number of failures at cadets' colleges will be reduced and an improved type of officers provided. It is also hoped that the system will create greater confidence and encourage more young men of the right type to offer themselves for selection.

Progress continues to be made under the Central Recruiting Organisation which is responsible for all Service recruitment in India. The Army and I.A.F., in particular, have found the scheme of practical benefit during the year under review.

Trained technicians for all services were supplied by means of the Labour Department Technical Training Scheme. In those trades where a high degree of education is essential considerable difficulty is being experienced in obtaining the right type of men to undergo training.



Physical training for boys of H.M.I.S. "Dilawar," another R.I.N. training establishment in Karachi.

In the Army, the number of officers recruited during the year has been below requirements with the result that further calls have had to be made on the United Kingdom.

The peak period for recruitment of "other ranks" still stands at the total of 75,640 reached in the month of July 1942. Of this total 16,634 were technical tradesmen or those for training in this category, 58,071 were non-technical and 935 non-combatant.

A notable feature of Army recruitment during the year was the increased intake of classes not enlisted before the war into both combatant and non-combatant corps. Recruitment here is restricted to the extent to which supervisory personnel, including V.C.Os. and N.C.Os., can be provided for them while men of those classes are being trained for promotion. On the other hand, recruitment from certain classes enlisted before the war has declined in view of the heavy drain already made on these resources.

A total of 37,000 enrolled non-combatants formerly known as followers, were recruited during the year by the Central Organisation which continues to yield good results in the supply of men for this category.

On the technical side, trained technicians are provided by the Labour Department Technical Training Scheme for all branches and arms of the Army, and a large number of trained technicians has also been supplied direct from civil life, especially for transportation units.

The greatest difficulty has been experienced in obtaining the necessary quota of clerks of whom large numbers are required. There are good openings for young men who have passed the matriculation examination or its equivalent.

Recruitment in R. I. N.

For the most part, European recruitment to the commissioned ranks of the R.I.N. during the fourth year of war was provided by the influx of a considerable number of evacuees from Burma or Malaya.

The system of recruitment is practically the same as that employed in the Indian Army with the proviso that final selection rests with the Naval authorities. The general system of selection of Indian Officers as against the old method where the Navy was solely responsible for recruiting its own officers, has resulted in an improved intake.

Recruitment of Indian officers to European throughout the year represents approximately two Indians to one European.

So far as recruitment of ratings is concerned, Naval expansion requirements have, to a large extent, been met with the exception of the needs of the Communications and Artificer branches which it has not been possible to fill to the extent required.

Since the amalgamation of all Service recruitment under the Central Organisation the only real difficulty in Naval recruitment has been the high degree of educational and physical fitness required of all entrants.

Special pre-enrolment training, providing for recruitment to the highly technical and well-educated artificer and artisan classes, has been commenced under the auspices of the Labour Department Technical Training Scheme at two centres. The scheme which covers a six-month course of training is still in its experimental stages but initial results show that the measure is a practical one and should go a long way towards meeting requirements in some of the most vital branches of the Naval Service.

Proof that the Service is gaining in popularity among classes not previously represented is shown in the naval recruiting figures. Few classes are not represented in at least small numbers in the R.I.N.

During the fourth year of the war some 9,000 men were recruited to the R.I.N. and the standard generally maintained was good.

Recruitment in I. A. F.

The year under review has shown positive results in the flow of Indian officer applicants for ground and technical posts in the Royal Air Force, and there has been a similar gratifying response in the recruitment of ground staff for the Indian Air Force.

A large number of ground and technical posts in R.A.F. units can now be held by Indian Officers. Suitable applicants for these posts have come forward more quickly than can be absorbed in the Training Schools. There has, however, been a falling off in recruitment for the General Duties Branch, that of candidates wishing to become pilots and observers and to some extent the expansion of the Indian Air Force has been handicapped as a result of this.

The success achieved in the recruitment of ground staff for the I.A.F. has been beyond expectations. Since September 1942, the monthly intake has increased more than 12 times and the full requirements have been met during recent months. High educational qualifications for all ranks are demanded in the I.A.F. but there has been no decrease in quality in the recent large intakes. These men will not only go to I.A.F. units but will also serve with R.A.F. units in India, thus gaining experience which will be invaluable to them when the new I.A.F. formations come into being.

To bring the Technical Non-Combatant Section of the I.A.F. up to strength a certain number of men trained for the Army under the civil and military scheme have been diverted to the I.A.F. It is hoped to make further demands on this source of highly skilled labour.

I.A.F. recruiting covers the whole of India. Every Province and State has contributed its quota to the steady growth of one of the country's vital Services.

The need for special training based on the lessons learned in the Malaya and Burma campaigns led to the introduction into the Indian Army of new training methods.

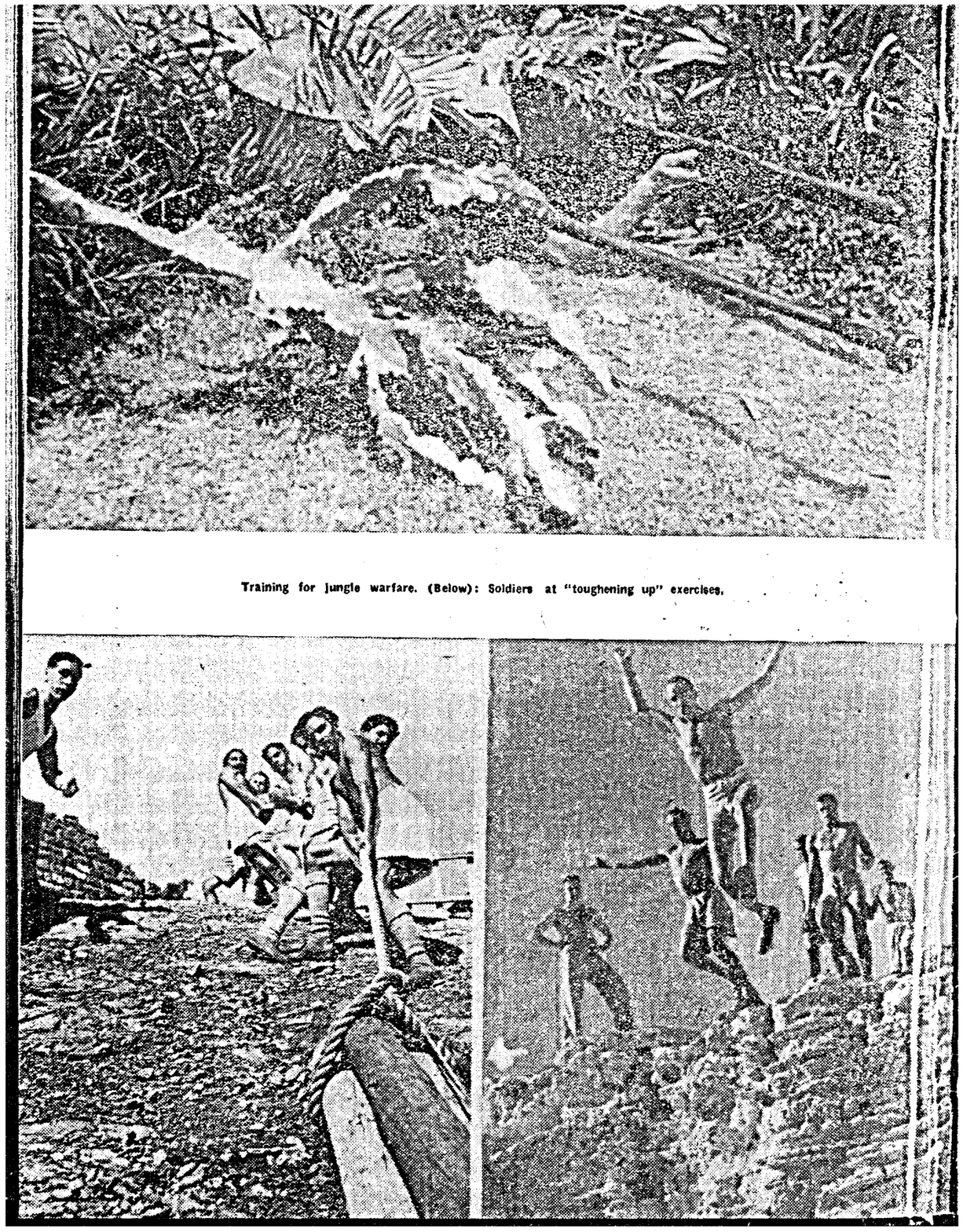
Army's Jungle Training

Jungle training areas have been taken up in different parts of India, where formations can train intensively under conditions exactly similar to those which they will find on the Burma border, and jungle warfare schools have been established for the training of unit cadre instructors. Certain Indian Princes have generously placed large jungle tracts at the disposal of the Army for the purpose. Indian infantry and Gurkha reinforcements destined for the Eastern theatre will, in future, undergo intensive training in the jungle with certain training formations after they have finished their initial recruit training and before they are available for drafting. The duration of the recruit training period has also been extended and given an Eastern theatre bias, so far as that is possible at this stage of training.

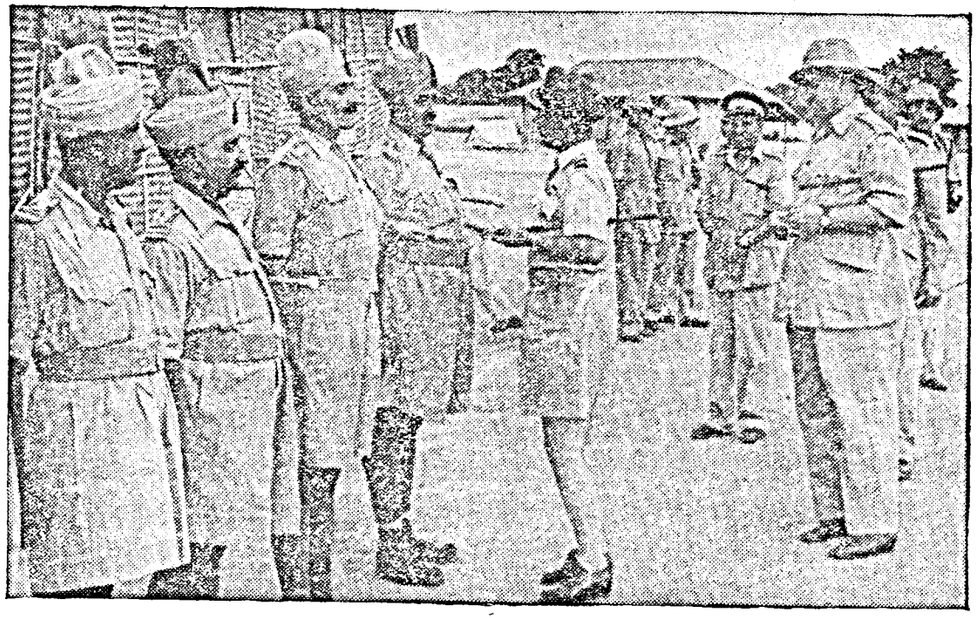
Jungle fighting and the conditions of isolation which it imposes, make perhaps greater demands than any other form of warfare on the initiative, endurance and skill of the junior leader. The authorities concerned have been at pains to improve the training of candidates for commissions passing through the Indian Military Academy and the wartime Officers' Training Schools. The whole system has been revised and brought into line with the latest methods of instructions evolved in Britain.

While modernisation of equipment and transport has speedily gone ahead, no pains having been spared to ensure that India's armed forces meet the enemy with every aid which military science can devise, the undeveloped nature of the country and lack of communications on our eastern border have necessitated the re-introduction of older alternative means of transport. Ponies and mules—which a year ago had almost disappeared from the Army—have been requisitioned as pack and draught animals.

An intensive programme has now been put into effect at the I.A.C. Training Schools to meet the great and growing demand for specialised tank men of the right type. The great majority of the tank and armoured car crews are now Indians, with V.C.Os. as tank commanders. A number of troop leaders are also Indians. After a period of training in Lucknow where he receives complete training in all forms of arms,



Training for jungle warfare. (Below): Soldiers at "toughening up" exercises.



H.H. the Nawab of Bhopal talking to officers of battalion of Bhopal infantry, who are undergoing intensive training in India, during his recent visit to the training centre.

qualifies as an M.T. driver and passes a test in Morse, the recruit next undergoes specialised training of the most advanced and thorough type with the latest in tanks and armoured cars at two centres, one in the United Provinces and the other in the Punjab.

The successful development of the Boys' Squadron is an interesting feature of the school in Lucknow. Taken in at the age of 14, boys go through a course of progressive training for 18 months. Preparing boys both mentally and physically to become good mechanised soldiers is the object of this squadron. In the process of becoming a soldier and working a tank or armoured car the men learn a trade which will be useful after the war in such occupations as garage mechanic, motor transport organisation and, on the wireless side, a variety of trades where electricity is used.

Indian States Forces

With these at their disposal as well as mechanical transport, our troops can go anywhere, be maintained anywhere and fight anywhere.

Fresh units of the Indian States Forces are being raised and trained for service under the Crown, although during the fourth year of the war there was no large expansion of the existing numbers serving in India generally and overseas.

The willingness of the States to make further contributions of men for war service remains undiminished but first in importance is the necessity for ensuring adequate reinforcements for the units which have already left the States.

The Indian States Forces have taken full advantage of the opportunities that have come their way to earn fresh distinctions in the various theatres of war. Among these are the Kashmir Mountain Battery, the 1st Patiala Infantry, the Jind Infantry, the Jodhpur Sardar Infantry, two Jaipur Battalions, the Tripura Rifles and the Tehri-Garhwal and Malerkotla Sappers and Miners. Labour units have also been provided by the States for the construction of roads and aerodromes in all parts of India. Besides, money contributions, aircraft, buildings, labour, watercraft, machinery, training facilities and medical aid and gifts of every sort and description to swell the war effort have continued to pour in from the Indian States in an ever-growing stream.

Among the Indian States Forces units which have taken part in the operations on the Eastern Frontier of India the Tripura State Forces and the 1st Patiala State Infantry have earned distinction by their endurance, courage and skill. Other units serving overseas have

been trained and are ready for the day when they will be called upon to play their part in active operations. Certain Indian states forces units joined the Allied forces in Italy. Other Indian states forces, which have never left their States, render help in maintaining internal security within their own territory.

In accordance with a new scheme all suitable State officers have been or are being granted emergency commissions superimposed on the State Commission by which all State officers will be Indian Commissioned Officers of His Majesty's Indian Land Forces.

Further steps have been taken during the year to attain closer uniformity with the Indian Army by the introduction of a number of central training establishments and by the allotment of a greater number of vacancies at Indian Army Schools of Instruction. With the grant to them of Indian Army allowances, closer uniformity in the emoluments of personnel serving under the Crown has also been obtained. Several complete units have been raised as Indian Army units and are being maintained by the States, and thousands of States subjects have been enlisted in the Indian Army.

Adventures of "Tripforce"

One of the most picturesque incidents of the Arakan campaign has been provided by the adventures of the "Tripforce," which penetrated to the Kaladan Valley in December last. Their achievements are another feather in the cap of India's State Forces. This force was composed of the 1st Tripura Rifles, a regular State force, and partly of the Tripura Mahabir Legion. Some immediate awards have been made to officers and men.

Carrying out a reconnaissance through enemy-occupied territory in Burma, a patrol of the 1st Patiala State Infantry displayed great endurance, courage and excellent knowledge of jungle training. A distance of 331 miles, 88 of which were through thick jungle, were covered in 22 days, and very valuable information was brought back. Written congratulations were received from H.H. The Maharaja of Patiala, the Unit's Brigade Commander and the Unit's Divisional Commander.

The Corps of Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers came into existence on May 1, 1943. Counterpart of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in the British Service, it was formed primarily to take over the engineering functions and technical personnel hitherto controlled by the Indian Army Ordnance Corps.

A high standard of educational attainment was laid down for all recruits, and to young Indian engineering students on the threshold of their careers the new Corps offered a unique opportunity.

Accepted candidates were first sent to an Officers' Training School for a four-month course, and then to an I.E.M.E. workshop for six months' technical training. After a short time on this latter course they were, if found suitable, commissioned as Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

The new Corps also recruited large numbers of highly skilled Armament Artificers below the rank of Commissioned Officers, both to undertake more specialised jobs and also to supervise craftsmen. From the best of these, men were selected for commissions.

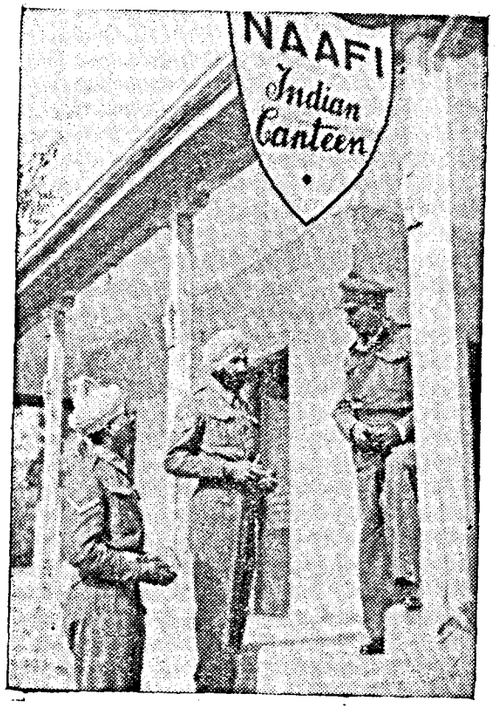
Welfare and Amenities

Welfare education is an integral part of a soldier's training and inspires to making a man a better soldier by an intelligent understanding of what he is fighting for and a better civilian by explaining to him his duties as a citizen. This is one of the three main responsibilities of the Directorate of Welfare and Amenities, which has greatly expanded in the past year. The other two responsibilities of this Directorate are (i) the providing of amenities, comforts, and entertainments for troops and (ii) family welfare of the troops.

A great feature of welfare education is the imparting of information about the ways by which the Indian soldier can improve his home, farm, health and livelihood after the war. This is done through simply-written pamphlets which give advice and impart knowledge to enable the soldier-citizen to build up his village life on a sound foundation. Added force is given to these pamphlets by touring Indian lecturers. In the near future, dramas, gramophone records, broadcasts and films will also be used to train the mind of the soldier. Occupations of a voluntary nature such as hobbies and handicrafts, for which special funds are available, are also encouraged.

For British Troops, a series entitled "British Way and Purpose" is also issued and is designed to educate officers and men as citizens.

In addition to being taught more about his enemy, the soldier is shown how the Army standards of living can be applied to the way of life in his own community when the war is over. The limited amount of leisure time



N.A.A.F.I. is a popular rendezvous for Indian troops in Cyprus.

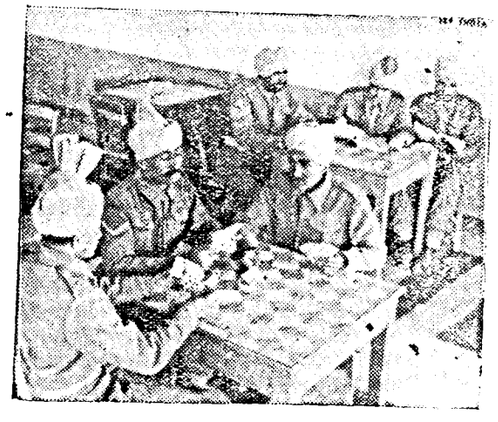
available to the soldier is being used for his benefit by the organisation of concert parties which are run, directed by and composed of Indians. There are at present four concert parties in India and a fifth is to be formed shortly. Another two parties are overseas while a further two are projected. Seven or eight concert troupes have been organised by the Armies in the India Command and in many cases units have formed their own troupes. This step has encouraged many sepoys not only to watch others but to take part in plays themselves.

Each unit, Indian and British, receives a grant per man from a Government fund with which to purchase musical instruments, sports gear, and other amenities. The total amount spent on Indian troops is, therefore, far greater than the amount spent on British troops. Outside help has included the donation of railway canteens for Indian troops and sports equipment and gramophones to soldiers and also to sailors of the R.I.N. serving in isolated places. Y.M.C.A., Salvation Army, TocH and the W.V.S. are playing their part in running institutes, canteens and clubs.

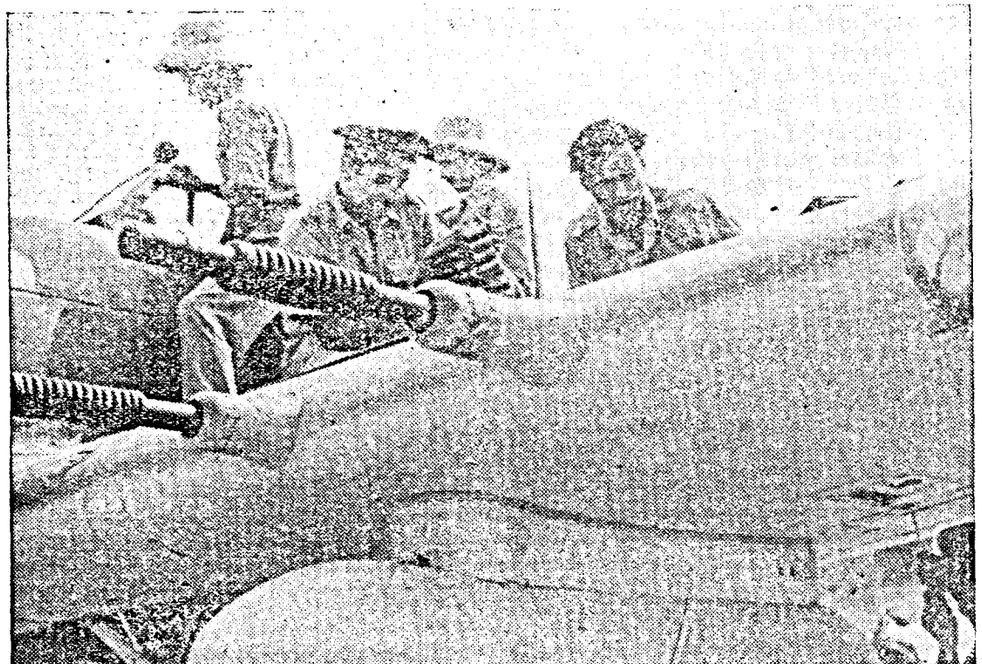
The welfare of their families figures largely in the troops' thoughts and is a big factor in their morale. The Soldiers' Boards fulfil this need and perform a very important task. These are primarily concerned with the welfare of the ex-soldier and his family, and look after the interest of serving soldiers absent on service. The Boards promote a feeling of goodwill between the civilian and military classes. From 79 District Soldiers' Boards in British India at the time when war broke out, the number has risen to 100 Soldiers' Boards besides 20 State Soldiers' Boards, and these supply large number of recruits.

Petitions numbering several thousands are handled each year by the Provincial and District Soldiers' Boards which investigate all problems submitted by Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, Indian Other Ranks and their families. A large number of Civil Liaison Officers of various grades, who are closely affiliated with Provincial and District Boards, assist and advise them in all matters affecting family welfare and form a link on all levels between the civil and the military authorities.

For British Troops, Legal Aid Sections have been opened at General Headquarters of the Armies. These sections put at the disposal of the men the facilities which exist in the United Kingdom for giving free legal advice and aid to soldiers in any matters which are causing them mental worry and which may be solved by recourse to the law. Other worries of a non-legal nature are dealt with through sub-offices of the Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force Families Association (S.S.A.F.A.), which too have been opened in India. These sub-offices are in touch with S.S.A.F.A. headquarters in London.



Indian soldiers in the "Quiet Room" of the N.A.A.F.I. canteen in Cyprus.



Flying Officer Surendra (Bangalore) of an I.A.F. Hurricane Squadron in Burma, checks ammunition loaded by armourers before taking off.

THE GROWTH OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE

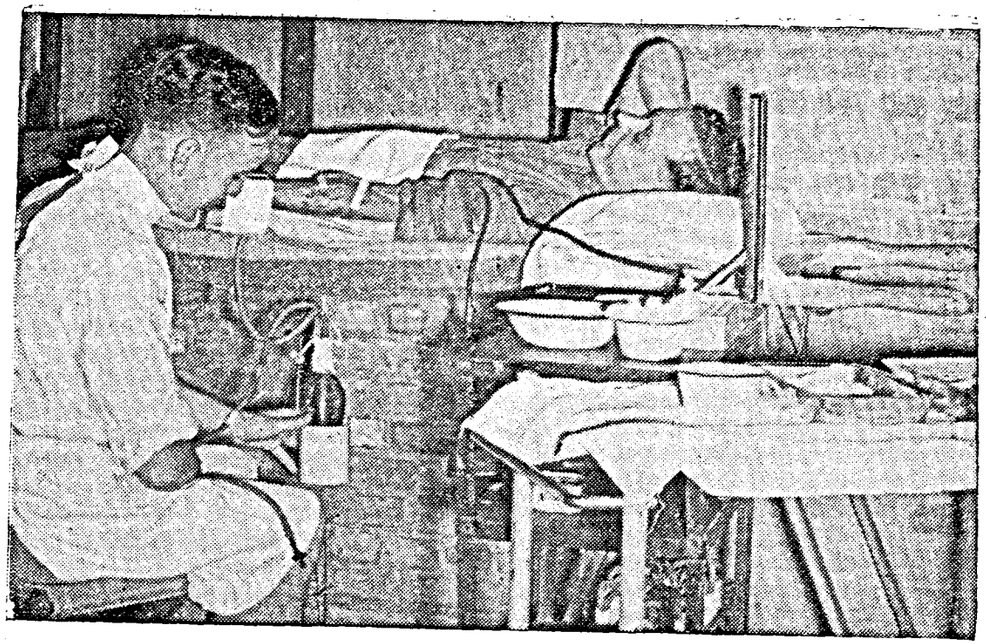
THE expansion of the Indian Air Force continued unabated during the year and on a scale without parallel in the history of the Service.

Machinery was set in motion for the completion of the I.A.F. as a self-contained Service. This, of course, will take time but already the response on the part of young India has been most gratifying. For instance, during the period under review an appeal was made for volunteers for training as technicians. As a result, the expansion in this Branch of the Service during the past 12 months has been over 600 per cent.

Another outstanding development was the appointment of an Inspector General to the I.A.F. The Officer detailed to fill this post has considerable operational and administrative experience. His function will be of a dual nature. Firstly he will deal with the *ad hoc* problems connected with conditions of service, welfare, efficiency and general administration as it effects units of the Indian Air Force, as well as Indian Air Force Officers and Airmen now serving with the Royal Air Force.

His second function will be to consider plans for the setting up of a self-contained Indian Air Force—manned, serviced and administered by Indians. This will consist not only of squadrons operating in the "front line" but also of other important, though less spectacular, aspects of the Force, such as training schools, Maintenance Units, and a great variety of technical establishments. In August, an Indian Air Force Officer was appointed to command an operational station in Kohat. He is W|C S. Mukerjee of Calcutta and is the first Indian to be given command of an Air Force Station.

The rapid expansion during the year in training warrants special mention. The first batch of trainees went to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme. The object of



The Army Blood Transfusion Service, India: A donor giving blood.

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICES

THE army medical services in India have expanded side by side with the expansion of the Army in India but despite expansion at a rapid rate efficiency has never been lost but rather increases from day to day.

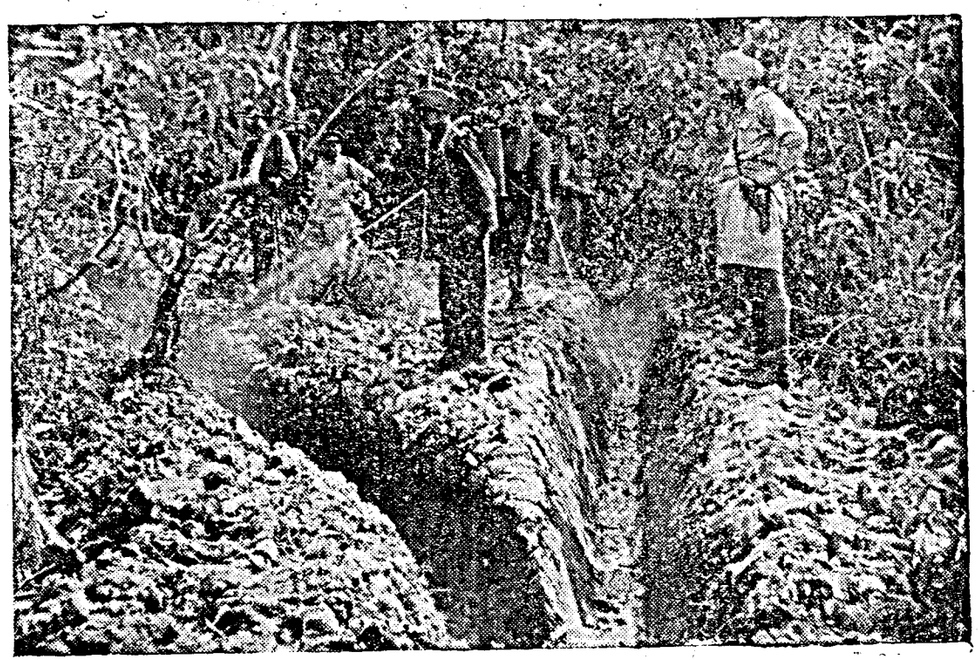
During the year, the Indian Army Medical Corps has been formed by amalgamating all branches of the Indian Military Medical Services, the I.M.S., I.M.D. and I.H.C., into one homogeneous organisation. All members of the I.M.D. are being considered for emergency commissions and a parallel development of great significance is the granting of similar emergency commissions to licentiate medical practitioners recruited direct from civil life. Technicians and others with suitable qualifications are being recruited as V.C.Os. for work as radiographers, laboratory assistants and male nurses, while men of a high educational standard are being recruited to the Nursing Section of the Corps with greatly improved rates of pay and excellent prospects of promotion to Viceroy's Commissioned rank.

A new *esprit de corps* is apparent and is already reflected in the improved standard of medical attention offered to the Indian Army in all theatres of war.

To cope with the large influx of newly recruited officers to the Medical Services, it has been found necessary to expand the existing roll of students at the Army Medical Training Centre near Poona. The course now caters for 450 officers every three months. The Medical Wing of the Officers' Training School, Mhow, where officers receive basic military training has been incorporated in the Centre. Professional training is carried out concurrently at hospitals in Poona where the young officer is given an opportunity of familiarising himself with the treatment of the diseases and casualties of war under the instructions of specialists and consultants of the Army. Courses are also held in specialist subjects including surgery, anaesthetics, etc.

Army School of Hygiene

Since a healthy army has a great advantage over an unhealthy one, it is obvious that military hygiene is a subject of the first importance to any fighting force. This is fully realised in the army in India; and probably nowhere in the world is so much attention devoted to maintaining troops in good health and fighting fitness



Anti-Malaria Units operating on the Assam-Burma Front, spray anti-mosquito oil on contour drains near military camps.

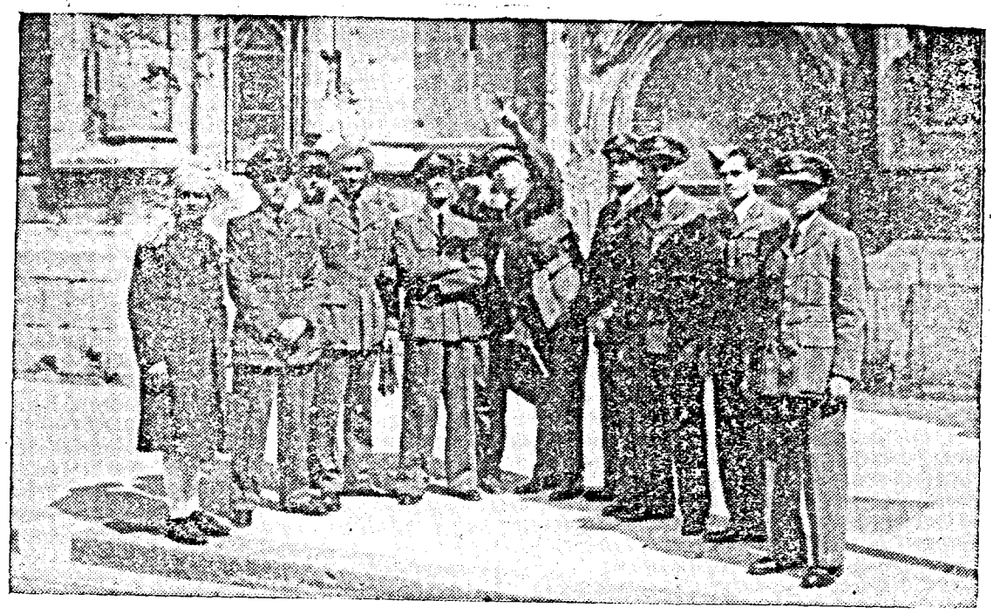
as in India. Military hygiene in a sub-continent of the size of India embraces a large variety of problems, and to deal with these the hygiene department of the Medical Directorate at G.H.Q. is divided into four branches, each under a specially selected specialist and each dealing with one of the following:—general hygiene, nutrition, anti-malaria measures and health statistics.

An Army School of Hygiene has been established during the year and staffed by selected and experienced officers. Instruction is given to officers, and V.C.Os. of all branches of the service in the theory and practice of the principles of hygiene as applied to war. Practical sanitation in the field and water duties are taught to classes of selected other ranks, both British and Indian.

Field hygiene sections and anti-malaria units are trained and raised at the School, which is well-equipped and staffed for this purpose. The establishment of this school is proving of the greatest value to the Army in general, and will, by the inculcation of higher ideals in hygiene, benefit indirectly the village life of India after the war is over.

India is one of the most malarious countries in the world, and, to prevent the occurrence of this disease among our troops, a large and efficient military anti-malaria organisation has been built up. This can broadly be divided into two parts—that dealing with peace stations and that dealing with war areas. In every cantonment, anti-malaria measures are under the control of a specially trained medical expert in malaria who is assisted by highly trained subordinate personnel. This expert has at his disposal the most modern equipment, stores and apparatus for dealing with the malaria-carrying mosquito.

In war areas, malaria is controlled by mobile anti-malaria units each commanded by malaria experts of the R.A.M.C. or I.A.M.C. and staffed by highly trained and efficient British and Indian other ranks. These units, which have their own transport, undertake drainage, the killing of adult mosquitos by spraying malaria surveys, lecturing and anti-malaria propaganda work, and generally act as the eyes and ears of the army, in the prevention of malaria.



I.A.F. Pilot Officers, first to be trained under the Empire Air Training Scheme, being shown round the House of Commons.

this scheme is to ensure that adequate reserves of fully-trained pilots, with operational experience, are available to meet the demands of our Air Force.

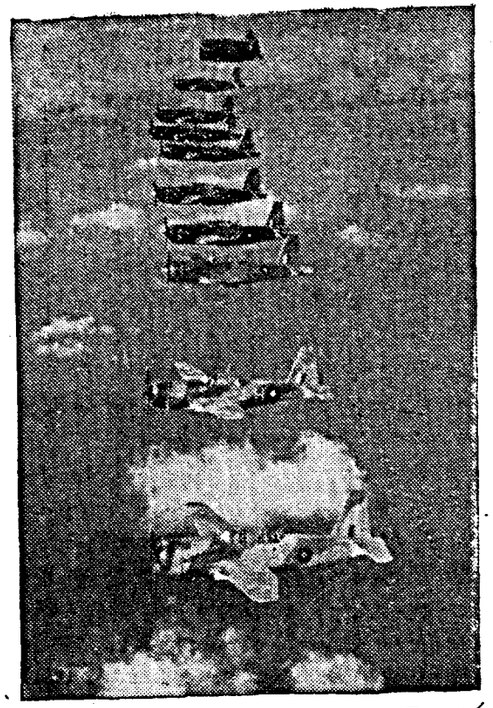
Another batch of 34 officers and technicians were sent to England and among this contingent were young pilots who have since been absorbed into the Fighter Command of the R.A.F. With Fighter Command they should derive considerable advanced operational experience. The batch also includes a few technicians who will undergo advanced training at some of the most important Technical Command Schools in Britain. When they ultimately return to India their newly acquired knowledge will be of immense value to the I.A.F. and that experience will, assuredly, be put to good effect against Japan.

Indian Air Training Corps

The Indian Air Training Corps was launched during this year. It marks another milestone in the history of this ten-year-old Service. It is encouraging to note that there are now five Universities co-operating with the I.A.F. in making this experiment a success. The scheme is designed to assist young Indian students, who may consider entering the I.A.F., in gaining elementary training in the technical and general service work of the I.A.F. They are given a three months' course of preliminary training on a great variety of subjects connected with the Air Force and trainees who successfully complete the course will be awarded a diploma on the lines of the University Training Corps certificate. Uniform and distinctive badges are provided for the students taking this course and during their training period they receive a stipend of Rs. 20 per month.

The Indian Air Training Corps is functioning in five Universities in India, and in the not too distant future it is hoped that it will be possible to include many more Universities in the scheme. The object of the Corps is to encourage the well-educated youth of India to become air-minded and it is hoped that a good proportion of the trainees will join the ranks of the I.A.F. on leaving their Universities, although there is no compulsion laid upon them to do so.

The Indian Air Force now has 17 technical and non-technical schools located far and wide throughout India. These schools cater for all trades connected with the I.A.F. The initial disciplinary training is carried out at Walton (Lahore) and Jalahali. It is here that the recruit learns to adjust his civil education to military needs before he is sent to one of the numerous training centres. Schools at Jamnagar, Juhu, Guindy and Sibpur specialise in the initial training of Flight Mechanics. From there he proceeds to Ambala (home of the Indian Air Force) or to Secunderabad to complete this technical training. The Signals School at Andheri teaches the rudiments of wireless. Balloon



I.A.F. Vultee Vengeance Dive-bomber Squadron flying in formation over the Arakan.



F/O. M. M. A. Cheema (Sialkot) returns from a sortie over Burma.

operators and hydrogen workers finish their training at Baroda. The Non-Technical Training Centre at Secunderabad caters for the administrative staff which is equally important in the efficient working of the ever-expanding organisation of the Indian Air Force.

The training at these centres is carried out according to the same high standard prevailing in the Royal Air Force. Provided with the most modern equipment and under the able guidance of highly skilled R.A.F. instructors, these schools will be soon working to capacity.

In this building up of a sister air force, the R.A.F. authorities are showing both enterprise and courage and it is in the interest of the youth of India to take full advantage of this opportunity. In the words of Field Marshal Viscount Wavell, "India's Air Force is one of the great things for the future of India." Besides these technical schools there are the flying training centres. Over 50 per cent of the instructors at these centres are Indians.

The process of re-equipping the existing squadrons of the I.A.F. with modern types of aircraft proceeded unchecked. During the year one of the squadrons operated over Burma carrying out important reconnaissance work. They penetrated deep into enemy-occupied territory and returned to base with important photographic records.

On the North-West Frontier, the Indian Air Force continued to be entirely responsible for "Watch and Ward" duties.

On April 1 the Indian Air Force celebrated its 10th Anniversary and impressive ceremonies were held throughout India. At Ambala—the home of the Indian Air Force—the principal parade was held, the salute being taken by the Commander-in-Chief.

During the period under review the Indian Air Force Benevolent Association benefited considerably by gifts from princes and the people of India.

Members of the Central Legislature had an opportunity of inspecting No. 6 Squadron of the Indian Air Force. The event took place on March 21 at the Delhi Air Port, 60 members being present. Equipped with Hurricane aircraft, the pilots gave a demonstration of flying. The members of the Legislature were greatly impressed with the turnout of the squadron.

The increasing numbers of troops in India and the consequent strain on food supplies has made it necessary to supervise the nutrition of the army with special care. All rations issued to troops are examined as a routine by the medical services in regard to both quality and quantity, and constant investigation into the methods of improving their nutrition value is proceeding. Similarly, the needs of special cases are being supervised. Recruits have recently been given a much better scale of rations as a result of medical recommendations, and in addition may receive extra milk on medical advice. In jungle warfare, the inevitable shortage in some places of fresh vegetables, fruits, etc., is counteracted by ensuring that suitable canned or dehydrated foods and vitamin concentrates are available.

Health Statistics

No business firm could carry on without its accountancy branch. Similarly the accountancy branch of the hygiene department at G.H.Q. which deals with health statistics, is vitally necessary. This branch enables an assessment to be made of the value of health measures already carried out and of a forecast, based on past experience, to be made regarding the value of new measures about to be undertaken. It also, and most important, enables an assessment to be made at any moment of the fighting fitness of any unit or part of the army.

Modern medicine has become so complex that as is well-known specialism is essential. This necessity has been very fully recognised in the army medical services in India. The total number of specialists runs into four figures and embraces physicians, surgeons, anaesthetists radiologists, pathologists, hygienists, dermatologists, psychiatrists, neurologists, opthalomologists, and otologists. The organisation of specialists is now so complete that service patients in all regions are assured of expert attention of all kinds.

Mobile Surgical Units

Mobile surgical units have been specially designed and equipped to enable an operating team to be moved at short notice and to set up an operating theatre complete with all modern surgical devices as far forward as is feasible. The object of these units is to bring surgical aid to the patient instead of bringing the patient back to a surgeon, rendered comparatively static by the bulk and complexity of his equipment. The services of a mobile surgical unit ensure that the interval between receipt of a wound and skilled surgical treatment is minimised. This is not only a help towards speeding up recovery, but also lessens the period of inevitable discomfort for the wounded man. Surgical team can also be sent by air.

Blood transfusion may well be regarded as one of the most noteworthy medical advances in the treatment of the wounded soldier that this war has produced. To bring this life-saving treatment to all wounded of the army in India, the Army Blood Transfusion Service (India) has been created. Blood depots at Dehra Dun and Poona have been equipped with modern apparatus for the preparation of blood products and for the assembly and sterilization of the specialised apparatus required for taking blood and giving transfusions. Blooding teams from these depots obtain blood from panels of volunteer donors which are now being organised over wide areas. In addition, the depots act as training centres for personnel of the army medical services training transfusion officers for all medical units.

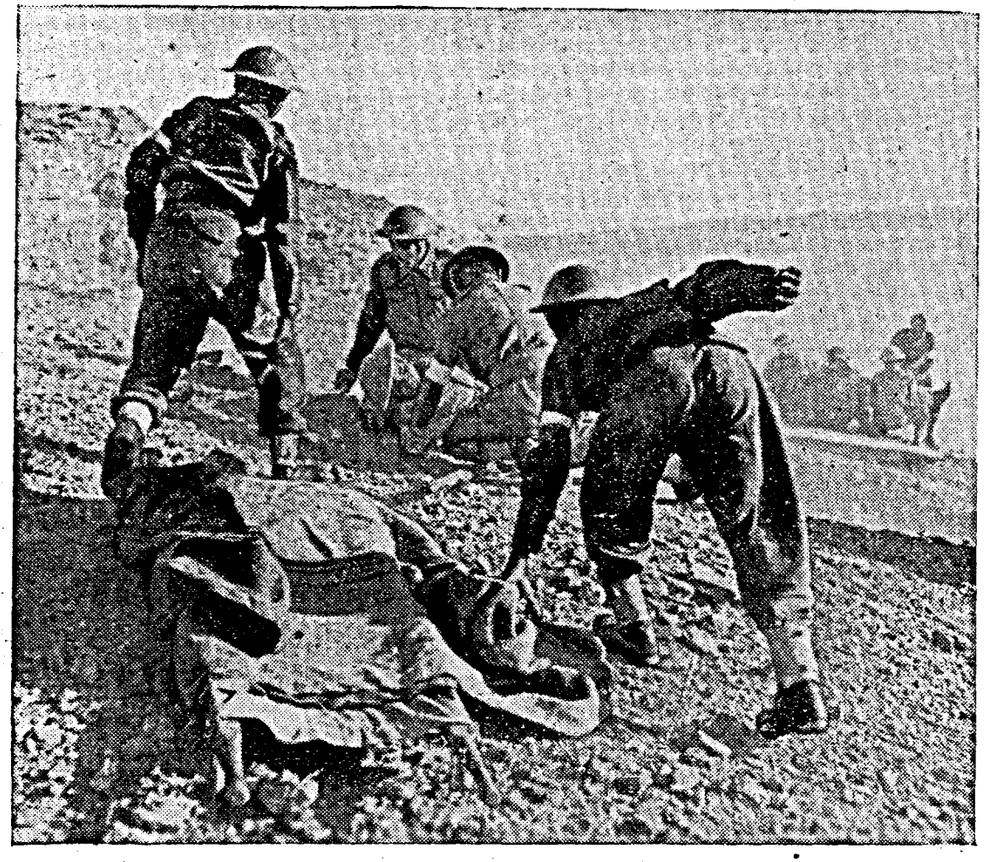
Blood and Blood Products

To ensure that blood and blood products are available for administration to the wounded at the most advanced medical units, special field transfusion units, equipped with mobile refrigerators and with a staff expert in transfusion work, are employed. During the past year several of these units have been working in Assam and the Arakan and have been instrumental in saving many lives.

Considerable progress has been made during the year in the institution of facilities for physiotherapy and rehabilitation. The importance of these branches of medicines in hastening the recovery of men suffering from wounds and injuries involving bones and joints cannot be over-estimated. A number of orthopaedic centres which include rehabilitation and physiotherapy departments, specially equipped and staffed, have been raised and attached to selected British and Indian Base General Hospitals. In addition, most general hospitals are now equipped with facilities for occupational therapy which is proving of real value and interest to patients.

Clinical Pathology

The laboratory investigation and diagnosis of disease and evaluation of the efficiency of treatment has long been recognised by the medical services in India as one of the most important branches of medicine. To cater for this need there exists an up-to-date clinical pathology service staffed by specialists in this subject and by skilled technicians. The service is constantly being improved to bring it into line with the most recent advances in laboratory work. The outstanding advance of the year was the creation



Field Ambulance of the I.M.S. removing casualties during the 8th Army's attack on the Mareth Line.

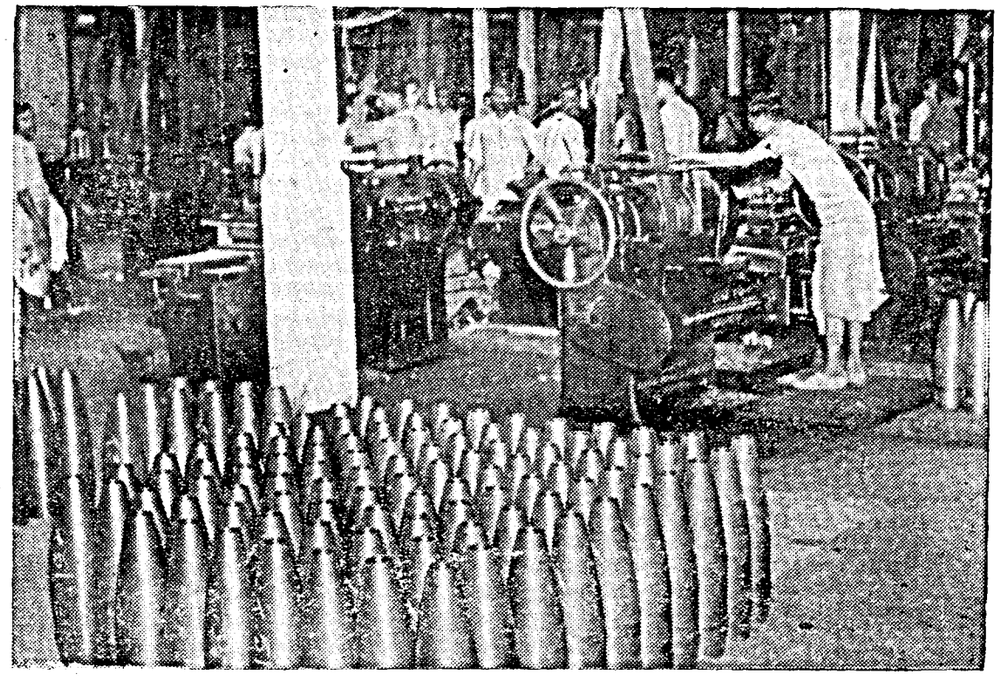
of the Central Military Pathological Laboratory. The functions of this laboratory include the training of medical officers in modern methods of laboratory diagnosis and the introduction of standard of laboratory work into all medical units. In addition to the work of the Central Military Pathological Laboratory, stations in India are served by district or station laboratories while the needs of medical units in the field are met by field laboratories.

Nursing Services

Nursing in British hospitals is carried out by the nursing officers of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. In Indian hospitals nursing is the responsibility of the I.M.N.S. who are assisted in their task by the Auxiliary Nursing Service. Personal nursing attention is ensured for all patients by day and night.

Further new hospitals have been constructed during the year and existing ones modified to bring them up to the high standard now expected of a modern medical service. Most hospitals in the plains now have air-conditioned operating theatres, and a proportion of air-conditioned wards. Some of the finest hospitals in the world are now to be found amongst the military hospitals in India.

Ambulance Trains of the most up-to-date type including air-conditioned coaches are used for the evacuation of casualties from operational areas in India or for transporting the sick and wounded who arrive in India from theatres of war overseas.



Shells in the making in an Indian munitions factory

Shells in the making in an Indian munitions factory

INDIA'S INCREASING MUNITIONS OUTPUT

FAR-REACHING plans for further industrial development to expand India's armament output and to increase her production of war stores have been put in hand during the past year. Schemes for modernising and enlarging ordnance factories turning out explosives, small arms and guns are complete and material of this kind is now being produced on a greatly increased scale. In spite of the changes which had to be made in production methods the supply of many new types of ammunition has been achieved without affecting the pre-war outturn figures. In addition the removal of certain key plants from vulnerable localities to safe areas is almost complete. The changed military situation in India, which has resulted in a much larger demand for building materials and skilled labour, and delay in securing essential machinery from the U.K. and U.S.A., retarded projects in certain areas but many new factories, designed to produce a very wide range of equipment, have come into operation.

In the more general aspect of Indian industrial progress there have been developments which, although primarily designed for war production, will have an important influence on the country's post-war advance. These have included the introduction of highly technical processes for the manufacture of steel and ferro-alloys and the development of plant and equipment for producing high-grade materials to meet specialised demands such as for R.A.F. and surgical requirements. Important subsidiary industries have been established to augment the main plans and large projects to maintain and service the war production factories, including many civil engineering works and domestic installations, have been completed.

Steady advances in the supply of Indian-produced machine tools, structural steel, heavy mechanical appliances, electrical equipment, optical stores, paint and chemicals have been made and other industries essential to war production, such as motor vehicles assembly and ship-building and repairing, have been developed to an extent which guarantees for them a leading place in India's post-war development. Work concerned more directly with war effort, such as

aircraft repair and maintenance, the construction of armoured vehicles, surgical instrument manufacture, a marine salvage organisation, and the making of web and leather equipment have also made great strides.

The training of operatives to staff the new factories has gone hand in hand with the developments in industry and supply services. In certain trades experts from the U.K. have been called in to give technical advice and assistance but many thousands of new workers have been trained and instructional organisations have been greatly developed.

Manufacture of Basic and Acid Steel

During the fourth year of war a plant, the only one of its kind in the world, has been brought into production for the manufacture of both Basic and Acid steel by the Perrin process. The rated output of the plant is 200,000 tons of ingots per annum and the process is capable of a number of variations when necessary for the production of special steels. Progress is being made with the scheme for doubling the Steel Corporation's capacity by the introduction of Duplexing. Two Basic Open Hearth furnaces are nearing completion. Meanwhile India exports to U. K. from her large surplus of pig-iron as opportunity arises.

A new Basic Open Hearth furnace has also been brought into operation and is employed mainly on special steel for hand tools and railway springs. Such steels are also being produced in several electric furnaces throughout the country.

Pending the arrival of a large plant which is on order temporary furnaces have been erected for the reduction of indigenous wolfram ore and ferro-tungsten is in production. A high frequency electric furnace is making High Speed and stainless steels. Other special steels for R.A.F. demands are regularly being produced.

The export of large quantities of chrome and manganese ores and manganite has continued and a large order for ferro-manganese from U.S.A. has been met.

Non-ferrous Metals

The production of aluminium is now fairly established at over 99 per cent purity and a large proportion is already being used for the requirements of the R.A.F. and other essential services.

Several manufacturing processes in connection with rolling of non-ferrous metals have been developed including rolling of fine gauge brass, zinc, copper and bronze strip, asenical bars for locomotive boiler stays, and brass hexagons. Non-ferrous wire of great fineness is now being drawn and many other drawn sections are produced in quantities limited by die making capacity. Special complex aluminium alloy forging for aero-engine components were also produced for the first time.

Several new plants for the electric deposition of copper, zinc, tin and nickel were brought into operation in connection with necessary defence service demands particularly for R.A.F. and surgical requirements. A plant for hard chrome planting engine components, tools, etc., was also brought into production.

Crucible manufacture has continued to make progress and steadily better quality is being achieved.

Armaments Production

During the fourth year of war extensive changes have taken place in India's plans for expansion of armaments production. Expansion can be considered under five phases, *viz.*:—

(1) The Chatfield Plan, which consists of a number of projects for modernising, and to some extent expanding, India's capacity for armaments production.

(2) The Post-Chatfield Plan, which consists of a number of projects subsequent to the Chatfield Plan.

(3) The E. G. or Eastern Group Plan, which consists of several new projects for expanding India's capacity for armaments production.

(4) The T. P. or Transplantation Plan, which consists of a major scheme for moving armament production capacity from threatened areas to safe areas, consequent upon the entry of Japan into the war.

(5) O. F. E. or Ordnance Factory Expansion projects, which consist of a number of projects introduced subsequent to the E. G. Plan (but which cannot properly be classified as T. P. Projects).

The Chatfield Plan

The Chatfield Plan consisted of the construction of one complete new factory for the manufacture of high explosives, and the major expansion of several existing factories, together with subsidiary projects for the supply of toluene for the manufacture of high explosives, etc. This plan is substantially complete and all the projects are in production on the new types of armaments which are being manufactured to the increased scale laid down under the plan.

The most important of these projects was a scheme for practically doubling India's outturn of small arms ammunition. This project, together with the various small projects planned under the Post-Chatfield Plan, is now substantially complete and in production.

The Eastern Group Plan

The Eastern Group Plan consisted of some 20 new projects to provide for:—

Expansion in production of alloy steels for guns and small arms;

Expansion in production of forgings for guns and gun carriages;

Expansion in production of bayonets;

A complete new factory for the manufacture of light machine-guns;

Expansion in the manufacture of tripods for light machine-guns;

Expansion in the manufacture of ordnance for field Howitzers, production of ordnance for anti-tank guns and expansion in the production of loose barrels for Anti-Aircraft guns;

Expansion in the manufacture of carriages for field Howitzers and production of carriages for anti-tank guns;

Expansion in the manufacture of shells;

Expansion in the manufacture of shells and mortar bombs;

Expansion in the manufacture of fuzes;

A new factory for the production of fuzes;

Expansion in the manufacture of gun cartridges cases;

New factories for the production of components for small arms ammunition, gun ammunition, cartridge cases, and the manufacture of small arms ammunition;

Expansion in the production of cordite;

Expansion in the production of toluene and motor benzol;

Expansion in the production of high explosives;

A new filling factory for filling shells, air bombs, land mines and mortar bombs;

A new factory for the manufacture of optical and fire control instruments;

A number of sub-projects for expansion of civil armaments production.

Under the Transplantation Plan several of the above projects, which were sited in threatened areas, have been transplanted to safe areas.

Work has progressed steadily on the remaining projects but most of the projects are behind schedule owing to the changed military situation in India which has led to intense competition between Defence Services Projects for the supply of building materials, labour, etc.

Certain of the projects have suffered setbacks owing to the delay in the supply of key items of plant from the U. K. and U. S. A. and to losses of such plant in transit at sea. Another retarding factor has been the return to the Railway Board of some railway workshops previously allocated to armaments production. Notwithstanding these set-backs a number of the Eastern Group projects have been handed over complete and production is being established.

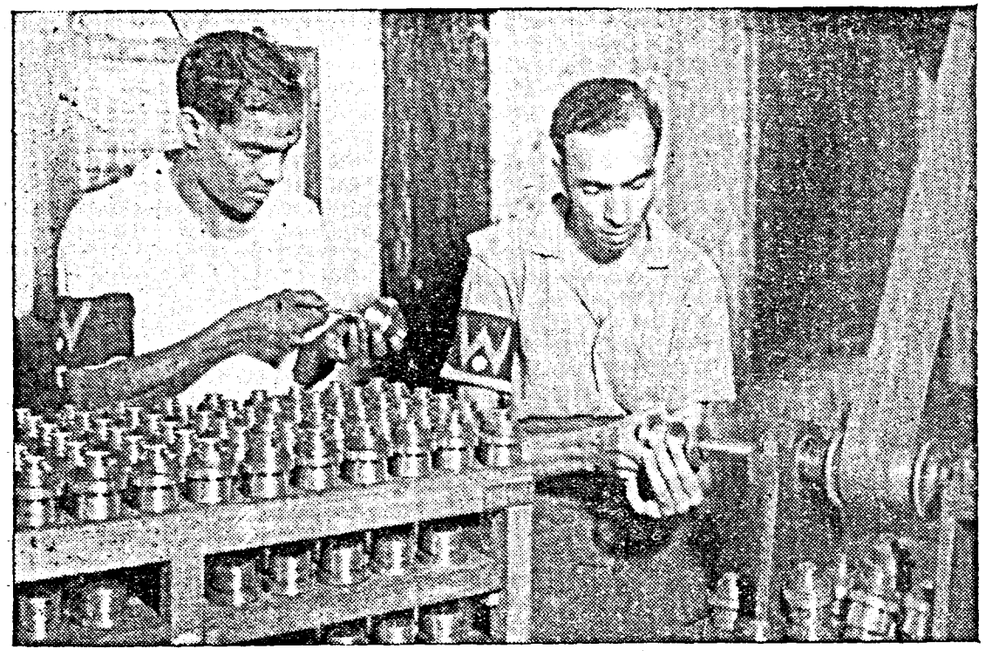
As the name implies this was an emergency plan which had to be carried out owing to the drastic changes in the military situation consequent on the entry of Japan into the War. Much of India's armament production capacity was located in positions vulnerable to air attack and to make the positions secure, it was decided that certain key plants should be transplanted to safe areas. This policy involved the construction of several new ordnance factories and the expansion of some existing ordnance factories. Work on these projects had proceeded at high pressure throughout the past year and most of the new factories are complete and are either handed over or about to be handed over for production.

Subsidiary Industries

This consists of a number of new projects for further expanding India's capacity for the production and maintenance of armaments. Included in this plan are projects for the maintenance of imported types of artillery equipments, for the maintenance of aircraft instruments, for the production of packages for ammunition, for the expansion of capacity for the manufacture of anti-gas respirators, for the manufacture of taps and dies for threading and screwing metal and a new central tool room. Most of these projects are either in an advanced stage or have been handed over for production.

The implementation of these projects has necessitated large civil engineering works at many of the sites. These works include water supply schemes, power supply schemes, sewage disposal installations, railways, roads and drainage schemes. In addition large housing estates have been constructed for the housing of staff and workmen with connected amenities such as hospitals, dispensaries, bazaars, etc.

The implementation of the main plans has also led to the establishment in India of many subsidiary industries of importance. For example, many thousands of gallons of motor



Tapping and gauging detonator hole in fuzes.

benzol produced as a by-product in the manufacture of toluene, which is required for the production of T. N. T., have been placed on the market in India. Other examples are the installation of plant for the large scale manufacture of nitric acid and for the manufacture of acetone from alcohol. Plants of this nature, and the skilled personnel trained to operate them will no doubt play an important part in the post-war development of industry in India.

Guns and Ammunition

The outturn of guns and ammunition has now expanded to a degree which exceeds all previous levels. The increase in production in some of the important items is as follows:—

Rifles (new and repaired), 10 times pre-war output.

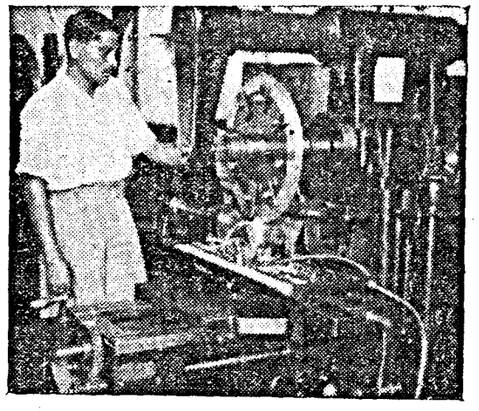
Light machine-guns, 12 times pre-war output.

Bayonets, 17 times pre-war output.

Small arms ammunition, 4 times pre-war output.

Gun ammunition, 27 times pre-war output.

Guns and carriages, 9 times pre-war output.



In an Indian Gun Carriage Factory.

Anti-gas respirators, 5 times pre-war output.

Oil Cookers, 50 times pre-war output.

Concurrently with the vast expansion outlined above, the manufacture of many new types of ammunition, has been established ranging from small arms to big gun and including anti-aircraft and anti-tank shells, mortar bombs,

grenades, mines and various other types of ammunition.

The establishment of production of these new types of ammunition, which, in many cases, has involved a complete changeover in production methods and filling technique, whilst at the same time maintaining the vast increases over pre-war outturn, is an achievement of no small order.

In addition to new ammunition items the following are a few of the more important items of armament stores which are now being produced in quantity in India:—

6-pdr. gun carriages,
Tripods for light machine-guns,
Anti-aircraft gun sights,
Binoculars,
Stereoscopes,
Clinometers,
Telescopes.

Labour Force Expansion

Some idea of the magnitude of the expansion involved may be gathered from the expansion of the labour strength of the ordnance factories which has risen by 600 per cent.

The labour force in Ordnance Factories (excluding the Harness and Saddlery and Clothing factories) is now above seven times its pre-war strength. Since August, 1939, the Ordnance factories have trained in armaments production work, about 47,000 men including 7,000 in the supervisory and skilled and higher semi-skilled grades; and have recruited 3,500 semi-skilled men from the Labour Department training organisation. Nearly 750 supervisors, 2,300 skilled men and 2,000 higher grade semi-skilled men are under training in Ordnance factories.

The attainment of the high figures of outturn of finished ammunition in Ordnance factories has been greatly assisted by the development of capacity in trade and railway workshops. By the end of 1942, plant valued at over Rs. 1½ crores had been installed in such undertakings to develop and balance existing capacity. A large capacity special purpose shell machining plant was set up in a Government civil workshop and heavy forging plants in two railways and one private workshop and these are turning out hundreds of thousands of shells, cases, mortar bomb bodies, grenades, fuzes, etc.

As an accompaniment to this expansion much progress has been made in improving the quality of indigenous tools. Heat treatment shops have been set up at five centres throughout the country where facilities and advice are available to the numerous small producers. In addition schemes for the indigenous production of twist drills, taps and dies are also progressing.

Steady progress has been made with the development of indigenous manufacture of machine tools of which over 400 per month are now being produced. Technical advice is being given to the manufacturers by a team of experts from the United Kingdom and with rationalisation of the industry proceeding, higher quality tools will soon be made.

Aircraft Repairs and Maintenance

An organisation was set up during the third year of war for the repair and maintenance of aircraft in civil workshops. Considerable difficulties, particularly due to shortage of spare parts, had to be overcome in the early stages but most valuable work was done both in connection with the overhaul and major repair of aircraft and the supply of important ground equipment.

To cope with the increasingly heavy load which has arisen during the last year this organisation has been greatly expanded during the current year throughout the country and new fully-equipped shops for all branches of aircraft maintenance and repairs are being set up. A large number of highly skilled and experienced technicians from the United Kingdom have been recruited in connection with the various schemes and are being supplemented by R.A.F. personnel. Training of Indian skilled and semi-skilled labour is in full swing.

Production of Armoured Vehicles

Production of armoured vehicles, utilising indigenous armour plate, has become well established, and besides numerous general purpose trucks adapted for various roles, the programme has included substantial deliveries of armoured carriers.

Extensive demands for structural steelwork of all kinds, both for military purposes and expansion of industry, have been satisfactorily met, and an outstanding achievement has been successful construction of a floating dock which ranks amongst the largest in the world.

All available resources have been fully utilised in meeting a wide range of demands for cranes, pumps, ordnance and engineer stores, ship construction and repairs, railway requirements and industrial maintenance, while important developments have also taken place in connection with diesel engines and constructional plant.

In addition to maintaining production of electric fans at a high level and expanding production of lamp bulbs, great strides have been made in developing manufacture of cables, transformers, motors and switchgear.

Considerable progress has been made in expanding the production of rivets and bolts and nuts, with the object of minimising dependence on imported supplies, and the output is already twice that at the beginning of the war.

There has been a great increase in demands and types of medical and surgical instruments and hospital equipment, and great progress has been made in both quality and quantity of outturn in coping with these diverse demands. Expert advice has been arranged at the main centres on the use of process plant and the development of mass production methods. The present monthly average of over 23,000 articles ranging from operating tables to surgical needles gives some indication of the wide demand which India is now meeting.

The Shipbuilding Industry

In the fourth year of the war, the shipbuilding industry has been further expanded and yards are working to full capacity in building ships for the Royal Indian Navy. Indian craftsmen, who were formerly trained in the construction of only the traditional types of wooden country craft have been found in increasing numbers to meet the expanding needs of the industry, and with their usual adaptive skill have taken in hand minesweepers, anti-submarine patrol boats and assault craft as well as smaller craft such as life boats and dinghies. Wooden barges for carrying cargo in the ports are being built in large numbers.

Another branch of this industry, and possibly an even more important one, is the work done in repairing ships. Many ships of all types damaged by enemy action, by bomb, mine or torpedo, were repaired and made seaworthy—repairs which had never before been undertaken in India.

The approach of the war to the shores of India made another demand on shipyards, in that merchant ships plying in these waters had to be defensively armed against enemy attack by surface ships, by submarine or from the air. This defensive arming has greatly increased in fire power during the year, and when merchant ships touch at Indian Ports they are fitted out with the necessary armament. For protection of gun crews, the bridge, etc., a new form of armour has been developed in India and hundreds of ships have been fitted out during the year.

The possibility of enemy action has made necessary the creation of a Salvage Organisation and men and ships in peril along India's thousands of miles of coast-line can now be rescued by this means.

Great though their efforts were, established ship repair and shipbuilding firms alone could not have met the demands made during the past year. Many firms with no previous knowledge of ships have now been incorporated into the industry and smaller firms able to carry out subsidiary work such as machining, have also contributed their quota. Moreover, established firms have been expanded by the import of new machines from the U. K. or U. S. A. From the same sources has also come much important material, chiefly steel.

The provision of sufficient supply of labour has been an important consideration. Dilution of existing labour has been carried out to the limit, evacuee labour has been rapidly absorbed and training of likely men as mechanics and skilled tradesmen is proceeding. The total number of men employed in the industry at the end of the fourth year of war was about 50,000.

The Hindustan Aircraft Factory has now undertaken the maintenance and repair of certain aircraft, whilst the Civil Repair Organisation which give valuable assistance to the Air Forces, has been developed by the establishment of the aeronautical division under the Director-General of Munitions Production with directorates of manufacture and repair.

Before the war, the Indian Army possessed approximately 5,000 motor vehicles. Well over 100,000 now have been delivered. The number is ever increasing. During the present year, thousands of special chassis (in parts) were being obtained from Canada and from the United States of America under Lease-Lend. These were assembled by Indian workmen. The bodies for these chassis are being completely manufactured in India. They range from armoured cars and carriers, bridging lorries, anti-tank gun portees, etc., in the specialised designs, to the regulation, general service load and ambulance types. One manufacturer alone is producing over 500 bodies a week.

Textiles

About Rs. 99 crores worth of textiles were arranged by the Cotton Textiles Directorate during the fourth year of the War. Of this, about Rs. 18 crores represents purchases of tentage items which includes 180,000,000 yards of cotton cloth; the number of firms supplying Army Tentage increased from 60 to 95. Purchases also include, in addition to the above, about 565 million yards of piece-goods, 7 million numbers of knitted and made up items like vests, drawers, jerseys and socks, and over 10 million yards of anti-gas fabric. To assist the contractors in getting the necessary supplies of yarn at reasonable prices against Government contracts for fabrication of a variety of items including tentage, supplies of over 57 million lb. of yarn of counts varying from 1½s. to 60s. singles



Tents for the Army: "Dosuti" from the mills is dyed both khaki and blue in factories manufacturing tents. Here, women workers collect khaki material which has been dried in the sun in a factory executing a large army order for tents.



Each part of the tent is examined and checked before it leaves the factory.

and doubles, were also arranged by Government in consultation with the Yarn Sub-Committee of the Cotton Textiles Panel.

The entire woollen industry is still being used for war production, while silk parachutes are being produced in Bengal, Madras and Mysore. The value of army blankets during the present year is about Rs. 3 crores. During the year 1940-41, the output of clothing was about 7 million garments a month and during 1941-42, it rose to 10 million garments a month. During the year ending June 30, 1943, the output of clothing was over 10,600,000 tailored items a month and during this year about 375,000,000 yards of cloth were made up into tailored items of clothing. There are now nine clothing factories linked with a large number of tailoring contractors employing about 100,000 men in all. Parachute factories have made many thousands of supply-dropping parachutes and man-dropping parachutes and connected equipment.

Harness and Saddlery Factory

The Government Harness and Saddlery Factory, which also produces web equipment, paulins, and other canvas goods, has expanded its working staff from 2,000 to 18,000 men. Five branch harness and saddlery factories, which are the headquarters of leather manufactures' circles in all the main provinces, supplement the Harness and Saddlery Factory's production by making use of the manufacturing and fabricating capacity of some 700 contractors employing over 25,000 men. In spite of heavy reductions in demand for web equipment and other stores, the combined total output of the Harness and Saddlery Factory, the branch factories and their contractors is still valued at approximately Rs. 20 crores per annum, and practically the whole of this is derived from indigenous sources.

The production of all tanneries capable of making leather to Government standards is being organised and controlled. The production has been rising by leaps and bounds. In 1941, 7.46 million pairs of footwear were produced, but during 1942 this figure rose to 16.22 million pairs. Similarly production of components, such as heel and toe tips, boot repairing components, etc., has been rising. Production of the former from 6.9 million pairs in 1941 rose to 24.17 million pairs in 1942. Production of tanned leather and chrome upper leather from controlled tanneries has also risen considerably.

India is making her contribution to the solving of the rubber shortage in the United Nations. Rubber is strictly conserved and tyres are made available only for essential needs. Steps have been taken to stimulate the production of rubber plantations and plantations of wild rubber have been started, which, it is hoped will make substantial contribution to India's rubber resources.

Factories have been established to compress hydrogen gas for the maintenance of Barrage Balloon Stations.

All paints required by the army are now being procured in this country, and an entirely new development is the production in India of "Dopes" for aircraft, from almost wholly indigenous materials.

A new oil pipe line has been laid in India for the transport of petroleum to our operational armies and affords great relief to railway and sea transport.

Timber Production

The production of timber showed a considerable increase during 1942-43 as compared to the previous years. From 242,000 tons in 1940-41 it reached the level of 863,000 tons during 1942-43, thus showing a more than three-fold increase. A further increase of about 100,000 tons is expected this year. Apart from its use in packing cases, ammunition boxes, railway sleepers, huts and telegraph poles, Indian timber is extensively used for the load-carrying bodies of army vehicles.

The value of wooden articles produced for war purposes during 1942-43, has reached a figure of about five crores of rupees. From the demands in hand at present for 1943-44, it appears that less will be purchased this year. The main item of interest in 1942 has been the development of the plywood industry which now produces 50 million square feet annually and thus contributes materially to reduction in shipping previously devoted to imports of tea chests and other plywood from abroad.

Production of Chemicals and Drugs

Production of various important chemicals such as sodium sulphide, sodium sulphite, sodium thiosulphate, potassium chloride, etc. has been established in the country. As regards heavy chemicals, the production of caustic soda, bleaching powder, soda ash, etc. has been established. Action has been taken to import plants for heavy chemicals, namely sulphuric acid, caustic soda, chlorine, ammonia and power alcohol. Plants for sulphuric acid and power alcohol are being obtained from U.S.A. through Lease-Lend. To meet the requirements of calcium carbide used in the engineering welding operations, a plant is being put up to produce 3,000 tons annually, in addition to small production totalling 900 tons, which has already started.

Since the war, the development of indigenous sources of manufacture of drugs has progressed considerably, both in quantity and quality. The percentage of items of drugs now indigenously manufactured in India, is about 60 per cent. Development of vegetable drugs, such as belladonna, ephedra, henbain, rhubarb, valerian, kurchi bark, nux vomica has been considerable. Similarly Narcotic Drugs, such as morphine salts and codeine are being made on a large scale in Government factories. Production of vitamins is also being developed. The glassware industry has also received a fillip with the development of the drugs industry. The factories of Medical Stores Department have been largely expanded.

Surgical Dressings

The development of the surgical dressings industry in India has been very rapid. The percentage of items of dressing indigenously manufactured now is about 88 per cent. The value of stores purchased in India was only about Rs. 16 lakhs during 1938-39, but during the year 1942-43, it rose to about Rs. 35 crores or about 24 times.

Considerable success has been achieved in expanding industries connected with the manufacture of brushware, enamelware, crockery, cutlery, paper, cardboard products, glass and glassware, wooden whistles, razor safety holders, laminated board containers for supplying ration, boot polishes, mustard and cashew nut oil, crash helmets, tommy cookers, jutlac containers for dubbin, cycles except chain, free wheel and ball bearing, milk cans, anti-mosquito cream containers and strawboard washers. As part of their war effort, the various Provincial Governments have also established production on the cottage industry basis of a number of items such as ambulance stretchers, horn and bone buttons and hair combs, locks and padlocks, brass studs and hinges, camouflage nets, pith hats, etc. Orders to the extent of Rs. 10 crores have been executed by the small scale producers.

Canned Foodstuffs

The majority of canned foodstuffs still has to be imported into India but considerable progress has been made with the production of jams and marmalade. A canning factory for the production of peaches, apricots, pears, and plums has been started during the year and a high quality pack has been produced. Arrangements are in hand for increasing the output of this factory for the next season. Canned tomatoes have also been produced successfully.

The scarcity of tinplate for packing foodstuffs has been felt acutely and the development of dehydrated foodstuffs in order to save tinplate and freight has been continued. The dehydration of vegetables, potatoes, and fruits has been carried out on a large scale.

In addition to these dehydrated products, the dehydration of goat's meat has been developed during the year and the dried meat has proved such a satisfactory product that its production for the Defence Services is now regarded as of the utmost importance. Two factories for manufacturing this dehydrated goat's meat have been in production for some months and additional eight factories are in various stages of construction. Experiments carried out last year in connection with dehydrated fish have led to the establishment of two factories, one of which is now in full production turning out one ton per day of smoked dried fish.

The production of biscuits, *shakarpara* and fruit and nut briquettes was increased during the year. These two items form the basis of the present field service ration. The indigenous production of tinned cheese has been developed and a factory is already in production. The quality of the tinned cheese produced compares very favourably with imported cheese.

Factories for the production of rennet powder, yeast extract, and egg powder have been developed. Satisfactory samples have been prepared and rennet powder and yeast extract are already being produced commercially.

Technical Training Scheme

Nearly 50,000 young men have so far been trained as technicians under the Technical Training Scheme initiated by the Labour Department in 1940. These have been supplied to the Armed Forces, ordnance and munitions factories and civil industries as armature winders, carpenters, electricians, clerks, fitters, painters, surveyors, turners, wireless operators, Air Force mechanics, engine artificers, and for numerous other trades.

The first training centre was established in Lahore in January 1941, and by the end of the year, 299 centres had been established with a training capacity of 24,277. Of the 2,676 trainees passed out during the year, 2,502 joined the Armed Forces. With the opening of 95 new centres in 1942, 30,990 trainees had passed out to join the defence services and civil factories.

Two new types of training, namely, special preliminary training for the Royal Indian Navy (which ordinarily accept as artificers educated men with technical knowledge and experience) and training of clerks for the defence services was undertaken during 1943. To facilitate the entry of educated men with no previous technical knowledge or experience, the Department of Labour converted in March 1943, their technical training centre at Birla College, Pillani (Jaipur State) into a special training centre for the Royal Indian Navy to turn out artificers and



The Secretary of State for India, Mr. L. S. Amery, photographed with Bevin Boys at their hostel in Letchworth.

shipwrights. After successfully completing their six months' training in special trades at this centre, the candidates are enrolled in the R.I.N. and are given further training in R.I.N. training establishments. In addition to free training at Pillani, the trainees receive a monthly stipend of Rs. 70. The centre has a training capacity of 250. Radio mechanics for the R.I.N. are also under the Labour Department scheme at George Telegraph Institute, Calcutta.

Thirteen training centres with a training capacity of 4,200 per year have been opened in the Punjab, Bengal, Madras and Bombay to provide clerks for the defence services. More centres are being opened. Training is given in typing, shorthand, precis writing, official correspondence, simple accountancy, etc.

After the training which is voluntary and lasts six months to a year, a trainee becomes a grade III tradesman and is provided with a job. In addition to free training, every trainee receives a stipend from the Government of India varying from Rs. 24 to Rs. 45 per month. In certain trades, a Matric or Intermediate passed trainee gets Rs. 70 per month as stipend. The trainees are provided with several other facilities. The Labour Department has now raised all training to the highest standard of perfection possible and greater emphasis is laid on quality with the result that strict attention is paid to the prescribed educational and physical standards when selecting candidates.

For the industrial development of a country like India the need for trained men to carry out supervisory jobs was realised some time ago and the Bevin Training Scheme inaugurated in the year 1941 with the object of giving higher technical training to Indian artisans in the U.K. at the expense of His Majesty's Government. The value of the scheme is immense to the individual trainee and to India's industrial progress. Men trained under the scheme are earning to-day, on an average, 227 per cent more than what they were earning before their training in the United Kingdom. Of the 409 boys so far sent to the United Kingdom, 228 have returned after completing their training and 212 have already been employed, the majority in ordnance factories and private engineering firms. Others are working as instructors under the Technical Training Scheme and other crown establishments, while 15 have joined the Defence Services in specialised jobs.

Of the men trained under the scheme, four, who previously earned between Rs. 10 and Rs. 70 are to-day commissioned in the Corps of Indian Engineers.

In addition to the higher technical knowledge acquired by these boys, there is marked improvement in their cultural, social and educational outlook. His Majesty's Government have further agreed to increase the period of training from six to eight months to enable trainees to derive the maximum benefit from their stay in the United Kingdom. The scheme is entirely voluntary and is open to working class young men of all communities.

INDIAN TROOPS IN ACTION

INDIAN troops last year were very much to the fore in some of the fiercest fighting the war has so far seen. Defending the western approach to India in the gallant stand at El Alamein, 70 miles from Alexandria, the men from India at the close of the third year of the conflict were also, in a spirit of grim confidence, holding firmly closed the door of immediate entry on the Indo-Burma frontier on the East.

Four months of incessant struggle followed the check to the Axis at El Alamein. This was the period in which tried and trusted Indian troops determinedly stood their ground on the Ruweisat Ridge—a period which was described as a famous and gallant stand which saved Egypt.

Then, in November, 1942, a refreshed and reinforced Eighth Army under General Montgomery delivered a lightning blow from which Rommel's divisions, confused and shaken, never really recovered in their long retreat to Tunisia and the shores of Cape Bon. The story of India's magnificent contribution to the downfall and final defeat of the Axis in North Africa is mainly the story of the famous 4th and 5th Indian Divisions and in its telling reveals unexampled skill in attack and a wealth of heroic incident worthy of the highest traditions of the Indian Army.

Although the 4th Division did not take a major offensive role in the earlier phases of Montgomery's campaign its 5th Brigade distinguished itself by a thrust for a distance of five miles through the enemy's defences north of the Ruweisat Ridge, opening up a way for the armour, thus making its contribution to the decisive victory at El Alamein.

In Tunisia

The long chase through Libya, Cyrenaica and Tripolitania followed, the 4th Indian Division, composed of Indian and British troops, remaining in the background and quietly preparing for their great role in the historic battles which lay ahead once Tunisia had been reached. In the onslaught on the Mareth defences on the night of March 23, Indian sapper companies cooperated brilliantly in opening up a way for the infantry across a wadi 200 feet wide and 20 feet deep, the whole of the time under heavy and concentrated enemy fire. Indian troops, and, in particular, two platoons of Punjabi Mussalmans were among the first to gain and hold the objective.

Further away to the west, the 4th Indian Division took on, and succeeded in carrying through, the almost insuperable task of piercing the narrow defiles of the Matmata heights to link up with the New Zealanders and at the same time to assist in the turning of the Mareth Line.

So Gabes fell and the Axis forces withdrew to the Wadi Akarit positions 20 miles to the north. To the "Fighting Fourth" who faced the rugged mountains fell the honour of leading the attack in, according to one description, "one of the toughest assignments of the campaign." Following the tactics of the North-West Frontier, the Divisional Commander converted his men into a swift-thrusting frontier column. Scaling the bare rock by moonlight on April 5, Punjabis, men of the Rajputana Rifles, and Gurkhas threw the enemy out of their trenches and holes man by man.

Biting still further into Tunisia went the Eighth Army with the 4th Indian Division striking hard all the way. On April 10, Sfax was entered, two days later Sousee was in our hands. There was to be some fierce figting in Rommel's mountain strong-hold before complete victory could be said to be in sight.

Final Knock-out Blow

In 96 hours of bitter hand-to-hand fighting Indian and British troops of 4th Division drove the enemy from their apparently secure positions on the heights of Djebel Garci. Shelled from higher peaks and counter-attacked furiously our men went on and upward. A battalion of the 6th Rajputana Rifles, which has seen more action than any other Indian battalion in this war, was the first to break through.

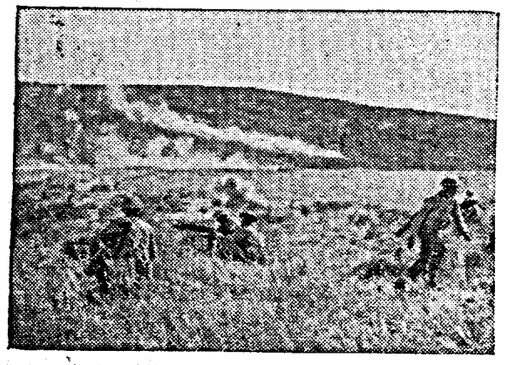
This was the battle in which the battalion ran out of ammunition and hurled rocks at the enemy while further supplies of ammunition were being brought up. Their gallant action helped to save the day and the height was ours. It was in this action that Company Havildar Major Chhelu Ram, 6th Rajputana Rifles, distinguished himself but was mortally wounded. He was awarded the Victoria Cross.

From Enfidaville the men of the 4th Indian Division together with the British 7th Armoured Division were detached from the Eighth Army to strengthen the First Army for the final knock-out blow against Tunis. Twenty-four hours later, greeted by shouts of "Good old Fourth" India's veteran troops arrived at Mejez-el-Bab, having travelled 250 miles to join the First Army under General Anderson. Without wasting time the 4th Indian Division were flung into battle at 3 a.m. and by 1 o'clock in the afternoon they had taken all their objectives and were across the plain into Tunis.

The 9th Gurkha Rifles and the 6th Rajputana Rifles played a prominent part in breaking the enemy's resistance and opening the way

Indian Troops' Part in N. African Campaign





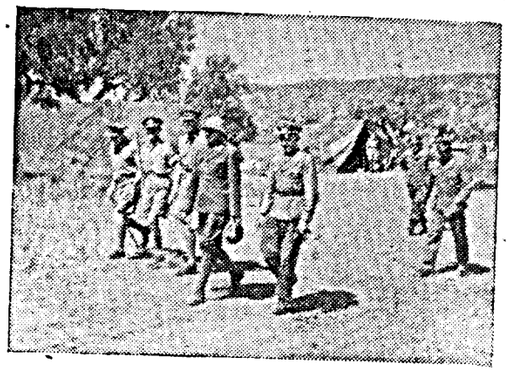


TOP: Men of the 4th Indian Division go into action.

ABOVE (left) Machine-guns are placed in position to give covering fire to the advancing infantry (right) Infantry attack.

BELOW: Gurkhas storming a ridge of the Ras O Ez Zouai feature in the Mareth Line (Tunisia).

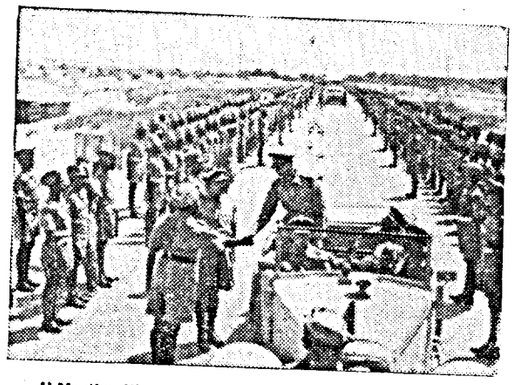




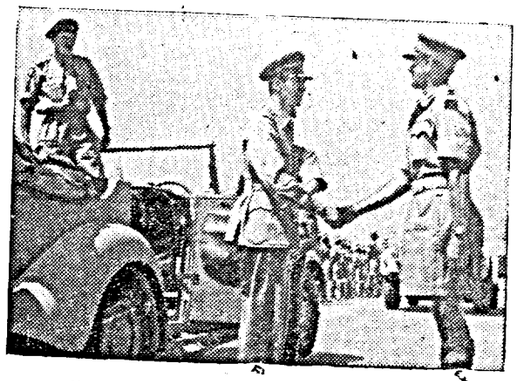
General von Arnim (wearing topee), Supreme Commander of the Axis Forces in North Africa, with his staff after his capture.



Von Arnim talking to British officers after his capture.



H.M. the King reviews the 4th Indian Division in North Africa.



His Majesty shaking hands with a Battalion Commander.



Subedar Lalbahadur Thapa, V.C., being presented to the King.

for the descent on the capital city and the final capitulation on the Cape Bon Peninsula. It was to a Colonel of the Gurkhas and his orderly that General von Arnim, the German Commander-in-Chief, surrendered.

Another prize that fell into the hands of the 4th Indian Division was von Arnim's caravan in which the German General lived and from which he conducted the operations which culminated in his downfall and that of the Axis in North Africa. This coveted trophy the Division presented to the Indian Army and the now famous caravan is being exhibited to the people of India. It has already brought in a fairly good sum of money to help the Indian Red Cross.

Many awards for bravery and devotion to duty have been won by men of all ranks of the Indian Army for their magnificent part in the North Africa fighting. The proudest moment came when H.M. the King, paying a visit to troops in the newly-won territory, personally presented the V.C. to the other Indian Army recipient of this highest of honours in the North African campaign, Subedar Lalbahadur Thapa, of the 2nd Gurkha Rifles.

Burma—Arakan Operations

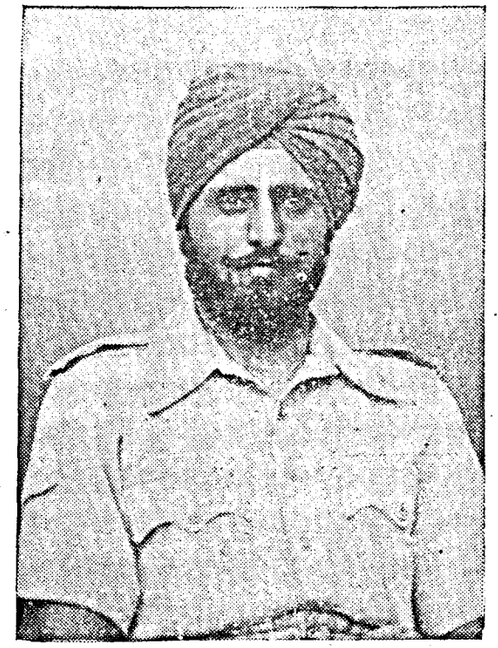
Events on land on the Eastern frontier, which had remained static during the monsoon, began to move again last autumn. The operations against the Japanese in Arakan were on a limited scale and were never intended as an invasion of Burma proper. A major campaign of this kind could never have been attempted through Arakan.

One object in view was to try and secure the port of Akyab, which was of some military value, and control the northern strip of Arakan.

Shortage of certain equipment placed severe limitations on the method of attack and made it necessary to secure the whole of the Mayu Peninsula in order to attack Akyab from short range.

In the middle of December, Indian troops, together with British battalions, advanced from Bengal into Arakan, occupied Maungdaw and Buthidaung without difficulty and continued to make good progress towards Akyab. Then heavy unseasonable rainstorms took a hand. Lines of communication were put out of commission for several days and the troops were unable to follow up their initial advantage with sufficient speed. Valuable time lost by us was thus gained by the Japanese who firmly established themselves in well-fortified positions which they held tenaciously until reinforcements arrived from Central Burma.

In our advance early in January we made a bid to capture Rathedaung on the Mayu River, 25 miles above Akyab, and at the same time



Havildar Parkash Singh, V.C.

also encountered the Japanese in strong positions near Donbaik on the Mayu Peninsula. During the next two months gallant efforts were made to force a way through but well-prepared defences and reinforced opposition defied the strongest attacks of both Indian and British units. There were many deeds of gallantry. It was at Donbaik that Havildar Parkash Singh, of the 8th Punjab Regiment, became the third Indian to win the V.C. in this war, for his rescue of Bren carriers and their crews under heavy fire.

Last Battle of Donbaik

The last battle of Donbaik was on March 18, and after that, in spite of the fact that we inflicted very heavy losses on the enemy, he gradually made his way towards our lines of communication, always employing his familiar infiltrating tactics. Having failed to gain their objective in time during the short campaigning season, our forces began to extricate themselves from vulnerable static positions and withdrew to points some 20 or 30 miles south of Maungdaw and Buthidaung, covering these two places.

Casualties from malaria entailed large reinforcements for replacement and at the same time progressively weakened our fighting

BUILDING THE BENGAL OF THE FUTURE

Governor's Appeal

FROM time to time, I propose to take the opportunity to speak to you on the wireless and to tell you what I think about matters that are of consequence to all of us here in Bengal. Apart from a short appeal to you to subscribe to the Red Cross Fund six weeks ago, I have not spoken to you on the wireless for about three months.

Many things have happened since I last spoke to you. There has been one outstanding and historic event which has brought the war a stage nearer its end. I refer, of course, to the invasion of France by the Allied forces. The final defeat of the enemy, however, will not come about merely through the effluxion of time but by the 100 per cent determination of the Allies, the valour and self-sacrifice of their young men, and the resolution of all of us to spare no effort in the cause of victory.

By H. E. the Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey,
Governor of Bengal.

(*A broadcast from A.I.R., Calcutta, on July* 10)

As you may remember, I took a definitely hopeful attitude about the food situation in Bengal in my last broadcast talk—and the past three months have endorsed what I then said to you. We are now within reasonable sight of having procured the minimum total of rice to see us through until the next *Aman* crop in November. This means that we are almost out of the wood so far as this year is concerned. However, 1944 is not going to see the end of our difficulties about food in Bengal.

The Government will go on buying rice and paddy right up until the next *Aman* crop starts to come in—and I expect that our policy of progressive reductions in price will continue—as I forecast three months ago. Those who have been holding unduly large stocks of rice and paddy—in the hope that our procurement policy would fail and that the price would rise again—have been disappointed and they will be still further disappointed the longer they hold on to their stocks. Such holders of rice and paddy cannot say they have not been warned—and the losses that they suffer will be on their own heads.

When I said just now that "we are almost out of the wood so far as 1944 is concerned"—I meant as regards the overall procurement of sufficient rice to see Bengal as a whole through until the *Aman* crop starts to come in. I am not saying that there will not be certain re-



The Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey.

latively small areas in which we will have difficulties for one reason or another—usually transport—and which we are doing all we can to meet and to anticipate.

We are accumulating experience all the time in respect of the method of procurement, storage and transportation of rice and paddy. I expect that we will look back on 1944 as the year in which we accumulated the facts and the experience on which our policy in 1945 and after will be based. Because we have to look forward to several years ahead of us during which Government will be concerned with the problem of ensuring that the people of Bengal are fed. When trade and production get back into their normal channels—and the law of supply and demand on a worldwide basis is able to operate once again—then I expect the Government will be able to step aside—and, I expect, will gladly step aside—but I think that that will be several years from now. And so we have to make our plans about procurement of rice on the basis of several years ahead—and not in respect of 1944 alone.

As regards public health—the incidence of cholera is now below the average for this time of the year while small-pox is under control. Malaria, however, is still a problem although

its incidence has considerably declined in the course of the year.

What I have just said about the incidence of these diseases is relative and is based on a comparison with past years. It would be quite wrong to be at all complacent about the state of public health in Bengal as compared with other parts of the world.

The health authorities believe that last year's malaria epidemic is likely to be repeated between now and the end of this year, although not necessarily in such a virulent form as in 1943. We are ensuring that adequate quantities of quinine and other anti-malarial drugs will be available for the whole Province.

Measures to Combat Small-Pox

The Government has taken very active measures to combat small-pox by mass vaccinations, and over twenty million persons—over one-third of the whole population—have been so treated in the last six months. It is hoped that at least thirty million people will have been vaccinated in the 12 months ending on December 1 next. The rate of vaccinations in Calcutta has fallen off in the last three months, in spite of efforts by the Calcutta Corporation to pursue the campaign. There is considerable reluctance on the part of many workers and their families in the Calcutta area to submit to vaccination. I believe that public servants and those who employ labour should make special efforts to co-operate with the medical staff of the Calcutta Corporation in a drive directed towards complete vaccination of the people of Calcutta. It is in the interest of all the people of Calcutta to do this. I am convinced that the reluctance to accept vaccination can be overcome by such co-operation and that a great many lives and possibly the recurrence of the epidemic in Calcutta will thereby be saved.

You may have noticed it announced in the newspapers a month or so ago that in view of the extraordinary expenditure which fell on Bengal in 1943 as a result of the famine and subsequent epidemics of disease, the Government of India have agreed to increase their subvention to Bengal from a maximum of Rs. 4½ crores to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores in respect of this and the last financial years. I need hardly say that, as head of the Government of this Province, I was very glad of this. Both the Ministry and I had strongly represented the claims of Bengal to a substantial subvention from the Centre. However, even with this subvention, we are still considerably worse off financially than other Provinces—and it behoves us to do all we can ourselves to improve the financial position of the Province. The enactment of the Agricultural Income-Tax Bill now before the Legislature is a means to this end.

Whilst I am speaking of finance, I want to draw your attention to the Small Savings Scheme that I recently launched in the Calcutta area. Those who co-operate by taking up Small Savings Certificates are making a safe and good investment for themselves, and at the same time are helping to stabilise the economic and financial situation.

The Government has been active in a good many directions—notably in connection with food matters. As a result, I believe it reasonable to hope that the food resources of the Province will continue to expand. The large number of small irrigation schemes which have already been executed and which will bring many thousands of acres under cultivation, the wider distribution of improved varieties of seeds from newly established Sub-Divisional Seed Depots, the increase of vegetable cultivation, our efforts to get more ice and transport necessary for the expansion of the fish industry and the supply of nets and fishing boats to poorer fishermen who lost them during 1943, the extension of small inland fisheries, the subsidised making of manure compost, the considerable development to be undertaken of Government poultry farms, the restriction of the consumption of meat, the grant of loans to poorer cultivators for purchase of cattle and the encouragement of fruit tree culture—all these and other schemes cannot but have their effect.

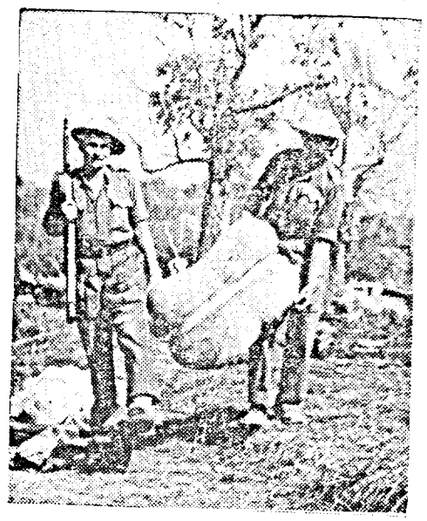
Irrigation and Drainage Problem

At the same time the Government is setting up an organisation to collect more accurate agricultural statistics so that we may know more exactly what our position is in respect of food production in Bengal.

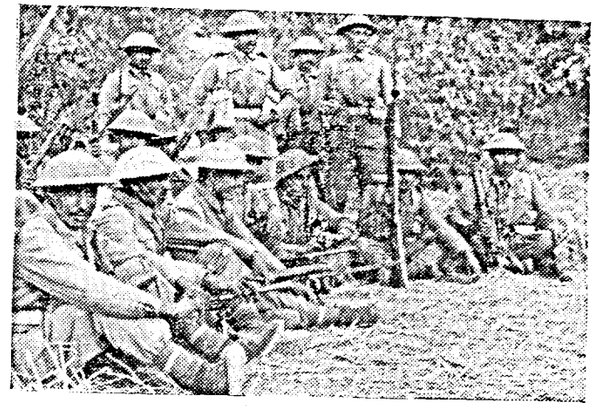
I do not say that each and every one of these activities will be conspicuously successful—no doubt some will and some will not—but I am convinced that the general combined effect of all these activities will be appreciably to the advantage of us all.

I realise very well that the main objective in Bengal is more and better rice. However, until we are in a position to tackle the irrigation and drainage problem in Bengal in a big way—and until we can get the considerable numbers of trained agricultural staff that are necessary—this principal objective will not be achieved in any important degree. However, it is high on the list of major projects and reforms in Bengal—and will be tackled as soon as it is possible to do so.

There has been a very great increase in the last 12 months, and particularly in the last 6 months, in the amount of Government administrative work to be done in Bengal—to meet current necessities, and most important, to build for the future—and in consequence the resources

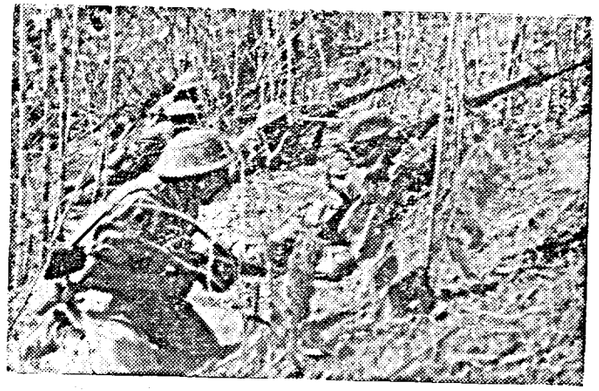


Supplies dropped from air for troops in Arakan. (Below) Captured Jap material.

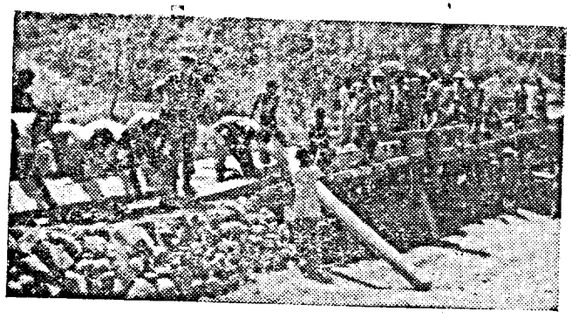


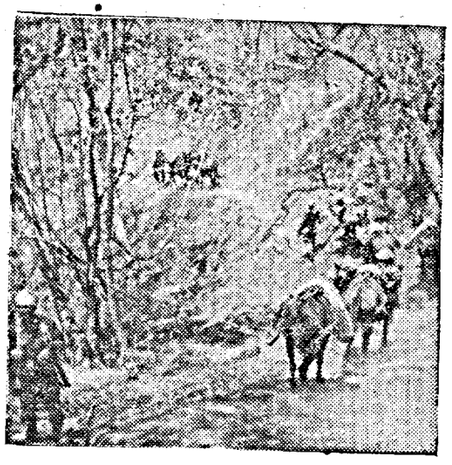
A patrol party of the Rajput regiment on the Burma Front. (Below) Mahrattas lined up for attack.





Below: (left) Building a bridge (right) Mule transport.





strength as the new arrivals had little experience of battle or of the dense jungles in which they had to fight.

Discovering a weak link in our defensive positions, the Japanese succeeded in penetrating to the Maungdaw-Buthidaung road. There was little to be gained now by requiring our troops to fight it out in that malarious area so late in the season and they were ordered to retire to a new line more or less on the Indian border. The move was accomplished without incident and the enemy, having experienced the fighting qualities of our troops, did not venture further.

It has been established from captured documents and other sources that the Japanese suffered very heavy casualties among some of their veteran units. Losses among Indian troops were by no means small but were less than those of the enemy and substantially fewer in the numbers killed.

Fighting with great determination, Indian infantry more than proved their worth against the Japanese, among the battalions who gained great distinction being those of the 1st Punjab Regiment, 15th Punjab Regiment, 6th Rajputana Rifles, 17th Dogra Regiment, 7th Rajput Regiment and the 8th Punjab Regiment and of course the Gurkhas.

Operations were over in this area but the fight went on through patrols which harassed the enemy giving him little chance to settle down. Surprise raids on the long and difficult jungle front have been frequent. Of recent occurrence was the lightning attack by our forces on Maungdaw which we held for a short time before disappearing again into the jungle.

Further north on the Assam frontier, regular troops and organised bodies of irregulars such as the Chin and Kachin Levies have been a real menace to the Japanese. In a six-day battle in the last week of May the enemy suffered 500 casualties when they tried and failed to occupy the Chin Hills.

An unusual feature of operations against the Japanese in Burma during the year and one which caught the imagination of the world was the exploit of the expedition led by Brigadier O. C. Wingate, D.S.O., which penetrated 200 miles deep into the heart of the country. This force which contained Indian troops, blew up bridges, cut railway lines and attacked the enemy wherever they were to be found. They were instrumental in keeping a large Japanese force busy, thus preventing them from developing any offensive in the direction of India or Yunnan in China.

Both in the Arakan operations and in patrol activity along the Eastern front Indian troops gained valuable experience in figting a wily enemy and in making the fullest possible use of tactics in jungle warfare which are now being turned to account in the specialised training required to defeat the Japanese at his own game.

Throughout these operations, the Royal Air Force gave valuable support to the land forces, attacking communications, softening the defences, dropping supplies and performing valuable reconnaissance duties.

An outstanding feature was the supplying from the air of the Wingate Expedition deep in the heart of enemy territory. Not only did the R.A.F. bring food and ammunition and home mail to that column, but one aircraft landed within 14 miles of a Japanese airfield and took off the wounded.

Pinpoint bombing of unseen targets was successfully carried out by Vengeance dive-bombers, and many local strong-points were hit at the request of the Army who testified to the accuracy of R.A.F. pilots.

Even when the monsoon broke, the R.A.F. were not "grounded." They took off in all kinds of weather, and their individual and collective attacks have caused damage over a wide area. Communications were their main targets—trains were immobilised by locomotives being put out of action and wreckage blocking the lines; oil flats, steamers and sampans were caught loaded with foodstuffs, ammunition and troops and were sunk or badly damaged and road transport was shot up. Behind these exploits and successes of the R.A.F. lie months of steady organisation both on the ground and in the air. The building of aerodromes and setting up of repair and maintenance facilities to keep the aircraft fighting fit has been constantly persued.

The Campaign in Sicily

An important part was played by Indian troops in the operations which ended in the conquest of Sicily. When British troops of the Eighth Army landed on the island on the morning of July 10 they were quickly followed by Indian troops who had been brought over from North Africa for a very special and vital task. They were to assist in bringing stores and transport quickly from the landing craft to the shore. Only highly trained troops could be entrusted with the task because at any moment beach parties might have had to take action against the enemy attempting to drive us from our bridgeheads.

Punjabi Mussalmans, Sikhs, Dogras and Pathans from the Baluch and Frontier Force Regiments worked side by side with men from British infantry units in filling this vital role at a critical moment in the offensive. So well did they work that they unloaded the craft faster than the mother ships standing off shore could send them in. They were repeatedly dive-bombed and strafed but their casualties were light, and they carried on undeterred.

of the Province have been greatly strained to find the required numbers of trained administrators and experts in various lines of governmental activity. The Government has actively speeded up promotions amongst members of the various government services—and has reemployed many retired Bengal officials—but even so it is no longer possible to find the necessary numbers of middle and top grade officers of adequate experience and ability from amongst the members of the existing services in Bengal. In these circumstances, we have sought help from other Provinces in India—but even after doing this, we are still short. We are now drawing on the Army for army officers for temporary administrative appointments in Bengal. In addition to this, we have got a few high-level experts from England for temporary employment here, men who are experts in food problems, in agricultural economics and in general administration and organisation.

I mention this because I do not want you to think that we are importing individuals from outside Bengal for service here, even on a temporary basis, until we have done all we can, consistent with reasonable efficiency, to find adequate people from our own Bengal resources. The administration would suffer—and you would suffer—if we did not make these unusual efforts to get men to do all the necessary work that there is to be done.

I believe that the prudent thing is for us now to set about the training of our own men, particularly in technical employments, so that we will have a supply of young men ready after the war to fill the many jobs that will have to be filled in the various branches of agriculture, forestry, engineering, veterinary science, fisheries and the many other practical sciences and professions. I make no secret of my own belief that India in the past has gone in too much for law and too little for the more practical professions and employments.

One of the things that first struck me on coming to Bengal was the inadequacy of the means at Government's disposal to let the people —so many of whom cannot read or write—know what Government is trying to do on their behalf and to give them information of the constantly expanding scope of the administration. The success and even the existence of a Government depend on the consent and co-operation of the people. Such considerations have resulted in the Government undertaking a considerable expansion and strengthening of the Publicity Department.

A few weeks ago when this decision was announced I noticed comment to the effect that the expanded publicity organisation might be utilised to serve the ends of party politics. I wish to make it quite clear that politics will have nothing to do with it. The main business of the expanded Publicity Department will be to keep the mass of the people of Bengal informed on matters about which they ought to know and in which their co-operation is necessary for the success of the Government's efforts on their behalf.

It is common knowledge that there is a good deal of corruption in Bengal and, together with the great mass of decent people in Bengal, I very greatly deplore it. The thing that disturbs me is that such malpractices are apparently taken for granted by the general public. There is too much complacence and tolerance of corruption. If the people of Bengal—or even the people of Calcutta—would change their attitude in this regard, something could be done. If those who have evidence of either the giving or the taking of secret or illegal commissions or bribes would come forward with evidence—and not merely shrug their shoulders—something could be done.

Political Conditions

Everyone who has read the newspapers in the last month or two must have been impressed by the fact that political conditions in Bengal have been gravely disturbed. During the war, settled political conditions, in which the administration can be carried on effectively and vigorously, are essential. Whilst I do not concern myself with the normal conflict of political opinion that goes to make up the political life of the community—I am deeply concerned—in your interests—to ensure that there is no interference with the needs of the people and the essential interests of the Province.

As for myself, I am progressively seeing more and more of Bengal, and am becoming better acquainted with the many activities that go to make up the life of the Province. It does not take much imagination to develop in one's mind a picture of what Bengal will one day be. You don't need me to tell you that Bengal has very great possibilities under the conditions that will obtain in the future. However, the orderly development of them will take a great deal of work and thought and public spirit on the part of a great many people. Many reforms that are not possible under to-day's condition will have to be undertaken first. I look forward to the day when the two great communities that very largely make up the population of Bengal will be able to live and work together in greater harmony than unfortunately exists to-day. I believe that such mutual tolerance is essential to the fruitful development of Bengal.

As I have said, in building the Bengal of the future there is work for a great many people —in fact for all of us—and I would end my talk with an appeal. We must all pull our weight and pull the same way.

MR. GANDHI'S LETTER AND VICEROY'S REPLY

A Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on July 1, stated:

As the substance of Mr. Gandhi's letter of June 17 to H.E. the Viceroy and of the Viceroy's reply of June 22 has already appeared in the Press, the full text of the two letters is now released for publication:

Nature Cure Clinic,
6, Toddiwala Road, Poona,
June 17, 1941.

Dear Friend,—But for the fact that this letter is along the lines of your preoccupation I should not have troubled you with any letter from me.

2. Though there is little cause for it, the whole country and even many from outside expect me to make some decisive contribution to the general good. I am sorry to say my convalescence threatens to be fairly long. Even if I was quite well, I could do little or nothing unless I knew the mind of the Working Committee of the Congress. I pleaded as a prisoner for permission to see them. I plead now as a free man for such permission. If you will see me before deciding, I shall gladly go wherever you want me to, as soon as I am allowed by my medical advisers to undertake long distance travelling.

3. I have circulated among friends, for private use, copies of the correspondence that passed between the authorities and me during detention. I do feel, however, that in fairness to me Government should permit its publication in the Press.

My address will be as above till 30th instant.

I am,
Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) M. K. Gandhi.

His Excellency the Viceroy,
Viceroy's Camp.

Viceroy's Reply

The Viceroy's House,
New Delhi,
June 22, 1941.

Dear Mr. Gandhi,—I have received your letter of June 17. In consideration of the radical difference in our points of view which appeared in our recent correspondence, I feel that a meeting between us at present could have no value and could only raise hopes which would be disappointed.

I am afraid that similar considerations apply to your request to see the Working Committee. You have recently made public your adherence to the "Quit India" resolution, which I am afraid I do not regard as a reasonable or practical policy for the immediate future.

If after your convalescence and on further reflection you have a definite and constructive policy to propose for the furtherance of India's welfare, I shall be glad to consider it.

Since you have circulated, without any reference to me, the correspondence which passed between us and it has in consequence appeared in the Press, I have given instructions for the publication of the whole of the political letters which were written during your detention.

Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) Wavell.

M. K. Gandhi, Esqr.,
Nature Cure Clinic,
6, Toddiwala Road,
Poona.

[The political letters that passed between Mr. Gandhi and H.E. the Viceroy have been published in a pamphlet by the Government of India.]

SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION

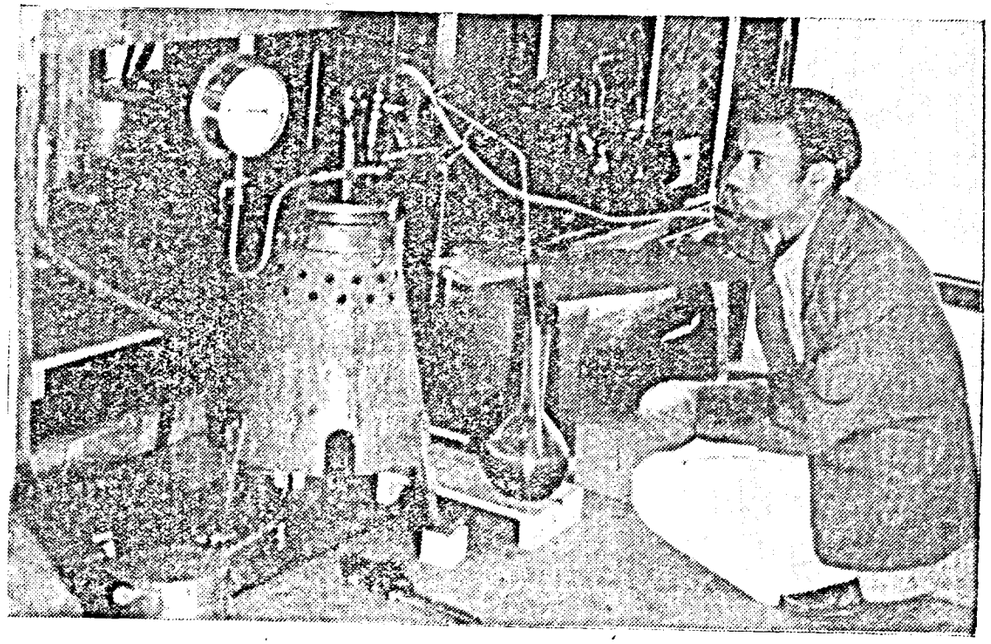
Scholarships for Scheduled Castes

A Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on July 5, stated:

The Government of India have sanctioned a scheme of scholarships for students belonging to the scheduled castes who wish to pursue their studies in scientific and technological subjects beyond the Matriculation stage. The total amount awarded every year will be Rs. 3,00,000.

The scheme which aims at improving the educational and economic conditions of scheduled castes will have immediate effect. The number of scholarships to be awarded and their amount has not yet been fixed, but the amount awarded will cover the entire cost of education including fees, cost of books and in the case of residential scholars their maintenance charges. Some of these scholarships will be given for studies in India and some in foreign countries.

For courses commencing in 1944, applications are being called through Directors of Public Instruction, Superintendents of Education and Vice-Chancellors of Universities. All the scholarships in 1944-45 will be for studies in India. Arrangements for students to proceed abroad are expected to be made next year.



Tests are being made to soften some Indian woods by physical treatment and chemical impregnation for pencil making at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

COMMON USE OF LESSER-KNOWN INDIAN TIMBERS

BEFORE the war, relatively few Indian timbers were in common use and, of these, a timber well-known and locally popular would be used for all types of work, regardless of suitability. The fine qualities of some of the lesser-known species were not appreciated. Owing to war demands and the need to save metal, the number of species now being used is very large. Accurate knowledge of their strength and other properties is essential.

Strength Tests

For many years, the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, has carried out strength tests on Indian timbers and the information is given in Indian Forest Records (New Series) Utilisation Volume 3, No. 5 of 1944, entitled: "Suitability and Selection of timbers for different uses" (Parts I and II), by V. D. Limaye, Officer-in-Charge, Timber Testing Section.

The strengths of various species are expressed as percentages of the corresponding values for teak, the best-known timber from the east. The Record also contains similar information on some imported timbers. There are indices of trade and other common names (both Indian and Burmese) of the various timbers tested.

RESIN ADHESIVES OF INDIAN ORIGIN

Experiments carried out at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, indicate that tar acids of Indian origin are suitable for the preparation of resin adhesives. These are important in the manufacture of high grade plywood, whether for marine craft or aircraft, or for any other purpose where high strength, complete freedom from attack by fungi and waterproof qualities are of importance. Imported resin adhesives being in short supply, the work done on resin adhesives of Indian origin in the Wood Preservation Section of the Institute has been published.

The leaflet describes the preparation of resin adhesives in different forms, their application and cost. The results of strength tests and gluing characteristics of over 70 species of Indian timbers are also included.

CAPITAL STRUCTURE OF BANKING COMPANIES

A Gazette of India Notification has been issued fixing July 1, 1944, as the date on which the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1944, shall come into force. The Amendment Act, which received the consent of the Governor-General on March 7, 1944, was published in the *Gazette of India* on March 18, 1944.

The Amendment Act (says a Press communique issued by Commerce Department on June 14) includes a new section 277HH prohibiting the employment of managing agents and placing restrictions on certain forms of employment. Under this section, no banking company whether incorporated in or outside British India shall, after the expiry of two years from the commencement of the Act, employ or be managed by a managing agent or any person whose remuneration or part of whose remuneration takes the form of a commission or share in the profits of the company, or by any person having a contract with the company for a period exceeding five years at any one time. It has, however, been provided that such a contract may be renewed or extended for a further period not exceeding five years at a time if and so often as the directors think fit.

The amending Act also provides that a banking company, whether incorporated in or outside British India, if incorporated after January 15, 1937, shall comply with the following conditions within two years from the date of commencement of this Act:

(a) that the subscribed capital of the company is not less than half the authorised capital and the paid-up capital not less than half the subscribed capital.

(b) that the capital of the company consists of ordinary shares only or ordinary shares and such preference shares as may have been issued before the commencement of the Indian Companies (Amendment) Act, 1944, and

(c) that the voting rights of all shareholders are strictly proportionate to the contribution made by the shareholder, whether a preference shareholder or an ordinary shareholder, to the paid-up capital of the company.

RUBBER PRICES

Preliminary information regarding the result of the investigation recently undertaken by the Government of India into increases in the cost of rubber production indicates that it is unlikely that costs of production have increased to the extent necessary to justify any change in the present scheduled prices, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on July 3.

INDIAN ACCOUNTANCY BOARD

A Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on June 23, stated:

The results of the election held on June 14, 1944, under the Auditor's Certificates Rules, 1932, of members to the Indian Accountancy Board, which is being reconstituted, are as follows:

Constituency 1—The Province of Madras and the Indian States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore and Cochin:

Messrs. P. S. Subramania Iyer, B.A., G.D.A., R.A., C. Gill, A.C.A., R.A. and M. S. Krishnaswami, G.D.A., R.A.

Constituency 2—The Province of Bombay and the Western India States:

Messrs. N. Desai, B.A., G.D.A., R.A., N. M. Raiji, B.A., F.S.A.A., R.A. and B. D. Birdy, B.Com., G.D.A., R.A.

Constituency 3—Bengal and Assam:

Messrs. S. N. Bandyopadhyay, M.A., B.Com., G.D.A., R.A., J. C. Das, B.Sc., R.A. and S. C. Dutt, B.A., B.Com., G.D.A., R.A.

Constituency 4—The United Provinces, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar and Orissa:

Mr. S. B. L. Vaish, B.Com., LL.B., G.D.A., R.A.

Constituency 6—Sind, Delhi, Ajmer-Merwara and the Rajputana States:

Mr. P. R. Mehra, G.D.A., R.A.

The result of the election from Constituency 5—The Punjab and the North-West Frontier Province will be declared later.

ILLEGAL TO SEND CLOTH BY POST

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on July 5, stated:

The Government of India have issued a Notification making it illegal for any person to send by post from any place in British India to any place in or outside British India any cotton yarn or cloth.

The prohibition on cotton cloth includes *dhoties* and *sarees* but not made up garments.

This has been done to prevent any improper use of the parcel post to evade the provisions of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order.

ALL INDIA RADIO
Its History and Development



Broadcasting House, New Delhi.

THE first comprehensive report on the progress of broadcasting in India was published in 1940, covering the activities of AIR up to April 1939. All India Radio then operated, from its eight stations and 13 transmitters, a basically internal service. To-day it has at its command a most powerful battery of transmitters, capable of covering at least four continents direct. The Studios in Old Delhi have been replaced by Broadcasting House, with its most up-to-date equipment. Of AIR's 20 transmitters to-day, Delhi has a concentration of nine, of which the latest to be installed were two high powered 100-K.W. short wave transmitters.

Transmitters

(1) **Dacca Station:** The Dacca Station was completed and began to operate on December 16, 1939, with a 5-K.W. medium wave transmitter. Dacca was the ninth AIR centre and the 14th transmitter created under the original programme of development.

(2) On February 17, 1940, a 10-K.W. short wave transmitter was assembled and set up departmentally at Delhi for news distribution by radio link.

(3) In view of the Japanese threat to the East coast in April 1942, the 10-K.W. short wave transmitter at Madras was removed to Delhi where it was set up as part of the Madras Radio Station. The whole work of dismantling, transport and reassembling was done in less than a month. Madras continued its local short wave broadcasts with a 25-K.W. transmitter.

(4) The original .25-K.W. medium wave transmitter at Peshawar was replaced by a new 10-K.W. medium wave transmitter and Peshawar became a full-fledged "originating" station with a studio building which was designed and constructed as such.

(5) Two 7.5-K.W. short wave transmitters were installed and added to the service for operation from Delhi early this year.

In April of this year, AIR added to its service two 100-K.W. short wave transmitters.

The exigencies of war brought powerfully into focus the need for providing broadcasting service to countries far beyond India's frontiers. AIR's external services are the subject of a separate heading in this note. It is enough to point out here that, owing to India's pivotal position to-day in the global strategy of the war, AIR has been called upon to play an important part as the voice of the United Nations in the East.

Broadcasting House

Broadcasting House in New Delhi was one of the projects which made up the original scheme of development of broadcasting in India. It was thought at one time, however, that the construction of the building would have to be held over for an indefinite period. But with the tremendous pressure on broadcasting brought about by the war, the vast expansion that has taken place in the last few years in AIR's services, both internal and external, and with the decision to install high-powered transmitters, the construction of Broadcasting House could no longer be postponed. Work was started on the building in October, 1941, and the studios began to function in July, 1943.

Architecturally, Delhi's newest and one of its most striking buildings, Broadcasting House represents from the point of view of equipment, the latest in radio engineering. With its soft-shaded studios, each with an individual acoustic pattern to suit every variety of sound reproduction, its Control Room—a compact of

up-to-the-second scientific efficiency, its dramatic control panels, its maze of concealed wiring, and its "luxury-liner" corridors, Broadcasting House constitutes a landmark, in every sense of the word, in the history of Indian broadcasting.

At the beginning of the war only three stations had receiving centres. These have now been provided for all AIR Stations which form AIR's network of radio linkage.

Centralization of News Service

The question of radio linkage is closely associated with the centralization of the news service at Delhi. The news prepared by the Central News Organization is announced from Delhi and relayed by the other Stations. The news service has been centralized at Delhi so that all special facilities required for rapid and efficient broadcasting of news may be concentrated at one point.

Patna Station: The establishment of a broadcasting station at Patna was included in the original development programme. Land for the transmitter and receiving centre was acquired and construction of the transmitter building, etc., has been completed, but the scheme has been held up owing to difficulties in securing equipment; it may not be possible to put the station into operation for another year.

Karachi Station: Although a station for Sind was not included in the original scheme for development of broadcasting in India, the matter was considered subsequently and it was decided to install a .25-K.W. transmitter at Karachi. The project has, however, been held in abeyance owing to technical difficulties.

Programme Development

Technical Expansion: The technical expansion outlined earlier was undertaken to bring about a rapid growth of AIR's activities on the programme side. Within a month of the outbreak of hostilities, the total transmission output from all AIR Stations was stepped up from 45 hours daily to 75 hours daily. To-day the transmitters at Delhi alone transmit 126 hours a day. An idea of the varied character and a quantitative appraisal of AIR's broadcasting service can be had by a brief reference to its programme contents which include, besides the normal mainstay of musical entertainment, news in nine Indian languages and 15 non-Indian languages, news commentaries, talks—topical, informative and cultural—features, plays and discussions; special programmes for schools, universities, villages and industrial areas; women's and children's hour; broadcasts for Indian troops in India and abroad; service for British and American Forces now in this country and special programmes for Indians overseas.

The total programme transmission hours for 1939-40 were 29,859. In 1943-44 this figure had almost exactly doubled itself and stood at 59,600. With the new transmitters now on the air, the current year's total output will be very much higher.

Central News Organization

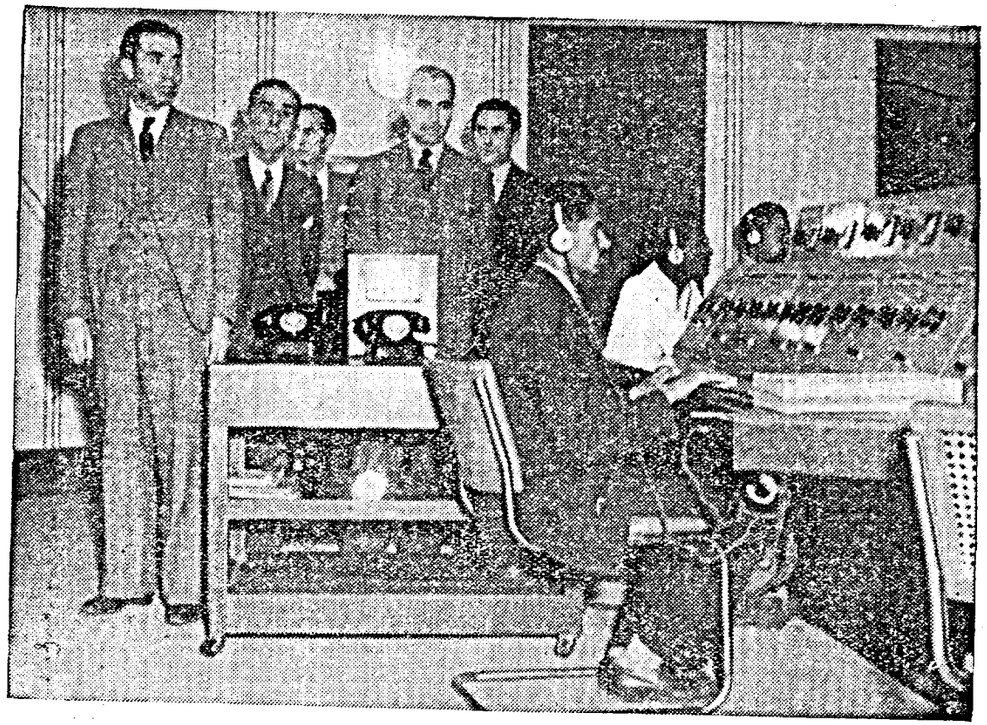
The Central News Organization is situated in Delhi and provides (i) news bulletins for home programmes (in English and Indian languages) and (ii) external programmes. All internal news bulletins are prepared in the Central News Organization and broadcast from the transmitters at Delhi set apart for news. Each station relays the bulletins suitable for its listening area.

Before the war, four news bulletins in English, three in Hindustani and one in Bengali comprised the daily news service of AIR. The total time taken up was a little more than an hour a day. To-day 27 news bulletins, filling over six hours a day, are broadcast in AIR's internal news service which is made up as follows:

English	5	
Hindustani	4	
Bengali, Tamil, Telugu, Marathi, Gujarati, Pushtu	3	bulletins

External Services

Originally designed for internal service, AIR was, however, not slow to enter the field of external broadcasts. In December 1939, the first foreign language service was inaugurated with a news bulletin in Persian, sometimes supplemented by topical talks and regularly supported by a programme of entertainment, broadcast from Delhi for Afghanistan and Iran. The next step was the inauguration in September 1941, of a daily news service in Arabic. The presence of a large number of Indian troops in the Middle East led to the institution of a late evening transmission for their benefit. These were the beginnings of what now constitutes one of the biggest single units for the projection of the Allied viewpoint within and beyond the borders of India. The war, especially Japan's entry into it and the events that followed, forced the pace, and to-day AIR's Central News Organization controls, besides broadcasts in various Indian languages for our countrymen abroad, services in 15 foreign languages.



During their recent tour of India, the members of the Persian Cultural Mission visited AIR's new Headquarters. Here, they are seen in the Control Room.

These broadcasts, which are not confined to news, follow one another almost right round the clock, and reach their far-flung audiences in their own languages and at their most convenient listening times. As many as 41 news bulletins are broadcast daily in the external services and the foreign languages used include French, Annamite, Malay, Burmese, Amoy, Cantonese, Kuoyo, Thai, Japanese, German, Persian, Afghan-Persian, Arabic and Italian. Indian languages used in the external services include Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindustani, Malayalam and Tamil.

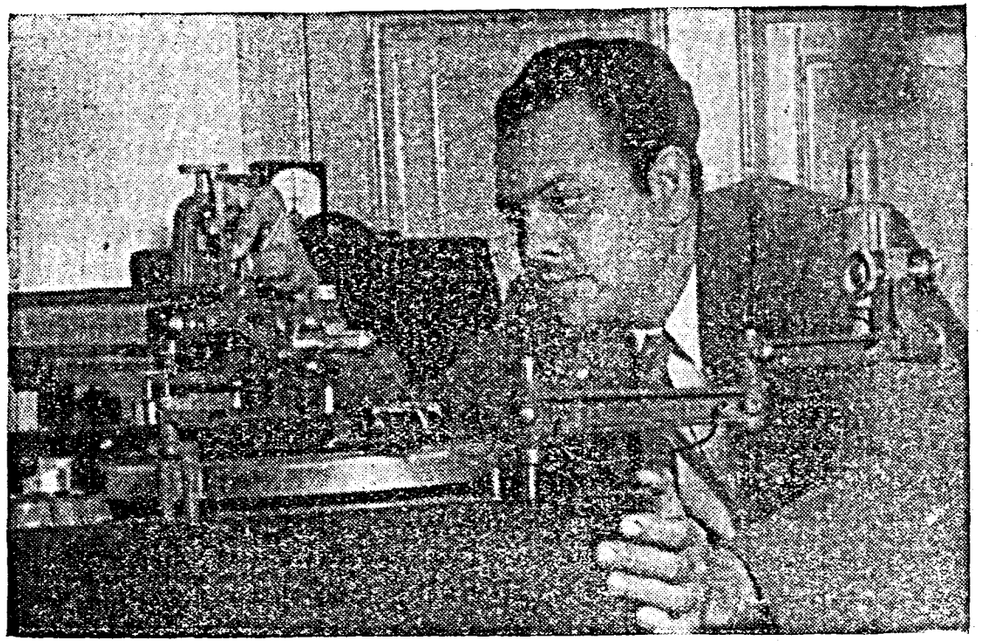
A I R and B B C

The relations between AIR and the BBC have always been cordial and marked by close and active co-operation. Since the outbreak of war the co-operation between the two organizations has become still closer, and perhaps more equally reciprocal. An instance is the relay of BBC news and important BBC war broadcasts. From September 2, 1939, AIR began the daily relay of the BBC's 9-30 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) news bulletin following the main evening news bulletin in English broadcast by the Central News Organization as an organic part of its news service.

AIR is now gratified to find itself in a position to render certain services to the BBC. It has been supplying to the BBC various types of recorded programmes specially prepared for use in their Indian service. On request from the BBC special broadcasts have been prepared and transmitted for rebroadcast from London. Studio and transmission facilities are given to the BBC's news correspondent in India. Advance information of AIR talks in which the BBC might be interested, critical appreciation and reception reports of BBC broadcasts are sent regularly.

Recorded messages from British troops in India to their relatives in England are also forwarded periodically to the BBC. Messages for Indian soldiers in England from relatives in India, recorded by AIR are forwarded periodically to the BBC.

At the request of the BBC facilities for the broadcast of despatches every day on Sir Stafford Cripps' Mission to India were placed at the disposal of their correspondent. They



A talk being recorded in the Control Room of AIR, Lahore.

were broadcast every day from March 26, 1942, to April 12, 1942. With effect from April 25, 1942, these despatches were broadcast on a weekly basis and from April 29, on a bi-weekly basis.

The despatches are recorded by the Bombay Station and beamed to the BBC *via* Kirkee. With the installation of high-powered transmitters, there will be direct point-to-point transmission from Delhi to London and *via* London to America. Facilities have also been provided for the transmission of despatches by American commentators for inclusion in the programmes of American broadcasting organizations.

Forces Programmes

In January 1941, a special programme for Indian troops in the Middle East was inaugurated with the object of entertaining our soldiers abroad and keeping them in good spirits. This is a daily half-hour programme of music and light entertainment interrupted by short talks and news items about matters of special interest to the Indian soldier—his home, his village, his crops.

In January of the following year, a special service of programmes for the British and American forces in India was introduced. These programmes are broadcast from Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Lahore, Lucknow and Peshawar on special days of the week. Arranged with the help and co-operation of the military authorities these broadcasts not only provide entertainment for the forces but serve to supplement the normal internal service with programmes which bring to the microphone a new wealth of talent.

In May 1942, AIR began to broadcast from Delhi, a daily programme for the benefit of Indian troops in India and Ceylon.

In the composition of these Forces programmes an important factor always to be taken account of is the prevalence of community listening represented at one extreme by half a dozen sharing a set in a billet and at the other by background listening in a canteen or barrack with a ratio of about 100 listeners to a set.

Primarily each station builds up its programmes according to its own requirements pertaining to language, cultural bias, local talent, etc. The working of this zonal system requires a good deal of careful and delicate adjustment, as complete isolation is never possible, and a certain amount of overlapping



or merging of listeners' requirements is inevitable. There are also occasions when broadcasts of all-India interest and importance have to be radiated simultaneously by all stations. For purposes of radio linkage each station has a receiving centre.

There exists a fairly large area in this country where more than one station of AIR can be heard satisfactorily, and listeners are always inclined to take advantage of this fact. The short wave stations at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras provide a service which could be said to have an all-India coverage. The various types of programmes from these stations, which could clash with each other, are carefully studied so as to avoid overlapping as far as possible.

Programmes of general interest are planned by stations with reference to each other, as opposed to programmes of local interest. A system by which each station contributes one music item a fortnight to Delhi was introduced in June 1943, and has enabled AIR to present to its listeners the best from all over the country. A somewhat similar arrangement exists in respect of Hindustani plays between Lahore, Lucknow, Delhi and Peshawar. Inter-station co-ordination exists also in the matter of booking artists, talkers, etc.

Statistics

Total number of B.R. Licences:
April 1, 1939—72,282.
April 1, 1944—1,80,660. The growth of licences has been retarded by the paucity of stocks of radio apparatus in the market.

Circulation of Radio Journals:

April 1939	32,150
April 1944	63,350

AIR's capital expenditure up to March, 1944: Rs. 77,00,000.

AIR's recurring expenditure (1943-44): Rs. 47,77,000.

Programme output per day: 236.5 hours (on week days).

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

The following contributions have been received in H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund:

Rupees 5,00,000 from the Bombay Provincial Joint War Committee for the Central Red Cross; Rs. 25,000 from the Baroda Cantt. and Gujarat Agency War Fund Committee (Rs. 5,000 earmarked for St. Dunstan's Section and the balance for general war purposes) and Rs. 10,000 from the C.P. and Berar War Relief Fund Appeal Committee for King George's Fund for Sailors.

NO UNDUE PROFITS ON WAR ORDERS

Ford Motor Company's Example

"No undue profits on war orders," seems to be the business motto of the Ford Motor Company. Last year this Company refunded to the Government of India a sum of Rs. 10,50,000 out of the profits made by them on the contract for the supply of motor vehicles spare parts, although the prices originally fixed for these goods were very favourable in relation to the Company's other wholesale buyers.

This year the Company has refunded to Government a larger sum of money in respect of the contracts for the supply of chassis. It is understood that the Ford Motor Company found that the total output of their factories, including orders placed by India, greatly exceeded the estimated figures and the rate of profits had in consequence been higher than what was anticipated.

This action of the Ford Motor Company sets an example of high purpose and integrity in war-time

RAW FILM CONTROL ORDER

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on June 30, stated:

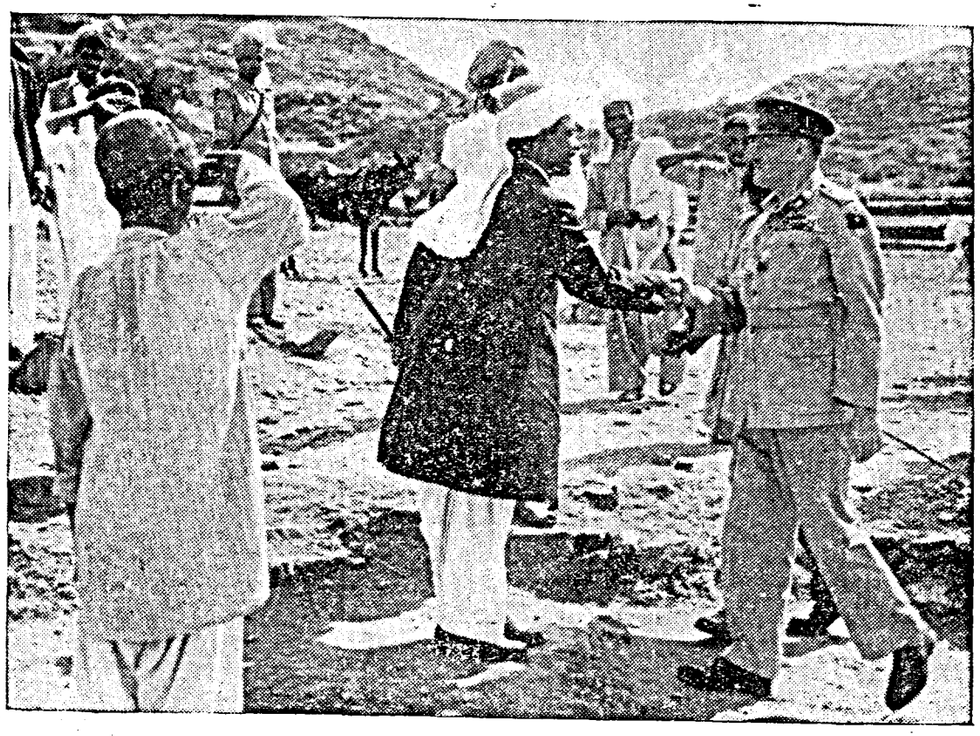
The Government of India have to-day issued two amendments to the Raw Cinematograph Film (Control of Distribution) Order, 1943.

The first amendment deletes the proviso to clause 5 of the Order, the utility of which has now expired. The effect of this is that no producer or reprinter may in future use raw film purchased or acquired by him prior to the date of the Contol Order for completing films the production of which was commenced before that date, without the appropriate licence from the Licensing Authority.

The second amendment enables the Licensing Authority to rescind or modify a licence at any time during the currency of the licence.

WAR RISKS GOODS INSURANCE

The War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance, 1940, and the Rules made thereunder have been amended so as to cover accidental damages occurring as the direct result of any explosions or fire which involves any explosives, munitions or other dangerous things required for war purposes, and which happens or is caused by or through or in connection with the manufacture, storage or transportation of any such explosives, munitions or other dangerous things, said a Press communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on June 30.



General Auchinleck being greeted by a village headman in Sirikot.

C.-IN-C. TOURS NORTH-WEST FRONTIER

A TOUR to the foot of the mountains on India's northern boundary was recently completed by the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, who was accompanied by General H. Finnis, G.O.C.-in-C., N.-W. Army, and Major-General C. W. Toovey, G.O.C., Rawalpindi District. The C.-in-C. inspected units in Kakul and Abbottabad as well as a Brigade out on column in the hills some 40 miles north. He also visited Amb State on the borders of tribal territory, and the little-known village of Sirikot which has for many years given a number of recruits to the Punjab Regiment.

The C.-in-C. showed great interest in the special training of R.I.A.S.C. drivers when he visited a hill driving battalion. Here, men who have completed the usual course are given advanced training in taking 3-ton lorries over winding mountain roads.

The Brigadier and two Indian Officers of a Brigade out on column were decorated by the C.-in-C. during his inspection of units in the little village of Oghi. Brigadier M. Glover received the O.B.E., and Jemadars Ayub and Dharam Singh, of the 7th Rajputs, the I.D.S.M., the latter distinction being won in the Arakan. A battalion of the Rajputs was drawn up beneath the grey battlements of Oghi fort, while the surrounding hills, the scene of many hard battles, formed a natural amphitheatre. Hundreds of soldiers watched the ceremony.

Visit to Amb State

Salvoes of mortars greeted the C.-in-C. as he entered the outskirts of Shergarh, the summer residence of the Nawab of Amb, where the party stayed for a day. Hundreds of tribesmen from the surrounding villages dotted the heights around while children with flags shouted greetings as his car passed through arches of welcome. A score of grey-bearded and bemedalled Army pensioners were presented to him after he had inspected a guard of honour of State troops. Sports were held in the evening.



Captain Tikka Khan, an ex-Orderly Officer to the late King George V, presenting retired soldiers of a Punjab Regiment to the C.-in-C. at Bhurban.

The following day the C.-in-C. went to see a new road which a Mahsud battalion was building by blasting through rock up and down the mountain sides.

Returning to Abbottabad, General Auchinleck presented more decorations, this time to men of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (F.F.). Sardar Bahadur Subedar-Major Dhanbahadur Gurung, M.B.E., received the O.B.I. (1st Class) and Subedar Udal Thapa Bahadur, the O.B.I. (2nd Class). Three I.D.S.M.'s were awarded, one to Subedar Kharakbahadur Gurung for distinguished service in Waziristan, and the other two to Hav. Gopiprasad Gurung and Naik Tilbahadur Thapa for courage and gallantry in Italy in the battle of the Sangro River.

The C.-in-C. had a warm welcome from Nursing Sisters in Abbottabad when he visited their Mess and had tea with them. Regimental and training centres were inspected, including the Frontier Warfare School and the R.I.A.S.C. School. He also met and addressed Officers on a course in the Adjutants' School.

Riding mules over bridle-paths, the C.-in-C., accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner of Hazara District, visited the Mishwanis at Sirikot on the north-eastern end of the Gandgar range. This tribe's traditions of service in the Indian Army date back over a century. At this village he met a number of old soldiers who had fought by his side in the last war.

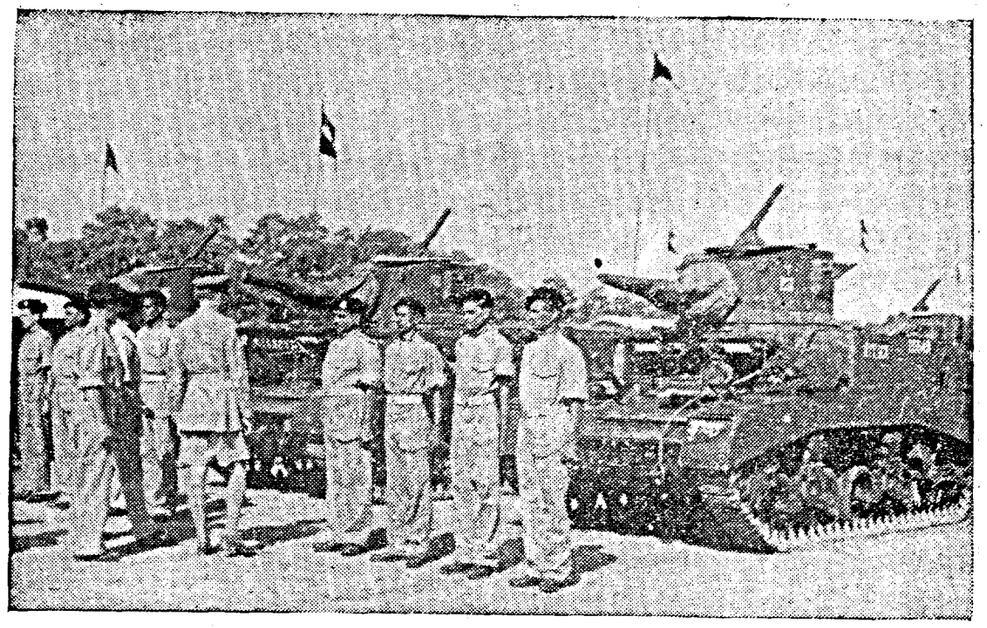
"One of the bravest races in the world", Major Abott called them as far back as 1848. To-day, when the C.-in-C. visited them, he found in the villages mostly old pensioners and children, for the great majority of their young men have gone to fight. The sincerity and warmth of their welcome well repaid the C.-in-C. the trouble he took to visit the home of this comparatively small tribe.

More visits followed the next day to units in Abbottabad, including the 13th Frontier Force Rifles, the Supply Depot and the Hospital. General Auchinleck attended the finals of the Inter-Regimental Boys' Boxing Tournament and presented prizes to the winners. The 1st Punjab "A" team, which was leading, lost by one point to the 13th Frontier Force Rifles team.

The tour concluded with a visit to H. E. the Governor of N.-W.F.P. at his summer residence at Nathiagali.

VISIT TO RAWALPINDI

A realistic demonstration of fire-fighting, under the direction of an officer who had served in the London Fire Brigade during the "blitz", was witnessed by the C.-in-C. during his recent two-day visit to troops in Rawalpindi.



The C.-in-C. inspected tank crew on parade.

His Excellency, who arrived by air, was met by General H. Finnis, G.O.C.-in-C., North-Western Army, Maj.-General C. W. Toovey, G.O.C., Rawalpindi District, and the Area Commander, Brigadier C. J. Weld. Shortly after, he watched paratroops practising jumping from aircraft and making a safe landing, and the training of R.I.A.S.C. recruits for dropping supplies to troops in the field.

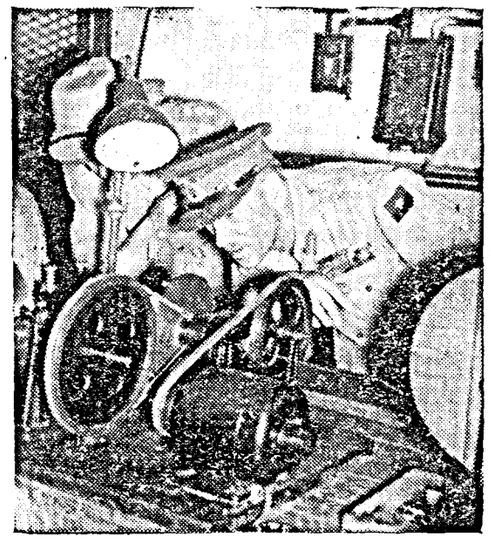
At an I.A.M.C. Training and Depot Centre, the C.in-C. saw men being prepared for the varied duties of a medical unit on active service.

General Auchinleck witnessed a demonstration given by a battalion which is being trained in fire-fighting, bomb disposal and other duties. A detachment has already had practical experience in the damaged areas of Bombay.

At Engineer Training Centre

Training in carpentry, draughtsmanship, bricklaying and other occupations were in full swing when General Auchinleck inspected the workshops of an Engineer Training Centre.

While visiting the non-combatant battalion of a Mechanical Transport Reinforcement Centre, His Excellency showed particular interest in a field cooker which can burn sawdust, leaves or even dried grass, and remarked on its value in jungle warfare. The C.-in-C. and senior



General Auchinleck watching machines that finish the various parts of cars manufactured in a Rawalpindi workshop.



General Auchinleck examines the golden sword presented to him by the Dhund War Committee.

Staff officers tasted the Indian food prepared by the recruits.

Mashud recruits drawn from a Pathan tribe of the N.-W. Frontier were undergoing an "assault" obstacle course when General Auchinleck inspected an M.T. Training Centre. He took keen interest in a boys' platoon, bearing his name, whom he saw at drill.

The Commander-in-Chief also inspected an Observer Corps Training Centre and a famous mechanised cavalry unit which fought under his Command in the Middle East. He saw candidates for permanent commissions undergoing stiff tests of ingenuity and leadership set by officers of a G.H.Q. Selection Board.

Visit to I.E.M.E. Workshop

Metal bearings were being cast when the C.-in-C. visited an I.E.M.E. workshop, and he saw millions of spare parts in an M.T. stores depot.

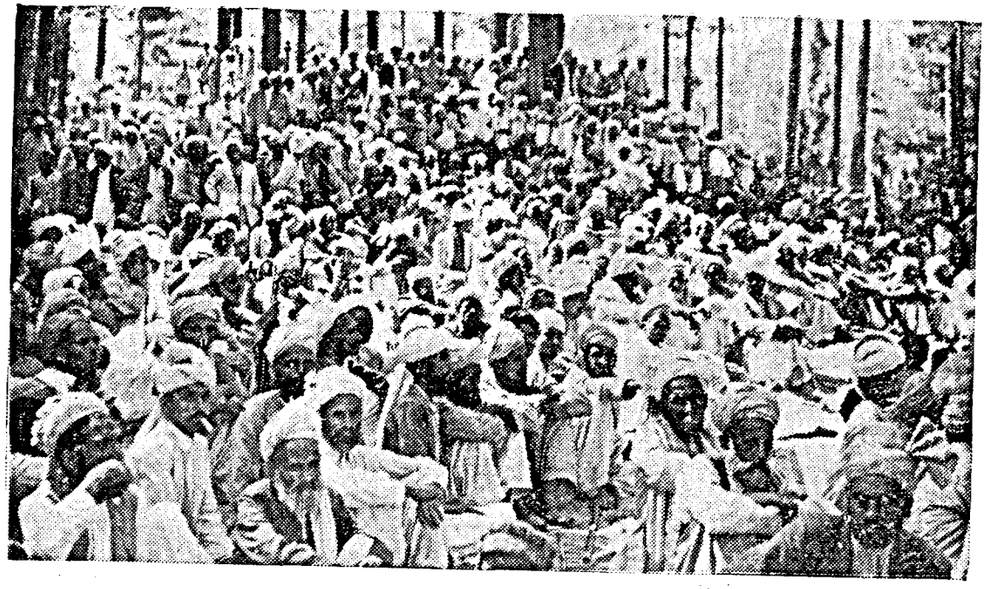
General Auchinleck went round the wards of the British and Indian Military Hospitals chatting to the patients, and paid a visit to the Sisters' Mess. Everywhere he went he was keenly interested in all that promoted the welfare and comfort of the troops.

GEN. AUCHINLECK ADDRESSES DHUND WAR BOARD MEETING

GENERAL Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C., again emphasised the opportunity for Indian young men of education and character to serve as officers in the Indian Army when he spoke at a Dhund War Board Conference in the Murree Hills. He also spoke of the post-war openings which the Indian fighting services are likely to offer.

"So far as candidates for commission are concerned," he said, "I want and will take as many Indian youths as I can get provided they are suitable and fit to command and lead men in war."

The C.-in-C. continued: "Courage and physical strength in an officer these days are not enough. An officer must have education as well, otherwise he cannot make himself efficient. If he is not efficient I cannot and will not give men's lives into his hands, for our men are too good and too precious to be wasted through faulty leadership. But do not forget that just as courage is of no use without learning, so also learning by itself without courage, physical fitness, self-control, discipline and self-respect will never make a leader.



Dhund tribesmen gathered in large numbers to attend the War Board Conference.

"In your address you ask me to watch over your interests and those of the fighting races who are supplying the recruits we need for our navy, army, and air force in India.

"I do not know what may be the organisation of the armed forces in India after the enemy has been beaten and peace has come again. But you may be sure that there will be plenty of opportunities for service in the navy, army, and air force for youths who come from tribes and classes of proved loyalty and courage, such as the Dhunds, and the many other tribes of this district who have been justly famous for many years for their fighting qualities."

word Presented to C.-in-C.

The occasion was not so much a conference as a large meeting of Dhunds that had gathered at Bhubhan to welcome "the Auk" in the heart of their beautiful woodland country. At this huge but picturesque Durbar, with Khan Saheb Sardar Sher Ahmed Khan as General Secretary, the C.-in-C. was presented with a purse of Rs. 10,000 and a sword. Many old pensioners from the hills were presented to him.

"It is now 40 years since I first came to know the men of the hills of the Rawalpindi district who were serving in my old regiment, the 62nd Punjabis," said the C.-in-C. thanking them for the gifts. "Among them were many Dhunds, besides Sattis and Dhanials. Since that time I have always tried to keep up my connection with the tribe and I still have, I hope, many old and close friends among the Dhunds. I am deeply touched and grateful for your magnificent generosity. The purse I shall devote to the help of soldiers and their families and the sword will become one of my most treasured possessions."

Grants of Land to Soldiers

He touched on their local problems and urged the need for more and better education for their sons and daughters. As regards grants of lands to soldiers and soldiers' families after the war, he assured them that justice would be done.

Concluding the C.-in-C. said, "I would like to say to you that in union lies strength. In a great country like India, and even in one province of it such as our Punjab, there are many different kinds of people. All kinds go to make this world.

"If this district, this province and this country are to go forward, toleration and a spirit of give and take are needed and must be practised by all of us. We need all our strength if we are to win through and we should not waste it in quarrelling with each other."

OPENING OF MANIPUR ROAD: JAPS DRIVEN AWAY FROM HILLS

AN attack by a battalion of the 9th Jat Regiment was part of the beginning of the end of Jap domination on the Manipur Road, wrote an Indian Army Observer from the Imphal front on June 23.

The objectives were small hills overlooking the Manipur Road about half a mile to the north of Safermaina from where we had established a successful road block.

Once the Japs were driven away from these hills it was clear that the opening of the Manipur Road would be only a question of hours.

On the evening of June 21, in heavy rain, the Jats attacked the hill nearest to the road —companies closing in from the east and west. The company moving from the east was held up by strong enemy fire while the other company from the west got on to the lower slopes and consolidated their positions. During the night there was a lot of enemy sniping and their guns were active but in the morning the Japs had disappeared. Nearly 50 Japs were killed and a large amount of enemy equipment captured.

The Dogras, first troops based on Imphal to observe our troops approaching down the road from Kohima, reached the approaching troops without encountering any opposition.

On the morning of June 21, a battalion of the 14th Punjab Regiment, having tackled several other obstacles, cleared the last road block. Sixty-eight Japs were killed besides many more wounded.

During this action, Hav. Puran Singh of Sohadan, Ambala District, averted, by his prompt action, what would otherwise have been an inconvenient situation for us.

He saw a party of the enemy moving a light machine-gun towards a position overlooking our troops. Rushing forward alone with his tommy gun, he occupied the strong-point before the enemy could reach it. He had already won the I.D.S.M. for gallant action at El Alamein.

THE MANIPUR LINK-UP

An Indian Air Force pilot of a tactical reconnaissance squadron commanded by Squadron-Leader Arjan Singh, . D.F.C., out on a dawn patrol, had the distinction of bringing back first news that the British forces operating from Imphal and Kohima had met and that the three months siege of the capital of Manipur State had ended.

Flying-Officer Rajinder Singh, an all-India tennis player, and lawyer of Lucknow, was the pilot who saw the link-up. His sortie, which began at first light, was the first of the day and was next in sequence to that of Flight-Lieutenant Haider Raza, also of Lucknow, a flight commander and last Allied pilot to leave Rangoon when it fell in 1942. Flight-Lieutenant Raza had left the scene of the fighting at dusk on the previous night when only four miles of the vital Imphal-Kohima supply route still remained in Japanese hands.

Flying-Officer Rajinder Singh said afterwards: "It was a memorable sight to see the road freed of the last Japanese and I was thrilled when I saw truck-load after truck-load of supplies streaming towards Imphal."



Jem. Ghulam Akbar and (right) Hav. Wazir Mohd.

BALUCH JEMADAR'S MIXED BAG

Among the trophies brought back by a Jemadar of a battalion of the 10th Baluch Regiment after a recent clash with the enemy in the Mayu hills was a Jap's dinner in a cook-pot. The Japs to whom it belonged had no longer any appetite. The Jemadar—Ghulam Akbar, of village Khabacke, Tehsil Khushab, District Shahpur—also brought in an enemy light machine-gun, 2 enemy rifles, an officer's haversack and identifications of great value, writes an Indian Army Observer.

This bag was the result of nine days' continuous contact with the enemy during which the Jemadar led his platoon against a strongly-held Jap position on high ground.

So steep was the approach to the position that Ghulam Akbar's men had to haul themselves up the face of the hill with the aid of rifle slings. The enemy were completely surprised when the Baluchis burst in on them with grenade and bayonet and many Japs were killed.

In the same action Havildar Wazir Mohd. of village Boghewala, Tehsil Zira, District Ferozepore, displayed great resource in killing four Japs and saved the lives of five men of his section by covering their movement across open ground with his tommy gun and grenades.

BALUCH MAJOR'S EXPLOIT

THE commander of a company of the 10th Baluch Regiment in action against the Jap in the Arakan has improved on the old proverb, "set a thief to catch a thief," writes an Indian Army Observer.

He uses a Jap to kill a Jap.

It happened after his company had been involved in a savage dawn clash with the Japanese.



Major G. A. Lawrence.

On re-grouping it was found that one sepoy was lying wounded in the open. The company commander, MAJOR G. A. LAWRENCE, of Fairfield, Liverpool, himself went back to bring the man in.

As he went forward five Japs broke cover and closed in on Major Lawrence, intending to take him prisoner. He hurled two grenades at them and emptied his rifle into them, killing four. The remaining Jap came on. His ammunition exhausted, Major Lawrence seized the first thing that came to his hand—one of the Japs he had just killed. *Picking up the body, he flung it at the advancing enemy. Live and dead Jap went over the knife-edge of the hill together.*

Major Lawrence got his wounded sepoy back to safety. When I saw Major Lawrence just after the action, his shirt was burnt by a fragment of phosphorus bomb; a bullet had nicked his right shoulder and a splinter of grenade had hit him in the chest. He couldn't say too much for the dash and gallantry of his men and gave high praise to SUBEDAR MOHD. ALAM of Rawalpindi who, when his men had stormed and taken the first line of enemy positions, turned and beat off an enemy counter-attack in which nine Japs were killed.



Subedar Mohammad Alam.

A BREN-GUNNER'S GALLANTRY

HOW the gallant conduct of a sepoy of a battalion of the 10th Baluch Regiment in the Arakan saved the lives of many of his platoon was told to me by his company commander, writes an Indian Army Observer.



Stretcher-bearer Khair Din.

The Sepoy—MOHD. HUSSAIN of Mianwali, Multan, was Bren-gunner of the leading section in an assault on a strongly fortified Japanese position in the Mayu Hills. The first line of Japanese positions had been successfully stormed when our men came under heavy machine-gun fire from both flanks. Although wounded many times himself, Mohd. Hussain brought his gun into action within 10 yards of the enemy and succeeded in keeping their heads down so that the attack could go on.

Magnificent Work

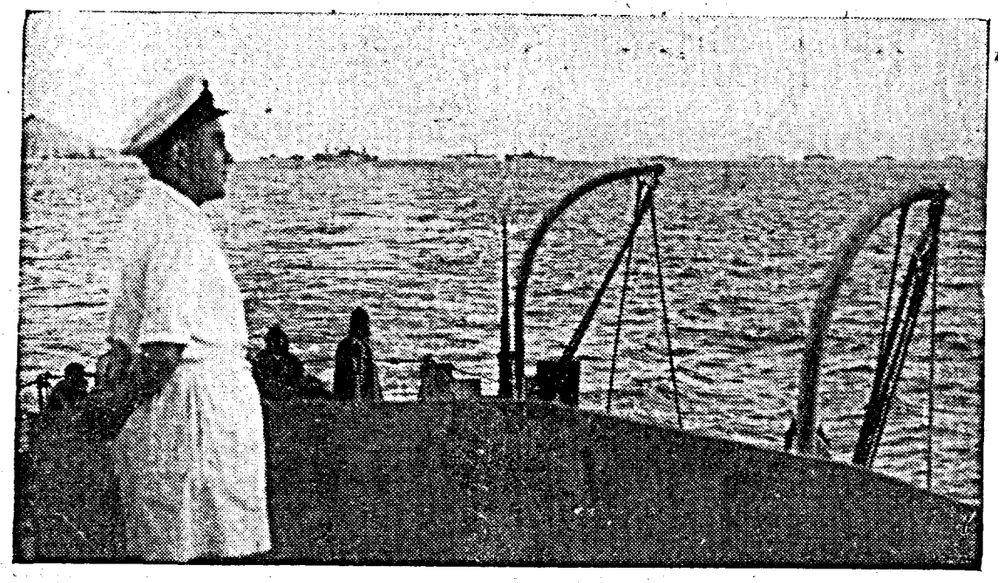
Under cover of his fire, men of his platoon who had become casualties were successfully evacuated, some from within 5 yards of the enemy. He himself continued to serve his gun until his ammunition was exhausted and was one of the last of the wounded to be brought to the rear.

Also outstanding in this action, and many others, was the work of stretcher-bearer KHAIR DIN, of Madhek, district Ferozepore. He showed great resource in organising stretcher parties to bring in wounded from exposed positions under enemy fire. Magnificent work has been done, the company commander told me, by the battalion's stretcher-bearers in rescuing the wounded and carrying them over really tough country to safety.

Mr. JUSTICE J. B. BLAGDEN

A Press Communique issued by the Government of India on July 12 stated:

His Majesty the King has been graciously pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice John Basil Blagden to be a Judge of the High Court in Bombay in the room of the Hon'ble Sir Cecil Patrick Blackwell.



R.I.N. sloop escorting a convoy of merchantships in the Mediterranean.

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY'S ESCORT DUTIES RANGE FROM ATLANTIC TO INDIAN WATERS

SHIPS of the Royal Indian Navy engaged in escorting convoys, minesweeping and anti-submarine patrols steamed over 1,750,000 miles during the 12 months ending March 31 last.

This figure does not represent the total distance covered by the sea-going force. If, for instance, distances over which Coastal Forces have operated were included, mileage substantially in excess of 1,750,000 would be recorded.

Escort duties account for the largest share of the total. The development of India as a base for operations against the Japanese has increased still further the importance of the Royal Indian Navy's role as a protector of shipping on the coastal and ocean passages, while the progress of the Navy's shipbuilding programme has added to the number of vessels available for the purpose. Escort work goes on every day of the year and keeps H.M.I. ships so employed at sea 85 per cent of their time. The convoys they escort comprise vessels flying the flags of many nations. Troops, war supplies and valuable merchandise are taken safely across the seas.

During the 12 months ships of the Royal Indian Navy ranged far and wide on escort duty. Some, built in the United Kingdom, steamed long distances in the Atlantic protecting important convoys. Last summer, the Royal Indian Navy was represented in the Mediterranean operations. One sloop was at sea for 25 days except for a break of a few hours, and during that time she made the double crossing of the Mediterranean from East to West, out into the Atlantic, and back to a Levant port—a distance of roughly 7,500 miles (nearly one-third the way round the globe).

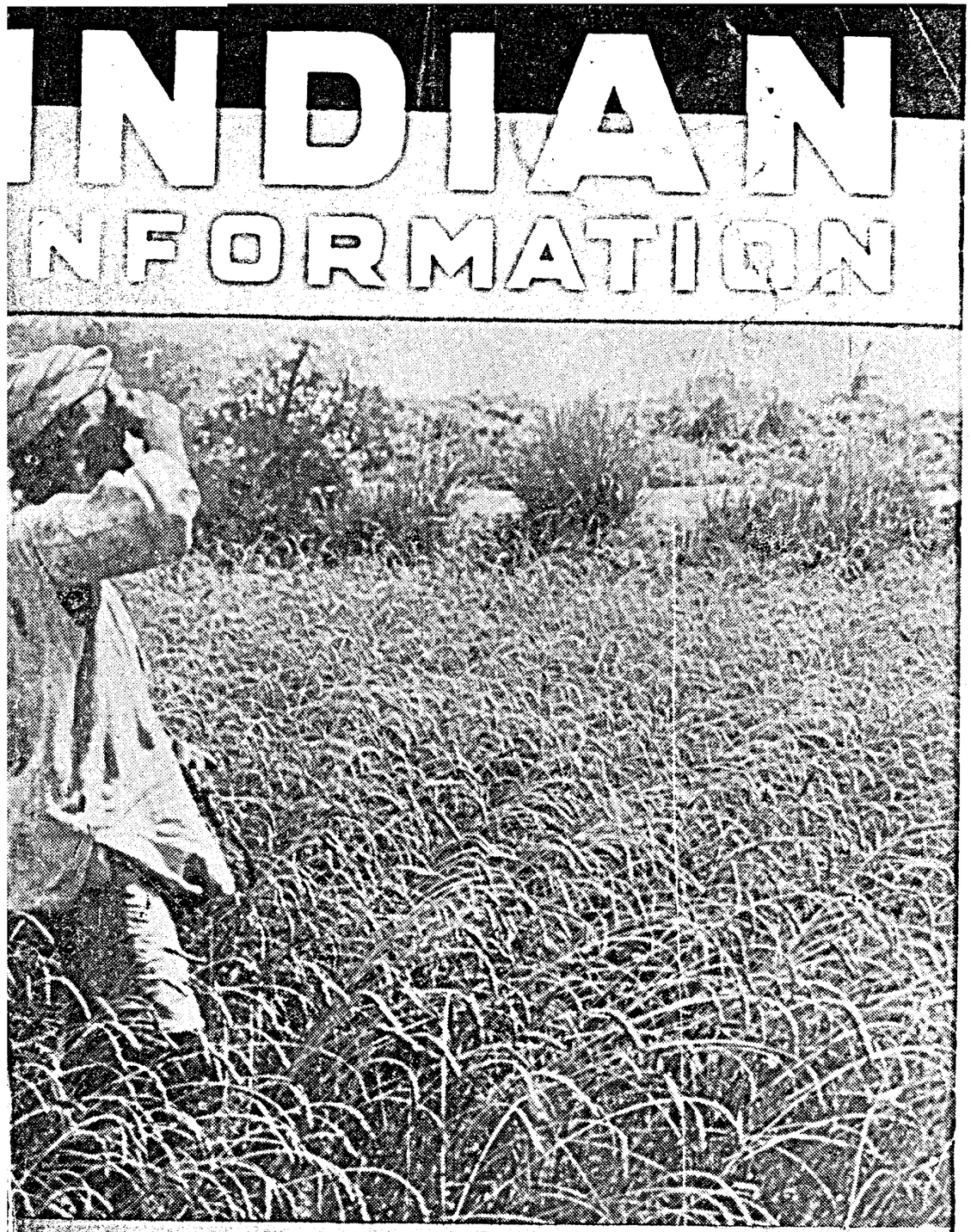
It was a sloop, H.M.I.S. *Jumna*, that logged the longest distance of any ship of the Royal Indian Navy during the 12 months—54,684 miles. In one quarter she reached a total of 16,919 miles.

Throughout the 12 months vessels of the Royal Indian Navy have guarded India's ports and coast by means of constant anti-submarine patrols and minesweeping, work that is arduous and calls for a high degree of efficiency.

This record of long distances and of unremitting service at sea is a tribute to the Navy's Engineer officers and ratings. To them falls the task of keeping machinery at the highest pitch of efficiency so that their ships may continue to plough the seas. Their skill and devotion to duty made it possible for those many thousands of miles to be steamed and for so much valuable work to be done by the Royal Indian Navy.

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INDIAN INFORMATION



1412: August 15, 1944
Fortnightly by the Information Officer, Government of India.

● FIRST MEETING OF CENTRAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL



Mules under training pass across a narrow bridge and through shallow water at a training centre.

Vol. 15, No. 143. INDIAN INFORMATION AUGUST 15, 1944

AIMS :—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press ; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC :—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT :—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading, but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis

CONTRIBUTIONS :—Many MSS are submitted to us which we regretfully return ; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Issued Fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.
Associate Editor : P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: A Punjabi Zamindar (landowner) surveys his ripened wheat crop before harvesting.



The Central Food Advisory Council in session. (L. to R.) Mr. B. R. Sen, Mr. S. V. Ramamurty, Mr. R. H. Hutchings, Sir J. P. Srivastava, Sir Jogendra Singh and Sir Phiroze Kharegat.

CENTRAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

"I SHALL never let up on the question of imports until I and my colleagues are completely satisfied with the position. I have accepted the estimate of import needs given in round figures by the Foodgrains Policy Committee and I see no reason as yet to modify that estimate. We have secured substantial quantities, and I am grateful for what has been done to help us, but I must have more, and I shall not rest till I get it." Thus said the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Member for Food, Government of India, inaugurating the first meeting of the Central Food Advisory Council, in New Delhi, on the morning of July 20. The meeting lasted three days.

Here is the full text of the Food Member's speech :

Gentlemen,—My first duty after bidding you a very warm welcome to this first meeting of the new Central Food Advisory Council is to read you a message which I have received from His Excellency the Viceroy. Here it is:

"I send the reconstituted Central Food Advisory Council my best wishes for a successful session in their most important work. I shall await with interest the report of the Council's proceedings which will be of the greatest value to the Government of India."

Lord Wavell's intense interest in all matters connected with the production and distribution of food, as well as in medical aid, and the relief of distress consequent upon the famine of last year, are well known to you. It has been manifested not only by visits, in some cases repeated visits, to every Province in India within a few months of his arrival, with food as the main subject under discussion, but by a firm and persistent support of our endeavours, particularly in the matter of imports, for which I must express the deepest gratitude, I think you will wish me to thank His Excellency in the name of the Council for his message, as well as for the lead and example which he has given to the country in dealing with the problem of the people's food.

My Hon'ble Colleagues present here today will join with me in thanking you, gentlemen, for coming here today to take up the burden with us of guiding food policy in the right channels. It is no light burden, but a burden shared is a burden halved. We have passed

through difficult and disastrous times. We have perhaps difficult times still ahead of us. If we are to come through them safely, it will only be through the collective wisdom and the united efforts of Government, students of our problems outside Government, and of the leaders of public opinion. It is on this basis that my conception of this Council has been founded.

The Press Thanked

I feel I have the right to expect of you to lend us your powerful support in our task—a task which knows no barriers of caste, creed or political outlook. I feel also I have a claim on the Press of the country, which I am glad to see so well represented here. I am grateful for the consideration it has shown to us in the past—I am free to acknowledge that in our difficult and delicate work it has extended to us much support and courtesy. Even Shankar has not been too unkind to me, although I have often wished that he had allowed me a little cloak to my semi-nude corpulent figure.

I would like this morning to touch, as briefly as is possible in discussing a subject of this magnitude, on the main features of the Indian food problem, to recall to your minds the nature and scope of the measures which we have taken; and to draw attention to some of the points on which your advice is particularly necessary.

There are two sides to our problem, the production of food and its distribution. Broadly speaking, production is the function of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and distribution of what is produced is the function of the Food Department. The two Departments must, of necessity, work in the closest contact, and that is why this Council is called upon to advise both departments jointly. My Hon'ble Colleague, Sir Jogendra Singh, will deal with production tomorrow.

Food Production

Having regard to the paramount importance at the present time of increased production, I think you will agree that it is appropriate that the first day of our deliberations should be devoted to this side. We know that India has for years past neither produced enough food, nor the right foodstuffs to afford an adequate and balanced diet to a rapidly increasing population, of which a growing proportion must be expected to find its employment otherwise than in the field of agriculture. We are subject to the perennial dangers of failure or maldistribution of the rainfall and damage caused by cyclonic storms.

We were increasingly dependent on imports and still are so. You will forgive me for stating the obvious when I say that the capacity of an administration to avert famine depends on foreknowledge of impending shortages, the availability to its hand of reserve stocks whether from internal or external sources, and the existence of facilities to move supplies into the threatened area.

We know to our cost that when India was deprived of her normal external sources of supply, and war conditions made the movement of stocks from alternative sources slow and difficult, she at once got into difficulties. A great deal of effort has already gone into increasing internal production, but it is no light task to secure within a short space of time an increase in volume to overtake the increase in population, reduce dependence on external sources of supply, and make possible the holding of reserves.

Moreover, not only must production be planned to ensure the best use of available resources, and that the product is what is most required, but the maximum insurance against climate variation must be provided. This is a process which, in the field of agriculture, takes time, and we have to face both an immediate and a long-term problem.

Import Position Clarified

The short-term problem calls for vigorous administrative measures—an all-out drive designed to increase the production of foodgrains by bringing under the plough any spare land which may be available, by careful cropping and by providing to cultivators such simple facilities as will enable them to increase their outturn. What we want is quick results if we are to make our position secure against the continuing danger of scareity and want. But as already stated by me this is a matter for my Hon'ble Colleague and I must not trench any further on his sphere.

So far as the Food Department is concerned it has endeavoured to meet the deficiency by the restoration of imports. This subject has in recent weeks received, and rightly received in my opinion, very wide attention. I do not propose to add this morning to what I have publicly stated on this question except to say this. I shall never let up on the question of imports until I and my colleagues are completely satisfied with the position. I have accepted the estimate of import needs given in round figures by the Foodgrains Policy Committee and I see no reason as yet to modify that estimate. We have secured substantial quantities, and I am grateful for what has been done to help us, but I must have more, and I shall not rest till I get it. I look to this Council to support me in this.

This does not mean that we can afford to relax for one moment our efforts to procure what is available in India itself, or to distribute on a fair and equitable basis, to all alike, what is made available to us for distribution. The need for increasing and united effort and sacrifice in this behalf is greater than ever before. I am by no means satisfied with what has been achieved, grateful as I am for all that the different governments and administrations have done. A great deal has been done, but we cannot afford to slack off for an instant.

Much Remains to be Done

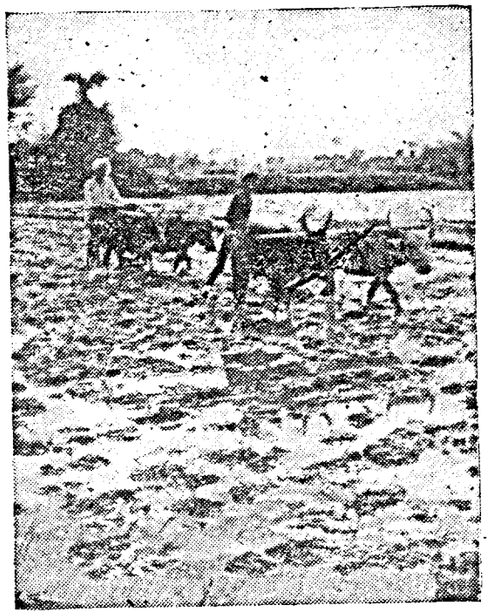
It is not safe to assume that with the cessation of the war in Europe or even in the Far East, conditions of world production and movement will automatically permit the importation of food into India on whatever scale we may desire. We are perfectly justified in insisting on our rights, and in the hope that many of our difficulties will be speedily lessened, but I think we must reflect that in the immediate period of post-war rehabilitation the world may still look upon India as a great agricultural country, which has been spared, in spite of her sufferings, the material destruction of warfare within her borders. We shall be expected to make every effort to look after ourselves from our own resources, and we shall make that effort.

Now, gentlemen, I have said that although much has been done, much remains to be done. On the distribution side what have we done?

Distribution Problems

You know the position about imports. We have prohibited exports, we have made great progress in the extension of urban rationing. 226 cities and towns with a total population of 35 millions are already under rationing, and there are many more to come. We have conducted a countrywide investigation into the provisions and administration of the Foodgrains Control Order, and a great number of suggestions for its improvement have been placed before Provincial Governments, who have been given freedom to amend it within their own areas in order to secure the maximum adjustment to local needs. There has undoubtedly been improvement in administration of the Order, though not as much as I could have wished, and I shall continue to press the matter.

The memorandum submitted by the Department will show that there has been a steady build-up of Government procurement machinery. You will recall that the Foodgrains Policy Committee warned us against attempting uniformity of practice all over India, and the organisation has, I think unavoidably, been developed on diverse lines. The time, in my view has come, in the light of experience gained, to direct further progress into more convergent lines, and indeed that tendency has already made itself apparent in several instances.



Ploughing for paddy cultivation.

The Next Step

The next big step which we have to consider is Government monopoly purchase, and this is being closely studied not only at the Centre, but in the Provinces themselves. One of the officers of the Department is at present engaged in studying on the spot the working of systems of monopoly purchase, or what approaches monopoly purchases where such systems are already in operation.

I will not anticipate today what our conclusions will be, but I will say that I am not content to stand still, and I shall listen with expectation to the observations and advice of members of this Council as to our procurement organisation.

We have established a Price Advisory Panel including representatives of the trade and of producers, we have fixed statutory prices on an all-India basis for wheat, bajra and jowar, combined with floor price guarantees to the producer, and statutory controls are operating for rice in every important area, though they have not yet been co-ordinated throughout the country on an all-India basis.

Basic Plans

In all this the main function of my Department has been to press a co-ordinated all-India policy on the different administrations, in pursuance of which we have in two instances proceeded to the length of issuing directions to enforce our views. The Central Food Department, as you know, of course, also operates the Basic Plans under which surpluses declared by surplus areas are allotted to deficit areas. In the planning of movement, which I am sorry to say still remains one of our major difficulties, we work in the closest touch with the War Transport Department which provides road, rail and water transport and controls the allotment of the necessary priorities. The quantities of foodstuffs moved under the Basic Plans are over three and half million tons.

So much then for what we have attempted and what has been done. We have got to do a great deal more. Production has to be increased, and I will leave my Hon'ble Colleague to tell you about that but I feel that we have got to do more to link up production with procurement, and ensure that the true marketable surplus comes more fully and readily to our hand for distribution. I shall welcome your views on this.

Storage Improvement

Secondly, we have got to improve the storage and conservation of grain awaiting distribution. We have also to improve our standards of inspection in order to secure quality, and I shall also look to you for advice on that.

Thirdly, we have got to improve and extend our systems of rationing, to secure a really equitable share-out between surplus and deficit areas, rich and poor, of available resources. You will, I think, have something to say on that score also.

Fourthly, we have to turn our attention to the increased production and equitable distribution of protective foods particularly milk, or at any rate, to ensure that they are available to those sections of the population most in need of them. I shall value your suggestions on this point also.

I am afraid I have already taken much of your time, and you will be anxious to study the memorandum submitted by the Departments in readiness for our discussions tomorrow. We shall therefore not meet after lunch today. I must ask you to treat those memoranda as confidential documents—that is for the use of members of this Council only. As you will see from the agenda, you will tomorrow be engaged with the problems of production which are the direct concern of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and on the following day with the problems of procurement and distribution which at present are the concern of my Department.

SIR JOGENDRA SINGH'S SPEECH

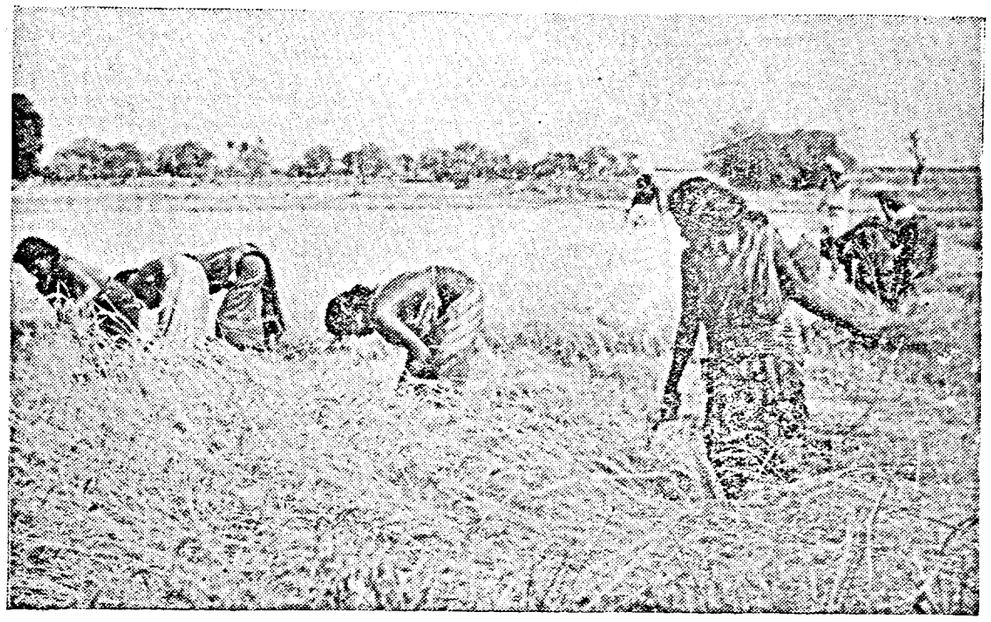
When the Council re-assembled the following day, the Hon. Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, said:

Yesterday my colleague, the Food Member, addressed you on one of the most vital questions of the day which affects you and me, and all the vast millions who inhabit this land; what are the prospects of adequate food being available to us and what are the lines on which Government are proceeding in this most important matter of food procurement and distribution? Today it is my privilege to discuss food problems with you from another angle and seek your co-operation and enlist your active support in our campaign for increasing production.

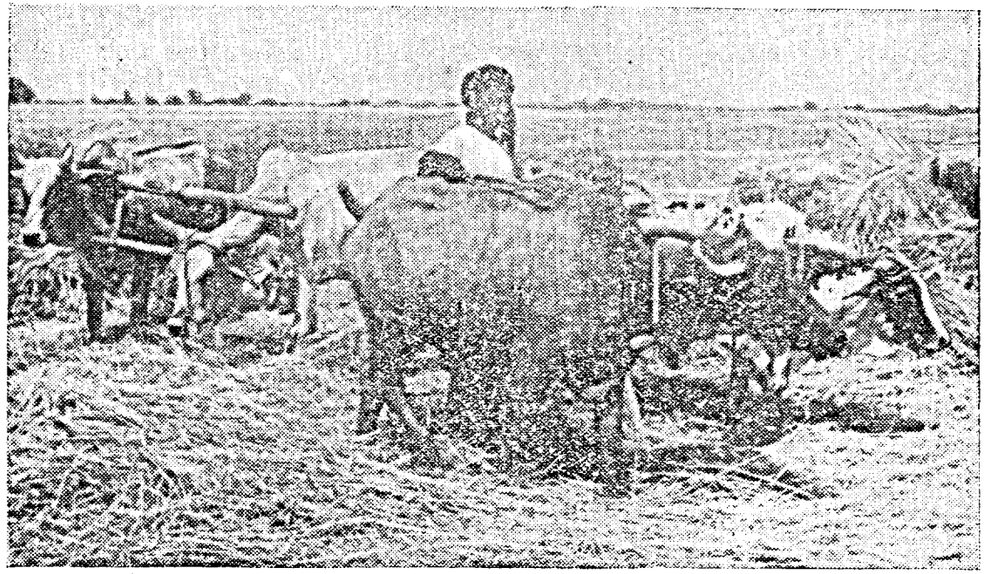
Our cultivators—in spite of the great handicaps from which they chronically suffer—have reacted magnificently to the demands of the time. Their achievements in respect of food production, when due allowances are made for the lack of resources at their disposal and their chronic insecurity against weather conditions, will stand the verdict of history. They have made a material contribution to the country's war effort notwithstanding the distress which has prevailed in some parts of the country.

Food and Non-Food Crops

We hear a great deal of what has been achieved in respect of food production in other countries. We are not infrequently confronted with the answer, when we seek assistance in the matter of food from outside, that a country of the size of India, with her vast acreages under cultivation, should by now, with a little extra effort here and a little extra effort there, have made herself self-sufficient in respect of the most vital need of her people. Such an attitude can only arise from an ignorance of the fundamental facts of the situation in which agriculture is carried on in the country. With us



Women workers harvesting rice crop in South India.



Threshing wheat at a Punjab village farm.

additional production of food is not merely a question of switching over from one set of crops to another set of crops or of merely taking up meadows or grasslands or parks and growing cereals instead.

When the war broke out the proportion of acreage under food crops to that of non-food crops was already very high, much higher than in any other country in the world with perhaps the exception of China. And what were these non-food crops?

Cotton—but people must have adequate clothes and it is not possible to reduce the acreage under cotton beyond a certain point;

Jute—but we are the only suppliers of this raw material which is necessary for the active prosecution of the war and it is necessary to maintain the production of jute up to the limit required for war purposes;

Coffee and Tea—in any case the acreage is small and we must produce them in the discharge of our obligations;

Sugarcane—I am sure no one is prepared to advocate a decreased production of sugar and gur, important elements of a nutritive diet;

Oil-seeds—we need them ourselves to make good the shortage of fat in the dietary of our people and for providing concentrates for our cattle. In fact, therefore, we did not have much acreage under unwanted crops.

Assistance to Extend Cultivation

As you know, we have brought about a substantial reduction in the acreage under cotton. But the point that I wish to emphasise is that unlike certain other countries more fortunately situated, we are not in a position to produce the extra food that we need by the mere conversion of acreage under non-food crops to food crops. There remains the prospect of bringing additional land under cultivation. If under the tremendous pressure of our population, there is any cultivable land not under cultivation, it is safe to assume that there is some serious obstacle in the way. Even so, significant increases in the net area sown have been effected and it is our policy—a policy which I will intensify in the near future—to give assistance to cultivators to extend cultivation.

Then we must not forget the monsoon. Only about one-fourth, or 56 million acres, out of a total cultivated area of 220 million acres in British India is protected by irrigation and the bulk of our cultivation depends on not merely the total volume of rainfall but on its distribution. No matter what acreage we put under food crops, the final outturn depends on the mercy of Providence. Take, for example, the wheat crop of the last *rabi*. We were doing very well until the end of March and our hopes were high, when suddenly hailstorms and unwanted rain materially reduced our harvest.

Then, again, what are the material resources at the disposal of our peasantry? The size of the holdings is minute and most of them suffer from the evils of fragmentation. The farm equipment is poor and the resources in manure are limited. These are some of the factors which we have to contend against. My point is that when the war broke out we found ourselves in a situation in which it was not possible for us to meet the full demands of the situation because the fundamental basis on which our main industry was carried on was such as rendered it incapable of making any rapid advance to meet an extraordinary situation.

"Grow More Food" Campaign

You may think, I am perhaps drawing a very gloomy picture. This is not in order to provide an apology for Government or the cultivators of India. A great deal has been done and a great deal more will be done in the future. But it is necessary to understand the basic factors of the situation and the limitations under which any scheme for increased production or future agricultural development must operate.

May I, in passing dwell for a while on what has been achieved?—all the more striking because of the obstacles that have had to be surmounted. A memorandum on the progress of the "Grow More Food" drive was circulated to you yesterday.

The cordial co-operation of the Provincial Governments and States secured the diversion, from cotton to food crops, of 5 million acres of land and an additional 3 million acres of new land were brought under cultivation.

We can look back with satisfaction at the success of the campaign which my predecessor, the Hon'ble Mr. N. R. Sarker, started in the spring of 1943. But for the "Grow More Food" campaign our food position must ere this have been disastrous and the havoc of Bengal and the shortages of South India would have been the fate of many other areas.

The officers of my Department and I will be glad to answer questions on any point on which you desire further information. I would, however, like you to concentrate your attention more on questions relating to the future planning of the "Grow More Food" campaign, because the time at our disposal is short and I am particularly anxious to have your advice and guidance in respect of our lines of work for the future.

Methods to Step Up Production

Broadly speaking, the methods of increasing food production fall into three groups, viz., (1) extending cultivation to culturable but uncultivated land, (2) diverting land under non-food crops to food crops and (3) increasing yields per acre by securing the adoption of modern methods of production such as proper husbandry, scientific rotation, improved seeds, adequate manuring and irrigation.

Now there are two possible lines to adopt, one to give assistance to cultivators to meet their needs of irrigation, seed, manure, etc., and the other to carry out a survey of culturable but uncultivated lands, locating them where they exist, finding out the reasons why they are not under cultivation and then providing the means to bring them under cultivation.

I think we *must* continue the method hitherto employed, of assisting cultivators as and when they require assistance; but I also think the time has come when we should supplement this by the second method—locating uncultivated but cultivable lands, having projects prepared and then assisting the cultivator to bring them under food crops. Inadequacy of trained staff will be a difficulty that we shall have to face. I should be very grateful for your advice in respect of the lines on which this work should be attempted.

Crop Planning

In respect of the question of diverting land under non-food crops to food crops, I have already in the earlier part of my speech indicated the limits which circumscribe the extension of food crops in areas under other valuable crops. As you know, we have already suggested to provincial and State Governments a target of 30 per cent. as a further reduction in the area under short staple cotton during the current year. The cotton crop is now sown and I have information that, generally speaking, Governments have done their best by propaganda and inducement to achieve the reduction aimed at. But an important matter of policy had been raised in that connection—a matter which affects the whole practicability of crop planning. It is this: to what extent and in what circumstances and subject to what safeguards is it justifiable and practicable to compel the cultivator to grow one crop rather than another?

We have, as you know, armed Provincial Governments with power to require the growing of specified crops and also, with the Central Government's concurrence, to restrict the cultivation of specified crops. The Government of Bombay have adopted special legislation to the same end. So have Bengal, some years ago, for the restriction of the jute area.

I think it will be agreed that crop planning, if it is to be effective, involves a measure of compulsion. If this is necessary in the interests of the population as a whole, the cultivator must play his part. What we have to be sure of is that our interference with the established rotations—the fruit of centuries of agricultural experience—does not bear too harshly on the cultivator and that it does not lead to an actual diminution not only of his income but also of food supplies.

I am sure we shall welcome especially the views of those in whose areas such measures have been tried. The problem is one of great importance, not only for our present food drive but also for our long-term plans into which our present drive will gradually merge.

Seeds and Manures

I mentioned in another place, the other day, the seven factors which are essential for increasing production from areas already under cultivation. Here it is only lack of resources that stands in the way. Take, for example, improved variety of seeds. When the war broke out not more than 6 per cent. of the acreage under foodgrains was under improved varieties and the spread of improved varieties was confined to only a few crops.

Now, in order to secure an extension of improved varieties it is necessary to breed and multiply the improved seed and progress is limited by the rate at which seed can be bred and multiplied. The statements supplied to you with the memorandum will show that we have given financial assistance to Provincial Governments to develop the production of improved varieties of seeds.

Regarding manures, the scheme for the conversion of town refuse into compost has progressed according to schedule. The work has to be entrusted to trained staff, and training takes time. We have now reached a stage when the work will proceed more rapidly. We are also doing all we can in order to develop the use of green manuring and of composting from vegetable refuse. We have agreed to help in financing the employment of additional staff by the Provinces to demonstrate methods of composting and the value of compost manure.

The most vital need of crops is water—irrigation provides the surest means of increasing production and giving security against the vagaries of the monsoon. Our Irrigation Adviser is busy preparing projects for emergency schemes which in some Provinces are under construction and in some cases about to be completed, but it is hoped that within a year or two 700 tube-wells will be at work and many thousands of masonry wells will have been sunk.

In respect of artificial manures our difficulties are that we have little productive capacity within the country and since artificial fertilisers are in great demand in the countries of production, we are unable to procure any large quantities. Thanks to the Hon'ble the Supply Member, the problem of production of fertilisers is under active examination by experts.

Campaign on 3-Year Basis

As you know, our "Grow More Food" campaign has hitherto been organised on a year-to-year basis, and agriculture does not lend itself to such short-term planning. I am glad to say we have now decided to plan our campaign on a three-year basis and we have invited the co-operation of Provincial Governments and States and suggested to them certain definite lines of approach such as, firstly, to associate the grower with the planning as well as with the implementing of the campaign by organising an agricultural association for each district, tehsil and circle.

Secondly, in the light of the provisional target set for the Provinces, the provincial staff should fix provisional production targets for each district. The district agricultural officer should then break this down for each tehsil and again for each circle and then for each village.

Thirdly, the target for each village should be considered and, if necessary, revised in the light of local conditions. A statement should be prepared showing for each village what the areas of culturable waste and fallow are, why it is not cultivated and what steps are needed to bring it under cultivation. It should be indicated what lands in the village are not cultivated to the proper intensity and what the reason for the same is and how it is to be put right. The extent of the double crop area should be examined and the possibility of increasing it should be indicated.

Fourthly, it will be necessary to ascertain for each village or group of villages what facilities are wanted and to what extent production could be increased if such facilities are provided. It should be indicated what is needed in respect of wells, tanks and other sources of irrigation and by way of bunding and drainage, to what extent there is a shortage of manure, and the arrangements for the supply of improved seeds, etc.

The Main Difficulty

Fifthly, on the basis of this information, a plan for the provision of the necessary facilities should be drawn up for the circle or firka as the case may be. These should then be consolidated into the district plan, and those facilities which are likely to give the maximum increase in production in the minimum time should receive priority. It is thus that a Provincial, and finally a Central plan, can be built up.

As I see it, the main difficulty in carrying out such a survey and then preparation of a co-ordinated plan is the inadequacy of the trained agricultural staff of all grades in Provinces and States. We have suggested to Provincial Governments the lines on which the work of training personnel should be organised, but I would like to have your suggestions as to how we could utilise trained agriculturists, men who have a lot of experience of agricultural matters, who are good organisers but who are not aspirants to government service.

Supply of Protective Food

My colleague has referred to the question of increasing the supply of protective food. I am paying most anxious consideration to this aspect of the matter particularly because with rationing in force in many of the urban centres in the country it becomes incumbent on Government to ensure that the population which depends entirely for its food supplies on Government should be ensured that it gets all varieties of food which are necessary for the maintenance of good health.

It is out of this consideration that Government have appointed an officer for fisheries development and are shortly appointing other officers for the development of dairies, vegetable production, poultry, fruits, etc. These officers will get specific projects prepared by the Provincial Departments concerned, and the Government of India will give substantial assistance in getting these projects put into force without any delay.

The Fisheries Development Adviser has already visited Orissa, Bihar, Bengal, and a number of schemes have been prepared which would materially increase the production of fresh water fish for supply to important population groups.

We are trying not only to increase the supply of protective foods, but, as you must have noticed from the Memorandum which we have circulated, in our campaign for increasing supplies of food, we are emphasising that in the production plans for different crops from villages full consideration should be paid to make each area as self-sufficient in the matter of food as possible so as to reduce the burden on transport. I am sure you know that, unlike in other countries, production of agricultural commodities is in the hands of millions of small farmers and until and unless these farmers are organised into larger groups, it is not possible to arrange for collective delivery of surplus production.

I have taken a good deal of your valuable time, but I thought I might usefully place before you the problem or problems in some of its important aspects. I am confident that we shall make progress. I am confident, for I am receiving the wholehearted co-operation of the Provincial and State Governments, without whose constant support and consistent endeavour it would have been difficult to launch the campaign.

The Viceroy's Interest

Above all, I should like to let this Committee know how the matter is viewed by His Excellency the Viceroy. His Excellency was good enough to send a message of encouragement to the Committee which assembled in Simla three weeks ago to advise us on post-war agricultural policy. The point I wish to stress is that in his message to that body—concerned, as I have said, with post-war development—His Excellency made two separate references to the important bearing that the deliberations of that Committee would have on our wartime food problem. His message closed with the words:

> "I wish the Committee all success in their vitally important deliberations. If they can produce a practical and progressive plan by which we can increase our agricultural production, not only after the war, but now, they will have rendered a great service."

With such a lead from His Excellency I may assure this Committee that any helpful suggestions for the increased production of foodstuffs for India that the Committee may make are assured of the most careful and sympathetic consideration of the Government of India.

I am fortunate in my own Department in having a team of officers who are unsparing in their labours and whose devotion to duty is an assurance of success.

The Central Food Advisory Council then discussed questions relating to food production and adopted the following resolutions *nem con*:

1. This Council views the food situation with considerable anxiety and urges Government to treat the food problem as an urgent one which must be solved as early as possible. In order to ensure results in the immediate future during the currency of war from the plan prepared for agricultural development, this meeting of the Central Food Advisory Council urges on the Government of India as follows:

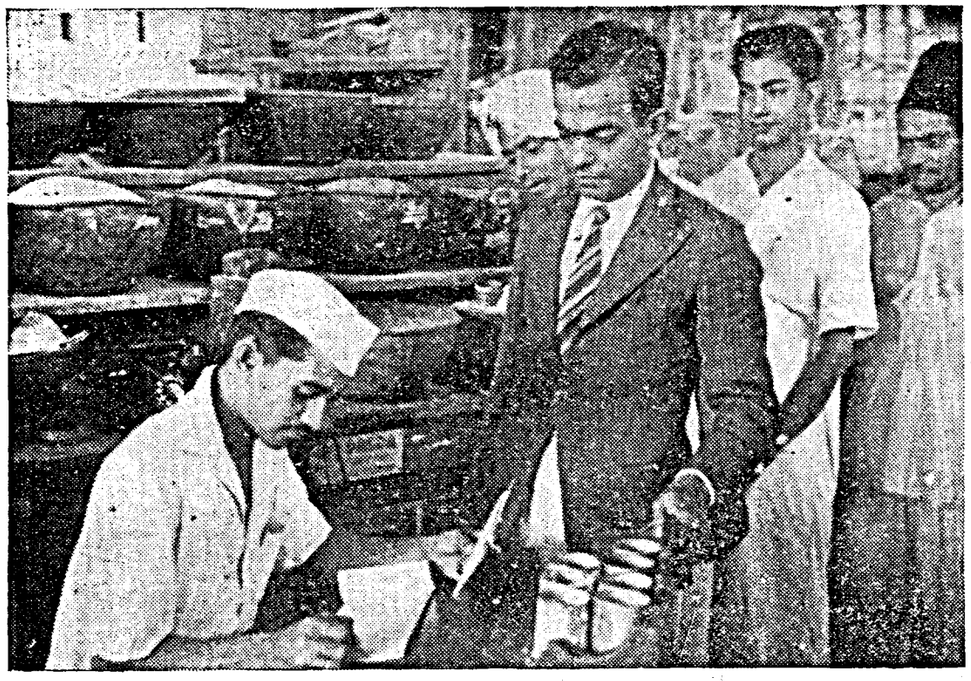
(a) The necessity of importing fertilisers, plants for manufacturing fertilisers, tractors and agricultural implements, dairy machinery, etc., from U.K. or U.S.A. on the same lines on which they were supplied to Russia, North Africa and the Middle East to avoid a breakdown there in the economic conditions of those countries. The present food position in this country is directly due to the war and has a vital bearing on its further prosecution. The supply of India's agricultural requirements should, therefore, be treated as a part of war effort and a high degree of priority should be accorded to them.

(b) Any agricultural and irrigation advisers whose importation may be considered necessary for the execution of the Government schemes may be brought from outside but they should be recruited on a contractual basis for a period not exceeding three years, and arrangements shall be made in the country or outside for the necessary training of Indian personnel to replace them.

Bold Policy Urged

2. (a) This Council strongly recommends to the Government of India that it should adopt a very bold policy with regard to minor irrigation projects such as surface percolation wells, individual tanks, etc. It should encourage the construction of these works on a very large scale and it should give very liberal financial assistance to the cultivators to enable them to execute these projects. This Council further recommends that the Government of India should make available to the cultivator at controlled prices slack coal; cement and iron required for the construction of such wells and to ensure that they are given the railway priority.

(b) This Council strongly recommends that all types of manures should be distributed for increased production of irrigated food crops on a very much larger scale than has been done so far and that cultivators should be supplied these manures at 50 per cent of the cost



Ration-card holders queuing up for their weekly supplies in Bombay.

(c) This Council strongly recommends to the Government of India that the crop-cutting experimental scheme should immediately be extended to all the wheat growing areas in the country as also to the rice growing areas in Bombay, Madras, the Central Provinces and Orissa, and if as a result of this work in the coming harvest the results obtained last year are again confirmed, this Council recommends to the Government of India that this technique should be enforced throughout the country for all crops.

(d) This Council strongly recommends to the Government of India that with a view to maintaining an adequate supply of cattle for agriculture and the production of milk, all possible action should be taken to preserve them.

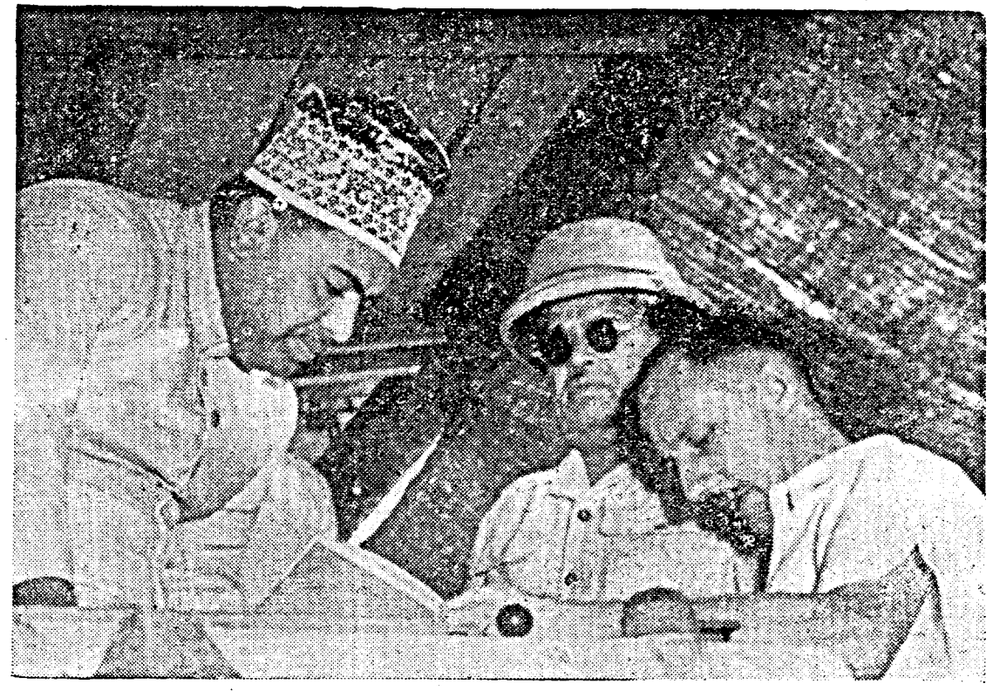
LAST DAY'S PROCEEDINGS

Before the Council resumed its discussions on July 22, the last day of the meeting, the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava welcomed Sir John Woodhead, the Chairman, and Members of the Famine Enquiry Commission, who were present. Two of them are members of the Council.

Discussions dealt mainly with matters connected with the procurement and distribution of foodstuffs. Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas welcomed the Food Member's assurance that he would continue to press for India's import requirements, while Pundit H. N. Kunzru referred to the improvement of conditions in Bengal and to difficulties apprehended in Orissa. He urged that the Government of India should secure uniformity throughout India in the introduction of complete urban rationing.

Various speakers discussed improvements in price fixation and procurement machinery and there was some support for Government monopoly purchase of foodgrains which is now under detailed examination by the Food Department, and the feasibility of which, with rural rationing, was claimed to have been established by the experience of Travancore and Cochin.

Some criticism was voiced about the control and movement of gur, about the quality of imported barley and about the shortage of powdered milk supplies in Bombay.



Sir J. P. Srivastava (centre) and Mr. A. P. Hume, Controller of Rationing, inspect the accounts of an authorised shopkeeper during their recent visit to Delhi rationing centres.

Dr. W. R. Aykroyd urged the rationing of pulses and controlled supply of milk for nursing mothers and children.

After Government spokesmen, and the Hon'ble Food Member had replied to the various points raised, the following five resolutions were passed:

(1) The Central Food Advisory Council expresses its strong dissatisfaction with the quantity of foodgrains which, according to His Majesty's Government's statement may be expected to be imported in the current financial year by the end of September, 1944, and urges Government to recommend urgently to H.M.G. that an assurance should be given in the clearest terms that at the earliest possible moment shipments of foodgrains to India will be made of half a million tons to constitute a reserve, and at least one million tons annually to cover part of the absolute deficit of foodgrains in this country, until normal food conditions are restored. Only such an assurance will restore the confidence of the people, will relieve India of the recurring menace of famine and can effectively support the efforts that are being made to secure and increase the internal food resources of the country.

(2) This Council is of the view that the present burden of an overall deficiency of foodgrains should be shared evenly by all parts of the country and deprecates the existing disparity of ration scales. It, therefore, recommends that full rationing should be introduced in every province in all urban areas and that the basic ration per head should be uniformly 1 lb. per adult per day. It presses the Government of India to bring about uniformity in both these matters throughout India without delay.

(3) This Council recommends the formation, from the members, of a sub-committee to consider the whole question of procurement and to advise Government as to the best method or methods of ascertaining and securing the surpluses of the growers and linking up production with procurement with special reference to (a) the application of Foodgrains Control Order to, and requisitioning from growers; (b) the supply

of consumer goods to cultivators; (c) the provision to cultivators of such inducement as irrigation concessions, supply of cheap seed and manure and agricultural implements in return for their grain; (d) the methods in which landlords can help in procurement and production of more foodgrains (e) such short-term measures of rent, revenue and land reform as will encourage the landlords and cultivators to increase their production.

Gur Manufacture

(4) This Committee views with concern that in *gur* producing areas good and valuable food is destroyed by rains and a large area of cane crop is left unharvested and insanitary conditions are produced by the wrong policy adopted by the Government of India.

In the opinion of the Committee *gur* is a valuable and necessary food, and cane grown per acre gives the largest food value but being perishable, *gur* should be allowed to be transported to other areas before the monsoon. In future no restrictions against its transport by bullock carts, lorries etc., should be placed and the movement of *gur* should be freely allowed. The present glut should be removed as soon as possible to avoid epidemic and further loss to this valuable and useful food.

(5) In the opinion of this Committee more food for consumption is likely to be available only when the following steps are taken:

(a) The price of foodgrains should be fixed at least 3 months before sowing time at a rate which gives a reasonable profit over and above the cost of production to the cultivator.

(b) By stopping black markets in food crops altogether.

(c) By regulating the markets and keeping weights and measures uniform in the country.

(d) By giving a reasonable margin of higher price for pure and unadulterated grain.

(e) By creating confidence among the cultivators that they will be protected after the war against dumping from other countries.

(f) By arranging as far as possible to purchase in the local markets.

(g) By improving the machinery of purchasing agents and officers working in that field and keeping them above temptation.

Dr. MOHAMED WALI-ULLAH

H. M. the King has been graciously pleased to appoint Dr. Mohamed Wali-Ullah to be a Judge of the High Court in Allahabad in the room of the Hon. Mr. Justice Muhammad Ismail.

DIFFICULTIES OF SUGAR RATIONING

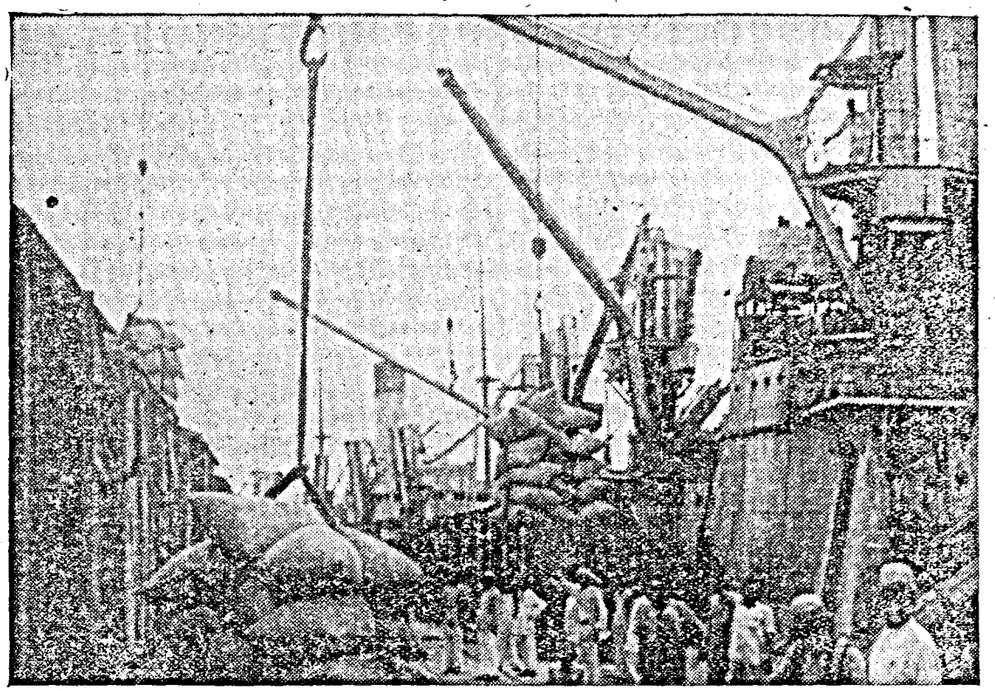
Along with food rationing certain areas have also introduced sugar rationing. This, however, presents a more difficult problem than the rationing of foodgrains. Even taking sugar and *gur* together, the rate of consumption varies widely from one part of the country to another. Generally speaking wheat-eating areas consume more sweetening material than those in which the staple diet is rice or some millet.

There are also variations due to differences in the economic prosperity of the people. Apart from this, sugar is mainly consumed in urban areas, while the rural population mostly uses *gur*.

Sugar quotas have been allotted to various provinces and states roughly on the basis of their average consumption during the five years immediately preceding the war. It is estimated that the normal annual per capita consumption of sugar in India as a whole is about 7 lbs. But as the total amount of sugar produced in the country is less than the quantity required on the basis of this average, it is not possible to allow sugar to all consumers in any state or province at a uniform rate. Sugar ration for individuals would in that case work out to ridiculously small amounts. Since the entire population in any area does not consume sugar, quotas allotted to various areas do not permit distribution to the entire population at a uniform rate. It is left to the Provincial and State Governments to allocate sugar between rural and urban areas in the manner that they consider best. That explains the differences in the size of sugar ration in different parts of the country which varies from 12 oz. per head per week in Bombay to 3 oz. per head to villagers in the Baroda State. In some areas, children are allowed only half the ration for adults but the Central Food Department is reported to favour a full sugar ration for children as well, which is in keeping with the policy followed in the United Kingdom.

CONVICTIONS FOR FOOD OFFENCES

Reports received by the Central Food Department from provincial and states governments indicate that May has been one of the worst months for the offender against food laws. A steady increase is noticeable in the number of prosecutions, convictions and in the severity of sentences imposed. Bengal tops the list with 929 convictions while Hyderabad State comes next with 640. The maximum sentence inflicted was in Hyderabad (Deccan) when an offender was sentenced to one year's rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 2,000.



Imported wheat being unloaded at an Indian port.

WE MUST HAVE WHAT IS NECESSARY TO FEED INDIA

—Sir J. P. Srivastava

THE HON'BLE SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA, Food Member, has issued the following statement:

I welcome the publicity given to the import question in the Press. There is no difference between the Government of India and any section of Indian opinion on this question. The case, which we have consistently pressed on His Majesty's Government, has also been well stated by Sir Purshotamdas and others in their recent manifesto. After reading the Press comments made, however, I feel, I must clarify one or two points.

Firstly, there is nothing in these statements, which I issued, to indicate that the present consignment of 400,000 tons is final, still less that I should be satisfied with it, if it were. The announcement clearly referred to the shipping programme agreed upon for the second quarter of the wheat crop year. It should be clear also that consultations will continue with His Majesty's Government for shipping allotments for the third and the last quarters of the wheat crop year, that is to say the last quarter of the calender year 1944 and the first quarter of the calender year 1945.

Secondly, it will, I think, be appreciated that in commenting on the official consignment I desired to give a word of encouragement to those who were genuinely anxious about the stock position, as well as a word of advice to those who were counting on a supposed absence of imports to make procurement difficult and to raise prices.

There is, and will be, no complacency on this matter on the part of the Government of India. We shall continue to press with the utmost vigour for what we require. The arrangements which His Majesty's Government have made for shipping up to September, in deference to our representations, have been made in the face of great difficulties of their own. We should acknowledge the fact.

I repeat, there is no intention on our part to stop at that. We shall not relax our efforts, and I am determined that we must have what is necessary to feed India.

SCHEMES TO GROW MORE FOOD IN 1944-45

AN additional yield of 714, 214 tons of foodgrains is expected from the Grow More Food schemes for which financial assistance has been given to Provinces and States by the Government of India in the first three months of the current year. The schemes cover distribution at concession rates of improved seed and manure, carrying out of minor irrigation schemes and emergency irrigation projects, construction of embankments and reclamation of land. Grants amounting to Rs. 106 lakhs and loans to Rs. 116 lakhs have already been sanctioned.

An increase of 10 million acres of area under rice and millets and 3.5 million acres under wheat and gram over the acreage of the three pre-war years 1936-39 is aimed at in British India during 1944-45.

Production of foodgrains from reclaimed areas as a result of schemes sanctioned in the first quarter of 1944-45 will total 60,369 tons. The largest yield is expected from the distribution of improved seed which comes to 351,308 tons. Seed multiplication schemes will yield an additional amount of 25,056 tons, distribution of manure at concession rates 84,378 tons and minor irrigation schemes and emergency projects nearly two lakh tons.

Provincial Schemes

In Bengal, Rs. 8½ lakhs have been sanctioned for distribution of improved types of seeds and manure. Two thousand tons of oil cakes will be distributed for manuring potatoes and 100 tons of bonemeal for manuring rice. A loan of Rs. 23 lakhs has also been sanctioned for the purchase and distribution of seeds and manure. As a result of these schemes an additional production of 105,415 tons of foodgrains is expected during 1944-45.

In Madras, Rs. 11 lakhs have been sanctioned for distribution of seeds and manure, reclamation of 40,000 acres of dry land, construction of 627 wells, and for a scheme of seed multiplication. Further, a loan of Rs. 15 lakhs for reclamation of dry land and a loan of Rs. 45 lakhs for purchase and distribution of manures and improved seed have also been sanctioned. An additional yield of 137,137 tons is expected.

Grants amounting to Rs. 23 lakhs (Rs. 10 lakhs from Central Revenues and Rs. 13 lakhs from the Cotton Fund) have been sanctioned for Bombay to finance schemes of distribution of improved seeds and manure, including 500 tons of bonemeal and 50,000 tons of groundnut cake, and construction of new tanks and wells. A loan of Rs. 8 lakhs has been given for construction of wells and repairs to tanks. The additional yield expected is 70,524 tons.

Similar grants and loans for distribution of improved seeds and manure have been sanctioned for other provinces. Other special grants are Rs. 179,000 for special minor irrigation works in Bihar, Rs. 6-1|2 lakhs for emergency irrigation projects in N.-W.F.P. and Rs. 17 lakhs in the Punjab for sinking of 5,000 surface percolation wells, manufacture of compost from waste vegetable material, extension of crop for green manuring, use of oil cake as manure and extension of cultivation by clearing riverain areas.

In Baroda

In Baroda, grants amounting to Rs. 7 lakhs have been sanctioned from the Cotton Fund for various schemes relating to the diversion of area from cotton crop to food crops.

The Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has sanctioned Rs. 2,72,000 for schemes relating to the composting of town refuse into manure and multiplication of disease-free seed potato and an enquiry for the improvement of yield statistics of agricultural crops and crop-cutting experiments in the U.P. and the Punjab.

RATIONING AND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES

That co-operative societies can play an important part in food administration is borne out by an interesting experiment reported from Hyderabad (Sind) which is now a rationed town.

A co-operative society of growers, traders and consumers in the district has been formed with a share capital of rupees five lakhs. To this society is entrusted the work of procurement and distribution of foodgrains in the rationed area.

The issue of cards, permits, etc., to consumers is done by the Collector, but the procurement of grains, storage and its distribution to various retailers is done entirely by the co-operative society. No Government finance is directly involved, and Hyderabad's example may well be emulated by other rationed areas.

WHEAT PRICES IN BENGAL: INQUIRY COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS

A Committee of Inquiry consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice H. B. L. Braund, Regional Food Commissioner, Eastern Region and Mr. A. L. Cooke, Chief Cost Accounts Officer to the Government of India, was appointed last November to go into the question of the milling differential allowed to the flour mills in Bengal, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on July 29.

It added: The terms of reference of the inquiry were: To inquire (a) Whether the profit accruing to the flour mills from the production and sale at the *ex*-mill statutory prices of wheat products made from wheat purchased from the Government of Bengal is reasonable, having regard to such variations in output and other conditions as may from time to time arise and, if not, what adjustment ought to be made so as to secure a reasonable rate of profit in the interest of the public and all parties concerned and (b) Whether the profit accruing to retailers in the sale at the statutory retail prices of wheat products purchased from the mills is reasonable.

Committee's Recommendations

The Committee's recommendations are:

(1) For a period of one year from January 1, 1944, the Bengal Government should sell wheat to its millers at Rs. 10-7 a maund;

(2) This price should be reviewed again at the end of three or six months from January 1944 in order that any adjustments necessary may be made having regard both to the experience of the intervening period and to any further profits or losses on the part of the Bengal Government prior to January 1, 1944, which might then be assessable;

(3) A grinding charge of annas eight per maund should be allowed which will yield a profit to the mills of annas two per maund. In addition, the millers should be allowed an additional Rs. 7-4 per 100 maunds for contingencies;

(4) The profits previously allowed to retailers of Rs. 2 a maund were excessive. A uniform allowance for both flour and atta to retailers of Re. 1 a maund to cover provisions of bags and all other incidental expenses is sufficient.

Selling Price of Wheat

The selling price of wheat of Rs. 10-7 a maund recommended by the Committee includes a sum of Rs. 109 lakhs which the Committee, on the material before it, considered to be the minimum net surplus in the hands of the Bengal Government, as a result of its past transactions in wheat. This estimated net surplus arose mainly owing to the multiplicity of the sources from which imports of wheat were received and the circumstance that the prices of the various imports made from the different sources often remained undetermined until long after the dates of the imports. It was, therefore, difficult for the Bengal Government to arrive at a true average selling price for its aggregate imports of wheat.

The Government of Bengal, although it has not accepted in entirety the data on which the Committee's recommendations are based, is in general agreement with its recommendations and has implemented all of them.

As regards the profit made by the mills in 1943, the Government of Bengal has informed the Central Government that three large groups of mills have agreed to refund annas four per maund on the total quantity of wheat milled between July 1 and December 31, 1943.

The smaller mills are also being approached and the Bengal Government intends to hold the amount recovered in deposit, and to make adjustments in future prices.

The Government of India have examined the report and accepted its recommendations which have already been put into effect by the Government of Bengal.

WHEAT IMPORTS

Two ships carrying about 16,000 tons of wheat from overseas arrived in India during the last week of July.

THE FAMINE INQUIRY COMMISSION

A Press Communique issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on July 21 stated:

The following have been appointed by the Government of India to be Chairman and Members, respectively, of the Commission constituted by Ordinance No. XXVIII of 1944 to inquire into the causes of food shortage and epidemics in India in 1943:

Chairman: Sir John Woodhead, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.

Members: Sir Manilal B. Nanavati.

Mr. Sonti Venkata Ramamurty, C.I.E., I.C.S.

Khan Bahabur Mian Afzal Husain.

Dr. W. R. Aykroyd, M.D., Sc.D. (Dublin), C.B.E.

Terms of Reference

A Press Note issued by the Famine Inquiry Commission on July 31 stated:

The Famine Inquiry Commission constituted under Ordinance No. XXVIII of 1944 has entered on its duties. It is at present engaged on inquiries at New Delhi and intends shortly to visit Bengal and subsequently other Provinces. The tour programme of the Commission will be published from time to time.

The terms of reference to the Commission require it to report to the Central Government on—(i) the causes of the food shortage in India, and in particular in Bengal, in the year 1943; and (ii) the causes of the epidemics subsequent to that food shortage and to make recommendations on—(iii) the possibility of improving the system of administration in respect of the supply and distribution of food; (iv) the possibility of improving the provision of emergent medical relief and the emergent arrangements for the control of epidemics in famine conditions; (v) the possibility of improving the quality and yield of food crops; (vi) the possibility of improving the diet of the people; and (vii) any other matters relating to the prevention of the recurrence of a food shortage.

The Commission invites memoranda from individuals and public bodies interested in any of the subjects mentioned above and desirous of assisting the Commission in its investigation. The memoranda should be addressed to the Secretary, Famine Inquiry Commission, Camp India, and should be accompanied by an intimation whether it is desired to supplement the written memoranda by oral evidence. The evidence of witnesses will be taken in camera.

It is requested that the memoranda should not be published without prior consultation with the Commission.

WHO'S WHO IN THE COMMISSION

The Chairman, Sir John Woodhead, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., has acted as Governor of Bengal in 1934 and 1939. He was also Chairman of the Palestine Commission of 1938 and has been an Adviser to the Secretary of State for India since 1939.

Sir Manilal B. Nanavati is President of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics, and was Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India from 1936 to 1941; he is an authority on sociological and agricultural problems.

Mr. S. V. Ramamurty, C.I.E., I.C.S., is at present Adviser to H.E. the Governor of Madras.

Khan Bahadur Mian Afzal Husain was Vice-Chancellor of the Punjab University, and also for a number of years Principal of the Lyallpur Agricultural College.

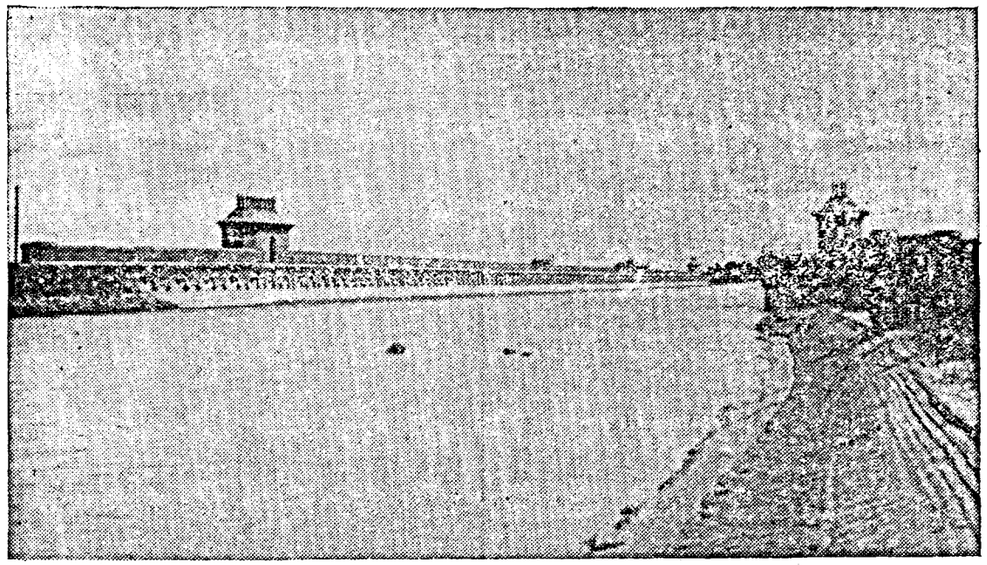
Dr. W. R. Aykroyd, M.D., Sc.D. (Dublin), C.B.E., Director of the Nutrition Research Laboratories of the Indian Research Fund Association, Coonoor, is an authority on nutrition.

ADVANCED TRAINING IN ANIMAL HUSBANDRY

An advanced course of training for officers in the Veterinary and Agricultural Departments of Provincial and State Governments and holders of Agricultural, Veterinary and Dairy Diplomas has been arranged at the Imperial Veterinary Research Institute, Izatnagar, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on July 18.

It added: The subjects included are mixed farming, fodder crop management, advanced cattle breeding, management of a pedigree herd, animal nutrition, animal breeding, livestock and poultry farm management and production of wool, skins and hides.

The course will cover a period of approximately eight months, commencing about the middle of August each year. The first five months will be spent at the Institute and the remaining period at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, its Sub-Station at Karnal, Government Cattle Farm, Hissar, military farms and two animal breeding centres. The course will conclude with training in the production of wool and its marketing.



Nadrai aqueduct from the lower Ganges canal bank.

PROTECTION OF BRIDGE PIERS AGAINST SCOURS

TWENTY-SEVEN investigations, of which 15 were specific in character and 12 were basic experiments in connection with research into specific problems, were in progress at the Central Irrigation and Hydro-dynamic Research Station, Poona, now re-named as Indian Waterways Experiment Station, according to the Station's Annual Report (Technical) for the year 1941-42.

The report contains important conclusions and notes on river and canal problems like protection of bridge piers against scour, control of sand entering the Right Bank Canals at Sukkur, high efficiency siphon spillway to control water levels in reservoirs and divergence from regime in stable channels in alluvium. As a result of experiments carried out at the Station, an approach channel was constructed upstream of the Barrage at Sukkur to control sand entering the Right Bank canals. This came into full operation in the 1941 flood season and has resulted in a considerable reduction of the deposit of sand in the North Western Canal and the Rice Canal.

Experiments carried out at the Station for the protection of bridge piers clearly showed that the level at which the stone pitching is laid round bridge piers has a great influence on the scour of the river bed downstream of the piers. If the pitching is laid too high the depth of the scour may be so great as to cause large slips of stones from the downstream ends of piers. The conclusion arrived at was that if pitching is laid at a lower level the depth of the scour is considerably reduced.

During the year under review the Director of the Station went on deputation to Nepal and Bihar to report on "factors affecting the westerly movement of the Kosi River". The river has moved transversely westward at an average rate of more than a mile a year for 50 years. The Director recommended the building of an embankment at a later date along the ridge line.

Problems referred to the Station with regard to river training included the question of erosion which has been occurring at several points along the foreshore of the Hoogly (Calcutta). The erosion takes place in every case towards the lower end of a sharp bend and it is associated with what is called a 'knuckle'—an interesting feature which was reproduced at the Station in one of the models. Experiments showed that conditions would be improved if the 'scour-hole' were filled or the 'kunckle' cut away; but both these alternatives would present great practical difficulties and would be costly. Further alternatives were being tested during the year.

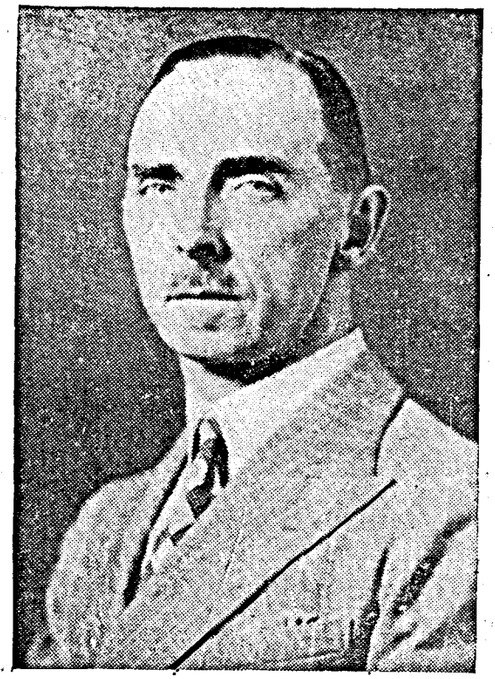
POST-WAR CIVIL AVIATION IN INDIA

Network of Trunk Air Services

THE inevitable quickening of the industrial and commercial pulse of India is expected to produce a volume of traffic which, within a measurable term of years, will put the air services planned on a paying basis. The adoption of any such programme of industrial expansion as outlined in the Bombay Plan will not only realise the traffic estimates, but necessitate the rapid multiplication of services, which incidentally will result in lowering the cost of operation," said Sir Frederick Tymms, Director of Civil Aviation in India, in a lecture recently delivered in New Delhi to the Institution of Engineers (India). Sir Frederick emphasised that the views expressed by him were his own personal views and did not commit the Government of India.

Sir Frederick believed that there was every prospect of world agreement which would secure a sufficient measure of "freedom of the air" for regular international air services. In any such agreement India would stand as an equal partner and would have full reciprocal rights.

The first task in India, according to Sir Frederick, is the establishment of a network of trunk air services connecting the air ports of entry and exit and the principal commercial and administrative centres. The plan which has been presented to Government is not the end but the essential beginning from which Indian air services will extend overseas, and on the framework of which local air services will grow. Until the national plan has been achieved, local air services must be a matter for local initiative.



Sir Frederick Tymms

Post-War Services

Before the war, the speaker said, financial conditions did not permit of Government assistance for the development of air transport except indirectly. Broadly speaking the cost fell on the users of air mail and not on the taxpayer. As a result there was little development of modern passenger and freight services. Nevertheless, the standard of regularity and safety achieved by the Indian air services bears comparison with most and was highly creditable to the operators.

The post-war plans, Sir Frederick explained, aim at a high standard of combined passenger, freight and mail services assisted as necessary to create conditions in which air traffic will grow to the commercial paying level. To begin with, services of not less than daily frequency will be operated on every route with aircraft of 12 to 20 passenger capacity and a cruising speed of 150 miles an hour or better. The services will be planned to give through service within the day between all principal cities, to serve all major cities on the routes, but not every minor city. With the later introduction of night flying and increase of frequency of service, every place on the air routes in India and neighbouring countries will be within 12 hours of any other. The capacity of the operations initially scheduled is equal to 12,500,000 ton-miles of transport a year, for which no more than about 35 aircraft are necessary.

In the opinion of the speaker, air transport immediately after the war must perforce be operated with types of aircraft now available. Three or four years after the war, Sir Frederick expected aicraft adopted for the Indian air services to cruise at about 200 miles an hour, and to achieve a 50 per cent economy of fuel per ton-mile. In a country like India where fuel costs are four times as high as in the United States, this is an important factor.

In spite of the fact that large aircraft are inherently cheaper to operate than small, the lecturer thought that there was no place in the domestic air services of India of the near future for the ultra large aircraft nor for ultra high speeds. These are for the world air services and the regions of high traffic intensity. The business of an air service is to serve the people, not to fly over their heads. Ten years after the war there may be room for jet-propelled aircraft with very much higher speeds, and there should be short range helicopter services for the inaccessible hill stations and similar localities with good traffic potential.

Three Annas per Passenger per Mile

Passengers, in the opinion of the speaker, will be the most important source of revenue. Internal air mails must remain on a surcharge basis and therefore would be of small volume; because the poor man of India cannot be made to pay for the speed he does not want. Air freight would be important in time, but it would take longer to build up than passenger traffic. The cost of operation is expected to justify passenger fares of three annas per passenger per mile, which is about 50 per cent above the cost of air-conditioned rail travel. The lecturer foresaw the possibility of this being reduced to 2½ annas or even 2 annas as a result of future technical progress.

"But there is no prospect of air travel for the masses," said Sir Frederick, "and no prospect of permanent success for air services based on fares and rates below the achievable cost of operation. The inevitable quickening of the industrial and commercial pulse of India is expected to produce a volume of traffic which, within a measurable term of years, will put the air services planned on a paying basis. The adoption of any such programme of industrial expansion as outlined in the Bombay Plan will not only realise the traffic estimates, but necessitate the rapid multiplication of services, which incidentally will result in lowering the cost of operation."

Continuing, the lecturer said: If the operation of air transport is entrusted to private enterprise with assistance from the State, it will be subject to a system of State control designed to attain commercial self-sufficiency at the earliest possible date. The operation of air transport will in any case be subject to licence by the State. Subsidy, if given, will be related to a descending scale of operating cost and an ascending scale of target revenue.

Between Rs. 2 crores and Rs. 3 crores have been spent on the construction of aerodromes and organisation of the civil air routes. The Air Force war time construction programme has advanced the organisation far beyond this, particularly in the matter of runways; but the general belief that the air routes are ready-made for civil aviation after the war is fallacious. Much of the wartime organisation is in localities which will not serve the purpose of air transport, and civil aerodrome buildings have to be designed and laid out on an entirely different plan from the dispersed plan imposed by military operations. A programme of construction amounting to Rs. 15½ crores has been prepared to bring the air routes of India to the standard required in the initial post-war period.

Included in the programme are about 110 aerodromes. There are four cities in India which should be equipped with international aerodromes of a standard suitable for the world air services of the future—Karachi, Delhi, Calcutta and Bombay. The lecturer deprecated the tendency to demand almost unlimited extension of aerodrome dimensions. He believed that considerations of safety and conveniences would dictate the adjustment of operating conditions to moderate-sized aerodromes.

Planned Air Ports

Sir Frederick stressed the importance of the special work awaiting architects and engineers in this programme. The construction of runways, large-span hangars, aerodrome and air route lighting all provide scope for original work as well as employment for a large body of engineers and architects. Air ports and aerodromes are destined to be among the most important features of the life of cities of the future. They must be planned with all possible prescience of future developments affecting safety, and the comfort, convenience and speed demanded by a high class of traffic. Air ports must be architecturally planned to be worthy of the city and the purpose they serve.

Plans have been prepared for the re-organisation of the aeronautical radio service, to adopt the revolutionary developments which the war has brought about in this field, and to expand it to equip the expanded air routes. In this and in the expanded aerodrome and meteorological services there will be scope for the employment of pilots and other technicians from the Indian Air Force.

The lecturer hoped for an expansion of the flying club movement and development of gliding. He also expected progress in the development of both popular education in aviation and university education in aeronautics. Sir Frederick stressed, however, that the most important problem after the war would be trade and professional training for the staff of the air lines and

the technical services of the Government. This, in his opinion, required a highly developed and well equipped school, such as was available only in a few Western countries before the war. In his view there was need for a Civil Air Service Training School with four departments, namely, (1) flying school for pilots and navigators; (2) engineering school for aircraft engineers and mechanics; (3) radio school for radio operators, mechanics and engineers; and (4) aerodrome school for aerodrome control officers and other technical staff.

Aircraft Manufacture

Referring to aircraft manufacture in India the speaker thought that the demands for civil aircraft would not provide a basis for aircraft manufacturing industry in India for some long time. Nevertheless, there was scope for the building-up of such an industry through special repairs and servicing in the initial stages. Military considerations, however, may change the picture.

INDO-U. S. DISCUSSIONS

Government of India's Representatives

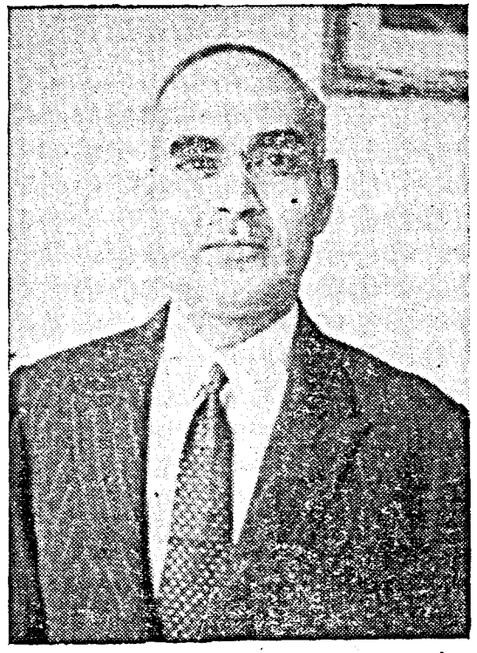
In October, 1943, a meeting of representatives of the countries of the British Commonwealth and India was held in London in order to discuss informally the question of post-war civil aviation development, said a Press Communique issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India on July 27.

It added: These discussions were of an exploratory nature and were followed, in London in April this year, by an informal exchange of views between the representatives of the United States of America and those of His Majesty's Government. The United States Government have now undertaken bilateral discussions of an informal and exploratory character with various Governments, including the countries of the British Commonwealth and they have extended an invitation to the Government of India for such a discussion. The Government of India have accepted the invitation and have deputed the following representatives to undertake these discussions:

(1) Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Agent-General for India in U.S.A., who will lead the delegation;

(2) Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Secretary, Posts and Air Department;

(3) Sir Frederick Tymms, Director of Civil Aviation in India, who will also be expert adviser to the delegation.



Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai

The discussions are expected to commence about the middle of August.

As already stated, the talks are intended to be of an informal and exploratory character. It is hoped that, as a result of the various discussions undertaken, it will be possible to hold an International Conference with a view to arriving at an international agreement on the subject of post-war civil air navigation and transport.

India was a signatory to the International Convention for the Regulation of Air Navigation signed in Paris in 1919, which secured freedom of international navigation for civil aircraft (excluding air transport services) between the contracting States and established a large measure of control and unification of technical rules and systems. Since then the Convention has been modified from time to time to suit changed circumstances, but no large measure of progress in the matter of the grant of freedom for transport services has been achieved. The war period has seen a large development in transport aircraft and in air navigation, and it is clear that the end of the war will be followed by a great expansion of commercial air transport. It is also clear that the countries of the world should



Sir Gurunath Bewoor

be prepared to meet the changed circumstances and to achieve an agreement which will facilitate the development of civil air transport on economic and rational lines. The broad aims which the Government of India wish to see achieved are as follows:

(1) They seek a worldwide international agreement on a fully reciprocal basis which will assure the freest possible development of international air navigation and air transport for the benefit of the peoples of the world as a whole, and with due regard to the rights and interests of all.

(2) They endorse the principle, already accepted by the British and American Governments, of freedom of flight and freedom to land for refuelling and other non-traffic purposes for all civil aircraft, including regular air transport services, on a non-discriminatory basis.

(3) They consider that the grant of commercial rights, *i.e.*, the right to carry traffic to and from another country is better negotiated and agreed to on a universal reciprocal basis rather than by bilateral agreements.

(4) They endorse the principle, generally accepted, of the right of each country to reserve internal air services and to determine the agency for the operation of its own internal and external air services.

Reservation of "Cabotage" Traffic

(5) They also endorse the principle, which is again generally accepted, of the reservation of "cabotage" traffic, *i.e.*, traffic originating in and terminating in the territory of one country, including its colonies and dependencies. For this purpose, it is accepted that India, in common with the Dominions of the British Commonwealth, is a separate country.

(6) The sovereignty of every country over the air above its territory and over the aerodromes in its territory must be fully recognised.

(7) The establishment of an international body whose function would be to implement the provisions of the international agreement, and, in particular—

(a) to promote the development of air transport in the interests of the world as a whole, and to ensure that the interests of the people both of the most powerful and of the smallest countries are secured;

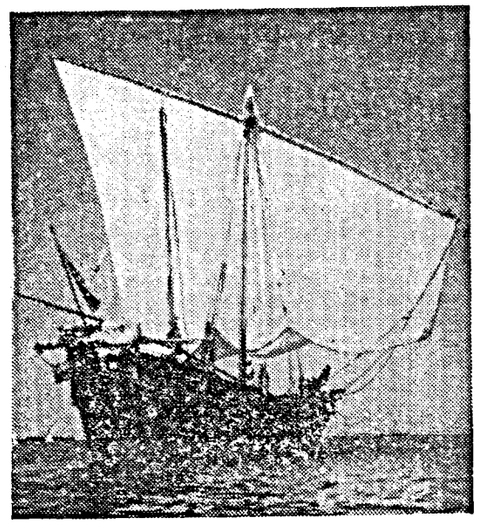
(b) to ensure the safe and orderly development of air navigation by the co-ordination of technical systems and rules.

RESTRICTION ON POSTAL PARCELS

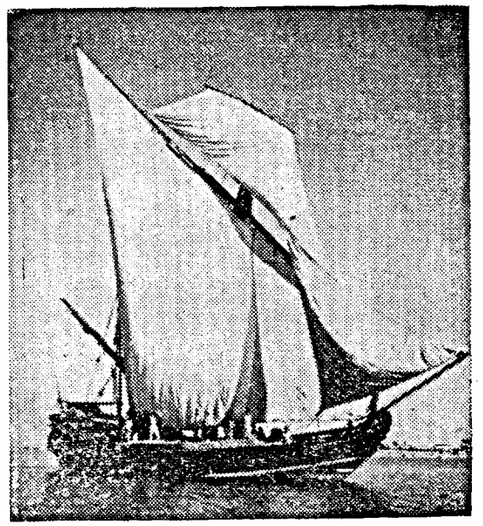
A Press Note issued by the D.G., P. and T. on July 25 stated:

With effect from July 3, 1944, the maximum limit of weight for inland parcels posted in all post offices in the Bombay Circle has been fixed at 160 tolas as a temporary measure and until further notice, subject to the following exceptions, namely, (a) official parcels, (b) parcels addressed to members of His Majesty's Forces or the Allied Forces in India, and (c) parcels not exceeding 320 tolas in weight and containing medicines or medical supplies only.

The contents of parcels containing medical stores and supplies must be certified on the label by the sender, and such certificate will be accepted, unless there are very strong grounds for doubt, in which case the sender will be required to show the contents to the postmaster of the office of posting.



The Bagla.



The Kotia.

COUNTRY CRAFT TRAFFIC ON THE WEST COAST

TRANSPORT is of crucial importance to the war effort. Since the outbreak of war, railways and steamer companies have made sacrifices of men for the Army, of workshop capacity for munitions, of steamers and flats, locomotives and rolling stock for other fronts, while motor vehicles have been taken off the roads for urgent war work such as the construction of airfields. With this diminution in capacity have gone hand in hand increasing demands for the carriage of essential traffic. The demands upon transport resources are so heavy that it is necessary to utilise all forms of transport to the fullest extent. Competition in the old sense is a thing of the past: co-ordination and co-operation have rightly taken its place and the important thing to-day is not to move goods by the cheapest route but by the route that is most economical in transport. The country boat is making a notable contribution in the solution of the transport problem and can do more.

Country craft carry cargo up and down the coast of India, to a considerable extent on the West Coast and to a much lesser degree on the East Coast; there is, however, rarely any country craft traffic from East Coast to West, or vice versa, round Cape Comorin. The seasons for country craft on the two Coasts cover differing periods, that on the West Coast being from the middle of September to the middle of May, though in the Gulf of Cutch many craft sail for 10 to 11 months in the year, and that on the East Coast being roughly from January to September.

Various Types of Craft

Various types of craft are used on the West Coast, the majority of which are lateen-rigged, the larger with two masts and the smaller with one mast. The principal types are *Bagla, Batela, Kotia, Fatemari, Padav,* which is ordinarily used as a lighter for carrying passengers and cargo between ship and shore, *Mahagiri, Machhwa* which, as its name implies, is a fishing vessel, *Manjis* and *Hodi.*

(a) The *Bagla* is an Arab vessel about 50 feet long and 20 feet wide. It has a deck and, ordinarily, two masts and three sails.

(b) The *Kotia* is 30 to 40 feet long and 10 to 15 feet wide.
The first two types of craft are employed also for overseas trade.

(c) The *Batela* is about 40 feet long and 15 feet wide.

(d) The *Fatemari* is a deep narrow vessel of great speed which plies between Bombay and Malabar. The *Mahagiri* is similar but smaller.

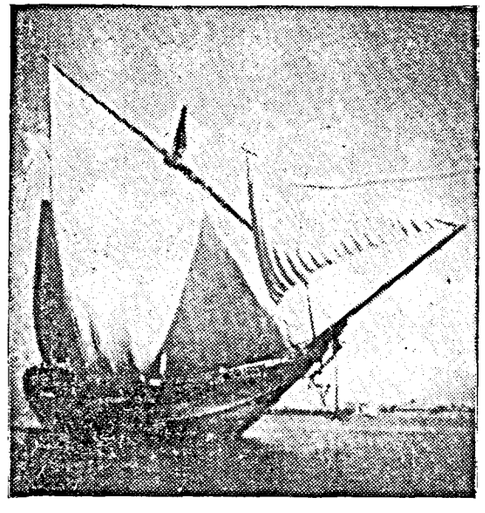
(e) The *Manjis* which are used on the Malabar Coast are small craft of the *Kotia* type but have no deck. *Hodis* which are used in the Konkan are similar in type but smaller in size.

Details Regarding Crews

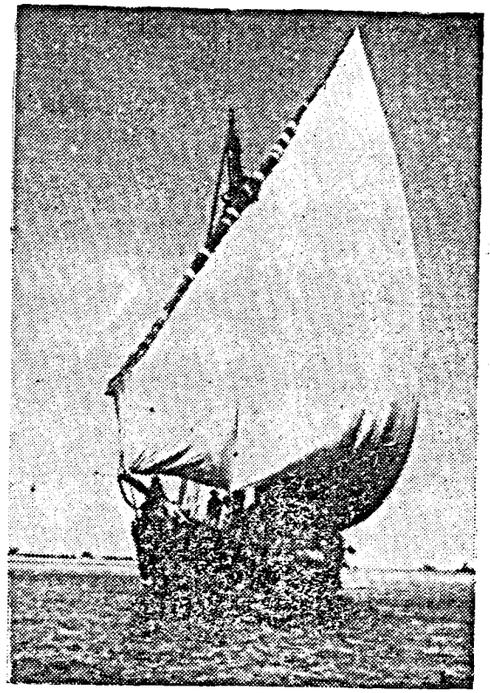
The number of crew depends upon whether the sails are hoisted by means of yards or rolled. The headman is called *Tindal* or *Nakhwa* or *Nakhoda.* The lascars are generally Moplahs of Malabar, Muslims of the Konkan, Cutch and Kathiawar or Kharwas of Gujerat. These men are hardy and efficient sailors and the Cutch and Kathiawar crews even sail to Africa.

In the case of craft belonging to traders, the crew get fixed pay for the season *plus* food, and a bonus for the safe landing of goods. They are also paid all incidental charges incurred by the crew on the voyage. In the case of craft belonging to *tindals* the freight is divided between the *tindal* and the crew, the *tindal* getting three times the share of the crew.

There were about 5,000 craft on the West Coast in 1942 of which approximately 100 craft



The Fatemari



The Cutch Kotia

were lost during the storm of May, 1943, but this loss has been more than made good by new construction. During the season 1942-43, over 200 new craft were built on the West Coast and the Supply Department took over 5 dhows and 3 brigs, with a capacity of 2,000 tons, to carry their timber from Cochin and Calicut to Bombay.

Transport Procedure

Traders residing and trading on the West Coast are familiar with the procedure to be followed for transporting goods by country craft. If they have not got their own craft they get in touch with shipping agents or brokers (*dalals*) to secure craft or space in one of the boats going to the required destination. Shipping agents settle the freight, usually at the prevailing market rate, arrange to load the craft, obtain Customs documents and get rations for the crew. Half the freight is paid to the crew before departure and the other half on delivery of goods at destination. The shipping agents or brokers charge commission at rates prevailing at each port. They also get the cargo insured, if so desired by the consignor or consignee.

In August, 1942, the Sorley Committee was appointed to report on the possibility of organising country craft transport on the West Coast in order to give relief to railways. The Committee estimated that there were some thousands of country craft of more than 10 tons which were transporting a large volume of goods between Karachi and Cochin each year and that, owing to lack of balance in the traffic in certain areas and lack of facilities in certain ports, there was spare unused capacity of 400,000 tons in the season. For the organisation and rationalisation of country craft traffic, an Intelligence Organisation was set up early in 1943 with headquarters at Bombay, the essential element in the organisation being a system of movements intelligence worked through special officers at ports. The organisation consists of:

(1) a Country Craft Organisation Officer, whose office is on the 2nd Floor of the United India Building, Sir Pherozshah Mehta Road, Bombay.

(2) three whole-time Assistant Country Craft Organisation Officers at Karachi, Bombay and Calicut, and

(3) Intelligence Officers at the various ports on the West Coast. Customs Officers at these ports attend to this work in addition to their own duties.

The sphere of the West Coast organisation has been extended to cover Tuticorin on the East Coast.

Duties of Intelligence Officers

The duties of Intelligence Officers are:

(a) to maintain a record of the date of arrival and departure of each craft,

(b) to take steps to avoid undue detention of craft at a port,

(c) to give information to other Intelligence Officers about craft lying idle,

(d) to communicate to brokers, agents and *tindals* information about craft lying idle at other ports,

(e) to collect information about cargo at the port and to obtain craft to carry it if the necessary craft are not available locally, and

(f) to maintain liaison with all authorities interested in the employment of country craft and to work in close co-operation with the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities.

To ensure the fullest co-ordination of steamer and country craft capacity and to enable the best possible use being made of them, the Country Craft Organisation has been attached to the Controller of Indian Shipping. The Country Craft Organisation Officer now works under his general supervision. To facilitate the transport of priority cargo by country craft an order has been issued under Rule 89 of the Defence of India Rules giving powers to the Controller of Indian Shipping to issue directions for the carriage of such goods at such time and by such routes as he may specify.

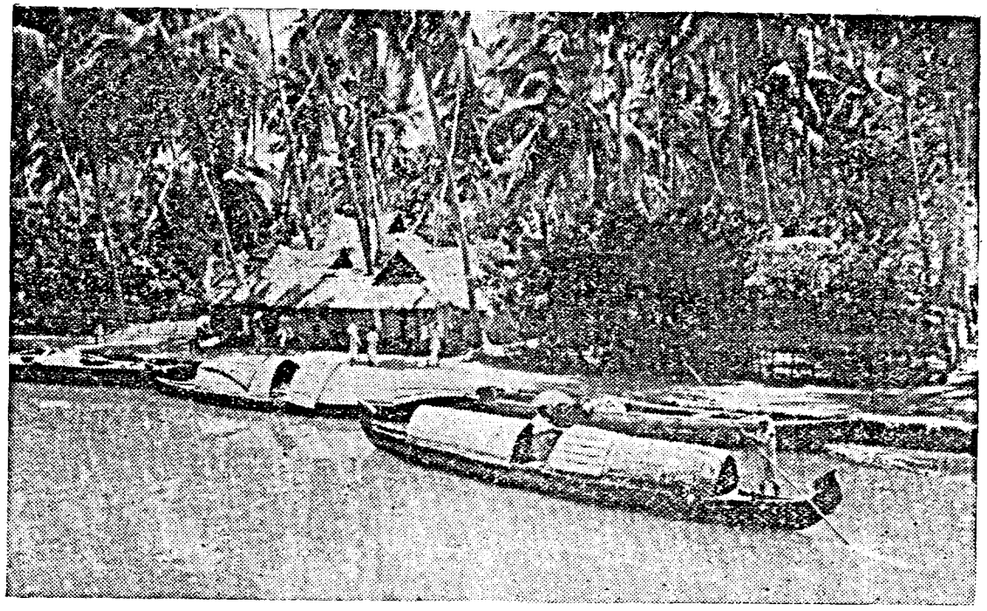
Work during the 1943 Season

The Country Craft Organisation worked satisfactorily during the 1943 season. It proved a valuable link between broker and *tindal;* delays were cut down to the minimum and turnround speeded up; customs procedure was modified where necessary to suit country craft requirements and port facilities were improved. In the result, considerable traffic was diverted to the sea, but it must be stated that denial of rail transport has been one of the main contributory factors. Among items of cargo imported by country craft into Sind, Bombay, the Konkan, and Malabar are cotton, foodgrains, salt, timber, cement and tiles.

Recognised Agents

The following agents on the West Coast have been recognised by the Government of India and the Provincial and State Governments concerned have been requested to make use of them as much as possible:

1. Mr. Ambalal Mulji, Katha Bazar, Masjid Bandar, Bombay.
2. Messrs. I. S. & C. Machado, Tuticorin.
3. Mr. Thakarlal Jagjivandas, Broach, District Broach.
4. Messrs. Dewkaran Moorji & Co., 317, Kharek Bazar, Mandvi, Bombay.
5. Messrs. Vasudeo Keshav & Co., Kharek Bazar, Bombay 3.
6. Mr. Nandlal Ranchhoddas, c|o Sarkarkun, Bombay Salt Department, Broach, District Broach.
7. Messrs. Dalsukhram Khushal & Co., 386, Katha Bazar, Masjid Bandar, Bombay.
8. Messrs. Madhavji Vishram & Co., 7-11, Gopal House, Vadgadi, Bombay No. 3.
9. Mr. Vishram Khimji, 99-103, Kazi Sayad Street, Bombay No. 3.



The Vallom (country craft) has from time immemorial conveyed passengers and merchandise over Travancore's waterways.

10. The Indian Shipping Industry, Great Social Building, Sir Pherozshah Mehta Road, Fort, Bombay.
11. The Kathiawar Shipbuilding and Trading Corporation, Imperial Bank Building, Bank Street, Bombay.
12. Mr. J. T. Kotak, Ramnavmi Building, Katha Bazar, Bombay No. 3.
13. Mr. Laxmidas Ramji, Nathani Building, Dabda Gali, Masjid Bandar, Bombay.
14. The Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd., Scindia House, Ballard Estate, Bombay.
15. Mr. Ratansi Lalji, c|o Haji Jetha Gokul, Khari Garden, Karachi.
16. Mr. Jethabhai Haribhai, Shippers and Brokers Chambers, Karachi.
17. Haji Jetha Gokul, Khari Garden, Karachi.
18. The Karachi Country Craft Shipping Agency.
19. The Western India Shipping and Controlling Co., Bombay.
20. The Veraval Country Craft Association, Veraval.

These agents will charge freight according to the prevailing market rate and will also, if so desired, arrange for loading and unloading and for insurance. Their names have been published in all important newspapers. For the carriage of foodgrains from Karachi to Bombay, Cochin and Alleppey tenders were called for, and the B.S.N. Co., whose tender was the lowest, have been entrusted with the work. It is expected that they will carry about 30,000 tons by country craft during the season at rates approved by the Government of India with the concurrence of the respective Provincial and State Governments. As regards other commodities, the possibility of setting up advisory committees at each port, which will determine agreed rates is being explored. In view of the high freight demanded for the transport of cotton the question of the formation of such committees at Broach and Surat has been taken up as a matter of urgency.

Through Booking by Railways

Traders living in the interior find it difficult to book goods by country craft and all consignors *cannot* be expected to have their own agents at ports. Through booking at various points on the coast has, therefore, been arranged with the railways shown below, who have appointed the agents mentioned.

(1) M. & S. M. Railway, The Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

2. Mysore State Railway, The Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

3. S. I. Railway, The Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

4. Gondal Railway, The Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

5. Porbandar Railway, The Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

6. Bhavnagar Railway, The Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

7. Junagadh Railway, The Bombay Steam Navigation Co., Ltd.

8. Morvi Railway, Mr. J. T. Kotak.

9. Jamnagar-Dwarka Railway, The Indian Shipping Industry (Messrs. Amratlal Ojah & Sons).

Under these arrangements goods can be booked through the authorised agent *from and to* any station on these Railways for transport to destination partly by rail and partly by country craft. The agent recovers railway and country craft freight, charges for loading and unloading of country craft, and issues a railway receipt and another receipt for other charges. On production of the railway receipt at the destination and payment of charges to be recovered, goods are delivered by the Station Master to the consignee. This is a great facility to traders as they have merely to book the goods as usual and send the railway receipt to destination. In respect of Punjab cotton, the B.S.N. Co., have made arrangements for the booking of cargo from Multan and Lyallpur to Karachi and tranship it into steamers or country craft at the latter place.

Traffic on the East Coast

On the East Coast there is much less country craft traffic, the total tonnage being only a tenth of that on the West Coast, and the stretch of coast along which country craft normally ply is much shorter. Country craft do not generally move north of Vizagapatam and seldom as far north as that port. The Madras Government set up in May, 1943, an Intelligence Organisation under the Presidency Port Officer with the object of giving the maximum possible relief to the railways by diverting traffic to country craft. Freight Advisory Committees composed of representatives of boat-owners and shippers have been organised at important ports for determining agreed country craft freight rates. Steps are being taken to ensure the maximum use of country craft on the East Coast for the movement of foodgrains, and the Boat-owners' Association, Masulipatam, has executed an agreement to transport monthly 4,000 tons of rice from Masulipatam to Madras, and to increase the quota to 7,500 tons as and when more boats become available.

UTILISATION OF MACHINE TOOLS

U. K. Mission in India

Sir William Stanier, F.R.S., and other members of the U.K. Advisory Mission of Machine Tool Utilisation experts arrived in New Delhi on July 26 to advise the Central Government on questions like the distribution and improved utilisation of machine tools.

The Mission will remain in Delhi for a short period and will then proceed to Calcutta for preliminary discussions with a Consultative Committee appointed by the Government of India.

A Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on July 15 stated:

"An Advisory Mission of Machine Tool Utilisation experts from the United Kingdom, headed by Sir William Stanier, F.R.S., a former Chief Mechanical Engineer of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company, and Scientific Adviser, British Ministry of Production, is shortly visiting India to advise the Central Government on the measures to be taken to ensure that the fullest use is made of the available engineering plant and machine tools in India.

Other members of the Mission are: Mr. A. N. Jervis, from British Railways Staff; Mr. W. H. G. Clifton, Production Engineer, Ministry of Aircraft Production; Mr. B. W. Palmer, Manager of Railway Department of Messrs. G. D. Peters, Mr. Slough; and Mr. L. V. Woolley, Machine Tool Control, British Ministry of Supply."

The Consultative Committee

The Consultative Committee consists of Major-General E. Wood, C.I.E., M.C., Director-General, Munitions Production; Major T. F. Borwick, C.I.E., D.S.O., I.O.S., Additional Director-General (Ordnance Factories); Mr. G. A. R. Trimming, Deputy Director-General (Tools); Engineer Captain R. G. Forsyth, O.B.E., R.N., representing the Director-General, Shipbuilding and Repairs; Wing Commander J. H. Knevitt, representing the Director-General, Aircraft; Mr. L. N. Flatt, C.I.E., Director, Mechanical Engineering, representing the Railway Board; a representative of the War Transport Department; Sir D. B. Cooper, Kt., Chairman of the Advisory Committee of Manufacturers of Engineering Stores; and Mr. H. W. T. Hain, C.B.E., or Dr. A. Jardine, representing the Indian Engineering Association.

RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK PROGRAMME FOR 1945-46 APPROVED

A Meeting of the Standing Finance Committee for Railways was held on July 19 under the chairmanship of Mr. Zahid Husain, C.I.E., Financial Commissioner of Railways.

The Committee approved the execution of certain works on railways and also discussed the question of opening grocery shops for railway employees and adjourned to meet on July 21.

Re-assembling on July 21, with Mr. Zahid Husain in the chair, the Committee approved the programme of requirements of rolling stock of railways for the year 1945-46 totalling about Rs. 60 crores and also the machinery programme for about Rs. 2 crores.

The Committee emphasised the desirability, in executing the programmes, of exploiting in the first instance the indigenous resources to the maximum capacity of the country, orders being placed thereafter in the United Kingdom in preference to any other country, the U.K. market being financially more favourable to India than that of other countries.

Purchase of B. N. Railway

The Committee were informed that the negotiations for the premature termination of the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company's contract had now reached a definite stage and the Home Board of the Company had agreed to the terms offered by the Government of India subject to the acceptance of the stock holders at a General Meeting which will be held shortly in the United Kingdom. The contract will terminate on September 30, 1944, and the Company will be paid, in addition to the value of their stock at par, a premium of £20 for every £100 of their share capital. The total amount payable to the Company will be Rs. 4,80,00,000. With the acquisition of the B.N. Railway, all the major railway systems in the country will have come under State management.

The Committee also approved the opening of grocery shops for railway employees.

The latest position of railway earnings and expenditure as explained to the Committee showed that the total approximate gross earnings of all budget lines for the last financial year ending March 31, 1944, amounted to Rs. 181.21 crores which is Rs. 24.75 crores more than the actuals for the previous year and Rs. 271 lakhs more than the revised budget estimates.

The total approximate ordinary working expenses for 1943-44 were Rs. 89.97 crores *i.e.* Rs. 20.99 crores more than for 1942-43, but Rs. 2 lakhs less than the revised estimate. On the basis of these figures the surplus for 1943-44 is now expected to be Rs. 49.68 crores against Rs. 36.04 crores originally budgeted and Rs. 43.77 crores revised and Rs. 45.07 crores actuals in 1942-43.

For the first 3 months of the current financial year ending June 30, 1944, the gross earnings were approximately Rs. 49.56 crores which is Rs. 4.52 crores more than the actuals for the corresponding period of the previous year and Rs. 6.02 crores more than the budget proportion. The total approximate ordinary working expenses for the two months—April and May—amounted to Rs. 14.50 crores which is Rs. 1.38 crores more than the actuals for the corresponding period of the previous year.

GROCERY SHOPS FOR RAILWAYMEN

To supply the lower-paid railwaymen of India with the necessaries of life, 600 grain shops have been opened.

To meet the different needs of the higher-paid employees, the Railway Department are now developing a scheme for the establishment of shops to handle groceries and other consumer goods.

The shops will be run on the basis of no profit or loss to Government, and it is hoped that when the scheme matures, railway employees, who are out of the reach of the comparatively few Railway Co-operative Stores already in existence, will be able to obtain supplies at reasonable prices from these shops.

This ambitious scheme covers provisions, medical products, toilet requisites, stationery, haberdashery, cleaning materials and sundries.

Procurement arrangements which are now in hand provide for the exploitation of indigenous manufacturing sources to the greatest possible extent, imports being restricted to those necessaries which are not manufactured in the country or of which sufficient supplies cannot be obtained.

SIR AKBAR HYDARI ON PAPER CONTROL

Bombay Conference Discussions

"I know that the Paper Control Order has hit you hard but I have tried to explain the reasons which compelled us to take this step and I repeat again that we are prepared, within the framework of the Order and without giving up the objective of an overall reduction in consumption to 30 per cent., to be as accommodating as we can. I hope therefore that you will, after reflection and discussion, co-operate with Government in making this Order successful; and I am sure that if you once reconcile yourselves to the fact that you must suffer in the public interest a diminution of your profits, and may be of your business, you will find that the Order can be worked and so tide over a very difficult time till increased supplies give you relief."

So stated Sir Akbar Hydari, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Secretary of the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, addressing a meeting of representatives of those who have been affected by the Paper Control Order, in Bombay on July 11. The meeting lasted two days and was attended by representatives of paper interests and of Government.

Here is the full text of Sir Akbar Hydari's speech.

I have come here in the hope that by meeting round this table we will be able to understand each other's difficulties better than it is possible to do by correspondence and by taking counsel together to find a solution for them. I have not been surprised at the volume of criticism which has been levelled at us nor indeed at the violence and heat of the remonstrances. This was to be expected.

70 Per Cent. Cut in Consumption

I propose that after the few explanatory remarks which I will make there should be a general discussion which I hope will be kept as short as possible. Thereafter I suggest that you should discuss matters among yourselves and that we should then meet late in the afternoon to-day or to-morrow morning to consider the concrete suggestions which you all or a small Committee appointed by yourselves could put forward on your behalf for our consideration.

I have with me here those of my officers who are directly concerned with the administration of the Order, including the Paper Controller, and if as I hope we can come to a working agreement within the framework of the Order the arrangements consequent thereon will be carried out without loss of time and with a minimum of correspondence. I must make it clear however, that our discussions must be based on the acceptance of the main feature of the Order which is that there must be a cut of 70 per cent. in consumption not necessarily of each individual but taking the consumers of paper as a whole.

There seems to be an impression among some of our critics that this Order was something which was hatched in the dark recesses of the Secretariat and produced without notice on an unsuspecting public. That is not the case. The public have known for many months past that Government intended to control the distribution and the use of paper. None of us in the Department has ever made any secret of it. Nor is it a fact that this Order is the creation of the bureaucratic brain acting unaided.

We have for the last three months or more been in active consultation with those who might be expected to know a great deal about the distribution and use of paper. We have also drawn largely on the experience of the United Kingdom in the framing of the Control Order. It has been widely criticised as unworkable. To quote Oliver Cromwell, "I beseech Ye in the bowels of Christ, think! perchance Ye may be mistaken"; that the cry that this is an unworkable Order has its basis not in the impracticability of its provisions but because the cut in consumption has shocked you; but Gentlemen, the position of the civil consumer of paper is at the present moment such that until supplies improve only Draconian measures will ensure that the poor consumer of paper will get something of what he needs.

I have not been impressed by some of the representations which we have received in which presses and publishers have questioned the need for such drastic economy because they state that they have always been able to obtain paper. Yes, but at whose expense? It is at the expense of those very educational institutions and cultural publications whose interests it is alleged that Government are neglecting. It is difficult for consumers who are neither rich nor powerful to make their voices heard and it is exactly they, the schools, the small businessman, the Universities, the man who cannot get his book published because he cannot afford the high prices at

which alone he can obtain supplies—it is these classes whose wants, it is hoped, if this Order is worked efficiently and with your goodwill, be better served than they have been recently.

We have tried the voluntary method of paper distribution. The distribution of paper has so far been undertaken by the Paper Control and Distribution Association. They have tried to do their best but with diminishing supplies and increasing demands it is abundantly clear that distribution to be effective must be done by Government under a statutory umbrella.

Production and Imports

We have also been criticised for neglecting to increase production of paper. Let me give a few figures. The production of paper in India during the three years 1936-37 to 1938-39 averaged 54,000 tons. After the outbreak of the war and thanks to Government assistance and encouragement and the rationalisation, as far as it was practicable, of the varieties of paper manufactured the annual production was doubled till it amounted to over 100,000 tons per annum. Unfortunately, owing to the shortage of coal, production has dropped and for the current year, 1944-45, we cannot expect more than 70,000 tons from indigenous production. You may be interested to know that while all the industries have had to bear a cut to meet the coal shortage Paper is one of the few industries which Government regard of such importance that the cut imposed on it is much less than on most others.

So much for production. Now let us look at the picture so far as imports are concerned. For the three years 1936-37 to 1938-39 the average annual imports of paper into India amounted to 75,500 tons. The estimated import through trade channels for 1944-45 is 9,000 tons. The actual figure for 1943-44 was 8,800 tons.

An Allegation

Now let me deal with a point about which, to be quite blunt, a good deal of nonsense has been talked. It is alleged that there is plenty of paper to be had in the United Kingdom if only Government would issue import licences in sufficient number and with the speed with which business houses are accustomed to do their business. What are the facts? His Majesty's Government give us a quarterly quota which for July-October 1943 was 440 tons, for November 1943-February 1944 was 400 tons and March-June 1944 was 500 tons. We have been informed by the Secretary of State that the allocation for November 1943 to February 1944 has been fully utilised.

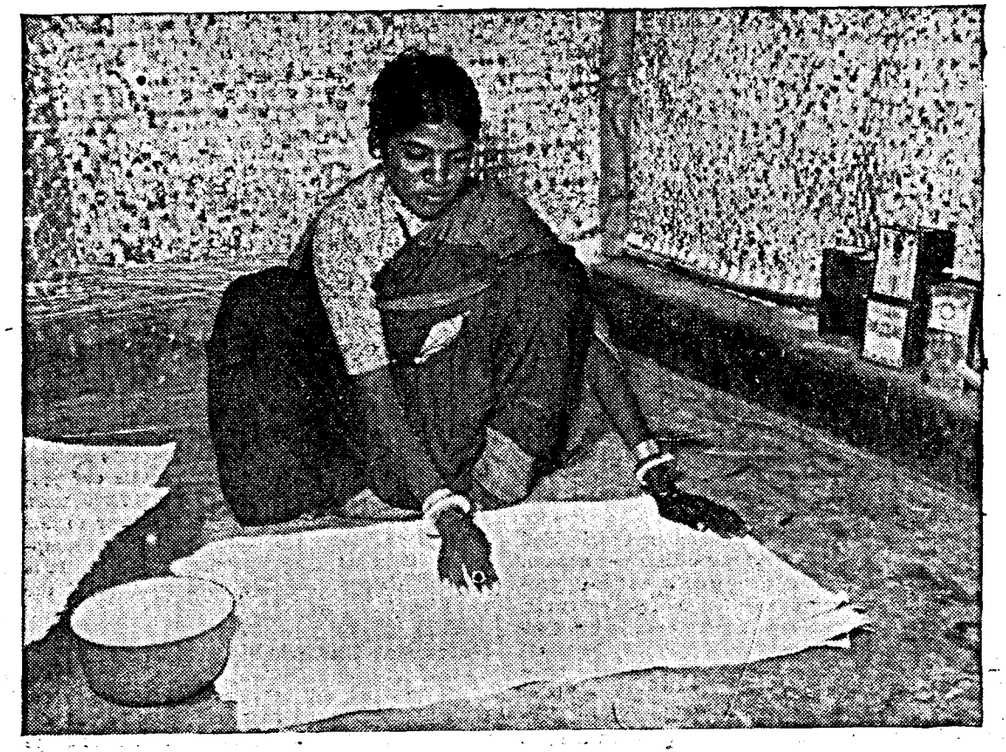
In a letter dated June 14 it is stated on the authority of the leading manufacturers of the United Kingdom that no difficulties have been experienced in obtaining Indian import licences and that all orders on the manufacturers' books are covered by licences. The Chief Controller of Imports has been kind enough to inform me further that he has been issuing licences considerably in excess of the quantities allocated to India. I submit, Gentlemen, that this particular cock (of Government dilatoriness) simply won't fight.

Therefore to sum up: the present position for 1944-45 is that with imports by the trade of 9,000 tons and a production of 70,000 tons, the available supplies of paper in sight are of the order of 79,000 tons. The 70 per cent of Indian production reserved for Government requirements amounts to 49,000 tons, leaving the quantity for the public, including imports by the trade, at 30,000 tons. As against this our pre-war consumption of paper was 110,000 tons. Here, Gentlemen, you have the answer to the limit placed under the Order for civil consumption. It is not a limit arbitrarily fixed. It is a limit imposed by the hard realities of the situation.

Order Not Unworkable

I hope we will be able to show you in the course of discussion that the provisions of the Order are not uworkable and that there is scope within the Order itself for the exercise of discretion which even during the short time between the promulgation of the Order and now we have exercised in several instances and so tempered the wind. The fact must however be faced that your profits will be reduced by the operation of the Order; for under it you will not be able to print and publish as much as the fortunate ones among you who had stocks of paper in the past have been able to consume during the last 4½ years; but as against a diminution of your profits and the inconveniences to the business community incidental to any control we hope that the Order will bring relief to many who are now in dire need of paper.

The situation is not however without hope. Government has been trying for some time past to arrange on Government account the import from North America of a substantial tonnage of paper. If that eventuates, as I hope it will, we will lose no time in softening the severity of the cut in consumption. Let me assure you once again that we do not like imposing the present cut. I have given you some account of the attempts we have made in avoiding having to impose it. I have also just now told you that



Making paper by hand. The war has helped to revive this cottage industry. Here, sheets are smeared with glue made of rice powder to size them.

if our luck holds and we obtain the expected imports we may be able to raise the present minimum overall figure.

You should gather assurance from the way we have worked the Newsprint Control. We have lightened its severity whenever we thought we could prudently do so; and even when we lost a large quantity of paper in the recent Bombay explosion we decided that this loss notwithstanding the concessions allowed to the users of newsprint should not be withdrawn.

I know that the Order has hit you hard but I have tried to explain the reasons which compelled us to take this step and I repeat again that we are prepared within the framework of the Order and without giving up the objective of an overall reduction in consumption to 30 per cent to be as accommodating as we can. I hope therefore that you will after reflection and discussion co-operate with Government in making this Order successful; and I am sure that if you once reconcile yourselves to the fact that you must suffer in the public interest a diminution of your profits, and may be of your business, you will find that the Order can be worked and so tide over a very difficult time till increased supplies give you relief.



The wet sheets are placed on one another, and water is squeezed out.

Committee Formed

A committee of the general meeting was then appointed to consider the Control Orders in detail and make suggestions to Government. The members of the Committee were: Messrs. Manu Subedar, G. W. Tyson, C. S. Rangaswami, F. W. Smith, K. P. Dar, A. R. Bhatt, M. K. Siddiki, S. K. Dehlavi, H. W. Fieth, Ranbir Singh, A. D. Barker, S. R. Varma and Mr. Hussaini.

The following Government representatives were present at the meeting of the Committee on July 11 and took part in the discussions: Sir Akbar Hydari, Mr. H. M. Patel, I.C.S.; Mr. A. Lepper, Mr. B. N. Kaul, Mr. J. A. Noal and Mr. B. D. Burjorjee.

Last Day's Proceedings

Several suggestions were made by the Committee to which replies were given by Government spokesmen. Sir Akbar referred to those suggestions and replies in his speech on July 12 at the second and concluding day's meeting. Sir Akbar said:—

Mr. Manu Subedar on behalf of the Committee of the representatives of paper interests present at the meeting held at 10 a.m. on July 11, 1944, placed before the Government the following detailed suggestions regarding the Paper Control Orders:—

(1) The enforcement of the operative clauses of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, should be postponed till September 1, 1944. Mr. Manu Subedar pointed out that it was difficult for the affected interests to cancel the commitments which they had entered into before the coming into force of the Order, and it would take some time before those commitments could be worked off.

On behalf of Government it was stated that having already enforced the Order for about a month it would create more complications if now the operation of the effective clauses of the Order was postponed. A number of individuals affected by the operative clauses of the Order had already started conforming to them, and they would be put at a disadvantage in relation to those who had not. But in view of the difficulty pointed out by Mr. Manu Subedar, it was agreed that printers and publishers would be given general permission to complete the work which was already in the press on the date of the coming into force of the Order and the quantity of paper used for such work would not be counted towards the printers or the publishers' quota. Periodicals which had advertisement contracts with firms in foreign countries would be allowed reasonable time to adjust to the requirements of the Order, but such periodicals should take individual permission of the Government.

(2) The monthly quota at the rate of 1|12th of the annual quota should be abolished and in place of it the annual basis of quota should be substituted.

The difficulty which the main categories of consumers of paper were likely to experience by division of the consumption of paper into monthly instalments was appreciated, but it was pointed out that the necessity for this arose from the fact that the Paper Controller must have a reasonably reliable idea of the monthly requirements of paper of each geographical area in order to enable him to make his distribution arrangements. In order, however, to meet up to a point the difficulties of the consumers, readiness was expressed on behalf of Government to make, if possible, the basis of consumption quarterly instead of monthly.

In addition to this, it was explained that if any particular consumer during any quarter found that he had work in hand of an essential nature which required consumption of paper in excess of the quantity permissible during the quarter, it would be open to him to apply for special permission on the condition that the excess consumption is adjusted in the following quarter.

(3) As the Order stands at present, the quota to the printer is duplicated in so far as the publisher has also to get his publications printed at a press and the printer would, therefore, have correspondingly more work to do than his own quota would entitle him to. In this connection the question was also raised that some provision should be made for the small consumer of paper whose printing orders did not amount to more than, say, one ream. Since he was not given an independent right to consume a certain quantity of paper, he would be entirely at the mercy of the printer.

There was no need to apprehend any duplication of quotas. A printer's quota of 30 per cent includes paper supplied by him and paper which might be supplied by his customers. Those who had their journals, books, etc. printed at his press passed on the benefit of any extra concession granted to them to their respective printers. In other words, if a publisher was allowed to use up to 50 per cent of his basic consumption, his printers got the benefit of the extra 20 per cent consumption of paper in respect of the books involved. A printer therefore

would be confined to his 30 per cent quota only if all the work carried on by him was such as did not qualify for any special concession.

It was explained further that the control over the quantity of paper consumed would thus be at the printer's stage, and the printer was placed in a position to dictate to his customers. To protect the latter, therefore, it was proposed to amend the Order to make it clear (i) that it would be an offence for a printer to refuse to carry out an order from a regular customer up to the extent permitted within the provisions of the Order, and (ii) that it would be an offence for the printer to charge rates unreasonably in excess of rates current before this Order was promulgated. It was thus evident that the difficulty regarding the small consumer did not really exist.

Use of Newsprint

(4) Periodicals and text-books should be allowed to use newsprint in addition to the permissible consumption of paper other than newsprint. There can be no quota of a periodical being given newsprint in addition to paper. If newsprint can be given in any case, the periodical concerned would be required to change over wholely for newsprint. This applied also to text-books. Every effort will be made to permit such change over the maximum extent possible.

(5) No newspaper or periodical which might have already started publication after November, 1942, in contravention of the former Paper Control Order, 1942, should be allowed to continue publication and no new newspaper or periodical should be allowed to start publication.

It would be Government's policy to refuse such permission as a rule, though there may be cases which may deserve special consideration and Government must reserve full discretion on this point.

(6) Certain firms of importers of paper who had connections with producers in North America felt that if import licences for substantial quantities were given to them, they would be able to obtain paper, and in view of this it was urged that licences for the import of paper from North America might be given for much larger quantities than at present.

In this connection it was explained that the position was not as simple as had been stated by these importers. Licences were issued to cover quantities of paper somewhat in excess of the entire export allocation made in the countries of export for India. The whole of the paper produced in North America was under control and there was a shortage of paper in North America itself. In the circumstances, only such quantities of paper were allowed to be exported as had been previously agreed to after taking into account the needs of all the Allied Nations.

Having fixed the export quota on this basis the issue of import licences by itself could not help to bring large quantities of paper to India. In order to avoid any possibility of a private firm holding import licence, not utilising it and thus allowing part of the export quota available to India from North America to lapse, Government had in fact arranged through the Indian Supply Mission to take up any export allocation for India which importers might have failed to take up, and sent as Government imports to India, and this would afterwards be allocated under Government instructions for civil consumption.

In this connection, it was further explained that arrangements had been made for the import of a substantial quantity of paper on Government account. When this paper came it would be possible to increase the quota for civil consumption.

(7) Mills at present manufacturing board and kraft only should be compelled to devote a percentage of their production capacity to the manufacture of printing and writing paper and that the manufacture of printing and writing paper should be standardised, and only paper of the maximum substance of 20" x 30" lbs. should be allowed to be manufactured.

Standardisation

It was explained that the question of compelling mills to produce printing and writing paper in preference to board and kraft and the question of standardisation of printing and writing paper had not escaped the attention of the Government. However, the Government were advised that if part of the capacity of mills specialising in the production of board and kraft was shifted to the production of printing paper and writing paper, these mills would not be working in the most efficient manner and the total production would be reduced.

Since board and kraft were also required in substantial quantities, it was doubtful whether compelling these mills to produce printing and writing paper would be on the whole beneficial. Government would, however, examine these suggestions again.

The Committee was informed further that the Government of India were proposing to issue shortly an Order taking powers to direct mills to produce such varieties of paper in such substances as may be considered necessary. The suggestion made by the Committee would be referred to the Supply Department, who were responsible for the production of paper, for examination and such action as might be desirable.

(8) Production, distribution, and consumption of paper in Indian States should be brought under control in the same manner as in British India.

Government appreciated the desirability of the Indian States falling in line with British India in this matter and had already started taking steps to see that controls on the lines of British Indian Controls were introduced in Indian States.

The Basic Year

(9) Printers and publishers might be given the option to adopt 1939 consumption or 1943 consumption, as the basic year, according to their choice. It was stated that a number of printers and publishers had already reduced consumption in 1943 and, therefore, if 1943 was adopted as the basic year this class of printers and publishers were likely to suffer.

In the discussion which followed this suggestion, it was brought out that a number of printers and publishers preferred 1943 to 1939 and that the small printers and publishers would not be able to furnish figures of 1939 as they did not keep elaborate accounts. It was agreed, therefore, that 1943 should be retained as the basic year. Any individual cases of hardship by the adoption of this basic year would be considered by Government.

(10) The distribution of paper worked by the Paper Control and Distribution Association had not been successful in all respects. Under the system worked by the Association the larger part of paper was given to the traders on the basis of their previous purchases and from the traders it found its way into the black market. Therefore the system of distribution needed change.

Government had already realised that a change in the system of distribution was necessary and had already issued the Paper Control (Distribution) Order which will enable the Paper Controller to organise the distribution of all available papers in the country to different Provinces and States according to their estimated need. It was hoped that when final instructions were issued under the powers taken by this Order, distribution of paper would be more satisfactory than it had been hitherto.

(11) In many cases Government printing work was placed with private presses and they were asked to supply the paper required for executing the order. In such cases it was suggested that paper should be provided by Government.

It was explained that orders had already been issued by the Labour Department that Government Departments or agencies should not ordinarily place orders which involved the diversion of the quantity of paper available for civilian consumers to Government use. In cases of extreme urgency, if the placing of an order under such conditions, became necessary, the paper used from the civilian quota should be restored later from the quantity reserved for Government use. It was realised that in all cases this practice had not been followed. If individual cases were brought to the notice of the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, those cases would be taken up with the authorities concerned.

Meanwhile, it was also necessary that presses should co-operate in the interest of the civilian consumer by refusing to execute orders unless the Government Departments concerned provided the paper or in cases of extreme urgency undertook to restore the paper from the Government quota after a reasonable lapse of time.

Hand-made Paper

(12) Hand-made paper should be excluded from the purview of the Orders.

It was explained that so far as the Paper Control (Distribution) Order, 1944, was concerned hand-made paper was virtually excluded as it did not apply to a manufacturer whose output did not exceed 10 tons. In regard to the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, however, hand-made paper must be taken account of as there was an over-all shortage of paper in India and hand-made paper could be used as a substitute for mill-made paper for certain purposes. It was obviously as necessary to economise the use of hand-made paper as mill-made paper.

(13) In regard to banks and insurance companies and other groups of business, it was suggested by Mr. Manu Subedar that these groups of business and industry should meet together and, after careful scrutiny of the various forms, registers and other items

of stationery used by them, place before the Government specific proposals as to the maximum amount of economy that could thus be effected. Mr. Manu Subedar also mentioned that the Indian Merchants' Chamber would take the initiative so far as its members were concerned.

Government welcomed this suggestion as this would help them in standardising various forms, ledgers, etc., in ordinary use in different industries and business houses.

Whatever restrictions on the sizes of forms, registers, account books, etc., were laid down after examination of the cases of different industries and business, it was agreed that the existing stock of such and other items of stationery would be allowed. General exemption had already been given for the use of such articles of stationery including letter-paper up to November 1, 1944, and any person holding stocks in such quantities as would last beyond November 1, 1944, should declare them to the Government not later than August 1, 1944, indicating the time by which he expected them to be used up.

Advisory Committee

(14) An Advisory Committee to assist the Government in the administration of the Paper Control might be set up. The Government might appoint a committee as representative of all interests as possible consistent with retaining the size within reasonable limits. The committee might meet at such intervals and at such places as Government considered desirable.

This suggestion was agreed to.

(15) (a) In Form II of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, details of the printing work executed and the quantity of paper for each item separately should be dispensed with, as these details would make the returns too long and would be difficult for the printers to prepare, because they execute a very large number of orders, some of them requiring a small consumption of paper. It was suggested that it might be considered sufficient if the total quantity of paper consumed classified by varieties and a list of publications was furnished under this form.

This was agreed to.

(b) Under part B of Form III of the Paper Control (Distribution) Order, 1944, the names and addresses of each person to whom paper was sold or otherwise disposed of need not be required to be stated separately as the list would be too large and it would become difficult to prepare a return. Moreover small quantities of paper were often sold for cash and addresses were not maintained.

This was appreciated and it was agreed that transactions in quantities of paper in lots of less than one ream need not be shown separately but may be lumped together. But transactions covering paper in excess of one ream should be shown as separate items.

(c) Form VIII of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, might be abolished.

Government agreed to consider this suggestion and either to abolish the form or to alter it in such a way as to make it simpler.

INCREASED NEWSPRINT RATION TO NEWSPAPERS

At the urgent request of newspaper interests the Industries and Civil Supplies Department of the Government of India has now decided to replace the one-seventh increase in the ration of newsprint allotted to newspapers by a one-third increase with effect from August 1, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department on July 26.

It added: Accordingly every stock-holding newspaper will be entitled from August 1, 1944, to consume one-third extra ration every month instead of one-seventh. So also dealers are informed that purchase permits already issued should be treated with effect from August 1, 1944, as valid for one-third increase instead of one-seventh.

It is emphasised that this concession is being afforded to serve the general interests of the public who, it is hoped, will now get more news at cheaper cost.

CONCESSIONS TO ACCOUNT BOOK MANUFACTURERS

The Government of India, according to a Press Note issued on July 27, have granted under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, the following concessions to the manufacturers of Indian account books:

1. A manufacturer of Indian account books may consume in the manufacture of such account books during a year beginning June 12, 1944, 90 per cent by weight of the paper consumed by him in 1943 for the manufacture of Indian account books.

2. Of annual consumption permitted above, 60 per cent may be used during the period from June 12, 1944, to the end of September 1944. The balance should be used in equal quarterly instalments during the rest of the year up to June 12, 1945.

Returns in the relevant form showing this consumption clearly and referring to this Press Note should be sent to the Paper Controller in accordance with the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944.

RELAXATION OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS

The following two Press Notes issued on July 28, stated:

In response to representations received by the Government of India relating to the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, they have decided as follows:

(1) The quantity of paper which the printing presses, publishers and manufacturers of articles made from paper are permitted to consume will be worked out on a quarterly basis instead of on a monthly basis.

(2) It will be an offence for a printer to refuse to carry out an order from any customer involving consumption of paper not exceeding 30 per cent of the paper used in executing printing orders from that customer in 1943. This is intended to protect the customer, because otherwise the printer whose admissible quota is based on the paper supplied by him to his customer in 1943 in the ordinary course of business as well as paper supplied to him by his customer in 1943 when giving an order, would virtually be in a position to dictate to his customers. In case any consumer is allowed to use paper in excess of 30 per cent of 1943 consumption permissible to him, the benefit of the excess amount which may be allowed as a special case will be passed on to the printer concerned.

Printing of Diaries Allowed

(3) All printing work and publishing work which was in *press* on the date of the coming into force of the Order (June 12, 1944) is allowed to be completed and paper used in its completion will not be debitable to the quantity of paper which the press or the publisher is entitled to consume during each quarter.

(4) Pocket diaries and desk diaries of certain specifications are allowed to be printed.

(5) The size of cheque forms is being changed to the size permissible in the United Kingdom.

(6) All returns required to be furnished under the Order by July 15, 1944, may be submitted not later than August 15, 1944. Monthly returns required to be submitted by the 7th day of each month may be submitted by the 15th day of each month.

To give effect to the above decisions, the Order is being amended wherever such amendment is necessary. The amendment will be notified in the *Gazette of India* dated July 29, 1944.

SUBMISSION OF RETURNS

In view of representations received from importers of paper, the Government of India have decided that returns in Form III of this Order (Paper Control Distribution Order, 1944) which were required to be submitted by July 15, 1944, may be submitted not later than August 15, 1944. Monthly returns in Form IV required to be submitted by importers not later than the 7th day of every month may be submitted not later than the 15th day of every month. In Form III each transaction in paper in lots of less than one ream need not be shown separately but all such transactions may be lumped together.

CONCESSIONS TO DRUG MANUFACTURERS

The Government of India, said a Press Note dated July 29, have decided to allow the following relaxations of the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, in so far as they are applicable to manufacturers of drugs and medicines:—

(1) Manufacturers of drugs and medicines may gratuitously distribute advertising pamphlets, circulars, etc., printed before June 12, 1944, provided not more than 50 lbs. by weight of such circulars are distributed in any month and provided further that the total stock of such circulars, etc., is declared to the Paper Controller, India, 7, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta, and it is stated by which date the stock is expected to be exhausted.

(2) Manufacturers of drugs and medicines may print and distribute leaflets giving information relating to composition, dosage etc., of medicines, provided the leaflet consists of a single sheet not exceeding 7½" x 5" and provided the leaflets are distributed only to doctors on their request.

(3) For any leaflet exceeding the size specified above, special permission should be secured after satisfying the Government of India that its distribution is essential, and after furnishing particulars relating to their number of pages, number of copies to be distributed and the quantity of paper to be consumed.

(4) Enclosures giving information relating to dosage etc., should be packed with medicines only where necessary and should not exceed a single sheet of 3¾" x 5".

(5) Cartons for glass containers may be used. Imported medicines may be sold in the packing in which they are imported.

(6) Packing of parcels of medicines and drugs in paper and board is permitted, provided the minimum amount of paper and board is used and provided the parcels are to be sent by post or rail. For delivery within the same town packing of parcels of medicines and drugs in paper and board is not permitted.

(7) Labels exceeding 16 sq. inches in area printed before June 12, 1944, may be used, provided the stock is declared to the Paper Controller, India, 7, Royal Exchange Place, Calcutta, and the date by which labels of such sizes are expected to be exhausted, is communicated to him.

PACKING DYES IN PAPER

After consideration of the representations received from dealers in dyes, said a Press Note issued on July 13, the Paper Controller has decided under Clause 33 (1) of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, that dyes may continue to be packed in paper and board subject to the following conditions:

(1) Existing composite type of paper-container may continue to be employed.

(2) The container may be wrapped in a single kraft paper wrapping and a paper seal may be affixed to the container.

(3) A one-inch wide strip of flint paper completely encircling the container may be used to identify the shade of dye in the container.

(4) One or more labels may be affixed to each container provided that the area of all these labels taken together does not exceed 16 sq. inches.

(5) Cases in which dyes are despatched may be lined with waterproof paper.

The Paper Controller has further decided that the existing stock of labels etc., can be used without regard to the above conditions, but that each dealer in dyes will submit to the Textile Commissioner, Hararwala Building, Ballard Estate, Bombay, not later than August 15, a true return of the stock of such labels etc., held by him indicating the date by which he expects to exhaust this stock. The Textile Commissioner after due scrutiny will pass these returns to the Paper Controller.

PAPER SUPPLIES FROM U. K.

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on July 11, stated:

Supplies of paper to be made available to India from the United Kingdom are allocated for four-monthly periods at a time, *viz.*, July-October, November-February, March-June each year. Although import licences have been issued considerably in excess of the allocation, it has come to notice that in some periods the allocation has not been taken up in full and that orders on the manufacturers' books were less than the total tonnage permissible for export. It is desirable in view of the shortage of supplies and increased demand for paper in India that the allocation, even though it is very small, should not be allowed to lapse. In order to allow for infructuous licences which for some unknown reason appear to be unduly large, Government have increased still further the quotas for imports. But the remedy lies in the hands of the importers themselves. They should place their orders with suppliers as soon as they have obtained import licences.

BOOKS FOR WAR PRISONERS

Since January 1, 1943, the Indian Red Cross and St. John have sent direct to Geneva, more than 40,000 books; religious, educational, and general for distribution to Indian prisoners-of-war in Europe, said a Press Note issued by the Indian Red Cross and St. John War Organisation on July 14.

"WE ARE HERE TO SERVE THE PUBLIC"

Sir Azizul Haque on Consumer Goods Position

THE first meeting of the Central Consumers' Council was held in New Delhi on July 17 and 18, the Hon'ble Sir Azizul Haque, Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, presiding.

Discussion centred round the working of the several industrial controls (relating to civil supplies) now under operation such as cotton textile control, drugs control, footwear control, iron and steel control, and newsprint and paper control, and suggestions were offered for their improved working. The Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance came in for a detailed review on the second day.

Sir Azizul Haque, in his opening speech, reviewed the consumer goods position, as it was in the middle of last year just on the eve of the inauguration of comprehensive control measures, and stated that it was extraordinarily difficult. Many of the essential commodities were in short supply, there was large scale hoarding, profiteering and black market activities and prices were unconscionably high. Immediate steps had to be taken to ration the goods, fix reasonable prices, increase supplies by stimulating local production and arranging for more imports and devise a proper method of distribution.

Appeal for Public Co-operation

After referring to the success of the Cloth Control Scheme, Sir Azizul Haque appealed for public co-operation to make the control measures a success. Without active public co-operation, he said, even the soundest control measure was bound to fail. It was to secure such co-operation that the Central Consumers' Council had been started.

"We are here to serve the public," he said, "and their interests are at stake. We have no other interests to serve."

The object of the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, he said in conclusion, was to speed up imports and local production and distribute the quota available in as best a manner as possible. In this work, it had achieved a considerable measure of success and hoped to do more with the co-operation of the public.

Discussion started with an examination of the control measures in general and suggestions were made for their better working. Better publicity through advertisements for the prices fixed, more publicity for convictions against hoarders, profiteers and violators of the control measures and improved machinery for making price



Sir M. Azizul Haque

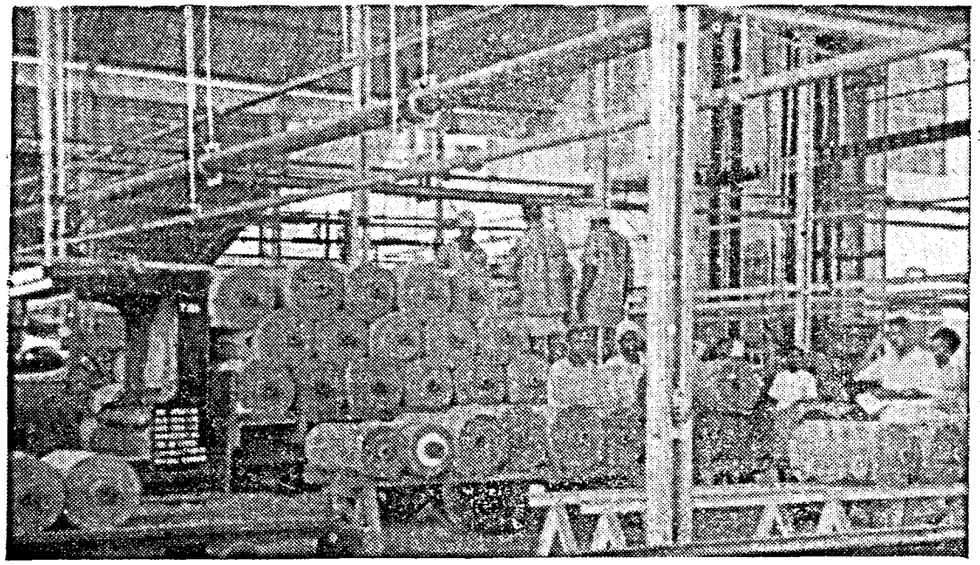
control measures more effective, were among the suggestions made.

It was pointed out on behalf of the Department that there was a machinery to ascertain what was surplus to the needs of the War Services. This surplus capacity was utilised to increase civil supplies. A considerable number of such releases had taken place.

Brass Utensils Control

The several control measures were then taken up for individual consideration. A memorandum had been circulated among the members giving a factual review of the measures in operation and the action taken by the Department to improve supplies and distribution and to control prices of consumers goods.

Regarding the Brass Utensils Control Order, it was pointed out that the total quantity of brass released or to be released between June



Finished cloth in an Indian cotton mill being loaded on to a lorry for removal to the warehouse.

and September 1944, would amount to 2,600 tons. The retail price of each type of utensils would be stamped on it and the prices fixed varied from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-4 per lb. for tinned articles and two annas less per lb. for untinned articles.

The main suggestion by the meeting was that brass sheets should be distributed in the widest manner possible so that the utensils might reach the remotest villages.

Cloth Control

Official spokesmen explained that small manufacturers of the cottage type would be encouraged to work through co-operative societies, which would be supplied with controlled brass sheets for their benefit. This control measure, it was further explained, did not prevent hawkers from exchanging new vessels for old, getting the latter re-made into new ones and then re-selling them. It was hoped that the sale of the controlled utensils would bring down a general reduction of prices, which was already in evidence.

Discussion on cloth control related to cloth in general and standard cloth in particular. The standard cloth position, what had been achieved by way of supplies and the machinery for distribution were fully explained at the meeting. As regards cloth in general prices had been brought down by 60 per cent. since the control began. Ceiling prices were successively reduced and further reductions were possible in the future.

The coal supply position in respect of the textile industry was discussed at length. Official spokesmen stated that every effort was being made to see that textile mills did not suffer.

As regards exports, it was pointed out that these had already been fixed at 600 million yards per year. As, next to food, clothing was most important to maintain civilian morale, Government were trying their best to satisfy the needs of the Indian consumer in this regard.

The fine cloth supply position was reviewed. Fine cloth was now in short supply owing to lack of imports (of fine cloth and fine yarn) and switching on production to coarser varieties; side by side there was increased civil demand. The question of a quota of fine cloth to each province was under contemplation, it was announced.

Drugs Control

As regards encouraging handloom production, it was pointed out that handloom production was not under control and yarn was being supplied to handloom weavers at cheap prices.

The chief point of criticism on the working of the Drugs Control Scheme was that medicines were not available at controlled rates. It was explained that attempts were being made to increase supplies. Certain drugs had always been in short supply, while others were so at certain times. Provincial reports, however, showed that, by and large, the control was working satisfactorily. Steps were being taken to prevent drugs going into the black market. Every effort possible was being made to import basic chemicals to facilitate the manufacture of drugs in India.

The meeting then briefly discussed the other control measures in operation.

Regarding electric bulbs, it was explained that the idea was to ration out the available supply in as fair a manner as possible.

In respect of footwear control, it was stated that the prices fixed were much lower than the ruling rates—the maximum being Rs. 18 for the best quality produced in India. Existing stocks could be cleared before September 1, 1944.

Iron and Steel

As regards iron and steel, it was stated that, consistent with Defence demands, as large a portion of production as possible was being released for civil consumption. A non-official spokesman emphasised the need to pay particular attention to the iron and steel needs of agriculture.

On the subject of kerosene, non-official criticism was that shortage was hitting the poor villagers very hard. A better system of distribution was suggested. On behalf of the Department, it was stated that rationing was in operation in a number of places and that a slight increase in the civilian quota had been arranged as from October 1, 1944.

There were no comments regarding matches. The distribution, it was said, was working satisfactorily. There were also no comments on soaps and wool.

Newsprint and Paper Control

The newsprint position will be considered by the Newsprint Advisory Committee at its forthcoming meeting.

Speaking on the new Paper Control measures, Sir Akbar Hydari, Secretary of the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, explained in brief the conclusions of the recent Bombay meeting on Paper Control and pointed out the various concessions that had been given by Government to printers and publishers and in respect of periodicals using printing paper, within the general framework of the Orders. The need for the drastic curtailment in consumption was explained by him with reference to production and imports.

The working of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance came in for detailed examination on the second day. The main features of the Ordinance, it was stated, were fixation of ceiling prices for a large number of articles and general regulation of prices in others, obligatory issue of cash memos, exhibition of price lists and general obligation to sell to any customer.

During the eight months of the operation of the Ordinance, ceiling prices had been fixed for such articles in wide use as bicycles and bicycle parts, fountain pens, razor blades, imported woollen goods, certain sports goods, boot polishes, electric bulbs and cigarettes. Efforts were being made to expand this list. A fairly large organisation had been set up for the proper enforcement of the Ordinance.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were passed by the Council:

1. That measures be introduced by Government to economise in the amount of paper used on their account in all Departments.
2. That the staff for the enforcement of all Control Orders should be considerably increased.
3. That punishments for offences against Control Orders should be adequate. Wherever possible imprisonment and not fine should be the punishment for profiteering.
4. That Government should give much wider publicity to controlled prices and other information which would be of use to the consumer. Publicity should also be given to severe convictions awarded to profiteers.
5. That Government should take all possible steps to facilitate the lodging of complaints about offences against Control Orders.
6. That in order to increase the supply of Consumer goods the policy of giving every possible assistance to existing industries in the country should be vigorously pursued and that wherever possible, the establishment of new industries should be encouraged.

PATNA DARBAR'S GIFT

The Patna Darbar have generously contributed Rs. 66,666-10-8 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the purchase of a 'Spitfire' to be named 'Patna State.'

The gift has been greatly appreciated by His Excellency.

PREVENTION OF HOARDING AND PROFITEERING

Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on July 14, stated:

Under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, prices of a number of articles in common use have so far been fixed and the upward trend of prices in the civil market has been arrested. Experience, however, has shown that with the control of prices of a particular commodity its available supplies have a tendency to go underground. While the Industries and Civil Supplies Department have taken action to increase the supplies of consumer goods in the country, price control to be really effective must be implemented by a control over distribution of supplies. This is particularly necessary in the case of imported articles.

To enable them to do this the Central Government have to-day passed the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order. The Order applies to such imported articles and articles made in India, as are mentioned in the schedule attached to it. These include, for the present, a limited number of articles in common use and later on it is intended to add other articles to the list as and when necessary.

Importers and producers of scheduled articles are required to give intimation of arrivals and productions to the Controller General of Civil Supplies. Importers of scheduled articles will not be at liberty to dispose of their goods after arrival except in accordance with the instructions of the Controller General of Civil Supplies. For internal distribution, the Controller General will appoint approved dealers throughout the country and it is only to them that the importer or producer is allowed to sell his articles.

To implement the provisions of this Order suitable machinery consisting, for the present, of an Additional Controller General, 3 Deputy Controllers General and 3 Assistant Controllers General has been added to the Organisation of the Controller General of Civil Supplies.

Prices of Fountain Pens

Another Press Note issued on the same date stated:

Notifications under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, 1943, published in the *Gazette of India* dated July 15, 1944, amend the list of fountain pens, fountain pen nibs and inks specified in the Government of India Notification No. 1|2(21)|44-CG(CS) dated April 3, 1944, by adding thereto after item No. 49 the following:

Serial No.	Description and make	Maximum retail selling price. Rs. As.
50	Parker Dufold small nib	37 8
51	Parker Dufold large nib	40 0
52	Onoto: No. 5600|C	23 2
53	Onoto: No. 4601|O	21 14

and make it obligatory on the part of all dealers in fountain pens, fountain pen nibs and inks wholesalers and retailers to exhibit a price list at a prominent place in the shop showing clearly the retail selling prices as fixed by the Central Government. These prices must be written legibly in English or in the local language of the district and are to be shown to any purchaser who makes an enquiry about correct selling prices.

"Blue Star" Cigarettes

A Press Note issued on July 20 stated:

By a Notification issued under the Ordinance, the Central Government have fixed the maximum price chargeable by a dealer or producer in respect of Messrs. Blue Star Tobacco Company's "Blue Star" brand of cigarettes at Rs. 21-14 per thousand (wholesale) and 4 Annas per packet of ten (retail).

Another Notification directs dealers, wholesalers and retailers, in "Blue Star" Cigarettes to exhibit prominently in their shops the prices of these cigarettes as fixed above.

European Vegetable Seeds

By a Notification issued under the Ordinance and published in the *Gazette of India,* dated July 22, 1944, the Central Government have fixed the maximum retail prices chargeable by a dealer in respect of the following European types of vegetables seeds acclimatised in India:

Cabbage, Brussels sprouts, beet, carrots, Knol Kohl, golden ball and other varieties of turnips, red globe and other varieties of radish, lettuce, French and broad beans, marrowfat and other varieties of peas, large and medium-sized tomatoes like Ponderoza and alliance, other varieties of tomatoes, celery and leek. The prices have been fixed per pound when retail sales are made for half a pound or more and per ounce when retail sales are of less than half a pound.

The prices range from Rs. 1-14 per pound (French and Broad beans seeds) to Rs. 3-12 per pound (marrowfat peas seeds), Rs. 45 per pound (large and medium-sized tomato seeds like Ponderoza and alliance varieties), Rs. 15 per pound (other varieties of tomato seeds), Rs. 50 per pound (cabbage seeds) and Rs. 75 per pound (Brussels sprouts seeds).

Another Notification requires dealers in these seeds to exhibit prominently in their shops retail selling prices as fixed by the Central Government.

Revised Prices for Electric Bulbs

The Central Government have revised the maximum wholesale and retail prices chargeable by a dealer or a producer in respect of electric bulbs by a Notification issued under the Ordinance and published in the *Gazette of India,* dated July 22, 1944.

The Notification relates to all imported lamps and the locally-produced, *viz.,* Cosmos, Crompton, Mazda, Osram, Philips, Royal Ediswan and Siemens; and also to bulbs of other local producers *viz.,* Bengal Electric Lamp Works, Kaycee Lamp Works, Calcutta Lamp Works, Asia Lamp Works and Bharat Lamp Works.

The prices of 40-watt vacuum bulbs of Cosmos, Crompton, Mazda, Osram, Philips, Royal Ediswan or Siemens make, imported or locally produced, have been fixed at Rs. 1-7 per bulb retail, and Rs. 12-12 per dozen to dealers. The prices of gas-filled bulbs of the above makes for 40 watts to 300 watts range from Rs. 1-9 to Rs. 8-14 per piece, and from Rs. 14-4 to Rs. 79-10-3 per dozen to dealers.

A 40-watt vacuum type bulb of other local producers *viz.,* Bengal Electric Lamp Works, Lux Lamps, Radio Lamp Works, Mysore Lamp Works, Kaycee Lamp Works, Calcutta Lamp Works, Asia Lamp Works or Bharat Lamp Works has been priced at Rs. 2-2 retail and Rs. 20-6-5 per dozen to dealers. The prices of gas-filled bulbs of these makes for 40-watt to 300-watt range from Rs. 2-4 to Rs. 12-8 per piece and from Rs. 21-9-7 to Rs. 120 per dozen to dealers.

The above prices apply only to general lighting service type lamps of the standard voltage ranging from 110 to 120 volts and 220 to 250 volts having clear or inside frosted (pearl) glass. The prices per dozen to dealers are f.o.r. any railway station.

The Controller General of Civil Supplies, by a Notification issued under the Ordinance and published in the *Gazette of India,* dated July 22, 1944, directs all producers of and dealers in electric bulbs to mark by July 29, 1944, electric bulbs exposed or intended for sale with the sale prices, or where the marking is not feasible to exhibit on the premises a price-list showing the correct controlled selling prices as already fixed by the Central Government.

The prices should be marked in blue-black ink if the article is of Indian manufacture and in red ink if the article is of foreign manufacture. Producers are required to print the retail selling prices on the carton in respect of all bulbs leaving their godowns on or after September 1, 1944. The prices once marked shall not be raised except with the previous consent of the Controller General of Civil Supplies.

No sale shall be refused if a purchaser is willing to purchase the article at the price marked unless the dealer has good reasons to believe that the purchaser is wanting to purchase the article for sale; or unless the quantity demanded is in excess of that to which the purchaser is entitled in accordance with any quota or ration which may have been fixed by the appropriate Government authority in respect of that article.

This order is published in the *Gazette of India,* dated July 22, 1944, and is required to be displayed in a prominent place in the shop.

Toilet Articles

Dealers in toilet articles, wholesalers and retailers, are directed to exhibit, at a prominent place in their shops, a price-list showing clearly the wholesale and retail selling prices as fixed by the Central Government.

Addition to Landed Cost

On a representation made by dealers in imported Electro-Depositing Materials and Equipment, that the addition to landed cost allowed by the normal trade practice in force on August 31, 1939, exceeded 20 per cent thereof, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has, by a Notification issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance and published in the *Gazette of India,* dated July 22, 1944, sanctioned an addition of 33 1|3 per cent to landed cost of all types of polishing bobs, brushes and mops, all classes of polishing compositions, all types of scratch brushes and all types of plating salts including salts for plating of nickel, tin, zinc, copper, chromium and cadmium.

TRANSPORT OF MILL CLOTH

Position Explained

THE Textile Commissioner has received many complaints from all over India from persons who have purchased cloth from mills, merchants or dealers in Bombay stating that they cannot get their cloth and that the reason is that the mills, merchants or dealers in Bombay cannot obtain railway transport facilities, said a Press Note issued by the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, on July 21.

It added: The position is that in Bombay all mills, merchants and dealers have to register their transport requirements with the Textile Commissioner stating the number of bales they wish to move to each destination. In strict order of rotation these registrations are then dealt with and the mills, merchants or dealers are advised to deliver the goods concerned to the goods depot for despatch, where they are immediately accepted by the railways concerned.

Every bale of piecegoods registered for despatch from Bombay to civil consumers all over India before May 5, 1944, has already been despatched. In the case of destinations served *via* the G.I.P. Railway, every bale of piecegoods registered before June 13, 1944, has been despatched.

The above information is issued in order that purchasers up-country shall know that if their orders were accepted by a mill, merchant or dealer before these dates, the reason why they have not been despatched is that the mill, merchant or dealer from whom they ordered them has failed to register them for despatch and that the fault does not lie with either the railways or with the office of the Textile Commissioner, but with the party with whom the order was placed.

An exception to the above is that no piecegoods or yarn is permitted to be despatched at the present time to any of the States situated in the Western India States Agency or to Cambay, Jawhar or Jenjira States.

CLOTH FOR EXPORT: PRICES CONTROLLED

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on July 7, stated: The Cloth and Yarn (Export Control) Order, published in the *Gazette of India,* dated July 8, 1944, prescribes, in respect of mill-made cotton cloth and yarn exported from India, maximum margins which may be charged by mills and exporters over and above the *ex*-mill ceiling prices applicable to similar goods in the internal market. The margins are intended to compensate mills for the maintenance of minimum standards for export and also cover exporters' expenses and profits.

The Order does not apply to exports of handloom cloth which is not at present subject to price control in the internal market.

Powers have been taken by the Central Government to prescribe and enforce minimum standards of specification and packing for cloth intended for export.

Exemptions from ceiling Prices

Exemptions from the ceiling prices have also been notified in respect of cloth or yarn acquired by exporters before the date of the Order and covered by valid export quotas or licences.

The ceiling prices will apply in respect of exports to all permissible destinations and are intended to enable consuming countries to obtain their supplies at reasonable prices. The Government of India, however, reserve the right to withdraw these ceilings in respect of exports to any country where the Government concerned have not adopted measures for regulating prices and margins of profit in the interests of the ultimate consumer.

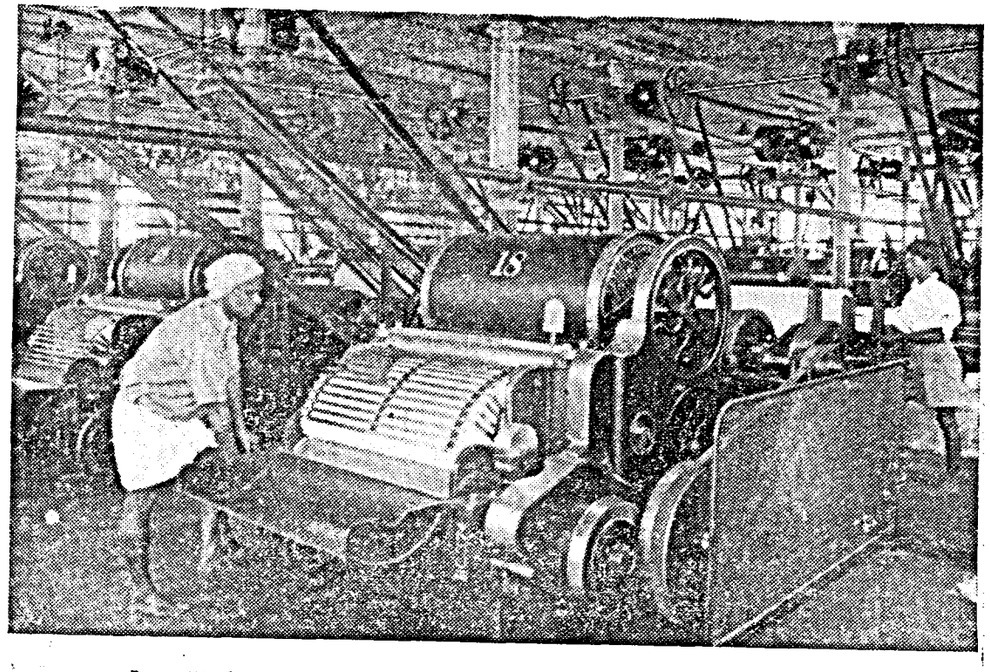
PAYMENT OF FEES UNDER THE INDIAN PATENTS AND DESIGNS RULES, 1933

In view of the modification made by the Reserve Bank of India, Calcutta, in the system of collection of cheques, the Controller of Patents and Designs, Calcutta, is no longer in a position to accept fees payable under the Indian Patents and Designs Rules by means of cheques drawn on non-scheduled banks situated outside the Calcutta city area, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on July 21.

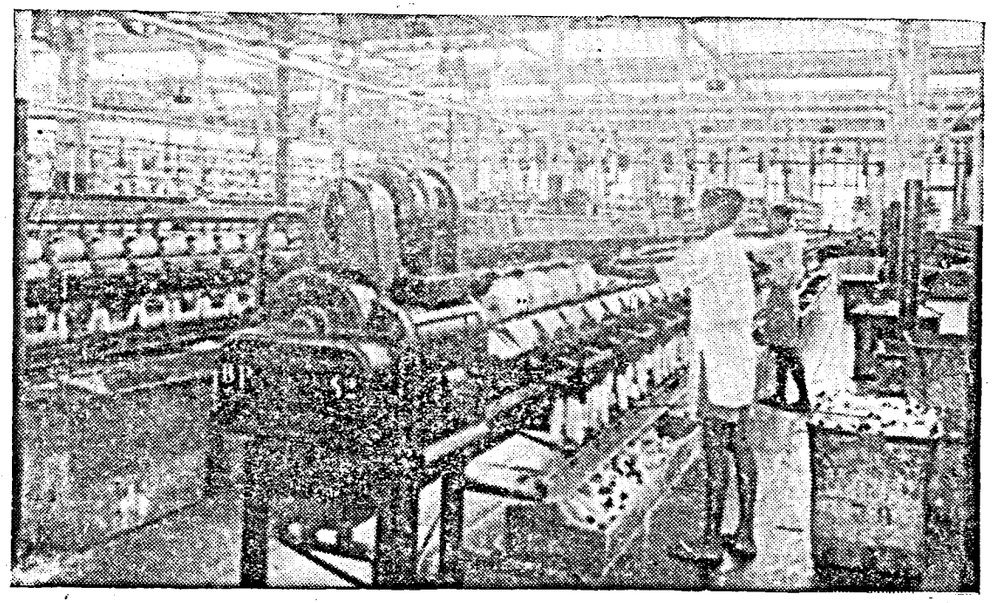
It added: The said Rules are, therefore, being amended to provide payment of fees by means of cheques, drawn on Scheduled Banks only, as defined in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (II of 1934).

A draft of the necessary amendment to the Rules has been published, for the information of all persons likely to be affected thereby, in the *Gazette of India* (Part 1—Section 1) dated July 22, 1944.

Objections and suggestions which may be received from any person regarding the proposed amendment before August 22, 1944, will be considered by the Central Government.



Raw cotton for army clothing being cleaned and opened before being spun into yarn in a cotton mill.



Cotton yarn is here wound from spinning bobbins to "cheeses" for wrapping.



H. E. the Viceroy at a colliery in Bihar.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF COAL

DETAILS are now available of the organisation which has been set up under the Supply Department, Government of India, to deal with questions pertaining to the production and distribution of coal, formerly being dealt with separately by the Labour, Railway and War Transport Departments.

Under the new administrative scheme, now in force, the Coal Commissioner's organisation has been expanded with the appointment of two Deputy Coal Commissioners, one dealing with production and the other with distribution, and six Regional Coal Controllers who will be the chief executive officers of the Coal Commissioner's organisation in coal mining areas.

The Coal Commissioner's first task will be to implement the decisions of Government with regard to increasing the raisings of coal for the country as a whole, so as to achieve targets approved by the War Resources Committee of Council. He will also ensure that the demands of consumers as approved from time to time by the War Resources Committee of Council are met as far as possible. Increases in production will be attempted not only by making good shortages of colliery labour, but also through the medium of new schemes designed to intensify output in selected collieries by the use of machinery. On the distribution side, the object will be to estimate the minimum essential requirements of the railways, industries and other consumers and, when these have been approved by the War Resources Committee of Council, to ensure that distribution takes place on the approved basis.

Deputy Coal Commissioners

The Deputy Coal Commissioner (Production) will act as the head of the State Railway Coal Department which has been transferred to the control of the Supply Department. He will be responsible for the planning and execution of new projects and for the procurement of colliery stores considered necessary for the efficient working of the railway and privately-owned collieries throughout the country.

The functions of the Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution) include the estimate of requirements and allocation of coal; grading, inspection and movement of coal; price fixation for coal; fuel economy measures and statistics. The organisation of the Controller of Coal Distribution under War Transport Department has been transferred *en bloc* to the Supply Department. It has also been decided that the existing inspection staff of the State Railway Coal Department should work under the direction of the Deputy Coal Commissioner (Distribution).

Regional Coal Controllers

In addition, six Regional Coal Controllers have been appointed for the Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Baluchistan, Assam, Central Provinces and Talcher fields. Their duties include ascertaining from the collieries within their areas their essential requirements of colliery stores, bulking these requirements and sending them to the Coal Commissioner for procurement action; bringing to the notice of the Coal Commissioner problems such as shortages of labour and transportation difficulties which are hampering production, and suggesting measures which, in their opinion, are likely to improve production; controlling the stacking of coal by collieries and dealing with the distribution of wagons in accordance with the general orders of the Coal Commissioner.

To deal effectively with the requirements of the Coal Commissioner's organisation, a Branch Secretariat for Coal has also been established in Calcutta under the Supply Department.

RETURNS OF ACTUAL AND ANTICIPATED DISPOSALS

To ensure effective distribution of coal, the Central Government have directed that the owners, agents or managers of every coal-mine in British India should prepare and send to the Coal Commissioner, returns giving particulars about the actual and anticipated tonnage of coal available for disposal.

A notification published in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary* dated July 28, 1944, requires such returns to be prepared and sent to the Coal Commissioner every month, and the first return to reach not later than July 31, 1944.

The returns of actual disposals during the previous month will include particulars of stocks, both Government and private, at the beginning and end of the month, raisings, colliery consumption and despatches by rail and road.

On the basis of these figures and of the estimated tonnage available for despatch during succeeding months, the Coal Commissioner will be in a position to plan distribution ahead so as to make the most economical use of available coal and of transport.

COAL ECONOMY ON RAILWAYS

With the increasing industrialisation of India, the problem of coal supplies is causing anxiety. By far the largest single consumers of coal are the railways, and the closest study is being afforded to all aspects and details of railway coal consumption so as to ensure, as far as it is humanly possible to do so, not only the elimination of all waste and leakage but the most effective utilisation of every pound of coal by railways in the best interests of the country.

Every railway and every railway employee in India is being impressed with the extreme importance of coal to-day and of the responsibility of every railwayman to see that none is wasted. Engine drivers and firemen are being urged to take a pride in getting the best results out of their engines with the lowest expenditure of coal.

Expert Instructors are employed to teach firemen how best they can do their job in the interests of fuel economy and Special Inspectors are constantly checking the efforts of enginemen to make their engines do more work with less coal.

At all points where coal is handled the greatest care is being taken to see that none is wasted and where the theft of coal prevails, steps are being taken to eradicate this evil as far as possible. The railwaymen are being reminded that coal is the basis of every industry and for every pound of coal that he saves there is one pound more available for the many vital industries now contributing to the general war effort and the welfare of the country at large.

CONTROL OF COAL AND COKE PRICES

A revised price control notification for coal has been issued by the Government of India in the *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated July 17, 1944, in supersession of the earlier notification issued on May 31, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department on July 18. It added:

While the prices and grades laid down for coal produced in collieries in Bengal, Bihar, Baluchistan, the Punjab and Assam are the same as in the earlier notification, a new feature of the arrangements now made is that coke produced in Bengal and Bihar collieries has also been divided into five grades according to its ash contents. The prices notified for various grades of coke vary from Rs. 4 per ton to Rs. 33 per ton.

CAPITAL ISSUES

Illegal Payments Explained

IT should be widely known that it is illegal to make any payment towards the value of shares and other securities issued by companies before the proposed capital issue of which they form part has received the consent or recognition of the Government of India, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on July 24.

It added: A case has recently occurred in which the Directors of a company, having decided that, subject to Government consent, they would make a further issue of shares, sent a circular to existing shareholders informing them of this decision and inviting applications for the shares by a given date, such applications to be accompanied by the payment of the value of the shares plus premium. Any shareholder who complied with this invitation would commit an offence against Sub-Rule (7) of the Defence of India Rule 94A, which amongst other things prohibits the giving of any consideration for any securities in respect of an issue proposed to be made unless consent to the issue has been secured; and in sending out the invitation the Directors rendered themselves liable to prosecution for abetting or attempting to abet such an offence. The same applies to private negotiations for subscriptions to a new issue if they involve the payment of any money by would-be shareholders before consent to the issue has been given.

Another Point

Another quite different point has arisen in connection with this sub-rule. Certain persons have supposed it to refer to payments, *e.g.*, calls on shares due on securities which were issued before control over capital issues was introduced. This is not the case. The prohibition refers only to accepting or giving consideration for securities "in respect of" an issue, that is, in connection with the issue, and not to payments falling due after the issue has been completed. There is, therefore, no embargo on the calling up of the balance of the value of shares which were issued and partly paid up before May 17, 1943. It is true that in some cases of issues made after that date, the consent order has imposed restrictions on the calling-up of more than a prescribed part of the value of the shares, but if such restrictions are violated, those responsible will be guilty of an offence under Sub-Rule (3) rather than of abetting an offence under Sub-Rule (7) of the Rule.

TAX PAYMENT NO REASON FOR NEW CAPITAL ISSUE

A Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on July 28, stated:

The Government of India are unable to admit as an argument in support of any application for consent to the issue of further capital by a company the consideration that the company has to meet in the current year a liability for income-tax and super-tax assessed on the income of the previous year or years and also payments of the same taxes on account of the profits of the current year under the provisions of Section 18A of the Indian Income-Tax Act, or that, by virtue of Section 2 (1A) of the Excess Profits Ordinance, the compulsory deposit under that Ordinance has to be paid at an earlier stage than was the rule before this year. Any properly-conducted company will have already set aside out of profits the required funds to meet the assessed taxes, while the current payments of taxes on income have only to be met out of current profits.

Taxation Reserve

It is true that a taxation reserve in the company's accounts may be offset on the assets side not by cash or other fluid resources but by such items as stock-in-trade and sundry debtors; but the temporary existence of a position of this kind affords no justification in itself for a permanent increase of capital, since the difficulty can be adjusted in the first instance by the ordinary methods of finance, such as bank overdrafts, advances from managing agents, etc.

It may be that a company which was already undercapitalised will find the new demand somewhat embarrassing, but if that is the case the utmost that can be said is that the new demand constitutes a circumstance which may make it a matter of urgency not previously felt to remove the state of undercapitalisation. The question whether such a state exists will have to be examined in the light of the company's general financial position.

MAILS TO ROME AND THE VATICAN

Letter mails will now be accepted for transmission to Rome and the Vatican; only unregistered letters and postcards on purely personal matters can be sent and the maximum limit of weight is 2 ounces, said a Press Note issued by the D.G., P. and T. on July 28.

ARMY OFFICERS FOR CIVIL SERVICES

Temporary Transfer to Meet Difficulties of Administration

AT a time when India's Armed Forces were being rapidly expanded to meet the increasing enemy threat to her shores, the Government of India decided that the demand of those Forces for recruits must be paramount and that permanent recruitment to the Civil Services must be suspended for the time being, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on July 25.

It added: A similar policy was adopted in varying degrees by Provincial Governments. The intention was to ensure that the attractions of a civil career should not operate to impede the flow of recruits for Emergency Commissions. It was fully realised that the effect of this decision would be to throw a heavy strain on the civil administration, a strain which would be felt more severely as time passed.

A position has now been reached when the civil administration can no longer continue without reinforcements and the question has arisen how these can be obtained. Continuing demands made on the open market both by the Armed Forces and by organisations ancillary thereto have seriously reduced the man-power of suitable calibre available for recruitment to civil posts and Government have been obliged to turn to the Army as the only source from which adequate reinforcements can now be obtained.

Request to Military Authorities

The military authorities have been approached with a request to release temporarily a sufficient number of officers whose services can be lent to Civil Governments in India. Recruitment from this source has the added advantage that it will provide a leavening of older and more experienced men. It should be noted that the type of officer proposed to be selected is exactly the type which would have been competing for posts under the Civil Government had not permanent recruitment been largely suspended in order to give priority to the demands of the Army.

The military authorities have recognised the need for strengthening the civil administration and a special India Army Order has been issued calling for volunteers from the Army on certain terms. These are:

(a) volunteers must be under 50 years of age;

(b) only officers of the Army in India Reserve of Officers, British and Indian Emergency Commissioned Officers of the Indian Army and British Service Emergency Commissioned Officers attached to the Indian Army will be eligible;

(c) the deputation of officers thus lent will be for the duration of the war in the Far East and probably for a limited further period thereafter.

Preliminary Training

Such officers will not be members of the regular Services but will be appointed after such preliminary training as is considered desirable to hold posts in the administration for which their qualifications make them best suited. The object will be to maintain and strengthen the general administration and to provide sufficient staff for new and specialised branches of work *e.g.*, work connected with food and civil supplies. The candidates are being selected by a Selection Board of which the Chairman or a member of the Federal Public Service Commission is President. The ratio of recruitment between Indians and Europeans will be 50: 50.

Such of the officers selected as are otherwise qualified and willing will be eligible to compete along with other eligible candidates for vacancies reserved for men with war service. Those who are not selected to fill such vacancies will return to the Army on the completion of their service with the civil administration.

It is hoped by these means to enable Civil Governments in India to carry on until permanent recruitment can be resumed.

INDUSTRIALISTS' VISIT ABROAD

Mr. G. D. Birla, Mr. J. R. D. Tata, Sir Sultan Chinoy, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. N. R. Sarker, Sir Padampat Singhania and Mr. Laik Ali met the Hon'ble Sir Azizul Haque (Member for Commerce and Industries and Civil Supplies), Sir Akbar Hydari (Secretary, Industries and Civil Supplies Department) and Mr. N. R. Pillai (Commerce Secretary) in New Delhi on July 19 and discussed details of their proposed visit abroad. No decision was taken as to the time of their departure. Owing to unavoidable circumstances, Mr. Ispahani and Mr. Krishnaraj Thackersey could not be present.

NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL

THE 15th session of the National Defence Council opened at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on July 27. The session lasted three days and H.E. the Viceroy presided.

The Council desired His Excellency to convey to Mr. Churchill its congratulations on the progress of the Allied Arms in Normandy and on the successful campaign in Italy, in which Indian Divisions have played a distinguished part.

Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding the Royal Indian Navy, reviewed the progress made by R.I.N. and the part played by it in the war effort. A number of problems affecting the recruitment and welfare of naval personnel were also dealt with.

The Council then considered a memorandum presented by the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh (Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India) on the "Grow More Food" drive and there was a detailed discussion on the difficult problems involved.

The vocational training of soldiers, on which a memorandum was presented by the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman (Member for Posts and Air, Government of India) was next taken up.

The Council then considered memoranda presented by the Commerce Member (the Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Azizul Haque) on the procurement and distribution of commodities, the Paper Economy Order and the constitution and functions of the Central Consumers' Council.

The Council then adjourned for the day.

Second Day's Proceedings

When the Council re-assembled the following day at the Viceroy's House, Air Vice-Marshal M. Thomas, Air Officer Commanding, India Command, reviewed the progress made in the expansion of the Indian Air Force and the various problems met with in this connection. In view of the excellent prospects which would be open to the young men of India who take up a career in the Indian Air Force, both in the Air Force itself and in post-war civil aviation, the Council expressed the hope that the right type of candidates would be forthcoming for recruitment, in the numbers required.

Important developments in broadcasting and other propaganda and the re-organisation of the National War Front were the subject of a statement by the Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed (Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India).

In the afternoon, the Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member, Government of India) presented a memorandum on the coal situation, the production of parachutes and the production and use of pre-fabricated bitumenised hessian. The Council then discussed a memorandum on Railway Priority Movements.

On July 29, the last day of the session General Sir George Giffard made a statement on the fighting in Burma and Assam. The Council also discussed a memorandum on a number of recommendations made by certain members of the National Defence Council who visited the Middle East, Persia and Iraq in April last.

The session then ended and the Council adjourned.

NEW EXECUTIVE COUNCILLOR



The Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Rustomji Dalal took charge, on August 1, of the office of Member for Planning and Development, H.E. the Governor-General's Executive Council.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS TO VISIT ENGLAND

A Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on July 29 stated:

Following on the visit to India last cold weather of Professor A. V. Hill, Secretary of the Royal Society, invitations to visit the United Kingdom as guests of His Majesty's Government were extended to the following well-known members of the Indian scientific world:

Dr. Nazir Ahmad, Director, Technological Laboratory, Matunga, Bombay; Col. S. L. Bhatia, Deputy Director-General, I.M.S.; Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, F.R.S., Director, Scientific and Industrial Research Directorate; Sir Jnan Chandra Ghosh, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, and President of the National Institute of Sciences of India; Sir Pheroze Kharegat, then Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; Professor S. K. Mitra, University College of Science, Calcutta; Dewan Bahadur Dr. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University; and Professor Meghnad Saha, F.R.S., University College of Science, Calcutta.

The principal object of the mission will be to establish contact with British, Dominion and American scientists in the United Kingdom.

Sir Phiroze Kharegat has since taken up an important appointment in the Government of India and he and Dr. Lakshmanaswamy Mudaliar are unable to leave India at present. Acceptances have been received from the rest. The date of the scientists' visit to England has not yet been finally settled.

RESTRICTIONS ON CATTLE SLAUGHTER

Restrictions on the slaughter of cattle for civilian purposes on the lines already adopted by the army authorities, and the prescribing of meatless days each week have been recommended by the Government of India in a circular to all Provincial Governments. The aim is to preserve the cattle wealth of the country, particularly working cattle, cows in milk or pregnant, and young stock.

The army authorities have agreed to prohibit the slaughter or sale for slaughter of (1) cattle below three years of age; (2) male cattle between 3 and 10 years which can be used for work; (3) all cows between 3 and 10 years which are capable of producing milk, excepting those which are unsuitable for breeding; and (4) all cows which are pregnant or in milk. Any civil veterinary authority can object to the slaughter of a particular animal, and for this purpose has the right of access to the military butchery pens.

The Military authorities fix minimum prices for all purchases after consultation with the local Purchase Committees on which both military and civil authorities are represented.

The Government of India have requested all Provincial Governments to take early action in this matter either by issuing similar orders or by modifying existing orders on these lines.

It is understood that certain restrictions on the slaughter of cattle for civilian consumption are already in force in the Provinces of Madras, Bombay, the U.P., the C.P., Bihar and Assam, while Bengal and Assam have also meatless days in the week.

INDIAN ART EXHIBITION IN LONDON

In Aid of Famine Relief Fund

In response to the recent appeals of H.E. the Viceroy and the High Commissioner for India in London, for subscriptions to the Indian Famine Relief Fund, the Tagore Society organised an exhibition of Indian Art in London, the proceeds of which are to go to the Fund.

Loans from private collections of sculpture, bronze, textiles, ivories and paintings, seals and jewellery, selected and arranged with the help and advice of experts from the British and Victoria and Albert Museums produced an interesting show though of necessity on a small scale. The High Commissioner for India was present at the opening of the exhibition on June 6.

A series of lectures by experts and readings from the poetry of Tagore and Kabir were also given. The organisers hope this effort will be followed by others and will serve to stimulate interest in Indian art and culture.

Amongst those associated with the exhibition, either as organisers, lenders of exhibits or visitors were: Major-General H. L. Haughton (late of the Indian Army), Sir Edward Maclagan, Sir Richard Windstedt (President of the Royal Asiatic Society), Sir William Rothenstein, Sir Kenneth Clark, Sir George Schuster, Prof. Rawlinson (late of the Deccan College), Dr. Hunt of Hyderabad), Dr. R. B. Whitehead (who compiled the coin catalogue of the Lahore Museum), Dr. Reginald le May of Oxford, Mr. Cadrington of the Victoria and Albert Museum, Mr. Basil Gray of the British Museum and Sir Malcolm Darling (late of the Punjab).



Men of the 17th Dogra Regiment break cover to make a bayonet charge on the Burma Front

DOGRA REGIMENT'S RECORD IN BURMA

WITH at least 400 Japs killed and many more wounded, with but light losses to themselves, the 17th Dogra Regiment can say that it has well and truly measured the Jap and beaten him in recent months. And this is the record of one battalion of the regiment only.

No unit of the Indian Army can claim a longer record against the Jap than that of this battalion of the Dogras, seasoned as they are by tough campaigning in the initial battle of Burma, the rigours of 18 months' fighting in the Arakan and the difficult conditions of the monsoon fighting on the Imphal Front.

Battalion's Awards

This battalion has won a D.S.O., five M.C.s, three I.O.M.s and four I.D.S.M.s in the Burma campaign, a firm reminder not only of their valour but of the importance and military significance of the operations in which they have taken part. Theirs is a story which will bear telling again in the villages and farms in the foothills of the Himalayas, in Kashmir and in the Northern Punjab, where the brave sure-footed Dogras have their homes.

It was with the famed Fifth Indian Division, on the Arakan Front, that their adventures began. Already Dogras had earned a reputation for tough defence and fierce attack; now they were to take the battle to the enemy and make him suffer endless casualties.

Their First Big Job

In one of their earliest patrols Sub. Narain Singh, scrambling over the scrubby hillocks to the west of the Mayu Range, ambushed and killed three enemy. He followed this up with a stealthy approach to Jap strongpoint and the theft of a notice board, which he brought back to battalion H.Q. and which gave valuable information.

Their first big job was the capture of three hillocks blasted bare by the R.A.F. Maj. P. L. Meek occupied two hillocks in daylight despite heavy opposition; the third was strongly prepared and stood five bayonet charges in four days from one company.

Major Ghulam Qadir led the men whose task it was to attack over ground which gave no cover. They got to within 40 yards of the enemy, were met with a hail of grenades and



A mortar detachment of the 11th Sikh Regiment bombs an enemy position on the Imphal Front.

bullets—and calmly dug themselves in. They held that slope until relieved and attacked with the bayonet each day; after subsequent attacks complete control of the hillock was gained.

The Dogras played an important part in opening the Ngakyedauk Pass to relieve the besieged Seventh Indian Division and were then flown to the Imphal Front. Thirty Japs killed in an ambush in the Ukhrul sector made a good beginning for the Dogras who later surpassed all other achievements by surrounding a Jap force over 100 strong and wiped them out to a man. The military significance of this resounding success in smashing an enemy who had got within ten miles of Imphal tremendously heartened other troops.

Cleared First Road Block

After other successes the Dogras cleared the first road block on the Imphal-Kohima road and were part of the force which met the British troops who had smashed through from the north.

The Dogras have a proud record, worthy of their proud regiment. For valour and distinction few can surpass it.

"SAT SRI AKAL" MEANS DEATH TO JAPS

"We have just a quiet confidence in ourselves and know that man for man we are considerably better than the Jap." In these words a battalion of the 11th Sikh Regiment sums up the results of many months of arduous campaigning on the Arakan and Imphal Fronts.

To listen to these Sikhs narrate their battle experiences is to hear the spirit and determination that has always been characteristic of a race of gallant warriors, writes an Indian Army Observer. They are of the finest of the descendants of the ancient Gurus and their war cry, "Sat Sri Akal", is known and feared by many a Jap.

If ever "Buthidaung" should become a battle honour it will surely go to a certain battalion of Sikhs who fought down bitter opposition and bayoneted and blasted their way into this battered town. It was in this engagement in which their spirit of tenacity and bravery, their initiative and their courage overwhelmed the Japs that Naik Nand Singh made his assault, typical of the fighting Sikh, which won him the Victoria Cross.

The Sikhs made a terrific daylight assault; it seemed that the whole jungle was afire. Artillery played an important part and every imaginable infantry weapon was pounding against the Jap position. The Sikhs were cheering before they went in; their yells demoralised the enemy.

One strong Jap section was held. "Blitz" tactics were employed and trench after trench fell to the bayonet and the grenade. Sikh ferocity brought a toll of over 100 dead Japs definitely counted. The dead lost in the jungle, the bodies carried away and the wounded will never be known.

From that day the Jap feared the war cry of the Sikh. He knew it meant blood—his blood, for the Sikhs lost few men in the whole operation.

A quick move by river, road and air took the Sikhs to the Imphal Front. They were soon in action and their patrols penetrated miles behind the enemy lines. They were attacked for nine hours but they beat off all assaults in what was officially described as "one of the fiercest encounters experienced by the battalion."

Now the Sikhs are pursuing the enemy in their eastward flight following the defeat of Kohima.

CHURCHILL LINK WITH N. W. FRONTIER

Almost 50 years ago a young cavalry subaltern was a war correspondent during a campaign on the North-West Frontier of India. Now he is Britain's war leader, Mr. Winston Churchill.

Copies of most of his books are to be found in the library of Malakand Fort, one of the Indian Army's most northerly outposts—except his first literary effort, which was inspired by the fighting in those parts.

This was the sad admission made by the garrison when a visitor recently showed them a borrowed copy of "The Story of the Malakand Field Force," by Lieut. Winston S. Spencer Churchill, of the 4th Queen's Own Hussars—otherwise known as "A Subaltern's Hints to Generals."

"We have several copies of the official account," said one of the officers, "but Winnie's book is very scarce nowadays."

There are many reminders at Malakand of the 1897 campaign, although improvements have changed the appearance of some of the principal features. The fort is no longer in the vulnerable position criticised by Mr. Churchill; a railway has been built to Dargai (six miles away) and a good motor road has replaced the rough pony-track of 50 years ago.

HYDERABAD BATTERY ON IMPHAL FRONT

From skilfully concealed gun positions at the foot of towering jungle clad hills south of Imphal, men of the Hyderabad Battery—the only State Force Gunner Unit serving on this front—are daily harassing the Japs and giving valuable support to our forward infantry as they move forward against the enemy. They are many miles from the main line of communication, dependent for supplies on a track which runs up a stream-straddled valley and in country where no troops have been before. But they are enjoying it. "The trouble with my men, if there is any trouble", Major R. G. Langan, the Battery Commander, told an Indian Army Observer, "is that they take the war too light-heartedly". Major Langan has served with the Battery for 14 years.

In recent operations the Battery carried out valuable work in supporting the fighting withdrawal of the 17th Indian Division on the Tiddim Road. In this fighting Sig. Hav. Abdulajee, a Punjabi Mussalman of Rawalpindi District, distinguished himself in an exploit. Out with a line party repairing communications, he was caught in a heavy enemy bombardment, but leaving his party under cover went alone up the road to repair the lines. Jap infiltration elements had penetrated to the road and he had to conceal himself in a ditch. He was away for ten hours and did hot return until dawn when his work was accomplished.

"Plunkets Troops"

Ninety per cent of the men of the Battery are Deccani Mussalmans and Rajputs. The State is taking good care of its fighting men. A land settlement scheme is in hand for them after the war and all the men get a present at *II* time from the State. The Battery was visited, last March, by the Commander of the Hyderabad State Forces, Major-General Syed Ahmed-El-Edross Bahadur.

The Battery has a long history. It was raised in 1845 and, in the early days when it was armed with nine-pounder muzzle loading guns drawn by bullocks, was known as "Plunkets Troops." It is the senior State Forces Unit. Exchanging its 18-pounder for the modern 25-pounder and its horses for trucks and tractors during 1942, it joined the Indian Field Regiment (in March, 1943) to which it now belongs. It was sent to the Assam-Burma Border last October.

I.A.F. PILOT DECORATED BY SUPREME COMMANDER

S/Ldr. Arjan Singh

DURING his recent tour of the Imphal area, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, halted at a forward airfield to pin the D.F.C. on S/Ldr. Arjan Singh, the first pilot of the Indian Air Force to be decorated by him in the field and the fourth Indian officer to win the award.

Commanding a famous Hurricane squadron of the Third Tactical Air Force, S/Ldr. Arjan Singh had only 30 minutes' notice of the honour that was to be paid him, his men slightly less; yet when the Supreme Commander arrived on their strip they were assembled in an aircraft bay ready to see the presentation.

They made an impressive sight as they formed three sides of a square to watch the ceremony and afterwards swarmed around Lord Louis who had climbed on the wing of a Hurricane to congratulate them on their splendid work in the campaign which had resulted in the re-opening of the vital supply road to Imphal.

Air Marshal Sir John Baldwin, Air Commander, Third Tactical Air Force, spoke of the squadron's successes on the Burma Front and wished them luck.

S/Ldr. Arjan Singh, who comes from Kohali, Lyallpur, Punjab, is a graduate of the R.A.F. Staff College, Cranwell, and flew in the Burma campaign of 1942. Between February and the opening of the Manipur Road at the end of June (1944) his squadron completed 1,600 sorties totalling 2,000 operational hours.



Squadron-Leader Arjan Singh

FIRST INDIAN AIR FORCE A.F.C.

The first award of the Air Force Cross to an Indian Air Force pilot has been made to 23-year-old Flying Officer D. F. Eduljee, of Fyzabad, United Provinces, in recognition of his exceptional services as a flying instructor at the senior flying training school in India.

For more than two years, F/O Eduljee has been training Indian pilots at Ambala on Audax, Hart and Harvard aircraft and has passed out many pupils. He is now on operational flying on the Assam Front with an Indian Air Force fighter reconnaissance squadron.

During his distinguished flying career, F/O Eduljee has logged over 1,300 flying hours of which 1,000 hours have been spent on instruction and many of his former pupils are now flying with the Indian Air Force squadrons operating with the Third Tactical Air Force on the Burma Front. The award was announced in the Birthday Honours list.

The A.F.C. is awarded to officers and warrant officers for exceptional valour, courage or devotion to duty while flying, though not in active operations against the enemy.

SPITFIRE PILOTS

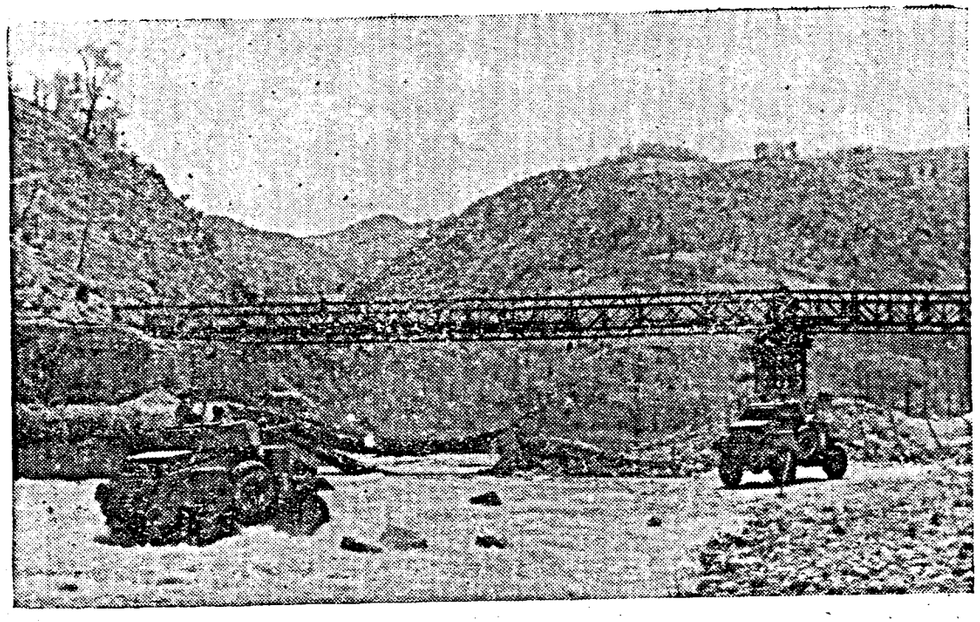
For the past year a number of Indian pilots have been in Great Britain training to fly spitfires. They are the first Indians ever to fly these famous machines.

"I talked with three of them when I was on the North West Frontier recently," said an Indian Air Force Public Relations Officer.

He added: They were the first to return to this country and were very proud to have been selected to learn to fly the Allies' best fighter.

These three will soon be on operations on the Frontier, but all of them hope it will not be long before they are posted to the Burma Front. Then they hope to be back on 'Spits' which they think is the finest fighter ever designed. Their ambition is to fly the latest model Spitfire—the Mark 14—against the Japs.

Meanwhile they do nothing but talk of the hospitality they found everywhere in the United Kingdom. They are glad to be back in India, but—they had a grand time over there.



Madras Sappers and Miners build a Bailey bridge in Italy. Armoured cars waded through the river during patrols before the bridge was completed.

INDIAN SOLDIER WINS GEORGE CROSS

THE first George Cross to be won by an Indian soldier has been awarded posthumously to Sub. Subramanian, Madras Sappers and Miners, a Hindu Nayaner (Madrassi) of village Keelwotivackam, district Chingleput, "for conspicuous gallantry in performing hazardous work in a very brave manner" in Italy. He already held the I.D.S.M., won in North Africa last year.

On February 24, Sub. Subramanian was in charge of a mine-clearing company ordered to search for a missing Jemadar who was believed to have walked into a minefield near Mignano.

Sub. Subramanian was operating the mine-detector when a small explosion occurred. Realizing that someone had trodden on an anti-personnel mine and that within four seconds the canister would be blown into the air and explode, he rushed, without the slightest hesitation, towards the mine and flung himself on top of it at the same time trying to knock his comrade aside. The force of the explosion was largely neutralized by the Subedar's body and six lives were saved as a result. The Subedar succumbed to his injuries.

"This act of unsurpassed bravery on the part of the Subedar, done in an instant without the excitement of battle, is beyond all praise," says Gen. Sir Harold Alexander, who signs the citation.

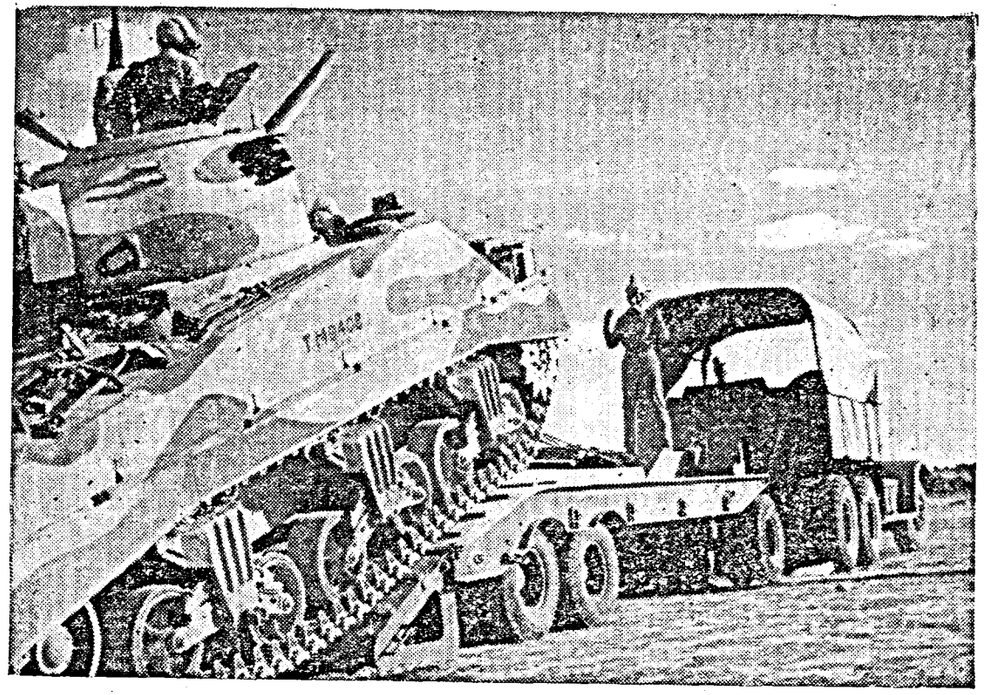
The citation continued: "The fact that he took this action and so deliberately gave his own life to save that of his friends shows that Sub. Subramanian possessed qualities of the highest order.

"His heroism was in accordance with the highest traditions of the Indian Army."

BANGALORE SAPPER WHO CARRIED ON

Manned by Gurkhas, machine-gun jeeps and British tanks carrying Madrassi sappers are patrolling along route 73 from Palazzo Del Pero towards Monterchi, writes an Indian Army Observer. They are going through territory similar to the Western Ghat country of India.

The Madrassis sweep the road for mines. A bulldozer driven by Sapper Bengalase, of Bangalore City, repaired three demolished



A damaged tank being taken aboard a transporter by men of an I.E.M.E. Recovery Unit for repairs at a Mobile Workshop.

bridges before the force made contact with the enemy.

With Gurkhas and tanks waiting on the road behind him, the Bangalore sapper was bulldozing to repair the fourth block on the road when he came under heavy shell fire. Bengalase continued his work unhurried; he was wounded in the arm by a shell splinter but insisted on trying to carry on until ordered from the area by an officer.

British and Gurkha troops are full of admiration for these South Indian sappers, who cheerfully lift mines and clear roads in the face of stiff hazards.

Sapper Vivaswamy, of village Turinjipalli, tehsil Chittoor, carved a track from the hillside with his bulldozer for the tanks of a British cavalry regiment working with an Indian Division. Sappers listen for mines with their headphones or probe for the wooden or bakelite mines which the detector machines fail to disclose. The tanks must wait for the sappers before they can lumber on and the sappers' work is vital to the advance.

TRIBUTE TO I.E.M.E.

Major-Gen. F. I. S. Tuker, who commanded the Fourth Indian Division in North Africa, has paid a striking tribute to the division's Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineer groups.

In a message to the division's I.E.M.E. Commander he says: "Please let your units know how deeply grateful I am for their unremitting work and skilful attention to weapons, vehicles and equipment of the Fourth Indian Division. I know only too well the almost insuperable difficulties against which they have had so often to contend.

"It has been due to their devoted work under adverse circumstances that we managed that series of victories right through Tunisia. I do not believe that any other division could have kept on the road under full load the large number of vehicles that your officers and men succeeded in doing. May success and luck attend you yourself and your units in the future."

The I.E.M.E. is the Indian Army's newest corps. It celebrated its first birthday about two months ago.

WELL DONE "BIHAR"!

Thrilling Rescue in Indian Ocean

WHEN their ship was sunk at night in the Indian Ocean, more than 180 European and Indian men and women and one small child were rescued recently by a warship of the Royal Indian Navy.

The warship—H.M.I.S. *Bihar*, an escort vessel—had for two days been steaming south through mountainous monsoon weather, writes an Indian Army Observer who was taking passage on the ship.

During the night the sea became calmer and, soon after, alarm bells throughout the ship sounded "Action Stations." From the deck, writes the Observer, I could see first flashes and then a dull fading glow about three miles away to the south-west. To the landsman's eye, it appeared as though a naval engagement might be in progress.

Survivors Sighted

Immediately, the *Bihar* changed course and headed at full speed in the direction of the glow. Depth-charge gear and all guns were manned, ready to attack any enemy, either on or beneath the surface.

As the warship streaked across the sea, a shout from a look-out attracted my attention to the other side of the ship and there, shown up dimly by the phosphorescence of the water, were two tiny black objects bobbing on the waves. Immediately, the ship swung round, heeling over sharply with the speed of the manœuvre, and drew up dead alongside the two objects, which now proved to be two men—one European and one Indian, supported by life-jackets.

Quickly Pulled on Board

They were the ship's doctor, A. S. Ellis of Melbourne, Australia, and Steward Salvador Rodriguez of Bombay. Quickly they were pulled on board and there they told breathlessly of what had happened. Somewhere out there in the blackness were perhaps 200 other survivors from the sunken ship.

Every second at a standstill, or even at slow speed, put the *Bihar* in imminent peril of torpedo attack. The Captain of the ship, Lieut.-Commander W. L. Deeble, D.S.C., R.I.N.R., made a difficult decision instantly. Signals were made to a Royal Navy ship also in the vicinity. While the *Bihar* searched for survivors among square miles of wreckage, the R.N. ship circled an area, searching for the enemy and providing as much protection as possible for the rescue operations.

Person after person was hauled aboard until more than 180 survivors crowded every inch of the very limited spare space in the compact *Bihar*. Many of those rescued had been in the sea; others had made their escape in life-boats. Some had been injured. Those with wounds were immediately attended to. The rescued doctor—although he had himself been swimming for more than an hour—worked incessantly through the night and during most of the following day. Later in the voyage, he successfully carried out a minor operation. The patient was Refrigeration Engineer, H. A. Garrow, of West Brunswick, Victoria, Australia, who had been suspended in mid-air for some time by four fingers of one hand, which had become jammed in the life-boat falls of the sinking ship.

Last to be Rescued

Last to be rescued, just as the search was being abandoned, was the Captain of the sunken ship, Capt. T. J. Mills, of Sydney, Australia. He was picked out in the early dawn light—a lonely figure sitting, with arms folded, astride a battered, upturned life-boat. He had waited until his ship took her final plunge and had then slid down into the sea. There he managed to climb on top of the upturned boat. As H.M.I.S. *Bihar* approached him he slid down into the sea and swam to the side of the rescue ship, where Petty Officer Fazul Ahmed, of Rawalpindi, went overboard with a rope to help bring him to safety.

Immediately, H.M.I.S. *Bihar* headed south again at full speed. Days still separated the ship from shore, and both food and drinking water had to be entirely rationed. The *Bihar's* cooks and stewards put up a magnificent performance in feeding—and, in the circumstances, feeding well—all those on board.

The ship's officers, petty officers and ratings gave up their cabins and bunks to women, the aged and sick. To find a place anywhere in the ship to stretch out for sleep during the nights was difficult; to find anywhere to sit, or even stand, out of the scorching sunshine of the daytime was for most of us impossible.

"Well Done, *Bihar*!" was the signal flashed to the ship towards the end of her voyage and well done, indeed, was the sentiment, expressed or not, of every man, woman and child on board.



Indian soldiers broadcasting music from a Cairo Studio for Indian troops in the Middle East.



Subedar Chuhar Singh, 13th Frontier Force Rifles, broadcasting a message to his family in a Punjab village, from the Front Line.

WIRELESS, A BOON FOR INDIAN TROOPS

Broadcasting for Indian troops has now been developed as one of the most active "Welfare" services of the Indian Army. For Indian soldiers, who may not always be able to read newspapers or books, the wireless has been a special boon and full advantage of the opportunity thus provided has been taken.

Indian servicemen in India, Burma, Ceylon and overseas now have 85 minutes to themselves each day from the Delhi Station of All India Radio. This "Listening time," which is full of news and entertainment, is awaited with enthusiasm by Indian fighting personnel at every station where it can be heard. Broadcasts for Indian troops are also made from Cairo, Baghdad, Beirut, Teheran and Rome.

Entertainment is provided in great variety—music, both recorded and "live",—skits, features, plays, jokes, and stories, all with the appropriate local touch from the provinces and states.

Ten minutes are devoted daily to purely local entertainment for troops from selected



Indian soldiers send messages home.

areas. The man from the Punjab has his *dholak ke geets* and *mahiyas* and the men from the N.-W.F.P. have their own Pushto items; the *poorbees,* South Indians and Mahrattas also have their own features.

In addition, special martial songs are prepared and broadcast in the men's own dialects; these are particularly popular. Thus almost every Indian in khaki is assured of entertainment suiting his individual taste.

The men can also peep into their homes, villages or towns by means of special messages broadcast for them. Individual messages for men overseas are sent to All India Radio by their relatives and friends and are then "featured" in the programmes.

In addition, general messages intended for groups of men from particular areas are delivered over the air by retired soldiers or prominent men from those areas. These general messages, too, have a personal touch which adds to the homelines of the programmes. Men overseas also send messages and stories, which sometimes include incidents of the war recorded on the spot, for their comrades in India.

News concerning towns, villages, welfare associations, village panchayats, unions, cattle, fields and other domestic affairs, gathered by recruiting and liaison officers and correspondents, are also broadcast. Announcements about pay and family allowances are made and there are also war commentaries which give the soldier a clear background to the various operations. Men of the 4th and 5th Indian Divisions, back from the front, have given accounts of their experiences and recently some escapees from the Japs recounted their adventures.

The Indian programmes are arranged by the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate in collaboration with All India Radio.

FAUJI DILKHUSH SABHA

Indian troops have a new entertainment organisation, Fauji Dilkhush Sabha, evolved from the famous B.E.S.A. (Bengal Entertainments Services Association) group which has done so much to cheer up the lives of the fighting men on the Burma border.

"F.D.S.," as it has already become known, has been created to provide "live" entertainment for members of the Indian services in the India and South East Asia Commands and Overseas.

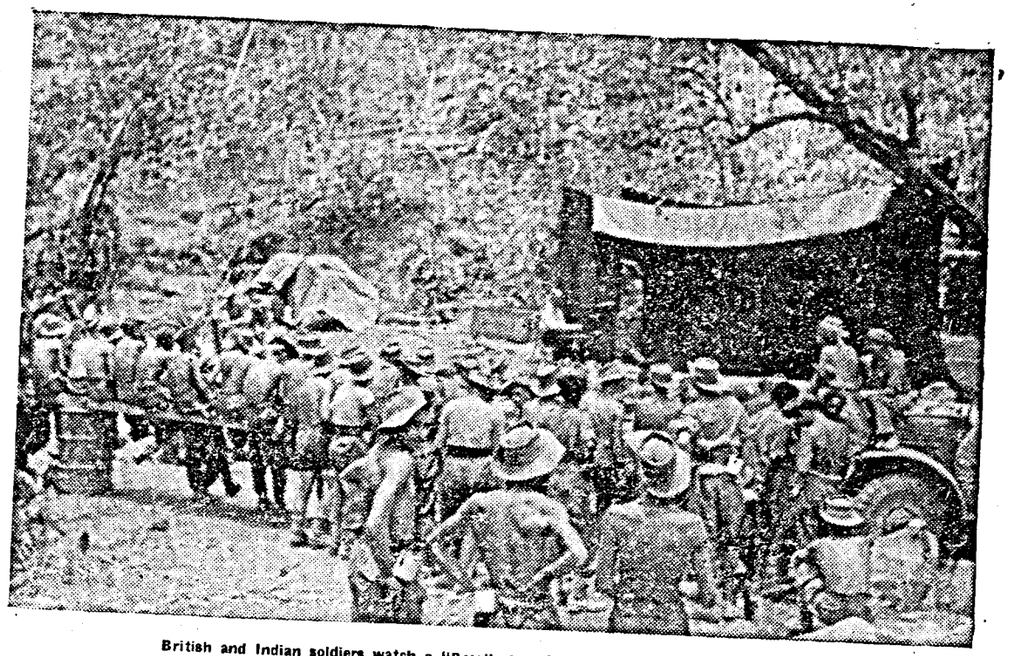
This work has, during the past two years, been carried out by B.E.S.A., which is a voluntary organisation, in Assam, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and part of the United Provinces. The handful of civilians who run B.E.S.A. have earned the appreciation of thousands of British and Indian troops throughout North-Eastern India.

B. E. S. A. Performances

B.E.S.A. performances have been given in varying and often extraordinary conditions. From the forward areas in the Arakan, where night shows are impossible, to 9,000 feet up in the Chin Hills, parties have provided entertainments, the performers digging in with the rest of the army. Although conditions have sometimes been far from congenial, the artists have remained steady and cheerful.

In addition for the troops on the front, B.E.S.A. has also given performances for men in the rear areas.

Now, the entertainment of Indian personnel in all the services has been handed over to F.D.S., which will have its headquarters in Calcutta. So smooth has been the transfer that the flow of entertainment has been undiminished and uninterrupted, in fact it is showing a tendency to increase owing to the allotment of extra funds.



British and Indian soldiers watch a "Besa" show in a jungle setting in the Arakan.

The variety of Indian languages has produced new problems but these will be overcome by sending out balanced parties capable of performing in at least three languages. There will also be dancing in both North and South Indian styles and the primary appeal in all parties will be to the eye rather than to the ear. Men and women artists from all over India are being engaged.

E.N.S.A. PARTY IN RAZMAK

Razmak, the North-West Frontier outpost which is probably the largest permanent "men only" military station in the world, celebrated its coming-of-age by welcoming the first women over to visit it. They were members of Jack Murray's E.N.S.A. party "At Your Service."

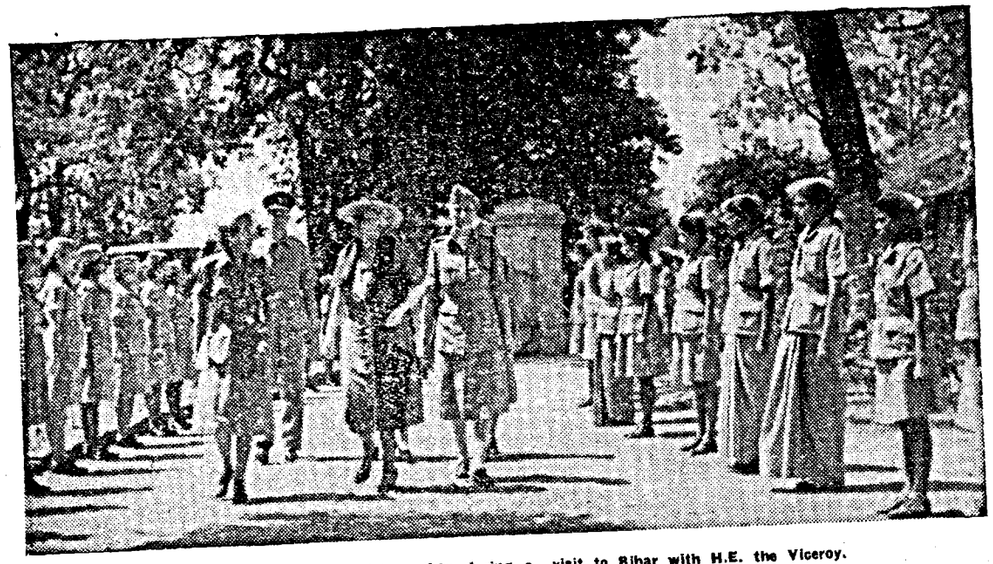
High authorities had to be consulted before they could go. H.E. Sir George Cunningham, Governor of N.-W.F.P., who knows intimately every corner of the Province, readily gave his consent when approached by Lieut.-Gen. H. Finnis, N.-W. Army Commander, and to his permission was added that of the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, who has his own memories of outpost life on the Frontier.

The road to Razmak, which is only 23 miles from the Afghan border, is perpetually closed to all but tribal traffic except on special days when the whole of its 73 miles is picquetted by protecting troops while convoys run at high speed under escort. It is not unused to being under fire from hostile tribesmen.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 191).



Sergeant Thompson, a "Besa" player, congratulates Sepoy Ghulam Rasul, who participated in the show.



Lady Wavell inspecting W.A.C. (I.)s during a visit to Bihar with H.E. the Viceroy.



The Countess of Carlisle.

NEW PLANS FOR W.A.C. (I)

Forthcoming Tour by Lady Carlisle

"I AM delighted to find so many Indian women in the Corps which it is my privilege to come to India to lead", said the Countess of Carlisle, newly-appointed Chief Commander of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India), who is now at work at her headquarters at G.H.Q., New Delhi.

She added: Even in the short time since my arrival I have seen much evidence of the good work being done by the Corps. But many more women are needed.

As soon as possible I intend to visit W.A.C.(I) units in all parts of India personally to acquaint myself with them, and their working and living conditions.

We have many projects on foot for the Corps. Perhaps the most far-reaching of these is the opening of recruit training centres. These will give a good grounding in Service matters and provide a bridge between civil and Service life. For those girls who wish to serve as clerks, a clerical course will follow recruit training.

We are also arranging two months' courses for mess sergeants and mess caterers. This should facilitate the catering in our hostels.

We have plans for training officers, both for corps and staff work. Our aim is to provide more and more women of all ranks to help the army in the war against Japan which is so surely gathering strength.

I say to the women of India that our work is work which any woman should be proud to undertake.

W.A.C. (I)'S 27 NATIONALITIES

Girls serving at the W.A.C.(I) Headquarters at G.H.Q., New Delhi, represent six different communities.

Officers on the H.Q. staff include a girl from Burma, another from Malaya, a Keren, an Anglo-Indian, an English girl and two Indian officers—a Hindu and a Mohammedan from the Punjab. All but one have risen from the ranks.

India's vast size and diversity of population are reflected in the fact that in the Women's Auxiliary Corps alone there are 27 different nationalities. Unified by the common cause they are working side by side to hasten the day when the threat to India will be removed and peace will come again to the world.

Latest development in the Corps is the formation of a Clerical Training School attached to the O.C.T.U. at Dagshai. Here, girls who wish to serve as clerks and stenographers will receive a thorough training before being posted to units. An instructors' course is now in progress at the School and training will start in August.

E. N. S. A. PARTY IN RAZMAK

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 189)

The E.N.S.A. party came up the road with the usual convoy. As they came through the barbed wire perimeter into the camp, the waiting troops surged forward and surrounded their cars to give the party the greatest welcome of their experience. Preceded by a pipe band, they drove to the Brigade mess with the Brigadier and the Station Staff Officer on the running board of the leading car.

Several women members of the party, overcome by this unprecedented reception, were in tears. Surrounded by hundreds of British and Indian troops, the girls took part in a "first footing" ceremony by setting the impressions of their feet in a block of wet cement which had been kept ready for the occasion.

The party stayed at Razmak for six days, giving performances for troops every night. The Sappers put in a background of shots in the middle of one of their shows.

HEROINES OF BURMA FRONT

India Urgently Needs More Nurses

BEHIND the lines in Burma and Assam, where the horrors of war are never far away, Indian and British women of the nursing services are pursuing their great mission. Of their fearlessness, patience and tireless devotion to duty too little is known.

The nurses are always the first of the women's services to follow the fighting men into action. Serving in India and Burma now are members of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, who were with the B.E.F. in France; women who knew the horror and confusion of Dunkirk but continued with their work of comforting and healing men.

They were among the first to set foot in North Africa with our invasion force. In Hong Kong, at Singapore and in the long retreat north from Malaya and Burma they calmly fulfilled their task.

Grave Deficiencies

They care little for their location—they are too engrossed in their work, to bother about their surroundings. With a smile, a jest or a word of quiet sympathy they wash the pain from the faces of tortured men and with their strong, confident hands they work wonders of healing.

From Britain come the nursing officers—all highly-skilled State-registered nurses—of the Q.A.I.M.N.S. and its reserve formation. With them came those who serve in the Territorial Army Nursing Service. Numbering in all more than 2,000 they have travelled thousands of miles to join their units.

India's contribution is the Indian Military Nursing Service. It was intended that the Indian organisation, drawing on Indian and Anglo-Indian women and on British women resident in India, should meet the needs of all Indian troops.

But grave deficiencies existed (more than 2,500) and 300 members of the already overworked Q.A.I.M.N.S. and its companion organisations from Britain had to be switched over to relieve the situation. This helped but more military nurses are urgently required.

When the war is over women now serving may continue their training in civilian hospitals and eventually become State-registered nurses.



Lady Wavell stops to talk to a patient during her recent visit to the British Military Hospital, Delhi Cantonment.

MR. NOEL COWARD'S TRIBUTE TO RED CROSS

Mr. Noel Coward, the famous British playwright and producer, in a recent broadcast on the work of the Indian Red Cross and St. John, said: "To my mind the Red Cross and St. John is the greatest humanitarian enterprise in the history of the world. It is inter-nation, non-religious, non-political, non-military and non-government and it is entirely supported by public donations."

After stating that he had visited hundreds of military hospitals throughout Great Britain, Italy, North Africa and the Middle East, and now those in India, he continued: "I am deeply and for ever impressed with the behaviour and courage of our men. They contrive—these ordinary, extraordinary men from all over the British Isles, India, the Dominions and the Colonies, to present their suffering and all the violence and horror they have endured with indescribable dignity and grace."

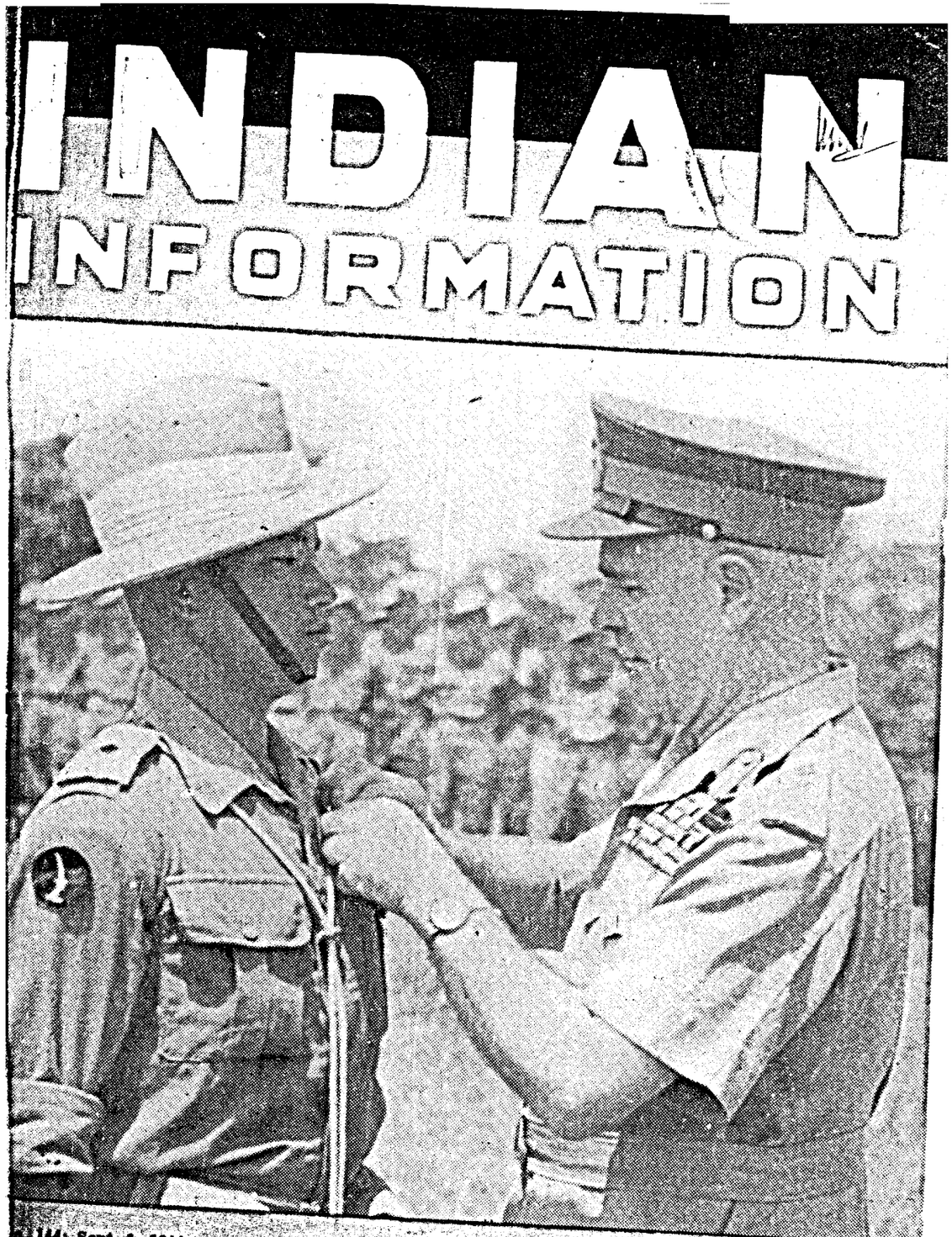


Mr. Noel Coward, who accompanied Lady Wavell, enquires after the health of a W.A.C. (I) from Travancore at the Hospital.

Mr. Coward concluded: "If when the war is over, we let them down for any personal or political consideration, whatever, it will be to our eternal and everlasting shame."

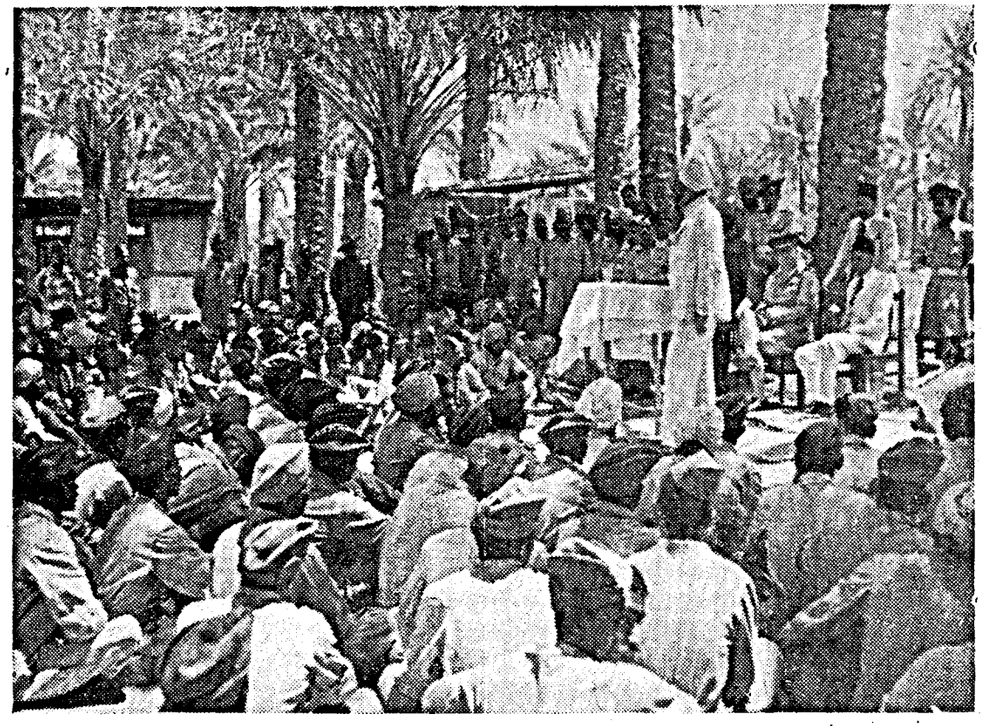
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INDIAN INFORMATION



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ortnightly by the
Information Officer,
ment of India.

● H. E. THE VICEROY'S VISIT TO IMPHAL AND KOHIMA



Capt. Sardar Naunihal Singh Mann, one of the National Defence Council Members who recently toured the Middle East, addressing Indian soldiers at the Paiforce Vehicle Maintenance School.

Vol. 15 No. 144. INDIAN INFORMATION Sept. 1, 1944.

AIMS:—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activi ies of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educationalor institutional, the editor, the put lisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Issued Fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.
Associate Editor: P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: The Viceroy pinning the ribbon of the Military Cross on the chest of Jem. Dharam Singh Thapa, 1st Gurkha Rifles, during his recent visit to Imphal.



Indian troops in Italy lined the road to greet H.M. the King as he drove past.

THE KING SEES INDIAN TROOPS IN ACTION IN ITALY

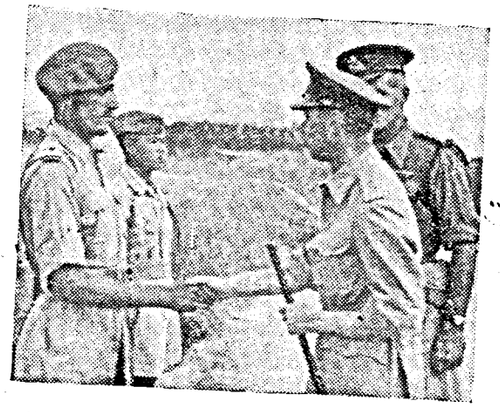
FOR the first time in this war H.M. the King-Emperor has watched his Indian troops in action.

His Majesty appeared among troops of a famous Indian Division just after some of their successful onward thrusts. The secret was well kept but for two hours before his arrival the roads were lined with Sikhs, Mahrattas, Punjabis, Gurkhas and British troops.

A Great Ovation

This was front line stuff, writes an Indian Army Observer. From one observation post on he walls of Arezzo, the King could see the fierce ighting of men of the 12th Frontier Force Regiient. It seemed hardly possible that there in he battle for the hills a monarch was watching is troops.

British and Indian soldiers sent up burst after urst of cheering as the King watched his artilry pounding the opposite slopes. He seized noculars to get a better view; I thought of ose similar walls of Indian cities long ago



His Majesty shaking hands with Jem. Sitara Khan, M.C.

from which kings, encased in armour, had as anxiously watched the battles of their troops on the plains below. In Umbertide, the first town to fall to the Division in their push, the King



The King pinning the V.C. on the breast of Sepoy Kamal Ram. (A radio photograph).

met Jem. Lal Bahadur Rana, Naik Kharakh Bahadur and Jemadar Sitara Khan. He drove down the road in an open car dressed informally in khaki shorts and shirt, jumped out of the car and shook hands with the two jemadars, both of whom had won the M.C., and the naik, who recently won the M.M.

As he got back into the car the King pulled out two or three blankets, thumped them down on the hood at the back of the car and sat on top so that the troops could have a better view. He called up an officer and two men whom he seemed to know, to ask them where they had been since he last saw them, and then the car went down the road through the ranks of madly cheering troops.

Watched the Gunners

With General Sir Oliver Leese, Commander of the Eighth Army, the King stood in an artillery observation post on the ancient walls of Arezzo town and watched the gunners smack shell after shell on a hill top to the north. He travelled along the road that the Indian sappers had made and stopped in the sun-baked square of battered Palazzo Del Pero, where he talked to Indian and British troops about their fighting at Cassino.

Jem. Man Bahadur Adhikari, of Lam Un, Nepal, told His Majesty how he stayed for ten days on Hangman's Hill. Cpl. W. Chapman, of a Southern Counties Regiment, and medical Naik Mohammed Yusuf, I.O.M., I.D.S.M., of Morabad, near Rawalpindi, were presented to him.

Within Range of Enemy Shells

His drive through the cheering troops took the King past anti-aircraft sites and recovery wagons and shops of the I.E.M.E.; Gurkha sentries had their kukris at the carry.

The King, with Generals Alexander, Clark, and Leese, made camp and slept within range of enemy shells.

"Two caravans for his use had been dragged to the brow of a hill," said an Eighth Army news reporter. "As I walked to them through the tangled blackberry brambles I picked up a shining sliver of steel from a shell which had landed not far away."

The King saw all the difficulties of the campaign and, from shattered airfield to jeep trail, rode in car and jeep to see for himself. Smiling, saluting and waving his stick, he joined in the enthusiasm of his men.

A PICTORIAL RECORD OF WAR

Fighting men on the Burma Front are helping to make a picture record of the Eastern war Many officers and men have taken their own photographs and an Indian Army Order has been issued inviting them to submit them for official use.

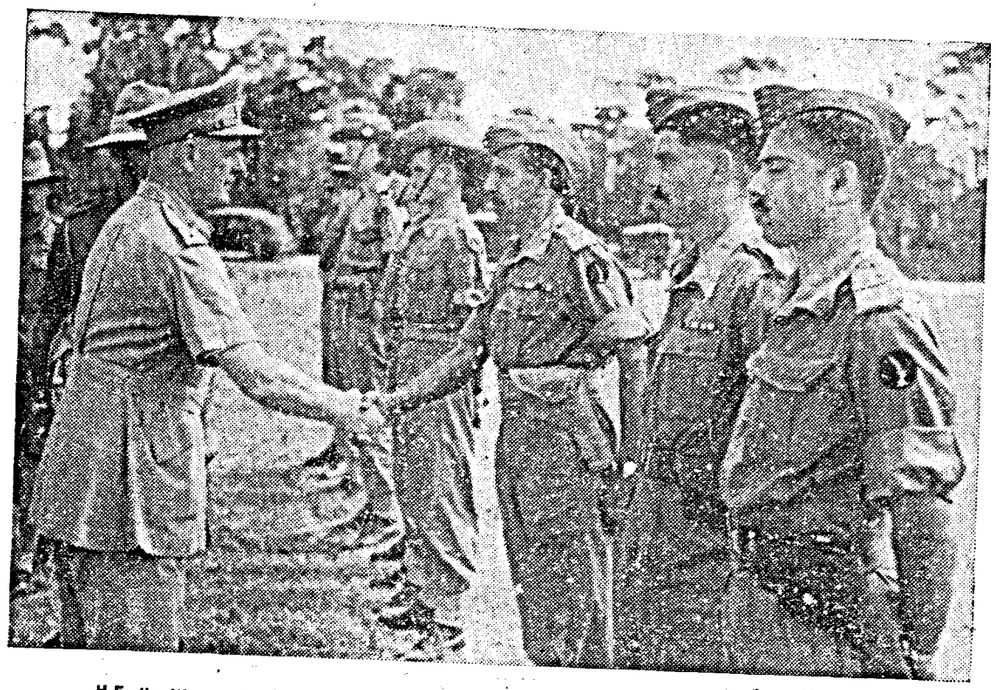
"A history in pictures of India's part in the war, particularly as regards the Burma campaigns, is to be published," said a senior officer of the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate India Command.

An Appeal

"Unofficial and amateur photographs can be of considerable value. They will usefully supplement pictures taken by our own official war photographers.

"Amateur pictures have been taken by fighting men on almost all fronts—Burma, Abyssinia North Africa and Italy. We have made an appeal to them and to anyone else to supply us with pictures of historical significance or of unusual incidents, with as much explanatory matter as possible.

"Already we have about 20,000 negatives, the great majority of which have been exposed by official photographers. With the addition of amateur snapshots this will be a good selection on which to base a book depicting the war record of India's fighting services."



H.E. the Viceroy shaking hands with Sub.-Maj. Sher Mohd. of the 14th Punjab Regiment during his recent visit to the Imphal Front.

THE VICEROY'S VISIT TO IMPHAL AND KOHIMA

HIS EXCELLENCY LORD WAVELL recently concluded a three-day tour of parts of India liberated from the Japanese. Among the places he visited were Imphal, which withstood the Jap siege for so long, and Kohima where the tide of battle was turned after fierce fighting.

The Viceroy toured the battle grounds only a few weeks ago and talked to the commanders on the spot. Naga chiefs in their ceremonial scarlet blankets gathered by the hundred in Kohima, carrying gifts to welcome him. In Manipur State the Maharaja called on His Excellency and accompanied him on his tour of Imphal and district.

His Excellency also decorated officers and men who had won awards in the recent fighting. He pinned medals on their chests in fields, in jungle clearings and by road sides. At Bishenpur he saw several Jap prisoners, including a captured officer formerly of the Jap Imperial Guard.

Fighting planes on constant patrol zoomed in the air during the Viceroy's visit and guarded his plane when he landed at Imphal, writes an Indian Army Observer. His Excellency was met by Lt.-Gen. M. G. N. Stopford, victor of the Kohima battle, Mr. C. Gimson, Political Agent, Manipur State, and Mr. E. F. Lydell, President of the Manipur State Durbar. He inspected a guard of honour of the R.A.F. Regiment and an army guard of the Durham Light Infantry, the Royal Berkshire Regiment and other troops. Afterwards the Viceroy visited squadrons of the R.A.F. and I.A.F. operating on the Burma front, and an R.A.F. hospital.

At Bishenpur

The next day the Viceroy, wearing the uniform of a Field Marshal, inspected some of the men of forward divisions, and motored to Bishenpur, scene of so much recent fighting. He saw here what measures are being taken to feed the population, whose homes were destroyed in the fighting, and who are coming back to their villages after hiding in the jungle. Three Jap prisoners bowed and saluted as the Viceroy stopped to look at them.

On the third day the Viceroy went along the steep, winding Kohima-Imphal road to visit his

old division, the Second, and look over the battle-fields. After inspecting the men of the Second Division, which he commanded before the war, the Viceroy said to the men:

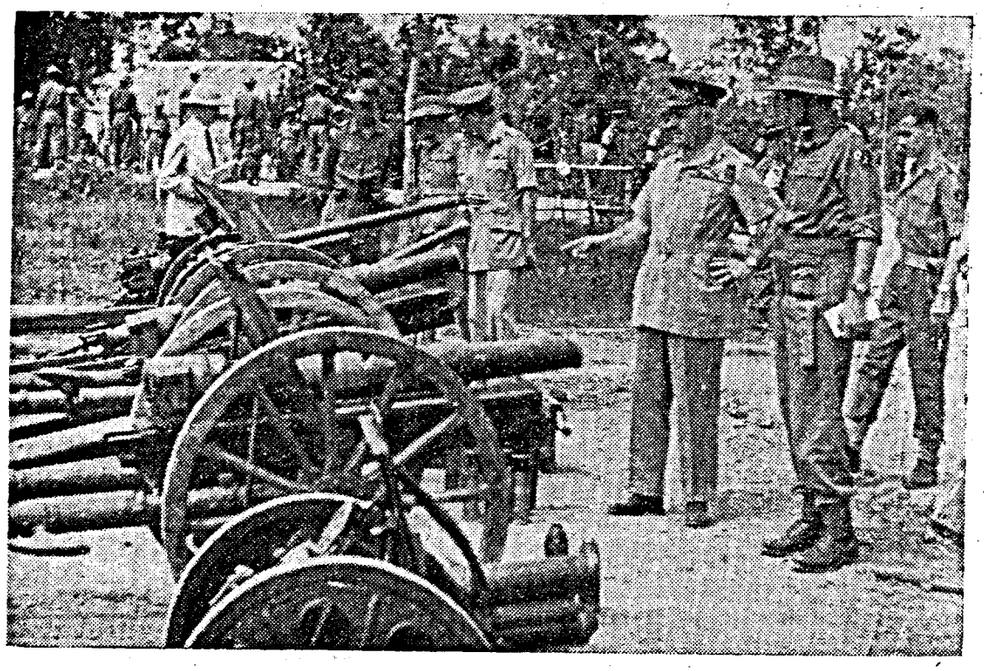
"I am very pleased to be back among you for a few days and especially to see my old division, with which I served for over six years. I have naturally followed their doings with interest throughout the war and was never more pleased than when they arrived in India more than two years ago.

"When they arrived there were very few troops to meet the Japanese threat to India, except some very tired men who had been fighting a rearguard action through Burma and who were short in numbers. At that time there were very few trained and equipped troops in India because before the Jap war India had been sending trained troops to the West, the Middle East and other places.

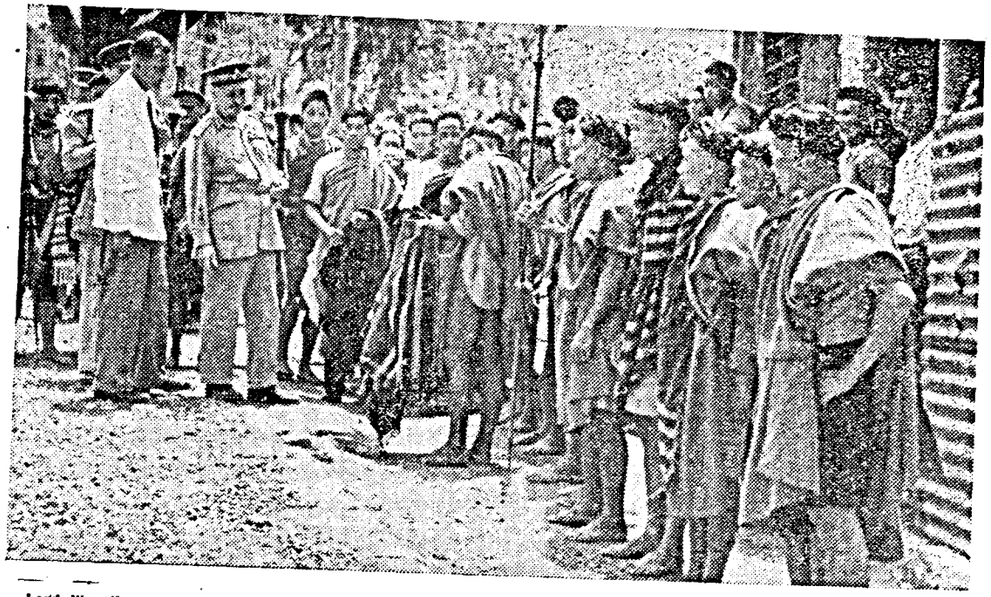
"I know you have had a long wait since then but there was tremendous moral support in having such a magnificent division in India, fully trained and equipped. Now this division has been in action in India and has done a magnificent job of work. You will find that when the history of



The Viceroy decorates L/N Rur Singh (14th Punjab Regiment) with the Military Medal.



Lord Wavell inspecting Jap guns captured by troops of the 20th Indian Division.



Lord Wavell, accompanied by Mr. C. R. Pawsey, Deputy Commissioner, Naga Hills, meets the Nagas of Kohima.

this war comes to be written the fight here will be put down as one of the turning points of the war, when the Japs were routed and their downfall really began.

"There is no doubt that in fighting here you have hit them a terrific crack. Not only have you inflicted a tremendous defeat on them but, even more, you have dealt a damaging blow to their morale—and it is the breaking of the enemy's morale that finishes wars in the end.

"You have routed Japs who quite lately were boasting that they had never known defeat. Now they have gone back about 100 miles, as badly defeated as any army can be.

"The enemies have been put on the run and hings are looking extraordinarily bright. We nay hope that the end will not be too long delayed.

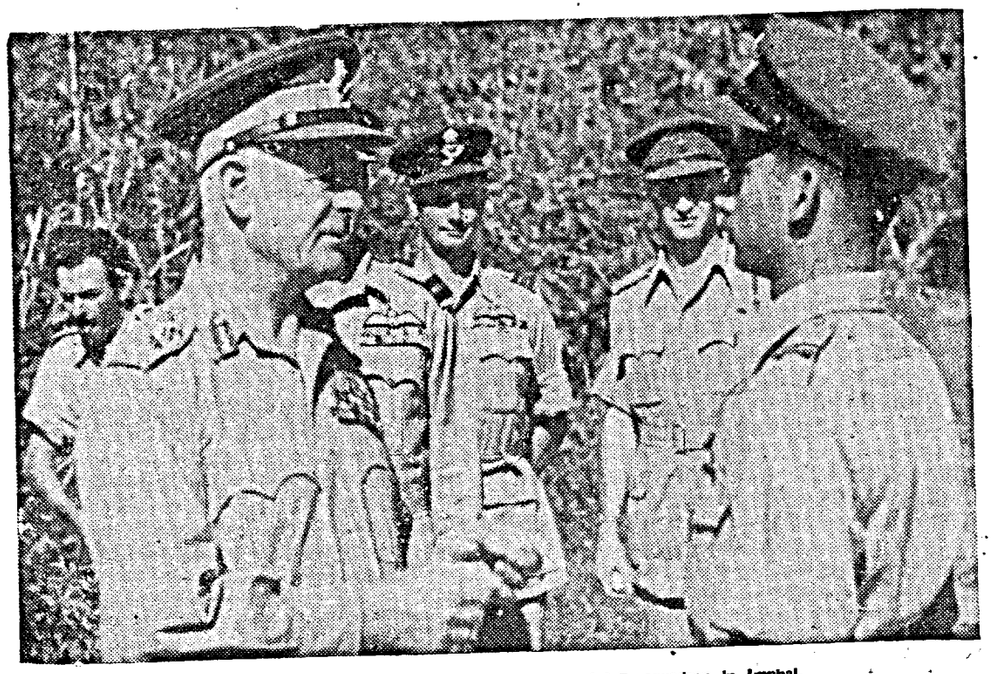
Viceroy Meets Naga Chiefs

"But we have got to be ready to keep on fighting for some time yet; when the war is over there will be still a hard struggle to rebuild in the first years of peace. That will require the same patience, courage and discipline as you have all shown here."

The last item on the Viceroy's programme, a meeting with the Naga chiefs, was the most picturesque. To get to Kohima he had to stop his car and climb over a huge landslide on the road, which sappers were clearing, and go on in another car on the other side.



His Excellency receives a present from the Nagas.



Lord Wavell talking to F/O N. K. Shitoley of an I.A.F. squadron in Imphal.

When he arrived at Kohima all the chiefs of the Nagas were drawn up on each side of the road. They made a sea of colour with their red ceremonial shawls and brightly coloured garments. Some wore horn bill feathers in their head dresses and others had magnificently polished wood bracelets on their arms and legs.

As the Viceroy passed slowly down the line Naga chiefs loaded him with presents. Some gave him chickens in bamboo baskets, others presented embroidered clothes and carved bowls.

The Viceroy, who was accompanied by the Governor of Assam, Sir Andrew Clow, and Mr. C. R. Pawsey, District Commissioner of the Naga Hills, then called the Naga Chiefs round him.

"I am very glad to be here among the people who have rendered such service in this war," His Excellency said. "When I first came down this road two and a half years ago you were doing magnificent work on the road and giving great help to refugees coming from Burma. I have heard from the General how, both as soldiers and by bringing in intelligence and helping in every possible way, it is very largely due to your help and assistance that we have been able to drive the Japs out and win such a victory.

"The Government of India will help to restore all that you have lost as a result of the recent battles. I am very pleased to have been here among such brave, loyal men."

During his tour of Army formations the Viceroy examined with great interest the large quantity of captured Jap material, including ceremonial swords, mortars, artillery, and tanks.

VISIT TO I. A. F. SQUADRON

Officers and airmen of an Indian Air Force fighter reconnaissance squadron commanded by Squadron Leader Arjan Singh, D.F.C., along with personnel of R.A.F. squadrons, provided a guard of honour for H. E. the Viceroy when he arrived at Imphal by air on his tour of the forward areas.

Dressed in Field Marshal's uniform, the Viceroy inspected the parade and discussed with Squadron Leader Arjan Singh the work of his squadron. His Excellency spoke to all the Indian officers and some of the airmen. He questioned Flying Officer Eduljee, of Fyzabad, about the A.F.C. ribbon he was wearing.

Air Commodore Vincent, D.F.C., told the Viceroy that the squadron had the highest percentage of aircraft serviceability in the group he commanded. His Excellency was pleased to hear that the squadron had served in Burma during the last campaign when he himself was Commander-in-Chief in India.

THE FAMINE INQUIRY COMMISSION: CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT AT PRESS CONFERENCE

ADDRESSING a Press Conference in New Delhi recently, Sir John Woodhead, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Chairman of the Famine Inquiry Commission, said:

Gentlemen: I and my colleagues are glad to have this opportunity of meeting the representatives of the Press.

As you know, our terms of reference require the Commission to investigate and report on the causes of the food shortage and subsequent epidemics, particularly in Bengal, in 1943, and to make recommendations for the prevention of their recurrence. There are two matters arising out of these terms of reference to which I would like to refer. The first is this, the Ordinance does not place any limitation on the scope of the Commission's inquiry as regards the causes of the food shortage. I refer to this because I gather that there is a feeling in certain quarters that the Commission is fettered by the terms of reference as regards the investigation of the causes of the food shortage in India and in particular of the Bengal famine last year. I wish to assure you that there is no ground whatsoever for this view.

Evidence "in Camera"

The Ordinance confers on the Commission full authority to inquire into every matter material for the purpose of determining the causes of the food shortage. The second matter is this. Special reference is made in the Ordinance to certain preventive measures. This does not, however, preclude the Commission from examining and recommending any measure that it may consider necessary to prevent the recurrence of conditions which prevailed in certain parts of India last year.

Gentlemen, you will, I know, be anxious to be told about the proposals for associating the Press with our work so that the public may be kept informed through you of its progress. I and my colleagues realize very fully how important it is that the Press should be kept as fully as possible in touch with our proceedings and we recognise the contribution the Press can make to its success.

Firstly, I must tell you that we have decided that the evidence before us will be taken *in camera*. I will give you the reasons for this. As you know, our terms of reference are wide and I think you will agree with us that our inquiry is of first class importance to the welfare of the people of this country. We have a very definite and responsible task to perform and we feel that nothing must be allowed to prejudice its success. You would wish us, therefore, to obtain the best possible evidence of what occurred and why it occurred, so that we may be able to apply our minds to cause and effect and to make recommendations for the prevention of those events which were such an unhappy feature of the year 1943. It is to that task that we are dedicated. We must be allowed to undertake it in the best possible conditions for success. Above all, we must be able to hear, weigh and judge the evidence in a calm and dispassionate atmosphere.

I need not remind you of the strong feelings which have been aroused by past events. There has, perhaps unavoidably, been acute controversy and indeed bitterness and recrimination. We want those who give evidence before us to be free to speak their minds fully and without any reserve. It would be most unfortunate if evidence given before us should lead to an atmosphere of controversy, prejudicial to our work and to the manner in which other witnesses give their evidence before us. It would, indeed, be disastrous if the day to day labours of the Commission were to give rise to political or communal controversy or disturb the co-operation of all the different units in carrying out the all-India Food Plan. It would be equally unfortuate if things were said and written which would have the effect of retarding the growth of public confidence.

Assurance to Press

In short, our aim and object must be to do our work in a manner best calculated to ensure a report of the highest practical value in the shortest possible time. It is for these reasons that, after careful consideration, I and my colleagues have unanimously decided that our proceedings should be *in camera*. We are confident that the Press will appreciate these reasons, and the spirit in which we are approaching our task, and assist us by their support and confidence.

As a direct consequence of this decision we are also unanimous that special arrangements must be made to keep the Press informed from day to day of what is going on, to give them

the maximum assistance in appreciating the nature of our proceedings, and to provide the public with all the information that can be divulged. For this purpose an experienced officer of the Information and Broadcasting Department of the Government of India will accompany the Commission. He is not a part of the Commission staff, but he is there for the purpose of providing the necessary link between the Commission and the Press. He will provide you daily with bulletins showing the work performed by the Commission, the names of the witnesses as they appear, and the aspects of the problem to which their evidence has been directed. He will be there for consultation with correspondents on any points of doubt or difficulty and will acquaint us with any of the special needs which the Press experience in their work. He will also be the medium through which we shall make any special announcements from time to time. And I would also assure you that I personally shall be always available to the representatives of the Press if they have any particular question to ask me.

I hope, gentlemen, that you will find these arrangements satisfactory. I look forward myself, and in this, I know I am speaking for my colleagues also, to the fullest possible association with you throughout our proceedings, and I shall be most grateful for your co-operation.

THE COMMISSION STARTS WORK

Official Witnesses Examined

The Famine Inquiry Commission have just completed the hearing of evidence of officers of the Food Department—Mr. R. H. Hutchings, Secretary, Mr. B. R. Sen, Director-General, Food, Mr. Somerset Butler, Special Officer, Mr. W. H. Kirby, Rationing Adviser and Mr. W. H. J. Christie, Deputy Secretary, said a Press Note issued by the Famine Inquiry Commission on August 6.

It added: Mr. Somerset Butler who served in Bengal during 1942 gave his experience of the practical working of the denial policy as well as of price control in its early stages. He also described the development of the food situation towards the end of 1942 and the early months of 1943, and the efforts made in pursuance of the first Rescue Plan to mobilise supplies from neighbouring provinces.

Mr. Kirby described the difficulties encountered in organising the Rationing Scheme for Calcutta and the steps taken finally to overcome them. He also gave an account of the progress of rationing in the country generally and the present position.

Mr. Hutchings and Mr. Christie elucidated and simplified the detailed memorandum furnished to the Commission by the Food Department on the development of the food situation and the action taken by the Government of India from the outbreak of the war up to July, 1944.

Conditions in Bengal

Mr. B. R. Sen was Revenue Secretary, Bengal Government, till July last year and was closely connected with the relief of distress in the cyclone affected areas of Bengal in the autumn of 1942. He gave from his personal experience an account of conditions in Bengal during 1942 and early in 1943, and described in detail the price control policy pursued in Bengal and the causes of its failure and the breakdown in public confidence which resulted from the war situation at that time as well as the natural calamities which visited the Province. Mr. Sen was then examined on the progress of procurement in the different provinces during the current year and the present position regarding the fulfilment of all-India food plan.

The Commission also heard the evidence of Sir Muhammad Azizul Haque, the former Food Member, General Hance, Director General, Indian Medical Service, Col. Cotter, Public Health Commissioner in India, Mr. Sethi, Agricultural Production Adviser, and Mr. Mazumdar, Deputy Secretary, Labour Department.

On the morning of August 5, Mr. N. M. Buch, Director of Civil Supplies, Punjab, gave an account to the Commission of the system of procurement of foodgrains in the Punjab and the changes which were recently made. He also described the extent to which the Punjab has fulfilled the demands placed upon the Province for supplies to the Defence Services and the deficit provinces.

In the afternoon, the Commission discussed with the Food Member the question of imports of foodgrains from abroad.

Grow More Food Scheme Examined

The Commission met at Kotah House on August 7 and heard Mr. J. D. Tyson, Secretary, and Sir Phiroze Kharegat, Additional Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India.

The Commission had before it memoranda from the Department explaining the policy followed in respect of the Grow More Food Campaign, the assistance afforded by the Centre and the results achieved so far.

The financial assistance provided to the Provinces and States in 1943-44 aggregated Rs. 69½ lakhs in grants from Central Revenues, Rs. 15 lakhs in grants from the Cotton Fund and Rs. 164½ lakhs as loans.

For 1944-45, provision has been made for Rs. 1 crore by way of grants. Up to July 1, 1944, commitments to the extent of Rs. 87,35,000 in grants from Central Revenues, Rs. 21,32,500 in respect of grants from the Cotton Fund and Rs. 1,16,59,600 in respect of loans have been undertaken.

To give the technical assistance necessary to the Provinces and States, an Agricultural Production Adviser was appointed last year, as also an Irrigation Adviser. Hand-operated pumping sets are being released to India from His Majesty's Government.

Assistance is also given for increasing availability of fertilisers by training biochemists at the Bangalore Institute, for the manufacture of compost from night soil, by encouraging cultivators to make compost in the villages, by imports of chemical fertilisers, particularly ammonium sulphate, and by steps to increase production of ammonium sulphate in India.

The extent to which a switch-over from non-food crops to food crops has already been carried out was reviewed and further progress in this direction assessed. It was noted that there was a surplus of gram available in the Punjab of the order of 150,000 tons, for which no demands had been received from the deficit areas and the reasons for this were gone into.

The progress made in the distribution of iron and steel for agricultural implements, etc., and the distribution of fertilisers was also reviewed.

There was a detailed examination of the effects of the price policy at present followed and the possibilities of improvement, more especially with reference to the fixation of minimum prices for the principal foodgrains for reasonably long periods. The recommendations of the Agricultural Policy Committee as regards long-term measures for increasing food production were also discussed.

THE COMMISSION IN CALCUTTA

The Commission held its first meeting in Calcutta on August 12, at Tripura Palace, Ballygunge Circular Road. In the morning, the Commission heard the evidence of Major-General Wood, at present Director-General, Munitions Production, and formerly Secretary, Food Department, Government of India.

Major-General Wood described the principles underlying the formulation of the Basic Plan of January, 1943, and the difficulties encountered by the Centre in securing the early establishment of Procurement Organisations in the provinces. In the course of his evidence, the Commission discussed with him in detail the circumstances in which the central and provincial Governments passed orders restricting the movements of foodgrains and the effects of these orders, as well as of Statutory Price Control, on procurement of food supplies.

The experience of different provinces and States was reviewed and the relation between the different policies pursued and administrative action taken and the results achieved in procurement operations was discussed in detail.

Food Supplies for Bengal

Major-General Wood then described the efforts made by the Centre for procuring food supplies for Bengal and, in particular, the great difficulties which had to be overcome in arranging as many as two trains per day for Bengal alone, at a time when the war situation also required the movement of very large quantities of military stores.

He drew the attention of the Commission to the difficulties encountered in Bengal in the storage of the supplies received and their distribution.

In the course of his evidence, Major-General Wood also referred to the problem, in conditions of rice shortage, of securing the substitution of other foodgrains for rice and the difficulties particularly of getting millets into consumption and recalled that the Food Department brought out a cookery book with several new recipes, to popularise the use of millets.

Mr. O. M. Martin's Evidence

In the afternoon, the Commission heard Mr. O. M. Martin, Relief Commissioner, Bengal, on the steps taken to relieve distress. Scarcity, he said, was a normal feature of the food economy of Bengal and he advocated the introduction of an organised system of poor relief even in normal times. He thought the organisation of medical relief and public health services should be under the direct control of the provincial Government instead of under the local boards and that they would then be better equipped to cope with wholesale famines such as occurred last year.

Mr. Martin described the visits he paid to the various famine-affected areas of Bengal and furnished the Commission with detailed notes of the results of his observations and his experiences. In Calcutta city, Government relied considerably on non-official organisations, who ran many of the free kitchens, in his opinion, with conspicuous success, aided by funds from Government. In other areas, non-official organisations helped to supplement Government efforts.

SCHEME FOR INSPECTION OF FOODGRAINS

A CONFERENCE of representatives of the main supplying and recipient administrations was held in New Delhi on August 9 to consider whether a workable scheme for the inspection of foodgrains could be drawn up and be acceptable both to the supplying and recipient areas. The Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, presided. Besides all Regional Food Commissioners, delegates from Bombay, Bengal, Orissa, Sind, the United Provinces and the Punjab attended the Conference.

Much controversy has centred round the question of the quality of foodgrains supplied to deficit provinces by surplus areas. The recipient administrations have complained that the grains supplied have generally been far below the average standards, and that inspection arrangements have not worked satisfactorily.

Mr. B. R. Sen's Statement Recalled

The Central Government's position as regards the responsibility for inspection was clarified by Mr. B. R. Sen, Director General, Food, in the Council of State during the Food Debate last March, when he stated that inspection before despatch of grains from the supplying areas was the responsibility of the receiving provincial Government and not of the Central Government. At the same time he made it clear that the Central Food Department recognised the difficulties of recipient administrations in setting up an adequate inspecting organisation in all their areas of supply, at numerous despatch points. He said that a scheme had been circulated to all Provincial Governments which sought to remedy the defects of the present system.

The Conference discussed the Central Government's scheme of foodgrains inspection, which provides *inter alia* for inspection at points of despatch limited to Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi and Madras, the adoption of a uniform schedule of allowances for quality, use of standard packs, acceptance of check-weighment and analysis at destination by independent trade authority in the case of the four major ports or at few important points of despatch in the case of other minor destinations.

The Government of India will give careful consideration to all the suggestions made and will announce their decision as soon as possible.

FEEDING CHILDREN IN WARTIME

A COMMITTEE of experts appointed by the Indian Research Fund Association to suggest satisfactory substitutes for imported infant foods and breakfast cereals has issued a pamphlet on the feeding of children from six months to six years in wartime.

The Committee has dealt with the problem of feeding in general apart from the present war emergency. Alternative methods of feeding which would ensure good health and development have been discussed without reference to their cost.

Protective Foods

The pamphlet deals with nutritional requirements of young children, planning the child's diet, weaning and diets suitable at different ages. In planning the diet of the growing child, it says, the first essential is to ensure that sufficient quantities of body-building and protective foods are included. Once requirements in this respect are fulfilled, a healthy child's appetite will determine its intake of energy-producing foods.

All the three categories of foods have been tabulated and the requirements of children from six months to six years are given with the planned diet for all meals.

Hints for Cooking

Apart from the general principles of feeding, the pamphlet also deals with the palatability and attractiveness of meals and gives hints for their preparation and cooking. A few recipes for soups and other preparations are included in the pamphlet which is being distributed by the Indian Research Fund Association, New Delhi, and the Maternity and Child Welfare Bureau of the Indian Red Cross Society.

BREACHES OF FOOD LAWS

With the tightening of food control administrations in the provinces and States a larger number of persons are being convicted for breaches of food laws.

The latest reports received by the Central Food Department show that Bengal tops the list with 4,800 convictions followed by 600 in Madras, 470 in Hyderabad State and 215 in Bombay. The maximum imprisonment inflicted was two years in the United Provinces while the maximum fine imposed was Rs. 3,000 in Bombay.

NUTRITIVE VALUE OF DEHYDRATED VEGETABLES

DEHYDRATED vegetables are now being manufactured in large quantities in many belligerent countries and it is important that their nutritive value should be studied. A good deal of work on this subject has been carried out in the Indian Research Fund Association Nutrition Research Laboratories, Coonoor, under Dr. W. R. Aykroyd, says the report of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Indian Research Fund Association for 1943.

Steam-blanched cabbage was found to lose vitamin C more rapidly on storage than cabbage blanched by dipping in boiling water. Loss of vitamin C in dehydrated vegetables prepared by the so-called "pre-cooking" method was more rapid than in vegetables prepared by other processes. The general conclusion arising out of a considerable amount of work on the vitamin C content of dehydrated vegetables is that these can not be relied upon as antiscorbutics after a few months' storage.

Losses on Storage

While carotene is somewhat more stable than vitamin C in dehydrated vegetables, very appreciable losses occur on storage. After 20 weeks' storage at 98°F. bitter gourd, cauliflower, carrot, pumpkin and potato lost from 35 to 65 per cent of their original carotene content. Losses in the mineral content of dehydrated vegetables during reconstitution and cooking amounted to 60 per cent.

When in the U.S.A., attending the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture, Dr. Aykroyd collected considerable literature on the effect of dehydration on the nutritive value of vegetables and other foods, a subject which is being intensively studied in England, Canada, the U.S.A. and Australia.

Other Investigations

Nutrition research work was pursued most actively, says the report, which devotes a section to the work done by a unit set up in Calcutta to investigate the best method of treatment for starvation cases.

During the year investigations continued on sprays for killing adult mosquitoes, on larvicides and on various drugs considered to be useful in the treatment of malaria.

Leprosy research included the continuation of observations on the results of different kinds of segregation and progress was also reported in work on a specific test for this disease. Advance was made in work directed towards the improvement of anti-plague vaccine. On the pharmacological side, progress was made in investigations to determine the value, if any, of indigenous drugs reported to be of use in certain diseases. For 1944-45 a comprehensive and practical programme has been outlined.

RICE PRICES FALL IN EASTERN BENGAL

While officials of the Central Food Department are still reported to be dissatisfied with the level of prices of rice in Eastern Bengal, they point out that a marked downward tendency in prices is noticeable during the past few weeks. For the fortnight ending July 19, the average fall is annas 13 a maund in nine deficit districts, but in the Chittagong District the drop during a month is in some places as much as Rs. 15 a maund. The market price quoted from Raozan has fallen from Rs. 32 to Rs. 17 a maund, at Hathazari from Rs. 32 to Rs. 24, at Fatkania from Rs. 35 to Rs. 20 and at Patiya from Rs. 32 to Rs. 20. In Comilla prices have dropped from Rs. 18 to Rs. 13 a maund.

It is expected that there will be a further fall in prices when the *aus* crop begins to move into the markets during the latter part of September.

CALCUTTA RATIONING FIGURES

From the latest statistics available in the Central Food Department relating to Calcutta rationing, it is gathered that out of the total cereal ration, the offtake is 60 per cent, while in the case of rice as against the maximum quantity allowed the offtake is 64 per cent. The offtake index of sugar is 80 per cent. But of the maximum cereal ration of 4 seers a week, a person is allowed to take up to 2½ seers of rice and up to 3½ seers of wheat products. The sugar ration is 8 ozs. per head per week.

The total number of ration cards in force in Calcutta is a little over 39 lakhs, exclusive of a population of about 3 lakhs which draws its supplies through establishments.

Reports also indicate that the Bengal Government is making continuous efforts to improve the quality of foodgrains included in the cereal ration.

FOODGRAINS FOR U. P.

It is authoritatively learnt that more than 30,000 tons of foodgrains are moving into the United Provinces to ease the food position in that province.

COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH

New Schemes Sanctioned by Governing Body

THE seventh meeting of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was held in New Delhi on August 1. The Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Azizul Haque, Member for Commerce, and Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, presided.

It was decided that the Silicate and Glass Research Institute should be located in Calcutta and that its construction and equipment should be taken in hand forthwith. A sum of Rs. 14,000 was sanctioned to meet the cost of nucleus staff for the Institute for the current financial year.

Two scholarships for foreign study of glass and porcelain subjects were also sanctioned. The Governing Body expressed their grateful thanks to Dr. Sir U. N. Brahmchari, Mr. I. D. Varshney (President, U.P. Glass Manufacturers' Association) and the Bengal Glass Manufacturers' Association for the donation of Rs. 10,000 that each one had made towards the cost of the Institute.

National Physical Laboratories

The question of the selection of a site for the National Physical Laboratories was discussed. The final decision was left over until the matter had again been examined by the National Physical Laboratories Committee.

The Governing Body recorded their appreciation of the generous gift of 100 acres of land made by the Raja of Jharia for the construction of the Fuel Research Station at Dhanbad. A post of an Assistant Director of Planning for the purpose was sanctioned.

The Governing Body noted with interest the progress made with regard to two other research institutes, *i.e.*, National Chemical Laboratories and National Metallurgical Institute.

New Research Schemes

A sum of about Rs. one lakh was sanctioned for research on the following new schemes:

Manufacture of resistance alloys; preparation of alkali and water soluble ethyl cellulose; investigation on esssential oils of C.P. and Berar; manufacture of graphite crucibles "Ferrous"; study of conditions favouring the increase of alcohol concentrations in the fermented distillery wash from the present average of 7 per cent to 10 per cent or 12 per cent by volume; manufacture of aluminium titanium alloys; manufacture of porcelain containers for hydrogen peroxide;

Pilot plant experiments on the manufacture of sodium and magnesium metals by electro chemical methods; scheme for the setting up of medium voltage positive ray discharge tube for the investigation of nuclear disintegration; development of Air-driven ultra centrifuge for physical, chemical and biological work; and investigation on electrical properties of some typical order, disorder alloys, particularly in the neighbourhood of their Curie temperatures and on the influence of quenching on these properties.

MANUFACTURE OF CARBON RODS FOR DRY CELLS

Among the important contributions appearing in the June issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research,* special interest attaches to the one dealing with a comprehensive survey of the cellulose materials required by the pulping industry—*e.g.* paper and artificial silk. The proving survey financed by the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research and carried out at the Central Cotton Committee Technological Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. Nazir Ahmed, has yielded valuable results. The materials were drawn from all parts of India; 37 samples were examined, the cellulose being determined under the optimum conditions of kier boiling and bleaching. The results obtained, presented for the first time in one place, will be of the utmost interest.

Jute fibres gave the highest yield of pulp, while *eetta* bamboo gave a pulp with 92 per cent cellulose. Among other raw materials, hemp fibres, fir and spruce wood gave very satisfactory results. The stalks of cotton, castor and sunn-hemp hold promise of finding wide use in the pulping industry.

Dry Cell Industry

Research and development work relating to the manufacture of carbon rods for the dry cell industry was undertaken in the laboratories of the Director, Scientific and Industrial Research in the latter part of 1940. The interest of the work lies not only in the development of the process of manufacturing the rods from raw materials available in India, but also in the fabrication of the equipment required for grading the pulverised raw materials (cyclone separator) for moulding and extruding the carbon rods (hydraulic extrusion press) and for graphitising the carbon rods (electric furnace). The work has been successfully completed and commercial exploitation has been entrusted to Messrs. Estrela Batteries, Ltd., Bombay.

Rubies and Sapphires

The occurrence of Corundum and its gem varieties, ruby and sapphire has been briefly described in one article. Only the gem varieties appear to have attracted any attention in India. The rubies of Burma and Ceylon are world famous. While the untrained eye can hardly distinguish an artificial ruby from the natural one, under the microscope the latter reveals itself by its characteristic irregular, elongated and angular bubbles, straight striations and parallel colour bands and by the silky sheen which manifests itself when seen in reflected light. Sapphires occur in Kashmir. Workable deposits of corundum occur at Sona Pahar in Assam, and at Pipra in the Rewa State.

There has been no systematic attempt to mine corundum on a large scale and to concentrate, crush and grade the mineral for the market. Corundum is extensively used in the manufacture of abrasives and there is room for starting an abrasive industry, not only for meeting the expanding internal demands, but also for establishing an export industry.

Besides the usual features, the number includes an announcement relating to a new phenomenon of great academic interest, observed in the laboratories of the Director, Scientific and Industrial Research, on the piezo-electric oscillations of quartz crystals.

CAPITAL ISSUE CONTROL: DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE

A Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on August 1 stated:

When capital issue control was introduced on May 17, 1943, it was announced that applications relating to proposed industrial enterprises would be considered by a departmental committee in which representatives of the Commerce and Industries and Supply Departments would be associated with the Finance Department.

With the formation of the new Department of Planning and Development, it has been decided that the Committee should be enlarged by the addition of a representative of that Department.

COLONIAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

To encourage scientists to give special attention to problems of colonial interest, a number of Colonial Research Fellowships have been instituted by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on August 1.

It added: It is hoped that they will be the means of creating a cadre of scientists with special knowledge of environmental and social issues of the Colonies, and that research on fundamental problems in tropical regions will be encouraged.

These Fellowships will normally be for two years but may be extended for a year and will be tenable in any part of the British Colonial Empire. They are open to graduates under 35 years of age from any part of the British Commonwealth and Empire and will carry an allowance of £400 to £600 per year. Provision has been made for 25 such Fellowships within the next five years.

The award of these Fellowships will be made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the advice of the Colonial Research Committee.

STANIER MISSION AND MACHINE TOOL INDUSTRY'S FUTURE

Several requests have been received to the effect that the Machine Tool Mission headed by Sir William Stanier which is now in India should discuss and advise on the post-war development of the machine tool industry in this country, said a Press Communique issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on August 2.

It added: While the purpose for which the Mission has come to India is to examine how the best use can be made of the machine tools with which Ordnance Factories, the Defence Services and the Railways have been equipped for war purposes, the Mission is willing to examine the progress that has been made in machine tool manufacture in India and it will consider whether it can advise on how this industry can be developed on sound lines.

Industrialists desirous of discussions with the Mission are, therefore, advised to get in touch with the Controllers of Supply stationed at Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, Cawnpore and Lahore, as the case may be. The Controller will contact the Mission and be able to advise the date, time and place of meeting that is arranged.

CO-OPERATIVE PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

Sir Jogendra Singh's Speech

"FROM poverty to power through co-operation" was the slogan commended by the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, presiding over the 14th Conference of Registrars of Co-operative Societies, held in Bombay on July 31 and August 1 and 2. Among those who took part in the conference were 80 delegates from the Provinces and Indian States, Sir Phiroze Kharegat, Additional Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, and Mr. Wajahat Hussain, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.

Co-operation, said Sir Jogendra Singh, had not touched the fringe even of the rural credit problem and he suggested that they should prepare plans for the future. Women could take up the co-operative movement with advantage, he added, remarking on the absence of women at the Conference.

Referring to the Bombay Plan, he said it would be still-born if agriculture did not make its expected contribution and the agricultural producer did not get a wage which increased his purchasing power. The Government of India had produced an education plan, a committee was working on a plan for health, and plans for agricultural development and afforestation were under discussion. Most encouraging was the news that the Secretary of State had blessed their plans.

An Offer

Mentioning the interest being shown in collective farming, Sir Jogendra Singh said if they wished to remove the pressure on land, they would have to find employment for labour which would become landless. But they could do a great deal in initiating co-operative farming, which would economise on labour, improve husbandry and enable co-operative farmers to obtain their requirements. They should explore this new line of work to the full. Offering the Government of India's help, he asked if they needed a central research department or a well-trained high grade central service.

The Conference recommended the appointment of a sub-committee to examine the revision of statistical statements about the co-operative movement. It suggested the drawing up of a plan of co-operative development by a committee to be



Sir Jogendra Singh.

appointed for the purpose, and held that the co-operative movement should be an integral part of the development plan of the country. It also held that the post-war absorption of ex-soldiers should form part of the general development plan.

Co-operation and Planning

Extension of the benefits of the co-operative movement to persons and places now outside its fold was recommended in a resolution adopted by the Conference on August 1. The resolution recommended that "where the execution of a plan requires action by all members of an economic category or group, it should be made compulsory for all, either to join a co-operative society for the purpose, or otherwise to carry out the plan."

The Conference considered that the system of co-operative joint farming should be introduced wherever circumstances were favourable and that at least one experiment in co-operative farming should be carried out in each Province and State.

The Conference wanted co-operative organisations to be fully utilised for the promotion of the "Grow More Food" campaign and asked Governments to arrange the necessary financial facilities. It also asked Governments to make available to co-operative societies guidance and advice on the

technical aspects of food production. It suggested that arrangements should be made through central co-operative organisations for the bulk purchase of the means of production, such as seeds, manure and implements, and for their equitable distribution through rural co-operative societies both to members and non-members.

Co-operative societies should distribute these articles to their members as short-term loans, in kind wherever feasible, and to non-members in cash: such loans should be given on the condition that the produce to be marketed is sold to or through the society in that area.

The Conference thought that co-operative societies should aim at advancing loans to their members at a rate not exceeding 6¼ per cent, and that Government should give the societies the necessary financial help.

The Conference asked land mortgage banks more actively to undertake the financing of land improvement and reclamation. It considered that Departments of Agriculture should take the initiative in suggesting schemes to be financed by land mortgage banks.

A Master Plan

The drawing up of a master plan for the development of India through industrial co-operatives was urged by the conference in a resolution adopted on August 2. The conference called for the appointment of a committee to formulate a programme of industrial development through co-operative societies, under the direction of the Government of India. This committee, it held, should also consider the advisability of protecting or defining markets in which co-operative industrial societies operate.

The Conference considered that long-term finance for capital expenditure needed by these societies should be provided by Government either from their own resources or from the post-war reconstruction fund. Special priority should be given to co-operative industrial societies in the acquisition of surplus war materials, such as machine tools, motor vehicles and building material. In making their purchases Government were asked to give first preference to the products of co-operative industrial societies.

The Conference advocated the setting up of an all-India Co-operative Marketing Organisation and a chain of Co-operative Marketing Organisations, as also federations of these organisations either for particular commodities or for particular areas. It considered that strong efforts should be made to place the consumers co-operative movement, which was expanding rapidly, on a sound permanent basis. The Conference was of the view that the staff of different categories required for the expansion of the co-operative movement should be estimated and immediate arrangements made for the systematic and adequate training of official and non-official co-operative workers, and for co-operative education.

The Directorate-General of Welfare, Education and Resettlement should be requested to give special training to servicemen in the principles and practice of co-operation.

Bidding farewell to the conference, Sir Jogendra Singh said he felt that it would be an advantage if they met almost every year, not in such large numbers, but as a smaller body of experts and prominent co-operators, to exchange views and formulate policies which would be carried out on an all-India basis. He declared that the responsibility for implementing the resolutions they had passed lay on themselves, with such assistance as the Centre or the Provinces could give them.

Great Scope for Development

The Honourable Member reiterated that there was wide scope for co-operation in every sphere of life. In fact, co-operation provided the solution of most of their difficulties. There was great scope for co-operative development if only educated men in the country would take an interest in rural problems. His complaint had been, and still was, that the intelligentsia had neglected agriculture and the villages. Young men had abandoned their homes and gone to the towns, and the villages had been drained of leadership. For a long time to come, India had to depend on agricultural prosperity, and agricultural prosperity depended on the leadership that they could give.

One of the speakers, he added, had remarked that the 2,000-year-old plough was still in use and that a 2,000-year-old society was at work. But he would like to tell him that this 2,000-year-old plough was giving a great deal of satisfaction and this 2,000-year-old society might endure and might keep its inheritance of culture. Modern civilisation, with its mechanical warfare and destruction, was not on the whole the most effective way of preserving their culture. It was in the heart of man that civilising influences dwelt, and civilising influences could only express themselves in co-operation. They had failed so far because they had failed to co-operate with one another, and if they were to express their spiritual inheritance—to which they attached a great deal of importance—they would on the material side show much greater co-operation than they had shown so far.

MORE WHEAT IMPORTS

A further consignment of 30,000 tons of wheat arrived in India from overseas during the week ending August 1.

INCREASED SUBVENTION TO BENGAL GOVERNMENT

Standing Finance Committee Approves Proposal

AN *ex-gratia* subvention not exceeding Rs. 10 crores in 1943-44 and 1944-45 to Bengal for expenditure on famine relief, on the loss on grain supply schemes and on rehabilitation; provision of more office and residential accommodation in New Delhi and Simla at a non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 3,76,31,400; more amenities for seamen in Indian ports and financial assistance to the United Provinces Government for subsidising sale of foodgrains at reduced prices, were some of the main proposals approved by the Standing Finance Committee which met in New Delhi on July 31 and August 1. The Hon'ble Sir C. E. Jones, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Acting Finance Member, Government of India, presided.

It was explained to the meeting that the Bengal Government had for some time been pressing the Government of India to give them a substantial subvention to afford some relief to the finances of Bengal which had been seriously affected by the great increase of expenditure due to the war, by a diminution of the Jute Export Duty and, above all, by the famine.

Famine Relief

In February 1944, the Government of India had agreed, as a result of these representations and on the Bengal Government's agreeing to augment their own revenue by additional taxation by an increase in the Sales Tax and introduction of an Agricultural Income-Tax, to make an *ex-gratia* grant of 50 per cent of expenditure in Bengal under the head "Famine Relief" in 1943-44 and 1944-45, subject to a maximum of Rs. 3 crores and Rs. 1½ crores respectively. On a further review of the situation, it became clear that a subvention of this order was not sufficient to meet an appreciation proportion of the total expenditure on famine relief and it had, therefore, been decided to make an *ex-gratia* subvention to Bengal of 50 per cent of the direct cost of the famine, *i.e.* expenditure on famine relief, on the loss on grain supply schemes and on rehabilitation brought to account in 1943-44 and 1944-45, subject to a maximum of Rs. 10 crores, this amount to include the subvention already agreed to. The grant, the meeting was informed, was subject to the condition that Bengal would undertake to increase its revenue from provincial taxation as early and as rapidly as possible.

The proposal was approved.

The Committee approved proposals for providing more residential and office accommodation in New Delhi and Simla. It was proposed to provide accommodation for 150 married officers at a capital cost of Rs. 22,50,000, hostel accommodation for 200 single officers at a cost of Rs. 7,80,000 and tented accommodation for 100 married and 300 single officers at a cost of Rs. 6,00,000. One hundred and twenty-nine clerks' quarters on the Chitragupta Road, New Delhi, at a capital cost of Rs. 15,00,000; 2,468 clerks' quarters on Lodi Road, New Delhi, at a capital cost of Rs. 2,94,00,000; and 1,000 inferior servants' quarters in New Delhi at a total expenditure of Rs. 15,00,000 will be constructed.

Shortage of Quarters

The new office accommodation on Akbar Road in New Delhi would cost Rs. 58,000 and that on Raisina and York Roads Rs. 8,58,000. Finally it was proposed to reconstruct office accommodation in Cleremont, Simla, at an expenditure of Rs. 5,02,000. The total actual expenditure on these proposals, including the excess expenditure of Rs. 1,82,400 on a construction scheme already approved, would amount to Rs. 3,76,31,400.

The meeting was informed that by January 1, 1945, there would be a shortage of 687 quarters for the accommodation of officers in New Delhi; and hence the proposed new constructions for officers. There were no less than 13,000 applicants (clerks) at present in New Delhi entitled to Government accommodation. The clerks' quarters on Chitragupta Road would be constructed according to approved design and might, therefore, be sold to the public after the war if they were surplus to the needs of Government. It was proposed to construct the Lodi Road clerks' quarters to permanent specifications as they would be required by Government even after the war. The number of inferior servants in New Delhi would be about 7,000 by the next winter season; to meet the extra demand it was proposed to build quarters at an estimated cost of Rs. 15 lakhs.

The proposal for providing more amenities to seamen in Indian ports related to the creation of the post of a Special Officer for Seamen's Amenities and certain other additional posts. The meeting was informed that the Officer who had been appointed had already visited the ports of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Vizagapatam and would shortly visit other ports in India. His investigations pointed to the immediate necessity of improving and extending the work relating to amenities at the ports.

It would be necessary to create altogether up to five posts of Special Officers, with necessary staff, two of whom would be detailed to look exclusively after the interests of Indian seamen. These officers, who would be posted for the present in Bombay and Calcutta to cover other ports from there, would plan amenities and keep merchant seamen at ports out of harm's way, visit the ports periodically in order to see how the amenities scheme was being implemented, act as liaison officers; and assist the co-ordination of amenities work for merchant seamen, carried on at present by official bodies and in the establishment of Port Seamen's Amenities Committees. These posts, it was explained, were likely to last throughout the period of the war and entail an expenditure of Rs. 80,000 during the current financial year and Rs. 1,29,000 per year during subsequent years.

The meeting approved the proposal.

Financial Aid to U.P.

The proposal for financial help to the U.P. Government, it was explained to the meeting, arose from the sale of foodgrains by that Government at a loss to bring down progressively the market prices in the province in accordance with the all-India policy of the Central Government. This reduction in prices had conferred an all-India benefit by materially helping the Central Government's policy of bringing down the prices of foodgrains. This reduction also helped to make food available cheaply to the poorer sections of the urban population of the United Provinces. A slab system, it was stated, had been adopted for the division of the loss incurred by U.P. between that province and the Centre. The first Rs. 25 lakhs would be borne entirely by the Provincial Government. Of the next Rs. 75 lakhs, three-fourths would be borne by the Provincial Government and one-fourth by the Central Government. Losses beyond Rs. 1 crore would be borne half and half by the two Governments. The Central Government's share of the total losses incurred by the U.P. Government was estimated at Rs. 67 lakhs; it was not expected that any heavy financial burden on this account would be thrown on Central Finances in future years, as the prices of foodgrains were now controlled by statute and were expected to be stabilised at reasonable levels.

The proposal was agreed to.

The last proposal approved of related to a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs estimated to be needed in connection with the setting up of the Famine Inquiry Commission.

INDIAN RAILWAYS' RECORD EARNINGS

Public Accounts Committee Meeting

THE Public Accounts Committee met on August 14 and 15 to examine the Appropriation Accounts of the Railways for 1942-43. The Finance Member presided.

During the year under review the gross traffic receipts of the railways as well as the railway surplus reached record heights, the figures being Rs. 155 crores and Rs. 45 crores, respectively. Both these records have, however, been broken by the results of 1943-44 for which year the corresponding figures are Rs. 184 crores and 50 crores, respectively. The share payable to general revenues during these two years was Rs. 20 crores in the former and Rs. 37 crores in the latter.

In 1942-43 the railways paid off completely both the outstanding liabilities to general revenues on account of arrears of contribution and to the Depreciation Fund on account of the loan taken from it during the years of depression. In addition, it was possible to make a substantial contribution, amounting to almost Rs. 9 crores, to the Railway Reserve Fund.

Grain Shops for Railwaymen

During the year the State purchased the Bengal and North-Western, the Rohilkhand and Kumaon and the Tapti Valley Railways at a cost of Rs. 12,54 lakhs, Rs. 2,31 lakhs and Rs. 1,65 lakhs, respectively. The total capital at charge at the end of the year stood at Rs. 772½ crores; the balance in the Depreciation Reserve Fund was Rs. 82 crores while the Railway Reserve Fund stood at over Rs. 9 crores.

Expenditure on air raid precautions during 1942-43 amounted to Rs. 191 lakhs. During the next year, however, it decreased to Rs. 116 lakhs. These precautions have now been very largely abandoned except in certain areas in Eastern India.

During 1942-43, the railways opened a number of grain shops in areas where it was difficult to obtain food. These shops have now been extended to the entire railway systems and they supply grain to railway servants at rates below those prevailing in the market. The direct cost of this concession in 1943-44 amounted to Rs. 7½ crores but, with the fall in food prices, is expected to be less in the current year. No less than three million people are fed by these shops.

The Committee met again on August 16 and examined the grants and Appropriations for which the Finance Department is responsible.

The silver which accrued to Government during 1942-43 through the withdrawal of standard silver rupees amounted to over 21 crores of tolas. The amount issued for coinage was about 14 crores of tolas. The silver debt at the beginning of the year stood at Rs. 6½ crores but by the end of the year it had been completely wiped out.

During 1942-43, as in the previous year, the Currency Note Press as well as the mints in Calcutta and Bombay had been kept working to capacity owing to the increased demand for currency and coinage.

In addition to meeting the Indian demand the Currency Note Press had executed large orders for notes for Ceylon, Iraq and East Africa.

The construction of the new mint in Lahore had not been completed by the end of the year but it is now in full production and has been of substantial help in overcoming the shortage of small coin.

Labour Department's Accounts

Bevin Boys, the Technical Training Scheme, the Civil Pioneer Force, labour welfare, the Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey, the civil works programme and the work of Government presses were some of the many matters reviewed by the Committee when it examined the Appropriation Accounts for 1942-43 of the Labour Department at its meeting on August 17.

During the year under review the total expenditure on the Technical Training Scheme was about Rs. 2 crores. At the end of that year there were 396 training centres working under the Scheme with a training capacity of about 47,000 trainees.

The Utilisation Branch of the Geological Survey of India was established in 1942 with a view to utilising, to the best advantage, the mineral resources of the country. The Branch carries out field work for proving mineral deposits, initiates preliminary mining operations and conducts experimental work to solve problems of production. It is at present working the Koh-i-Sultan sulphur mines in Baluchistan.

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

Contributions of Rs. 12,08,442 during June, 1944, have brought the total of H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to Rs. 10,48,94,555 while the payments in the same month amounting to Rs. 18,05,983 raised the total of payments to Rs. 8,90,28,700 leaving a balance in hand on June 30, 1944, of Rs. 1,58,65,854 of which about Rs. 1¼ crores represented unearmarked money.

INDIA'S INCREASING DEFENCE EXPENDITURE

Rs. 565 Crores Spent in 1942-43

The Military Accounts Committee, which examines on behalf of the Central Legislature the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services, began on August 9, its examination of the accounts relating to 1942-43, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Cyril Jones, Acting Finance Member.

Apart from non-effective charges which stood at the normal figure of Rs. 8 crores, the total expenditure in India (including capital expenditure) on account of Defence Services and supplies during 1942-43 amounted to Rs. 565 crores compared to Rs. 289 crores and Rs. 118 crores in 1941-42 and 1940-41 respectively. India's share of this expenditure amounted to Rs. 259 crores in 1942-43, comparable figures for the previous two years being Rs. 95 crores and Rs. 65 crores respectively. The rest of the expenditure was, in accordance with the Financial Settlement, borne by His Majesty's Government.

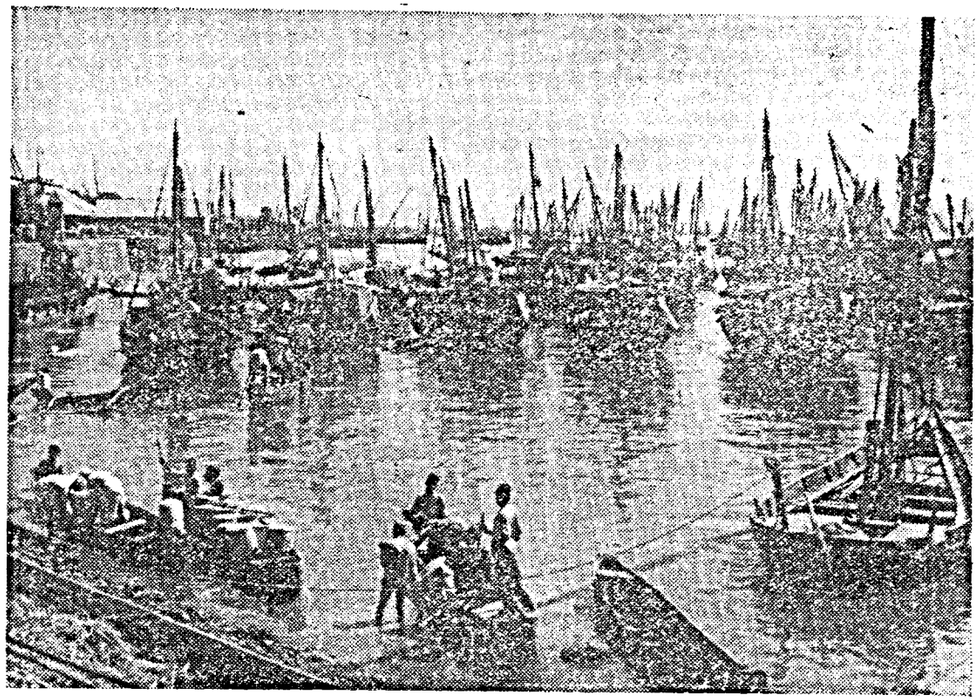
Defence Capital Expenditure amounted to Rs. 52.5 crores and included such items as construction of airfields required for India's defence, capital outlay on industrial expansion, India's share (which has been paid off in full) of the capital outlay involved in carrying out the Chatfield Modernisation Plan and new constructions for the Royal Indian Navy.

Supply Department Contracts

The Committee, on August 10, concluded its examination of the Appropriation Accounts of the Defence Services for 1942-43. It paid special attention to the activities of the Supply Department and to the services controlled by the Engineer-in-Chief.

It was stated that the value of contracts placed by the Supply Department during the year under review was Rs. 256 crores, the corresponding figures for the previous three years being Rs. 199, 81 and 28 crores respectively. The figure for 1943-44 was however lower at Rs. 175 crores, this being due partly to the responsibility for the procurement of food and cotton textiles having been transferred to the Departments of Food and Industries and Civil Supplies respectively.

The Supply Department now has a Directorate General of Disposals designed to ensure the effective and expeditious utilisation and disposal of all salvage and surplus and obsolete stores. Between November 1943, when it was formed, and April 1944, this Disposals organisation disposed of stores worth Rs. 58 lakhs.



A number of country boats anchored at the ferry wharf, Bombay, most of whose coastal trade is carried by these craft.

NEW SCHEME FOR COUNTRY CRAFT TRAFFIC

A scheme for the better organisation of the country craft traffic on the West Coast has been evolved by the Government of India in consultation with Provincial Governments concerned, and will be put into effect immediately for the forthcoming sailing season, said a Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on August 15.

It added: The essentials of the scheme, which is known as the "route scheme," are the selection of definite routes on the coast with the appointment of an agent for each route or combination of routes, and the control of freight rates. Freight rates will be fixed by the Controller of Indian Shipping on the advice of Freight Advisory Committees and in consultation with Government and military authorities concerned. Rates will be published for general information, as well as any alterations in rates during the season.

Agents will be selected by the Controller of Indian Shipping and will act under the general supervision of Assistant Country Craft Officers; they will be responsible for chartering craft and running them at the rates fixed, for seeing that craft are maintained and handled properly, for providing storage accommodation and for making suitable arrangements for handling cargo, and they will comply with any priority directions issued by a competent authority. They will be remunerated by a commission which will enable them to fulfil these obligations adequately.

In order to ensure that the best and most economical use is made of all country craft available, steps will be taken to prevent any craft from sailing except in accordance with the instructions of the agents. Co-operation between country craft agents on the coast will greatly contribute to the success of the scheme.

GONDAL MAHARAJA'S CONTRIBUTION

H. H. the Maharaja of Gondal has generously contributed Rs. 1,90,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The gift has been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.

BRITAIN STANDS BY CRIPPS PROPOSALS OF 1942

Mr. Amery's Assurance in House of Commons

REPLYING to the debate on India in the House of Commons on July 28, Mr. L. S. Amery, Secretary of State for India, gave the assurance that the Cripps proposals of 1942 still held good and that His Majesty's Government stood by the proposals then placed before India and before the world "in all their generous amplitude." He added: "We shall stand by them in the hour of victory as we did in the days of adversity. The shifting fortunes of war have played no part in their inception and cannot limit their fulfilment."

The Debate

Opening the debate MR. PETHIC LAWRENCE (Labour) said there were now signs in many quarters of goodwill which, if rightly exploited, might lead to a solution of this very difficult problem. Mr. Lawrence explained that those associated with him had, hitherto, hesitated to ask for a full debate because of the extreme delicacy of the situation and the feeling that a debate might injure, instead of improving the prospects of a settlement. He added: "Though it is still true that it would be unwise for recriminatory words to be uttered that might do harm, we feel that helpful and constructive words may be fruitful of great good, and I hope, very much, that only wise and statesmanlike words will emanate from all parts of this House to-day."

"We all realise that, super-imposed on the very inherent difficulties of this problem, there has been a psychological personal distrust, which has greatly aggravated the difficulties. Is it too much to hope that this debate will help to remove one at least of these distrusts, by showing to the peoples of India and the outside world that all sections of this House are willing, and indeed anxious, that there should be Self-Government in India after the war is over."

Mr. Pethick Lawrence, proceeding, said that how far India would continue as single and undivided was one of the issues in dispute. Nevertheless, he was quite certain that it was of supreme importance that there should be an India representing the great Indian peoples in the comity of nations—an India with whom power of decisions rested, and in whom the world would see a country destined to play a vital and important part in the whole history of mankind. "We, in this House, cannot solve that problem, it rests with the Indian people



Mr. L. S. Amery.

themselves. We can only note with satisfaction that, in the last few months, Mr. Gandhi has made a gesture of approach to the other sections in India. In these subtle matters, it is very difficult for most of us, not completely immersed in Indian politics, to judge how far he has gone, but that he has made some move will not be denied. When things have reached an impasse, even a small move may be of supreme importance."

Mr. Pethick Lawrence said that there had been events of immense importance in the political sphere in India. Terrible famine in more than one quarter of India had brought home the great danger which India, with its rapidly increasing population, faced. Famines were frequent in old days, and it was one of the merits of the British administration that until recently it had succeeded in keeping famines down. If the population of India was to increase at the present rate, then, undoubtedly, the problem of famine might recur. He hoped that, behind all

the political differences, the problem of feeding the mass of population might bring the people of India together.

Another great event in the economic sphere had been turning India from a debtor to a creditor country. From being a great debtor country, India had become one of the world's creditor countries, and, that had a bearing on the economic future.

The Tata Plan

"Then there has been," Mr. Pethick Lawrence continued, "the publication of the Tata Pamphlet, sometimes called the Millionaires' Pamphlet. I think, it is the greatest of all steel plants in the Empire, and anything emanating from that firm might not be lightly brushed aside. It is not for me to express an opinion on the details of the Tata Scheme. It deals with figures on a scale which has hardly hitherto been mentioned but undoubtedly, having recently been published, it provides a basis for discussion which cannot afterwards be entirely put aside.

"Can India—can the peoples of India, poor, malaria-ridden, with poor standards of life, with an immensely high rate of mortality be brought into line with the progressive countries in the world economically? Whatever may be thought of the details of the Tata Plan, the suggestion, that it is possible, is one of great and arresting importance."

Mr. Pethick Lawrence said that all these things, taken together, showed that Economics were likely to play an exceedingly important part in the future problems of India.

The Military Aspect

Referring to the military aspect of the India problem, he said many things had happened to cast some doubt on the power of Britain alone to keep the peace in the Seven Seas, and in no part of the world was that more the case than in the neighbourhood of the great sub-continent of India. "As I see it, India is a great strategic bastion. I do not believe the peace of the whole world can be firmly assured, unless part of the strong pillars supporting that peace consists of India itself. Therefore, the whole question of the future of India does not concern only the principal parties to the present discussion—this country, other parts of the British Empire and the peoples and parties in India. It also very deeply concerns all the nations of the world and, particularly, the United Nations, who desire to place the military basis of the world upon a fundamental basis which will stand the tempests and shocks of national desires and will give to the hard-pressed peoples a promise of real prosperity."

Reverting to the political and the racial aspects of the whole problem, Mr. Pethick Lawrence said, "I suggest to Government that the time is coming, if it has not already arrived, when they can contribute to the solution by a new step forward. I notice Mr. Gandhi has said, in his speech or writings, that 1944 is not 1942 and that many changes have taken place in objective facts and in the views regarding them in those intervening years. Mr. Gandhi is careful of his words and we can put such interpretation as we like upon them, but I would put forward this for the consideration of Mr. Amery and the House. We cannot expect people who are put into prison or kept in detention on political grounds to recant their past views. I believe, Mr. Amery realises, quite well, and I am sure the Viceroy with him also realises, that we cannot expect these people to stand in a white sheet and admit the errors of the past. But I do believe that most men of sense—and those who are detained at the present time are men of sense, whatever mistakes it may be that they have made—will recognise, with Mr. Gandhi, that 1944 is not 1942 and that a great many things have changed in the meanwhile.

Real and Substantial Thing

"One of those changes of course is that at the time the Cripps Offer was originally made, it looked to the outside world as though we were losing the war. There were few parts of the world who considered we had a dog's chance and, no doubt, in India that view was as largely prevalent. It appeared to a number of Indians that we were drowning men, clutching at a straw, and promising things to India which we had no intention afterwards of carrying out. That, of course, was not the case, and I think it is apparent to the peoples of India to-day that it was not the case. I am quite sure they recognise, as is recognised in other parts of the world, that, far from losing the war, we are going to win both the war in the West and the war in the East and that before a very long time. Therefore, the promise we made two years ago and still make, of Self-Government is a very much more real and substantial thing now, than it ever was before and that alone, if there were not a number of other factors, must have a great influence on the minds of the members of the Congress Party. Mr. Gandhi has made use of words which might fairly be interpreted as a measure of goodwill and as a desire to come to a satisfactory solution both inside and outside India with regard to this problem."

Pointing out that when a man was detained preventively, no term was set upon the length of his imprisonment, Mr. Pethick Lawrence said that it rested with the Executive authority, in such cases, to release him when the appropriate time came. "In the last resort, it is with the Secretary of State, and the very wise man he has appointed to be the Viceroy, to decide the time and place and the arrangements suitable for his release. There are risks to be faced in releasing people who have been in detention. The risks are very real and he and the Viceroy will have to weigh up those risks; but there are also risks involved in not releasing people, and those risks are very grave indeed—the risk of permanently alienating men who are not guilty of what are described as moral turpitude, but who have been detained for political reasons. I am quite sure he will not ignore the grave risk of continuing detention, however much he may see the risk of bringing it to an end."

"Let Us Think of the Future"

Mr. Pethick Lawrence added that it would be quite impossible to make an important pronouncement on their release on this occasion, but he hoped Mr. Amery would not feel it necessary, as a result of what might be said during the debate, to make a positive adverse statement which might tend to make the situation worse. "We do ask them to bear in mind the great importance of choosing a suitable and early opportunity of bringing into a life of liberty men who must, in the end, be parties to the agreement made between ourselves, them and other sections of opinion. We look forward to a wise decision being taken."

Concluding, Mr. Pethick Lawrence said, "Let us get rid of old distrust on all sides, let us think of the future—the future of this great country, containing in its population one-fifth of the whole human race, a great country which has been brought from its somewhat anarchic conditions to its present great position, largely through the medium of this country, and a country which we here have the power to help to speed forward on its path for the future. I believe we can do that, I believe we should do that, and I believe that, in doing that, this country will show the great British spirit of Democracy and that we shall set an example to the world which will long be remembered—the greatest tribute to the genius for statecraft of the British race.

MR. WALTER ELLIOT (Conservative) said the fact that seemed to stand out in the present situation was that they were going nowhere along the former roads. The urgency of the problem has been shown by the Bengal famine and still more by the situation underlying the Bengal famine. Another vital fact in the position to-day was that it had moved Mr. Gandhi to a momentous decision. He had decided to recognise the principle of partition. His views did not differ greatly from the Cripps Proposals. A great step forward had been made. But these proposals could not be left simply kicking about. What Commission was going to have greater knowledge or better leaders than Parliament? What greater jury was there than the Imperial Parliament to sit and consider a proposal brought before it by, say, the present Government? He said that the Pakistan solution suffered from over-simplicity and a dual solution was a solution to perpetuate antagonism.

LORD WINTERTON (Conservative) interjected: "It is not a question whether it is right or wrong. It is put forward by a vast number of the Indian people and has to be considered in conjunction with Mr. Gandhi's offer."

Mr. Elliot, continuing, said: "The essence of the Pakistan scheme is the perpetual subjection of the minority to the majority which it cannot change by any voting process. That is to produce an impossible situation and some means to escape must be found from it—whether a dualist solution or more than a dual solution —the setting up, it may be, of four or five units."

The River Basin Scheme

Mr. Elliot said that he was more attracted by a solution such as the River Basin scheme, which suggested four great units, and there had been other suggestions including the Five-State scheme. "But," he added, "on the principle of two or more than two, it seems to me that two is a more dangerous solution than many, because two seems to make for antagonism, which would be exacerbated more and more as years go on.

"As for the States, they want to be free to start Dominions in their own right—development and administration will be their main tasks —to put through enormous changes to handle the bringing of an industrial revolution to millions of people. I believe the greater their powers, the quicker will be the solution. The essence of Dominion Status is Responsible Government.

"People talk as if this were the partition and vivisection of the live body of India. But if you can get units of the human race to live comfortably with each other by the hundred million, that is sufficient of a miracle. We have seen Iceland declaring that there is no one in the world, not even Denmark, she could live with, and setting up a pocket republic in the Arctic. This is the way things are developing

in the world. Marshal Stalin is developing armies and Foreign Offices in different parts of the Soviet Union. This is the way in which the world will move. So, I would not put limits on the powers of the States. Regarding Finance and Customs, they must not be subject to one central bank and locked up inside one customs union. It was the lack of a Customs Union which enabled Britain to live in amity with Australia, South Africa, Canada and New Zealand. I suggest that His Majesty's Government should announce, in the next King's speech, an India Bill which will be an India Bill and which this House can get to work on and which will enable advances to be made."

Defence Problem

Dealing with the question of Defence, Mr. Elliot said: "All over the world, we have had to work out the relations between the bases of what we may call an Imperial or what may be a World Force of the future and the rights of local inhabitants. Defence is a big problem and cannot be treated simply on the basis of the Indian Army. I am quite sure much bigger factors will have to be brought into consideration. Again, I do not think that difficulty about that should justify a deadlock in which nearly one-fifth of the world's population are locked on a dead centre, where half of them die of hunger before the age of 22."

COMMUNAL DIFFICULTIES IN INDIA

Sir George Schuster's Speech

SIR GEORGE SCHUSTER (Liberal National) said: "I do hope that, although we recognise the communal difficulties in India and the need for devising new constitutional forms which may allow to each of the communities a measure of freedom in their own administration, on which I feel sure they will insist, yet I hope we shall say nothing which will give a push forward to a move for the complete breaking up of India. The unification of India is, perhaps, one of our greatest achievements. Let us not, at this stage, adopt the attitude that we must face a breaking up of that unity. It would be disastrous to have anything which prevented India operating as one unit in the security structure of the world. I know of the difficulties in achieving agreement among Indian parties, but I would not throw up the sponge yet."

Agreement between parties was what we had to try to achieve. To suggest, at this stage, that we should step in again with a new Government of India Bill before they got together to consider their own future, was dangerous and not a timely suggestion.

Sir George Schuster added that he had never really believed in a halfway house being satisfactory or possible. A great deal had to be done to associate leading Indians with the Government of India. A constitutional change unwritten but nonetheless real had taken place. But all their attempts to bring the two main political parties into participation in the government had failed. All that they had been able to do was to ask Indians to come into a Coalition Government. To ask political parties, whose main plank was opposition to British rule, to join a Coalition Government under a British Viceroy was to ask a great deal.

The first of the tasks before them was to concentrate on carrying the war to a successful conclusion. The second was to do everything in their power to help the Indian parties to get together and join in realistic constitutional discussions round a table, so that they might get on with preparing for the final constitutional plan: and the third was the use of the remaining period of their own responsibility to prepare the way for the introduction of those economic programmes, without which there was not the slightest chance of maintaining either the internal stability or internal security of India or fulfilling the advancement of the genuine welfare of the Indian people.

Sir George Schuster hoped that the United States and the British Governments would do all they could to give the necessary priority to further shipment of foodgrains to India.

Regarding Finance, he said: "I feel grave doubts whether our policy in this war by which, while maintaining a fixed rate of exchange, we have expended vast sums of money in India and Egypt, has not contributed more than was really necessary to the inflationary price rise which has taken place."

A Gleam of New Hope

Sir George Schuster hoped that Parliament would indicate very strong support for the Viceroy in his efforts to help the Indian parties to get together and that it would welcome any constructive measures that may be taken. "I feel Mr. Gandhi's recent utterances have at least given a gleam of new hope. I regard the Viceroy as a man of courage and generous liberal spirit, and I hope, we shall say nothing to embarrass him or hamper his discretion in any way. If he, in his discretion, thinks the time has come to take a bold step and release political prisoners in order that there may be a start with a full political discussion, then, I would give him my support."

Sir George Schuster explained that he was referring to confidential talks designed to prepare the way for the more formal proceedings of a Constituent Assembly. Saying that the millions of Indians in the armed forces were entitled to be heard, and it was one of Britain's chief responsibilities to see that they got a hearing, Sir George Schuster added: "I would still press urgently that the time has come for starting a process of discussion, which we should do all in our power to promote."

Proceeding, Sir George Schuster asked, "Will Mr. Jinnah be prepared with plans to show how a Mussalman State will be set up? It will not be any good his saying: 'I will fight rather than accept.' India in the future cannot be governed by opposition, nor can the welfare of the people of India be provided for merely by parties which say 'no.' I want them to realise that we, on our side, mean business and that the day is near when each must shoulder his part in the responsibility and all parties must fit in together."

Economic Policy

Sir George Schuster added that the third British task for the remaining period of their responsibility was to prepare the way for an economic policy. Economic problems should take the front place in the political discussions, and the political parties should concern themselves, more and more, with these matters and less and less with barren communal controversies. That was why he himself welcomed the Bombay or Tata Plan. There was a special opportunity for the Government of India to collaborate with Indians and even with those who for political reasons had not been able to join with the Government. There should be as wide a collaboration as possible and minimum controversial rivalry. If a preliminary All-Party Conference on the constitutional issue could be started, there might be, as a part of it or parallel to it an all-party conference on economic lines.

In this co-operation in the economic field, it was not merely a question of what the Government of India could do. They, in Britain, had also a part to play. He believed that there was really a bright prospect for true co-operation between Britain and India in India's industrial development. There should be a complete frankness in their approach to these matters and the unreserved recognition that Indians had the right to be masters of their own destiny; this destiny in turn depended upon industrial and economic development. They should beg of Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Jinnah or any other leader to turn from manœuvring and clever formula to the consideration of the basis of an agreement so that they, with good conscience, could transfer constitutional responsibilities.

Finally, Sir George Schuster said that the structure of world security could not be other than insecure unless the Eastern half was strong, but the Eastern half could not be strong if India was divided and a centre of chaos. Sir George added that he desperately wanted to see India take her place as one of the great nations of the world. When people spoke of the four Great Powers in the world including China, it hurt his feelings that India should not be mentioned. China could be a great power for the peace of the world, but India ought to stand forward equal with China.

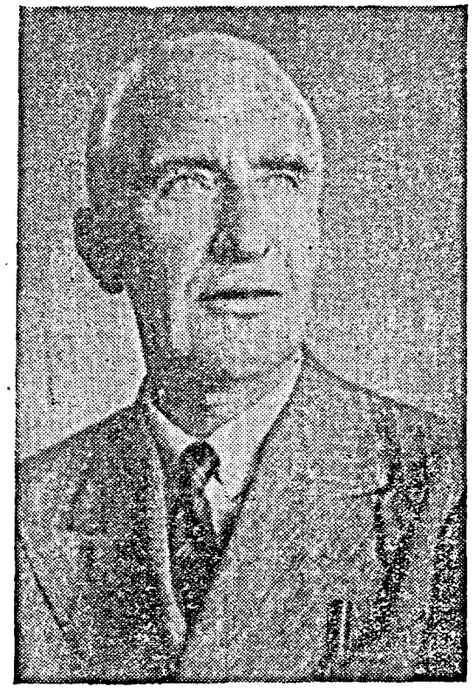
MR. M. P. PRICE (Labour) did not think that Government should take any very definite line until Mr. Gandhi's views had developed further. He thought that the Government of India should rally opinion in India on the economic issue and the raising of the standard of living.

Mr. Price deprecated the breaking up of India into a number of Dominions—a kind of bastard Pakistan. India must be kept an economic unit. He advocated a big campaign for the education of the Indian peasant in agricultural improvements and hoped that India would obtain real Independence within the British Commonwealth.

Prof. Hill's Plea

PROF. A. V. HILL (Conservative) stressing the urgency of the Indian problem, said: "India is living on the edge of a precipice. The factor of safety is so low that any disturbance, even a comparatively minor one, may send her over the edge. I have grave doubts about the wisdom of urging that consideration should be given to partition. Devolution, yes; Self-Government as we have in this country within limited regions, but partition, having five separate regions in India, could only lead to a Balkanisation of that great peninsula. I would like to emphasise the frightful penalties which would result from the disaster if it occurred. The machinery in India is heavily overloaded, and if we were to take liberties with it by allowing disorder or a bloody revolution, as some people lightly speak of it, then, the disaster would not be a minor one but a major catastrophe. This is no time to talk lightly of a disaster in India as a possible way of solving her difficulties."

Referring to the forthcoming visit of Indian industrialists this Autumn, Prof. Hill hoped that a group of Indian scientific men would also visit



Prof. A. V. Hill.

Britain. "There is a chance," he said, "of co-operating with Indian Industry if we show courage, generosity and vision, but the alternative to our not showing those qualities is not that Indian industry will not develop, but that Indians will turn to America and not to us for help. They would rather turn to us and if we can help them, they will co-operate with us, but only on some terms which seem to them reasonable."

Prof. Hill said they had everything to gain in the end by the kind of co-operation that Indian Industry would like, and would be very willing, to offer. He urged that every encouragement possible should be given to the development of Radio as a means of education in India.

Solution of Difficulties

Regarding population, food and health, he said that reference had been made to his recent comments on the subject. He admitted he had tried deliberately "to make people's flesh creep." The situation was not one which could be tolerated for a long time. The solution of the difficulties in India depended upon health, food, population, agriculture, and education. They would not yield simply to political dialectics or manufacture of political machinery. They required deliberate co-operation all-round, deliberate thinking and hard work.

Dealing with the Bengal famine, he said that the fundamental reason for it was that the factor for safety in India was almost zero and tended to be held there all the time by excessive reproduction. He deprecated endeavours to place the blame upon the Secretary for India or anybody else. The question was what their friends in India and themselves were going to do about these problems. "If they do not do something and we do not do something and do it pretty quickly, I can see nothing but calamity, misery and poverty ahead."

A Suggestion

Prof. Hill said that he was wholly in favour of repeating in India, when conditions allowed, the experiment which had always been amazingly successful hitherto except in Eire where people's eyes were always turned backwards. That was why he was in favour of the experiment of handing over to Indians Government, including the defence of the country. It was an act of faith, and they could not be sure of the result. If it failed, that would be too bad, but it would not be their fault. Mere continuance of the present system would certainly fail anyhow. If it succeeded, India might become, after a few years, a proud and contented member of the British Commonwealth.

Prof. Hill, continuing, said that if the House made it perfectly clear that Britain was determined to see that the best possible chance was given for the improvement of the life of the Indian people, that would do more good than if one argued for ever about the political machinery. "India is ripe now for a great technological development. I can see little hope of India having greater prosperity apart from going with the stream of modern life and seeking her prosperity in that kind of development. The essential condition for success is a reasonable degree of economic and political unity."

As regards Defence, there must be external security because if India achieved high industrial prosperity but had no adequate unified defence, she would be an easy prey for any aggressor. Thoughtful Indians knew this and realised that the Balkanisation of India would leave her defenceless against external aggression.

MR. CLEMENT DAVIES (Liberal) said he had listened to every debate on India in the House for the last 15 years but he did not remember during all those years such a note

of unanimity as marked the speeches on that day's debate—such single current of opinion all flowing one way.

"It seems to be summed up like this: There is everywhere not only a genuine desire but a genuine anxiety to see these problems settled satisfactorily. There is also this: Let there be no recriminations of any sort. Let the dead past bury its dead and let us look forward to the future. With goodwill and co-operation, a settlement can be achieved."

On the political side, there was complete unanimity that India was entitled to and should have Self-Government at the earliest possible date. On the social and economic side, there were two problems—one an immediate problem with which the British Government had to deal, because at the present time they were trustees for the Indian people and the other that could only be settled by a long-term policy. The long-term policy could only be satisfactorily settled by the Indians themselves under their own Government.

Mr. Davies continued: "Britain has a record with regard to India of which she is entitled to be justly proud. I wonder if some other nation, had fate so decided it, had to co-operate with India as Britain has had to do for 200 years or more, what would have been the position of India to-day. Britain has brought immense benefits to India, toleration and understanding, and she is trying to inculcate law and order. It has always been our policy that every nation should look after its own affairs and stand upon its own feet and enjoy its own liberty and that moment is coming when we can say, not goodbye but 'good luck, the responsibility is yours.' Let us forget mistakes and try to see whether we cannot work together for the general benefit of Indians and the world."

Some Suggestions

Mr. Clement Davies said that everyone would like to see the end of the political deadlock and he proceeded to put forward his own personal suggestions in the hope that these might lead to new negotiations. The first thing was to bring India as India into the war. The South-East Asia Command should be extended to include India and the Indian seas. There should be an Allied Council for South-East Asia composed of representatives of the principal Governments concerned, namely, the British Government, China and the United States and India herself should provide a representative for the Council. Representatives of others interested like the Netherlands, Indo-China and naturally the Union of South Africa and Australia and New Zealand should be consulted. They would be appointed in name by the Governor-General but after consultation with either parties or leaders or whoever it might be. He suggested the Governor-General might invite the leaders of principal representative parties to submit the names of the representatives whom they desired to sit on the Council. The Governor-General would function as the constitutional head of a popular Government but holding in himself special responsibility in relation to the armed forces and in respect of Crown relations and by virtue of his office, he would be a member of the South-East Asia Allied Council and of the All-India Defence Committee.

With regard to the relationship between India and London, the Secretary of State for India would become more important in his duties than to-day. He would occupy a much more important position than that occupied by the Secretary of State for the Dominions as between the Dominions and the Home Government. The Government of India would be no longer represented on the War Cabinet because it would be represented in the South-East Asia Command. There should be provision made for the protection of the minorities, for determining what was reserved legislation, for guarantees for the minorities and for the setting up of a national tribunal to settle any differences.

Central Federal Authority

After stating that his plan was merely a suggestion, Mr. Clement Davies added, "The idea I have in mind is something like the United States with individual provinces which would be sovereign ones, reserving to themselves full rights but transferring to the central federal authority such rights as they agree should be exercised by the federal authority. There should then be drawn up a constitution which is to bind each one of them with complete right in any state to contract itself out. What we are anxious about is that this deadlock should end as quickly as possible. We are anxious to seize this opportunity now presented to us, after this tremendous world fight, of extending to India a chance for her to settle her own affairs for the benefit of their own people."

MR. SORENSEN (Labour) said that they were confronted in India with something much more than could be settled by offering them more food. In the debate members of all parties seemed to stress the economic side. He would issue this warning, "We must be very careful not to leave the impression that we are now to be concerned very much with India's economic problems in order to sidetrack India from her demand for political liberty."

Mr. Sorensen emphasised that it was impossible to separate economic plans from political development and political freedom, and proceeded, "For good or ill, Mr. Gandhi whom many have criticised in this House and who certainly is not an infallible person, nevertheless, is recognised as being in India not a man above the average, but one of the great souls of the Indian race. Even those frankly hostile to Mr. Gandhi, nevertheless, respect him as one of the few great men the world has thrown up in recent years. Even Mr. Rajagopalachari recognises the outstanding significance of Mr. Gandhi.

"I am glad Lord Wavell, with such advice as he had had, has released Mr. Gandhi not only on the ground of ill-health, but I hope for other reasons as well. I hope that that release will be followed before long with the release of other Congress leaders. Mr. Gandhi's views on non-violence did not commend themselves either to members of this House or members of the Congress whereas Pandit Nehru has always made it perfectly clear that whilst he will accept non-violence as an expedient for internal political education, as far as external affairs are concerned, he is prepared to use arms in the defence of his country against the Japanese.

"Therefore, from the standpoint of the great majority of this House, Mr. Gandhi is much more dangerous of the two, but he is released while Pandit Nehru is still detained. I cannot understand the logic of this matter. Having released one who is looked upon as an arch agitator, we could undertake the far smaller risk of letting the other be free as well. To release that portion of the politically conscious life of India which was now gagged and bound might perform a tremendous service to India, to ourselves and to those who wished to see the gulf that separated this country and India bridged. We should be grateful to men like Mr. Gandhi for stirring India out of its stagnation. We must see that at one and the same time, India had a great opportunity of economic advance, but not at the expense of political advance."

Hopeful Sign

It seemed there was now a hopeful sign. To throw Mr. Gandhi's suggestion on one side was not doing sufficient justice to the fact that Mr. Gandhi himself might have altered his position. Whether he had or not, here was a sign that the deadlock that previously seemed insoluble and unbreakable was giving way. Mr. Sorensen said that, in a cable that day referring to the House of Lords debate on India, Mr. Gandhi had said, "I must confess that I am disappointed." Referring to his proposal Mr. Gandhi had further said, "If it is not accepted as the basis for friendly discussion and if permission is not given to me to see the members of the Working Committee who alone can speak with authority, then I must reluctantly come to the conclusion that the British Government do not want a fair solution of the deadlock."

Mr. Gandhi would have liked to have seen a warmer and more encouraging response. "Government could, if it liked to-day when Mr. Amery replies, give some positive indication that they are glad to see that Mr. Gandhi made these proposals to the Muslim League and that they hope the Muslim League will respond." Mr. Sorensen continuing said, "We ought not to ride the high horse in this matter. The opportunity of the present time seemed to be an encouraging one. I make a plea to the Government and to Mr. Amery who is firmly in earnest in this matter. Mr. Amery should strike a note which would bring forth from India an equal response: let him emphasise that the situation is more hopeful than it was and that Mr. Gandhi is at least opening the door."

Political Uncertainty

MR. GODFREY NICHOLSON (Conservative) maintained that the prevailing evil in India was political uncertainty. They had to consider whether the Cripps Offer and the Cripps method alone could remain the only means by which they hoped to bring India to freedom. There prevailed in India to-day a sense of being in complete vacuum. This was not a deadlock but a whole series of incompatabilities.

Speaking of the effort towards solution of "this deep problem," Mr. Nicholson said, "If we are to succeed, we must carry India with us and if we are to carry India with us, there must be no doubt about our intentions. I fear there is doubt and that hope deferred has made the heart sick. Sooner or later—I do not wish to hurry Government—we shall have to make a restatement of our intentions. There is one quality above all needed in our relations with India and that is courage—courage to carry through in the face of misrepresentation. I am not a pessimist, I do not believe British and Indian statesmenship are anywhere near bankruptcy.

"If we hold the door open for the resumption, firstly, of Provincial Self-Government, and for some form of Central Government in the course of time, then Indians will come forward, who will take the reins and take up office. Do not let us talk as if there were an appalling deadlock. Give the situation time. Keep the door open. Let us decide in our minds what we mean by freedom and what we mean by the Cripps Offer. Let us make up our mind what

we conceive to be our duty, make known our decision to the world and have the courage to carry it through."

MR. HARVEY (Independent) described the debate as most remarkable, adding, "I have never been in any debate on India when we have had the same atmosphere and if we could only get our friends in India to realise that, it would be a great thing for the future relations between India and this country and for internal development in India itself."

Fresh Start Urged

Mr. Harvey continued: "There is hope in the fact that Mr. Gandhi has come forward with concrete suggestions to meet the claims of the Muslim League. I hope we may have some response from Mr. Jinnah and the Working Committee of the Muslim League which is meeting to-morrow. Mr. Jinnah is a remarkable man and I hope he may feel that the eyes of many are on him at this moment and that the people in England are looking to him to make great steps from his point of view to meet the needs of his country. He will do a great service not only to Muslims but to India and the whole future civilisation if he can help to bring about some measure of understanding."

Mr. Harvey said they wanted to see every step for co-operation encouraged on their side and in India. On the release of the Congress leaders, he added his appeal remarking, "It is surely a tragic thing that a man like Pandit Nehru, with his extraordinary ability, with his deep interest in the welfare of China and Russia, as well as the welfare of India, should be eating his heart out, unable to take part in constructive work for the good of his country, the good of the United Nations and the good of the whole world. We may say it is his fault that he does not come out, but I do hope that the way will be made open for him."

Appealing for a fresh start, Mr. Harvey said, "Let us cease quarrelling over what has happened in the past and look forward together to the future in which England may co-operate in fellowship with India, for the good of the whole world."

Begging the Question

SIR JOHN WARDLAW-MILNE (Conservative) said, "Quite frankly, I am considerably disturbed and somewhat surprised at the tone of the debate to-day. I am the last person who wishes to indicate we are not more than anxious to co-operate with everybody in India; I have heard that sentence 'the necessity for co-operation' at least 20 times; to-day. We must deal with these matters in a practical way. It is no use continually getting up here and saying 'Let us co-operate' (*hear, hear*). Surely to goodness the whole world knows we are more than anxious to co-operate with India. Co-operation had been offered.

"The Cripps Plan—the plan which no nation in the world has ever put to the country with which it had relations like we have had with India—that plan amazed me with its generosity and to say now that what is wanted is for us to show our co-operation seems to be begging the question."

Referring to the statement attributed to Mr. Rajagopalachari that he "challenged British statesmen to produce an alternative plan," Sir John Wardlaw-Milne said, 'Is that the best that can now be produced from India that again the British Parliament should be asked to produce some scheme? If we were asked to do it, I do not know any better scheme than something like the 1935 Act, because as conditions are in India to-day whatever they may be to-morrow or ten years hence, no one in this House and no thinking person in this country would be prepared to hand over India to one faction alone and that is what is demanded of us."

Bombay Plan Welcomed

He welcomed Mr. Gandhi's overtures to the Muslims and hoped negotiations with Mr. Jinnah would continue although they appeared at the moment to have broken down. He welcomed the Bombay Plan because he welcomed anything that would make for economic development of India, but let them realise the position: "Here you have the President of the Indian Federation of Labour rejecting the Bombay Plan altogether and claiming it a plan to exploit Indian workers for the benefit of Indian industrialists. They want self-rule for India, the same as Mr. Gandhi does. But they do not want Mr. Gandhi's plan. I do not think the Indian people are such fools that they like us to get up and say 'Oh yes, we all want to co-operate.'"

Sir John Wardlaw-Milne continued: "What we have to realise is that it is impossible for this country to do anything that will really help beyond what we have already done and that the real move must come from India. I believe it will come from India. Is there anything we can ask Mr. Amery to do, is there any declaration we can ask him to make that has not been made by this Government on behalf of this country? We want India to have her independence if she likes. What more can we offer her?"

MR. MONTAGUE (Labour) asserted it was about time the people of Britain, including

the Labour movement, woke up to the fact that there was a working class in India and there was an organised trade union movement. The Depressed Classes workers, organised and unorganised, and the untouchables were never so much as mentioned throughout these debates. It was an exceedingly deplorable thing because, after all, the question of the political future of India had to do with the enfranchisement, some day or other, of the vast majority of 400 million people.

Surely Britain was entitled to ask any political party in India what it proposed to do, what guarantees it had for the rights of minorities. Mr. Montague said that to call the Congress with about one-fifth of the membership of the Trade Union Congress in Britain so representative that all reins of Government were to be handed to it was not realism at all as far as the politics of India were concerned and its relationship to this country.

Congress-League Settlement

The EARL OF WINTERTON (Conservative) said in all the speeches during the debate there had been hardly a single reference to the position of the Muslim Party. The Congress had a membership of no more than half a million and it was fantastic to talk about these people as if they led all India. "How can we expect Indians to take us seriously when we talk nonsense of that sort?" he asked.

Mr. Jinnah had said again and again and so had the supporters of the Muslim League that Congress derived its principal financial support from wealthy industrialists. They had no objection to that on grounds of principle. The Muslim League had made a further point that many of these employers of labour were pretty poor employers.

"It is perfectly true," said Earl Winterton, "that both the Muslim League and the Congress are going to meet in the near future with a growing opposition from organised labour in India. At present, it was only a little cloud on the horizon but it might become a mighty thunderstorm and sweep away the Congress as it stands." It is not for the Commons to make suggestions. It was for Indians and Muslims to come to an agreement. Mr. Gandhi had come a step forward to try and meet the Muslim League because his position was not so strong as it was *vis-a-vis* the Muslim League. If there were such an agreement, he thought they should make a clean cut after the war and give Dominion Status right out. He could visualise three or four Dominions in the general sense of the word bound together by some customs union in India.

He could see such Dominions entering into arrangements with them over matters of defence. What they required was not a great army based on India but air and sea bases. Earl Winterton said he thought some States would attach themselves to these four or five units and the British should try to protect their interests.

SIR STANLEY REED (Conservative) said, "There is a move from a purely sterile atmosphere of non-cooperation, civil disobedience and 'quit India' and there is recognition of the fundamental right of the Mohammedan community for the security of their own religion, their own future and their own economic status. This is essential to any Indian settlement but these tendencies must be developed in India itself by Indians. They cannot be overrun by dictation from this House or this country. When that settlement comes, it will not be just a settlement between Mr. Gandhi representing the Congress and Mr. Jinnah representing the Muslim League. There will be 60 millions of Scheduled Classes, a great army of trade unionists, a growing body of organised labour in every direction —all are equally entitled to full consideration and security under the constitution and we must see that they are respected."

Sir Stanley Reed added that they were moving very rapidly and getting very near to the date on which, under their pledge, they would have to establish a constitutional assembly in India. A constitutional assembly made without preparation was bound to stumble either into an unworkable improvisation or into an alleged settlement which was no settlement at all.

MR. AMERY'S REPLY

MR. L. S. AMERY, Secretary of State for India, replying, said that the debate had been most interesting. He complimented Mr. Pethick Lawrence on his very wise and thoughtful speech with which he had set the note for the whole discussion.

"I do agree", Mr. Amery added, "with my Rt. Hon. friend (Mr. Elliot) that a division of anything into two may be more difficult to reconcile with ultimate co-operation than a division into a number of units. I agree with him, and indeed, it underlies not only the present situation in India, but any constitution which may be formed, that economic development, to be effective, must have the support not merely of passive acquiescence but involve something in the nature of patriotism. Therefore, to get the economic development of India as a whole, you must have behind it something like Indian patriotism. On the other hand, he held out South America to us as an example for the solution of the Indian problem. I confess, I was not altogether able to follow him. After all, when the present nations of South America came into existence over 100

years ago, that continent, nearly five times as large as India, was an empty continent; not only empty of population but, even more important, empty to history, with all its memories, conflicts and interlocking ambitions. The colonists who revolted from their European mother-countries were scattered along the coastline. They had no serious frontier difficulties. They had no communications which would enable an effective central government."

A Nearer Parallel to India

"No, Sir," continued Mr. Amery, "if we want a nearer parallel to India, let us come nearer home to Europe and more particularly to those regions of Central and Eastern Europe which have not been shaped by long history into clearly separated nations but where Teuton and Slav, Moslems and Christians, have been fighting it out for a thousand years; and where the disappearance of two great autocracies, the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the Ottoman Empire, have left behind not peace and progress, but two terrible conflicts for which, perhaps, the only ultimate solution is some possible form of European unity. Therefore, I should hesitate to say that we should, of deliberate purpose, jettison that Indian unity, which geography and 250 years of British influence have brought about."

"But it is just this inherent and inescapable complexity of the Indian situation," Mr. Amery observed, "which both precludes rigid unity and yet forbids complete severance. Though His Majesty's Government was bound to address itself to this when it framed those proposals that the Minister for Aircraft Production took out with him to India, just over two years ago, the whole objective of those proposals was to enable India, after this war, to attain complete freedom to unfettered control of her own destiny in the world, whether within the free partnership of the British Commonwealth or even without it, and an agreed constitution of her own devising. It was obvious to us that only under an agreed constitution could at any rate some measure of Indian unity be preserved. Any constitution which was based on the coercion of such a powerful element as the Moslem majority in North-Western and North-Eastern India, clearly, could not have lasted, but would have been bound to break down in eruption and civil war. It was in order to secure unity by agreement and compromise and not that we favoured partition, that we insisted on the right of the predominantly Muslim provinces—a right already conceded to the States—to stand outside any constitutional scheme which imperilled their culture and way of life or lowered their status. The same stipulation made it equally clear that we were not prepared to make non-agreement an excuse for indefinite postponement of Indian freedom."

Mr. Amery continued: "It is against this background of the indispensable conditions for the solution of the major problem of India's future constitution that we were further prepared for a bold and immediate advance by inviting party leaders to form the proposed Indian Government. Such a Government would necessarily have been under the existing constitution, that is to say, subject to the Viceroy's reserve power—a latent power that has never yet been exercised in the course of the last four years but essential not only as a guarantee of continued loyal support of the war effort, but also as an actual guarantee to the minorities, not only to a concrete and powerful element like the Muslims, but also other elements not so powerful as the Muslims. It is the only guarantee that a Government, once in power, would not use that power to prejudge the constitutional future to their detriment.

An Assurance

"A member asked for an assurance that the promises we made two years ago still hold good. I will readily give that assurance. His Majesty's Government stand by the proposals that we then laid before India, and before the world, in all their generous amplitude. We shall stand by them in the hour of victory as we did in the days of adversity. The shifting fortunes of war have played no part in their inception and they cannot be limited in their fulfilment. For the sake of India's peace, we must stand by the indispensable conditions which accompany them. In answer to Sir John Wardlaw-Milne, I can say that, on that main issue, there is no other declaration we can make.

"This brings me to Mr. Gandhi's recent gesture. The House will remember that, so far as India's future constitution is concerned, Mr. Rajagopalachari was the only Congress leader at that time prepared to admit the justice of our stipulation, that an agreed constitution could only be arrived at if the predominantly Muslim provinces were free to adhere or stand out. How far the formula is likely to be acceptable to the Muslim League which, I understand, is meeting in the next few days or, indeed, to Muslim or, for that matter, to Hindu opinion generally, is not yet clear.

Mr. Gandhi's Statements Recalled

"What is clear to my mind is that neither meticulous criticism nor uncritical commendation of Mr. Gandhi's proposal in this House will help what we all have at heart, namely, the removal of what is undoubtedly the greatest stumbling block in the way of an agreed foundation for India's constitutional future. We shall be wise to be content with the fact that an approach has been made."

Mr. Amery continued: "Apart from that particular issue which affects the future, Mr. Gandhi has, through press interviews and statements recently, expressed his views as to what he conceives to be the immediate solution. These statements are not free from obscurities and reservations on particular points. I do not need to go into those, for they are, in any case, all bound up with and dependent upon one central demand upon which he does not leave any room for ambiguity. That is the demand for the immediate recognition of India's independence under a provisional government, in which the only powers reserved to the Viceroy are those which deal with the control of active military operations. All reserve powers indispensable to ensure that the various functions of administration are co-ordinated with war effort and also those indispensable to safeguard the constitutional position for minority elements—all those are to disappear. Well, that is, after all, just the demand upon which the negotiations with the Congress broke down, and were bound to break down, two years ago.

"I will only invite the House to read Mr. Gandhi's statements side by side with those then issued by Congress leaders, to see that in this respect, at any rate, there has been no real advance. Indeed, Mr. Gandhi now adds the further stipulation that India is to bear no part of the cost of her own defence. So long as those are the basis for his proposals, they obviously do not form even the starting point for a profitable discussion either with Lord Wavell or with the interned Congress leaders. They are, in no sense, a response to the Viceroy's invitation to Mr. Gandhi to produce constructive proposals. All we can do is to continue to hope that the time will come when we shall have before us proposals which will conform to conditions not arbitrarily imposed by us, but which are indispensable both because India is at war and because no agreed future constitution is yet in sight."

South-East Asia Command

Mr. Amery said that Mr. Clement Davies' detailed plan for an immediate solution of the Indian problem was based on bringing India under the South-East Asia Command. "I must remind the House that the South-East Asia Command and the India Command were one up to not long ago and were separated because it was more than one organisation could manage to deal with both operational needs and the immense problems of administration involved in making India a recruiting and supply base for those operational needs.

"The operational needs are indeed, already under international control. They are directed, in the first instance, by the Combined Operations Staff in Washington. They have, as their background, the Pacific Council which, at the times when it has met in this country, has been attended by representatives of India on the War Cabinet. None of these things can get away from the fact that India, as a base, is a single administrative unit in which all elements of Government must come together and, in so far as it is such a unit, then the essential difficulties which I have already referred to in connection with the proposals by Sir Stafford Cripps, are still there and are, I fear, not brought appreciably nearer solution by what Mr. Clement Davies suggests.

Indian Army Expansion

"However if the deadlock in the political field has not yet been resolved, there are other fields in which India has made great advances as well as encountered grave difficulties. Political leaders and their followers do not, after all, cover the whole infinite, varied range of Indian life, Fighting forces too are Indian and they embody a long glorious tradition of valour and loyalty. India's army has expanded from a nucleus of some 200,000 to over two million—the largest voluntary army in the world (*cheers*). That expansion has involved the stupendous task of equipment, supply organisation and training which could never have been accomplished without untiring devotion to duty, and without the resource and ingenuity of all concerned, British and Indian. No one has stated more emphatically than Lord Wavell what he owes to his Indian divisions and Indian staffs in that first campaign in which, against an overwhelming army, he saved the Middle East and with it the Allied cause."

Victories of Indian Divisions

Indian divisions had, he said, won victories from the mountains of Abyssinia to the Apennines and from Damascus to the Arno. "Those who fought with them and those who fought against them have alike acknowledged their quality. Indian troops have held for the Allied cause the whole vast area of Iraq and Persia. They bore the brunt of our ill-fated retreats in Malaya and Burma and, to-day, they are effectively repaying old scores against the Japanese on the Burma front."

Apart from that, there were some 200,000 serving overseas. In this unity in arms, racial and other differences between Indians and Europeans were transcended in one common brotherhood. There was no racial distinction in the army to-day. Some 35 per cent of its officers, a steadily increasing portion, were Indians. Those Indian officers had stood up well to the exacting demand of modern war, Mr. Amery said. "Some are already in command of units and qualifying by their war experience for higher commands in future years. Has not that fact a bearing on the underlying condition of India's future freedom, namely, acquisition of power to defend herself by her own forces under her own leaders? Has

it no bearing on her future that, on demobilisation, something like half a million Indians will return to civilian life, who have been trained to technical service during war?" That applied equally to the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.

Mr. Amery gave figures showing the growth of Indian land, air and sea forces, and spoke of the immense contribution India had made to the Allied cause by the provision of munitions and military equipment and stores of all kinds.

Mr. Amery continued, "Measured in terms of money the material contribution of India has already amounted to some 500 million sterling. It has been an invaluable contribution. It has made a great contribution to India's industrial capacity and has also involved a great strain upon India's relatively primitive economic structure, upon her limited transport facilities and not less upon that mere handful of senior civil servants, British and Indian. How they have stood up to their work over all these years is a thing this House ought to recognise. That economic strain was enormously accentuated after Japan entered the war and by the ever-increasing difficulty of furnishing India with imported consumer goods to match the evergrowing production for outside and the development of her industries for war purposes. That steadily increasing disparity between expenditure and consumption for the first two and a half years was so held in check that the wholesale prices only rose by 50 per cent. After the entry of Japan into the war, prices advanced in the course of 12 months by something like a 100 per cent, accentuated not only by the lack of goods but by lost confidence headed by a civil disturbance. It is to meet that situation that the Government of India has taken very vigorous measures over wide fields."

Import of Consumer Goods

Mr. Amery mentioned also that India, in the last two years, had borrowed £326 million internally, a sum by no means contemptible when judged by the extraordinarily limited surplus wealth which existed in India. Everything had been done to increase the import of consumer goods, including quantities of standard cloth, and drastic steps had been taken to see that it got on the market. He mentioned the selling of gold in the Indian market and the silver lent by the United States to ease the inflationary strain. As a result of these measures, the price levels had now been held steady for a whole year, and were lower than in any country in the Middle East.

"But the position is one which needs watching with the utmost care. By far the gravest consequences of the strain imposed upon India's economy has been the strain on the food situation. That has been and will continue to be, quite apart from the war, an increasingly serious problem. It has, of course, been greatly aggravated by war conditions, by the cessation of normal imports of rice from Burma by the general uncertainty of the military situation and political disturbances and no less, by the effect of inflation on the vast population of rural producer consumers who have been reluctant to sell their surpluses, seeing that their need for consumer goods could not be satisfied at reasonable prices or even satisfied at all."

Regarding Bengal famine, Mr. Amery mentioned the appointment of a Commission to investigate the famine in Bengal; paid a tribute to its Chairman and other members for their exceptional knowledge of Indian affairs and added that its terms not only covered the past, but, what was more important, the future. Its investigations would later cover the whole wider problem of famine in the provinces over the whole of India.

"In any case there can be no dispute as to the broad fact. A dreadful fact that, in Bengal last year, something like 700,000 human beings died as the consequence directly of starvation or, to a much larger extent, to the effect of the ever-present endemic diseases on constitutions impaired by under-nourishment. There was a record rice harvest in January and the fear of recurrence of last year's famine in Bengal has definitely receded.

Army's Help

"Following on Lord Wavell's decisive intervention—to which a tribute has rightly been paid—the very first act of his Viceroyalty—and with the ability and energy of the new Governor, the Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey at the disposal of the Bengal Ministry in their efforts to grapple with the situation, real progress has been made." Mr. Amery expressed the view that a recurrence of famine in Bengal was not likely this year.

"The valuable help of the Army, particularly in regard to transport for distribution, has been continued and river and canal boats removed in 1942 for fear of a Japanese invasion have been restored," Mr. Amery observed.

On the health side he gave details of hospital provisions and referred to the decline in the cholera epidemic. After mentioning the allocations of medicine, he said that last year there were undoubtedly serious local shortages owing to inadequate distribution arrangements.

"I will not claim," he added, "that even now the arrangements are entirely satisfactory, but at any rate the situation in this respect has been greatly improved."

Turning to the work of the Central Government, Mr. Amery said that the Centre worked away steadily at creating effective and reasonably uniform control, distribution and food prices throughout India. The difficulties which originally delayed effective co-operation between the Central Government and the Provinces had been progressively overcome.

"No measures," Mr. Amery added, "taken within India's own confines would be wholly adequate to secure the best possible distribution of the internal resources and the confidence, which is essential for that purpose without some measure of help from without. It is not only that India was already an importing country before the war and that its population has since grown by twenty millions, but the immense increase in the armed forces, more particularly from this country and the United States, had added to what is in effect another province—a consuming but not a producing province—to the problem of food supply.

Wheat Imports

"The House can rest assured that neither the Government of India nor His Majesty's Government has failed to be alive to that aspect of the question at any moment in the last two years. The House has been told that some 800,000 tons of wheat will have been shipped to India in the year ending this September.

"I fully realise that the Indian Central Food Advisory Council have expressed disappointment with these figures, as compared with their own standard of one million tons a year of importation, with half a million added for reserve. That is a point that is only natural in view of India's own great anxiety, but the preoccupations of His Majesty's Government over an even wider field are no less anxious and critical. There never seems to be a limit to the urgent demand for shipping and it is only by the closest scrutiny of the situation from quarter to quarter that those responsible can manage to scrape together the ships required for any great task."

Shipping for Grain Consignments

"The question of finding shipping for further consignments of grain to India," said Mr. Amery, "is at this moment under the active consideration of the technical service directly concerned." On what he called the greatest of all problems—how to enable her natural resources and increased efficiency in their utilisation and in the development of new industries to raise the standard of living and production, he said, "There is no other way of bringing happiness to India's teeming millions or giving to India as a whole material strength and revenue, without which political independence would be little more than nominal. Mere numbers do not constitute either wealth or strength. Unless they are matched by increased efficiency, they are indeed the greatest menace to all efforts to raise the standard of living or sustain political freedom."

"I agree heartily with Prof. Hill," Mr. Amery observed, "that there are elements in the problems which depend on social customs and religious preconceptions, which can only be dealt with by a slow process of education and a gradual change of outlook. That is all the more reason for bold and prompt action in a field in which Government can hope to produce early results. How urgent this has been is shown not only by the recent famine and anxiety about the food situation generally, but also by the progressive deterioration of the position shown by statistics."

After giving details of the £750 million agricultural development plan, Mr. Amery claimed that the Government of India could certainly not be charged with any lack of courage and imagination in facing the problem of India's agricultural development.

The Government of India was bound to turn to agriculture first and foremost, because it was and must always be the mainstay of the great majority of her population. Industrial expansion could make an immense contribution to India's prosperity by balancing India's economy through furnishing a market, which could absorb a great part of the output of India's agriculture. In that respect, India was already the eighth industrial country in the world. India stood to-day undoubted on the eve of a great industrial advance.

Industrial Advance

"To that industrial advance accompanied, as I hope it will be, by corresponding social advance we here can only wish well," proceeded Mr. Amery. "The day has long gone by, when British industrialists tended to look upon India as their own preserve and to look upon Indian industry as an uneconomic intrusion on their domain. On the contrary I have found whenever I have discussed this problem with our own industrialists, universal readiness to welcome India's industrial progress, a universal desire to lend their co-operation in helping forward that progress and a confident conviction that in the growth of India's prosperity there will always be an opportunity for British trade, provided we supply India with what she needs, and not simply with what we have been accustomed to sell in the past."

Mr. Amery said how strongly that vision of India's industrial future had appealed to her imagination was shown by the eager reception accorded to the plan put forward by a group of

Bombay industrialists. An even bolder plan laying greater emphasis on agriculture than on social reform had been put forward by the Indian Federation of Labour. What mattered in these schemes was the boldness of their conception. The Government of India had shown no sign of failure to appreciate the greatness of the opportunity before it in this respect.

Continuing, Mr. Amery said: "As Mr. Pethick Lawrence has truly said, progress in other directions cannot be fully sustained if there is a fundamental disequilibrium in the political structure. All I want to say is that these reforms are essential to provide the material foundation of an individual standard of living and of collective resources without which Indian freedom would mean very little, either at home or in relation to the outside world. At any rate, there can be no reason for not pushing ahead with these reforms while conditions for a political solution are maturing, so that at whatever stage the new constitution comes into being, no time will have been lost in giving it the best possible start, nor is it too much to hope that in the light of practical difficulties and the immense opportunities for Indian reconstruction, even political difficulties may find a truer perspective in relation to the immense political opportunity before Indian statesmen."

"I am voicing the general sentiments expressed in the course of this debate," Mr. Amery added, "when I say that we look forward undoubtedly to the satisfaction of India's natural aspirations to unfettered control of her destiny as a partner in the British Commonwealth and as a member of the comity of nations, fully worthy to stand as equal with any nation in the world (*cheers*). We all look forward to that and we also wish her to start on that new chapter of her history under the most favourable auspices possible—at peace within herself and secure from aggression from without and some measure of unity is essential for that purpose —able to play her part in contributing to the peace of the world, able to make her contribution to the welfare and to the culture and the thought of the world and enjoying in an ever-increasing measure prosperity, health and happiness" (*cheers*).

INCREASE IN COCHIN RICE RATION

That there is a slight improvement in the food position in the Cochin State is indicated by the present increase in the adult rice ration from 4 ozs. to a little over 5 ozs. a day. The total cereal ration in the State is 12 ozs. a day.

THE LORDS DEBATE ON INDIA

OPENING the debate in the House of Lords on July 25 on the political situation in India, LORD STRABOLGI said that the Labour Party wanted facts on this subject. There had been fierce censorship in India both military and political. There had been complaints that the military censorship had been aimed primarily at preventing news reaching the British people which was already known to the enemy and not to prevent news reaching the enemy.

The political censorship had been most rigid and it had been very difficult to obtain accurate information about what was going on in the political field.

Cripps Offer

After remarking that it had been reiterated that the Cripps Offer still stood, Lord Strabolgi continued: "We have no desire to dwell on the past, but desire to look forward to the future, and it is surely inconceivable that, now that the Japanese danger has passed and the war everywhere is going well, the policy of the Cripps Mission should be thrown overboard." Lord Strabolgi added, however, that he was not accusing the present Government of doing anything of the kind.

One important piece of news received from India early that month, despite censorship, was the remarkable interview given by Mr. Gandhi to Mr. Stuart Gelder of the *News Chronicle*. After quoting from the interview and also from a subsequent interview given to the same journalist, Lord Strabolgi said that those who knew Mr. Gandhi would recognise that these statements constituted a remarkable change of front. Lord Strabolgi said he wanted to ask three questions on behalf of the Labour Party Peers.

What information had Government about these matters?

Could they see in these developments the long-waited chance to break the present deadlock in India?

What did Government intend to advise the Viceroy to do?

In particular, were opportunities going to be provided for the imprisoned Congress leaders to consult with Mr. Gandhi and each other?

"We are not dwelling on the past. I am not posing these questions in a hostile manner. We are looking to the future. We certainly see more than a ray of hope," Lord Strabolgi concluded.

VISCOUNT ELIBANK said that no one could help being tremendously impressed by the military effort being made by India towards winning the war. At the same time every sound thinking person both in India and Britain must feel that any withdrawal from India at the present time during the war would be quite wrong and impracticable.

The differences between Hindus and Muslims must be settled before their pledge for Indian independence or Dominion Status could be fulfilled. If independence or Dominion Status were given in the conditions of to-day with the differences still persisting between castes and religions it was quite certain India would revert to a state of anarchy, and the progress she had made during the past two centuries under British guidance and with British help would perhaps be lost altogether.

"There is one individual in India—I have not the same regard for him as Lord Strabolgi has—one individual who is the greatest obstacle to a settlement and the biggest bamboozler of the century and in Far Eastern history. He has bamboozled many of his own countrymen for years and I am sorry to say he has bamboozled a good many of our countrymen in this country. One of the greatest tricks of bamboozlement is when he inflicts on himself starvation just up to the point of dying, and in this way plays on the sympathies of the Indian people and leads them into further difficulties.

"I would add a word of commendation of Mr. Amery. I know his keen sympathies with the Indian people. At a time when there was a good deal of controversy in this country I was aware of the attitude which Mr. Amery adopted in those days towards giving India much greater control over her own affairs than many were prepared to do at that time. My own view is that with Mr. Amery here and Lord Wavell in India in these days we should be prepared to leave these matters very largely in their hands to solve. We should trust the Secretary of State for India and the Viceroy on the spot to do the best for India in the present circumstances."

OFFICIAL REPLY

THE EARL OF MUNSTER, Under-Secretary of State for India, replying, said he wanted to remind the House of the speech which the Viceroy made to the combined legislature on February 17 this year. Paying a tribute to the qualities of statesmanship and characteristics of a great soldier which Lord Wavell had displayed, the Earl of Munster said he thought Lord Wavell's personal and prompt intervention in the food problem from the very earliest days of his arrival in India had considerably enhanced the morale of the Indian people and had certainly encouraged Indians with a sense of civic responsibility to one another.

Lord Wavell's actions in the political sphere had been no less striking. Lord Munster proceeded to quote Lord Wavell's remarks in the speech referred to and his reiteration that the Cripps Offer was still open and remained in all its essentials, his appeal to Indians to co-operate in Government and his advocacy of setting up a small authoritative body of Indians to make a preliminary examination of the constitutional problems.

"His Majesty's Government have not departed in any way from the intentions declared by the Cripps Mission, and which have been repeated again by the Governor-General in his speech to the combined legislature."

He added that it was wrong for Lord Strabolgi to suggest that because they were at war in 1941 they had been prepared to come to agreement at any price. "These plans were being worked out before Singapore and Rangoon fell, and that the arrival of Sir Stafford Cripps should have coincided with the fall of Rangoon had nothing to do with the position we were then in."

Recent Political Moves

Turning to the recent political moves initiated by Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Rajagopalachari, Lord Munster said that at the beginning of July Mr. Rajagopalachari published details of correspondence which had taken place between him and Mr. Jinnah earlier in the year on the proposed basis for a Congress-Muslim League settlement which was proposed by the former.

"Mr. Rajagopalachari states that the draft scheme which he submitted was discussed with Mr. Gandhi at the time of his fast in 1943 and that he was authorised to say it had received his full approval. At no time so far as His Majesty's Government are aware did Mr. Gandhi append his signature to any document which was delivered to Mr. Jinnah through Mr. Rajagopalachari.

"The document, which is full of importance, contained the terms for a settlement and it laid down, firstly, that the Muslim League should endorse the Indian demand for independence and would co-operate with the Congress Party in the formation of a provisional Government for the transitional period; secondly, after the termination of the war, a commission was to be appointed for demarcating contiguous districts in North-west and East India, wherein the Muslim population is in an absolute majority; in areas thus demarcated, a plebiscite of all the inhabitants was to be held and this would ultimately decide the issue of separation from Hindustan; thirdly, it is

open to all parties to advocate their points of view before the plebiscite closed; fourthly, in the event of separation, mutual agreements would be entered into for safeguarding defence, commerce and communications, and for other essential purposes; fifthly, any transfer of population was to be held entirely on a voluntary basis; sixthly, these terms would be binding only in case of transfer by His Majesty's Government of both power and responsibility for the Government of India.

"This then was the scheme which Mr. Rajagopalachari urged Mr. Jinnah to accept, and suggested thereafter that both he and Mr. Gandhi should advise the Working Committee of the Muslim League and the Working Committee of the Congress Party, respectively, to accept it. Now Mr. Jinnah was prepared to submit, though not previously to endorse, the scheme to the Working Committee if he received the scheme from Mr. Gandhi direct but declined to accept responsibility for agreeing to it or rejecting it before doing so.

Mixed Reception

"The exact position is somewhat obscure, but these negotiations seem for the moment to have been suspended. The publication of this scheme had a very mixed reception in the Indian Press, and it is difficult at the present moment to understand or appreciate their reactions to them. It does appear, however, that Mr. Gandhi's association with these particular proposals marks a very significant change in his attitude towards the Muslim League's position. That in itself might improve the chances of an agreement between the two major parties. So far as this should prove to be the case, we can of course only welcome the fact that there has been such an advance on Mr. Gandhi's part.

"I understand a meeting of the Working Committee of the Muslim League is to be held at the end of this month when the position may be clarified. The House will have observed that neither during the communications between Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Rajagopalachari nor during the flow of correspondence between Mr. Rajagopalachari and Mr. Jinnah has the Viceroy received any communication from anyone of these three participants.

"What I already said is by no means the end of the tale, for, directly after the publication of the scheme there appeared a series of statements in the Press which were attributed to Mr. Gandhi. The more important of these statements contained seven points and was issued after the publication in the *News Chronicle* of an interview which Mr. Gandhi had given to one of their press correspondents. Indeed, Mr. Gandhi stated himself that the premature publication of the interview with Mr. Gelder, the *News Chronicle* representative, had led to some confusion in the minds of the Congress, and, therefore, Mr. Gandhi has advanced the following views; firstly, Mr. Gandhi said he would never use the weapon of civil disobedience during the war unless for a very grave reason such as the thwarting of India's right to freedom. Secondly, he would be satisfied with a national government during the war with full control of civil administration composed of persons chosen by the elected members of the Legislative Assembly. Thirdly, the Viceroy would be like the King of England guided by responsible ministers. Fourthly, popular Government would be automatically restored in all provinces, that is, provinces at the moment under Section 93. Fifthly, while under national government the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief would have complete control of military operations there would be a portfolio of defence in the hands of the national government which would be genuinely interested in the defence of the country and may render great assistance in the shaping of policies. Sixthly, the Allied Forces would be allowed to carry on operations on Indian soil, but the expense of such operations would not be borne by Indians. Seventhly, Mr. Gandhi would advise Congress to participate in the national government, if formed."

Complicated Procedure

Lord Munster proceeding said: "The procedure followed is a little complicated and a little difficult to understand. A few days after Mr. Gandhi published these seven suggestions through the intermediary of the Press, he gave further explanations to Press correspondents in which he emphasised that his statements constituted his personal effort to end the deadlock, but if his suggestions are not acceptable to Mr. Jinnah or the Powers that be he would consider it a most unfortunate incident. In clarification—if indeed it be clarification—of his offer to Mr. Jinnah he stated that his proposals were wholly different from the Cripps Offer which, he insisted, contemplated almost perpetual vivisection of India. Frankly, it is difficult to understand if these statements by Mr. Gandhi have in point of fact definitely improved the chances of an inter-communal settlement.

"The main point so far as His Majesty's Government are concerned is that he (Mr. Gandhi) is still clinging to precisely that claim which wrecked the Cripps Mission and put an end to negotiations in April, 1942, for he is no more prepared today than he was then to accept the formation of an interim Government with the Viceroy maintaining his existing reserve powers.

"He demands a so-called interim Government in full control of the civil administration with the Viceroy occupying the position of a constitutional monarch as we understand it in this country. Let it not be forgotten that if an agreement is set up under the present existing constitution there are still a number of very important questions, not the least of which is the protection of the minorities, to be resolved. All these matters must be settled before the final constitution can be evolved. In this it will seem that Government have not departed one iota from the pledge they gave some time ago and which I will repeat now that the proposals which were taken to India by Sir Stafford Cripps still stand in their entirety."

Referring in conclusion to the question by Lord Strabolgi, who asked whether the Viceroy was prepared to allow Mr. Gandhi to see members of the Working Committee, Lord Munster said: "I would refer Lord Strabolgi to the letter which the Viceroy sent Mr. Gandhi on June 22 last. He said that another meeting between himself and Mr. Gandhi could only raise false hopes. He said Mr. Gandhi had publicly stated he adhered to the 'Quit India' resolution which he (Mr. Gandhi) regarded as innocuous. He (the Viceroy) did say that as soon as Mr. Gandhi had any definite or constructive policy to put up he would be very glad to consider it at that time."

INDIA'S FOOD SITUATION

The question of India's food situation was raised in the House by LORD FARINGDON, who said that many people were becoming increasingly uneasy and he wanted to know what provision was being made to deal with it. According to an article in *The Times*, by September next something like 800,000 tons would have been imported towards the million tons grain recommended by the Gregory Commission but nothing would have been imported towards forming the half a million tons reserve. In such circumstances, optimism, if not ill-placed, was at least hardly justified.

It meant that there was already 200,000 tons deficit for consumption purposes and no reserve. Moreover, it would be extremely difficult to ration and control prices which would have been possible if the Government had got the half million tons reserve.

Lord Faringdon also referred to the report by Dr. B. C. Roy, the head of the Bengal Medical Co-ordination Committee, that something like 20,000,000 people in Bengal and Bihar were affected by epidemics and said it had also been reported that the cholera situation in Bihar was worse than that in the gravest recorded year of 1920.

The health situation, he added, was adversely affected by the famine and reacted upon it, since one could not hope to obtain from a country with a serious epidemic situation that production of foodstuffs which might otherwise have been hoped for. He hoped Government would be able in some future debate to give some assurance about the steps they were taking to promote the manufacture of drugs in India and facilitate the import of drugs from Britain.

Lord Faringdon said if the anticipated food surpluses were obtained from the provinces and additional supplies could be found in Australia, the United States and Canada then transport would be a critical problem.

EARL OF MUNSTER'S REPLY

THE EARL OF MUNSTER, in reply, said he thought if a balanced view were taken between optimism and pessimism there was reasonable justification for thinking that they were on the road to better days. If the present monsoon proved favourable, as there was some justification for thinking it might, then it should be possible to resolve the difficulties and meet all requirements in the current year. The wheat crop in north-west India had suffered this year from a spell of bad weather before the harvesting and the portion of the surplus which would have been available for distribution to the deficit areas would have to be found from elsewhere.

Although this event should not in itself cause food shortage, it must nevertheless be taken into account in examining the position as a whole. Last year's famine which occurred mainly in the rice-growing areas was caused by a variety of events of which not the least were the abnormal climatic conditions but insofar as it was a matter of human control every measure had been taken to ensure that there should be no recurrence. They could not, of course, deal with elements which were beyond their control.

Lord Munster proceeded to give an account of the ration system adopted in cities and towns throughout India, of the procurement plan, the price control system and the import programme for which shipping has been supplied by His Majesty's Government. Giving the most recent news of the food position in Bengal, he said since last year's famine ended, conditions had immensely improved in rice crops. The Government of India had given the undertaking that they would make themselves responsible and supply from sources outside Bengal 640,000 tons of foodgrains to feed the city of Calcutta. That in itself would

remove a burden off the Bengal market which obviously must be suffering to some extent from the inevitable aftermath of last year's disaster.

Bengal Governor's Achievement

The difficulties which had originally postponed the introduction of complete rationing in Calcutta had now been overcome, and he was told the system was working smoothly and well. The new Bengal Governor, the Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, had put in hand a number of measures, all directed to reorganising the whole food position, and had stated that foodgrains which had been procured under the scheme operating in the province justified all his expectations and hopes that the total procurement would be adequate to meet all the essential needs of the deficit areas within his particular province during the present year.

There might be certain relatively small areas in which difficulties would perhaps be experienced, but everything was being done to anticipate and meet these difficulties before they arose. At the beginning of July, Mr. Casey had stated in a broadcast speech that they were within reasonable sight of having procured the minimum of rice to see the province through until the next winter crop in November was harvested, and this meant that Bengal was almost out of the wood so far as this year was concerned.

Lord Munster paid a warm tribute to Mr. Casey for the superhuman efforts by which he had steered his province towards brighter days.

The Rationing System

Discussing the rationing system, Lord Munster gave facts and figures to show the progress made and described them as astronomical.

In the whole of India, 219 cities and towns with a population exceeding 35,000,000 had now come on to rationing. However good the rationing system might be, he added, the whole organisation might be seriously impaired if price control was not taken into consideration. The Government of India had, therefore, to make quite sure that the prices charged for vital foodstuffs were not only fair and equitable and gave a reasonable return to the producer, but that they were such that the community at large could afford to pay. It was vital to stimulate confidence amongst the people in the ability of the Government to maintain rigid control, and if anything should occur either at home or in India through hasty or ill-considered remarks, which might shake or lessen the prevailing spirit of confidence built up so successfully by the present Viceroy, difficulties might emerge which might well have the very gravest consequences.

Lord Munster said that if a spirit of confidence reigned and the price control was firm and fair, then the tendency of the producer to hoard his surplus crop would be considerably lessened and probably overcome.

The Government of India's price control policy had, therefore, been directed to that end. The procurement policy had been well thought out. It was an entirely new departure in India and the whole scheme was designed to supply the needs of cities and other deficit areas, as well as to give the Central Government stocks with which to control the market. As regards the Punjab, he gathered that the Government scheme of purchase through agents was not working altogether satisfactorily and an amendment was now contemplated to ensure closer control by the provincial authorities.

After giving details of the procurement schemes in other provinces Lord Munster said that in normal times there would never be any great difficulty in importing into India sufficient quantities of wheat which, together with the amount secured inside India by any procurement policy, would place a substantial reserve in the hands of the Government to enable them to control the market.

Wheat Imports

It had been the object of His Majesty's Government to try and provide the maximum quantity of imports for current consumption as recommended in the Gregory Report, but the House knew well enough the ever increasing calls made upon their shipping last year and again this year. "In spite of these demands—and we obviously cannot allow our military operations to be imperilled—we have provided sufficient ships for the carrying to India of 800,000 tons of wheat from outside sources in a period of 12 months ending October, 1944," said Lord Munster, "and we have given an undertaking to the Government of India that we will consider in August and again in November the allotment of further shipping for this purpose."

Dealing with the action the Government of India proposed to take to ensure a steady and continued all round increase in the internal production of foodstuffs, he said that though a short-term policy might assist in increasing the immediate quantity of edible foodstuffs, a long-term policy was required which would come into operation and full effect year by year. "We cannot, therefore, rely on a short-term policy during our existing troubles," he said, "but we can and must lend all our efforts to secure that a permanent policy is produced, and should start operating at once, continuing over future years, so as to meet the threat of famine or shortage of food due to the continual increase in population, but before it arises."

Owing to the war circumstances and the loss of Burma, the rice market imports had been very heavily cut, and it was not possible to guarantee their immediate restoration when the war ended. It was therefore all the more important that a scheme for the further expansion and development of agriculture should be worked out now. The Government of India had not been negligent in their duty. In this respect, he gave details of the various measures being adopted to increase food production and referred to the mission now in India to advise the Government on the possibilities of increased manufacture of chemical fertilisers, the target figure for which had been set at 350,000 tons a year. Other measures included the promotion of better methods of husbandry, including proper crop rotation.

Agricultural Plan

"A plan has been envisaged to double India's agricultural yield with the immediate object of increasing production by 50 per cent. over the next ten years, and ultimately by 100 per cent. in 15 years," he said. "The capital cost of this immense plan is estimated at Rs. 1,000 crores or £150,000,000, with a recurring annual expenditure of Rs. 20 crores or £15,000,000." After stating that the plan had been drawn up by a special committee appointed by the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, Lord Munster said that the plan aimed at securing enough food of the right kind for every individual and improving the standard of living of the people.

Items of Improvement

The provincial governments had been asked for criticisms and suggestions within the next three months, but the order of priority for the more important items of improvement was stated to be first, irrigation by the construction of tanks, wells and canals; second, manure and the manufacture of ammonium sulphate; third, land improvement; fourth, tillage; fifth, the establishment of seed farms; and last, the grading of cattle. Some of these suggestions in this big plan had already been put in hand by the Government of India's "Grow More Food" campaign.

The Government of India had not been behind the Bombay industrialists in thinking ahead and planning an agricultural economic policy which year by year could bring into production more and more areas of cultivable waste. It was true, perhaps, that progress in the political field might tarry a while, but if the standard of living and the general welfare of the Indian masses could be raised to higher levels, then they should, at any rate, have met one of the essential needs to political as well as industrial progress.

LORD FARINGDON welcomed Lord Munster's reply, though he said he was still slightly anxious about the immediate position. No one would underrate the difficulty of rationing a population so vast as that of India. So far as the Government were coping with this monumental situation, they were to be congratulated. He particularly welcomed the assurance that His Majesty's Government hoped in August and November to be able to offer the Government of India additional shipping and he congratulated the Government on their agricultural policy.

An Economic Problem

LORD SAMUEL (Liberal) joined in welcoming Lord Munster's statement, which he considered one of the most important statements on India they had had in the Lords for many a long day.

It had fully recognised that the Indian problem was not merely, and perhaps not primarily, a political problem, but an economic problem. The rapid increase in the population of India in recent years, which was still continuing, had added to the anxiety which had been widely felt on account of the low standards of living of so many millions of the Indian population. Now the Government had taken in hand this fundamental problem with great vigour, energy and foresight and if the large programme which Lord Munster had in mind was fully carried into effect, it would have a vast and the most beneficent effect upon the welfare of the population of India.

PARCEL SERVICE TO UNOCCUPIED CHINA

A Press Note issued by the Director General, Posts and Telegraphs on August 2, 1944, stated:

With effect from August 1, 1944, parcels will be accepted for despatch *via* Sinkiang to destinations in Unoccupied China excepting the Provinces of Honan, Anhwea, Kwangtung, Kiangsi, Chekiang and Fukien. The maximum limit of weight will be 22 lbs. during the period June 1 to October 31, and 4 lbs. during the remaining period of the year. No insurance will be available in respect of these parcels.

THE VICEROY-GANDHI CORRESPONDENCE

THE following correspondence has passed recently between H. E. the Viceroy and Mr. Gandhi:

'Dilkusha',
Panchgani,
15th July, 1944.

Dear Friend,

You have no doubt seen the authentic copies, now published in the Indian Press, of the statements given by me to Mr. Gelder of the *News Chronicle*. As I have said to the Press they were meant primarily to be shown to you. But Mr. Gelder, no doubt with the best of motives, gave the interview premature publicity. I am sorry. The publication will nevertheless be a blessing in disguise, if the interview enables you to grant at least one of my requests contained in my letter of 17th June, 1944.

I am,
Yours etc.
(Sd.) M. K. Gandhi.

His Excellency the Viceroy,
Viceroy's Camp.

New Delhi,
22nd July, 1944.

Dear Mr. Gandhi,

Thank you for your letter of 15th July. I have seen the statements you made to Mr. Gelder, and your subsequent explanation of them. I do not think I can usefully comment at present, except to repeat what I said in my last letter that if you will submit to me a definite and constructive policy I shall be glad to consider it.

Yours Sincerely,
(Sd.) Wavell.

M. K. Gandhi, Esqr.

Mr. Gandhi's Proposal

As at 'Ashram,' Sevagram.
Camp Panchgani,
27th July, 1944.

Dear Friend,

I must admit my disappointment over your letter of 22nd instant. But I am used to work in the face of disappointment. Here is my concrete proposal.

I am prepared to advise the Working Committee to declare that in view of changed conditions mass Civil Disobedience envisaged by the resolution of August, 1942, cannot be offered and that full co-operation in the war effort should be given by the Congress, if a declaration of immediate Indian Independence is made and a National Government responsible to the Central Assembly be formed subject to the proviso that, during the pendency of the war, the military operations should continue as at present but without involving any financial burden on India. If there is a desire on the part of the British Government for a settlement, friendly talks should take the place of correspondence. But I am in your hands. I shall continue to knock so long as there is the least hope of an honourable settlement.

After the foregoing was written I saw Lord Munster's speech in the House of Lords. The summary given by him in the House of Lords fairly represents my proposal. This summary may serve as a basis for mutual friendly discussion.

I am,
Yours Sincerely,
(Sd.) M. K. Gandhi.

His Excellency the Viceroy.

Lord Wavell's Reply

New Delhi,
15th August, 1944.

Dear Mr. Gandhi,

Thank you for your letter of 27th July. Your proposals are:

(i) that you should undertake to advise the Working Committee (a) "that in view of changed conditions mass Civil Disobedience envisaged by the resolution of August, 1942, cannot be offered," and (b) "that full co-operation in the war effort should be given by Congress" provided

(ii) that His Majesty's Government (a) declare immediate Indian Independence, and (b) form a "National Government" responsible to the Central Assembly. "subject to the proviso that, during the pendency of the war the military operations should continue as at present but without involving any financial burden on India."

2. His Majesty's Government remain most anxious that a settlement of the Indian problem should be reached. But proposals such as those put forward by you are quite unacceptable to His Majesty's Government as a basis for discussion, and you must realise this if you have read Mr. Amery's statement in the House of Commons on July 28th last. They are indeed very similar to the proposals made by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to Sir Stafford Cripps in April, 1942, and His Majesty's Government's reasons for rejecting them are the same as they were then.

3. Without recapitulating all these reasons in detail I should remind you that His Majesty's Government at that time made it clear:

(a) that their offer of unqualified freedom after the cessation of hostilities was made conditional upon the framing of a constitution agreed by the main elements of India's national life and the negotiations of the necessary Treaty arrangements with His Majesty's Government;

(b) that it is impossible during the period of hostilities to bring about any change in the constitution, by which means alone a "National Government," such as you suggest, could be made responsible to the Central Assembly. The object of these conditions was to ensure the fulfilment of their duty to safeguard the interests of the racial and religious minorities and of the depressed classes, and their treaty obligations to the Indian States.

4. It was upon the above conditions that His Majesty's Government invited Indian leaders to take part in an interim Government which would operate under the existing constitution. I must make it quite clear that until the war is over, responsibility for defence and military operations cannot be divided from the other responsibilities of Government, and that until hostilities cease and the new constitution is in operation, His Majesty's Government and the Governor-General must retain their responsibility over the entire field. So far as the question of India's share of the cost of the war is concerned, this is essentially a matter for settlement between His Majesty's Government on the one hand and the Government of India on the other, and existing financial arrangements can only be reopened at the instance of one or the other.

Minority Problems

5. It is clear in these circumstances that no purpose would be served by discussion on the basis which you suggest. If however the leaders of the Hindus, the Muslims and the important minorities were willing to co-operate in a transitional government established and working within the present constitution, I believe good progress might be made. For such a transitional government to succeed there must before it is formed be agreement in principle between Hindus and Muslims and all important elements as to the method by which the new constitution should be framed. This agreement is a matter for Indians themselves. Until Indian leaders have come closer together than they are now I doubt if I myself can do anything to help. Let me remind you too that minority problems are not easy. They are real and can be solved only by mutual compromise and tolerance.

6. The period after the termination of hostilities for which the transitional government would last would depend on the speed with which the new constitution could be framed. I see no reason why preliminary work on that constitution should not begin as soon as the Indian leaders are prepared to co-operate to that end. If they can arrive at a genuine agreement as to the method of framing the constitution no unnecessary time need be spent after the war in reaching final conclusions and in agreeing to Treaty arrangements with His Majesty's Government. There again the primary responsibility rests on the Indian leaders.

Yours Sincerely,
(Sd.) Wavell.

M. K. Gandhi, Esqr.

EXTENSION OF STATES RAILWAY PROVIDENT FUND BENEFITS

The Government of India have recently decided to extend the benefits of the States Railway Provident Fund on an optional basis to all permanent non-gazetted railway employees, irrespective of pay or status, who have three years' service and over, said a Press Note issued by the Railway Board on July 27.

It added: While the higher-paid railway employee has always been a subscriber to the Fund, the extension of the scheme to lower-paid staff was first begun in 1941 when those with 16 years' service and over were allowed to join the Fund.

A further extension in 1942 was made in regard to all those with 10 years' service and over and the present extension down to those with only three years' service will afford to a large body of railwaymen an opportunity of making more adequate provision for their old age than has been possible in the past.

ALLIED AIR CHIEF ON BURMA FRONT VICTORIES

Message to General Giffard

THE following letters have been exchanged between Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, South East Asia Command, and General Sir George Giffard, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, 11th Army Group, on the recent Allied victories on the Burma Front.

The Allied Air Commander-in-Chief writes:

"My dear General, I want, on behalf of the Allied Air Forces of the Eastern Air Command, and the Royal Air Force and Indian Air Force throughout the Air Command, South East Asia, to express to you our great admiration of the very signal defeat which the Armies under your command have inflicted upon the enemy in the Imphal area. This is probably the most costly reverse which the Japanese army has yet suffered, as indeed the thousands of enemy dead which have been counted testify. It has been a long and most arduous struggle, but it has proved conclusively that British and Indian soldiers have the mastery over the enemy even in the worst possible jungle conditions. The turning points of Kohima and the opening of the Imphal road are passed. The victory is yours, save for the mopping up of the disorganised remnants which are now being hounded through the hills.

"That the Air Forces should have had a vital part to play in this campaign is a matter of deep satisfaction to them; particularly the confidence placed by the soldiers in the air-crews, upon whom fell the responsibility for keeping the Imphal forces supplied. Aircrews and maintenance personnel were determined, cost what it might, they would not fail the Army.

"I should be most grateful if you would convey to General Slim and all those who have fought under him this message of deep regard and admiration, which is felt by all airmen under my Command.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) Richard Peirse."

General Giffard's Reply

The General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, in reply, writes:—

"My dear Air Chief Marshal, I do not know how to thank you for the very generous message you have sent the officers and men of 11th Army Group on behalf of the Allied Air Forces of the Eastern Air Command, the Royal Air Force and the Indian Air Force.

"We appreciate what you write particularly because you, your staff and your squadrons, whether fighter, bomber, strategical, tactical or troop-carrier, have been so closely associated with us in every stage of the long battle which has ended in such a signal victory, and we feel that you have shared, and therefore understand, our difficulties and our problems.

Unstinted Help

"Your letter gives me the opportunity, which I had been awaiting a favourable moment to take, to thank you and all ranks serving under you most warmly for your wholehearted co-operation. There is no doubt at all that without your unstinted help in attacking the enemy wherever he was found and in carrying supplies of all kinds to the Army, we could not have defeated the Japanese divisions.

"The courage, skill and endurance of the pilots and crews of aircraft flying through some of the worst weather in the world, over appalling country, was the admiration of us all, and no one who saw their work will ever forget them. We realise, too, the splendid work that must have been done by the ground crews to permit of such long sustained work by the aircraft.

"Will Bring Japs to Their Knees"

"You very kindly say you wish to express your admiration of the very signal defeat which the Armies under my command have inflicted upon the Japanese. While we appreciate enormously this generous tribute, I know I speak for the whole Army Group when I say that this victory is due not to the Army alone, but to the united team work of the land and air forces of the South East Asia Command. It is this team work which will bring the Japanese to their knees.

"I hope you will convey this message to all ranks under your command. I will certainly, pass your generous letter to General Slim and all ranks of the 14th Army.

Yours sincerely,

(Sd.) George Giffard."

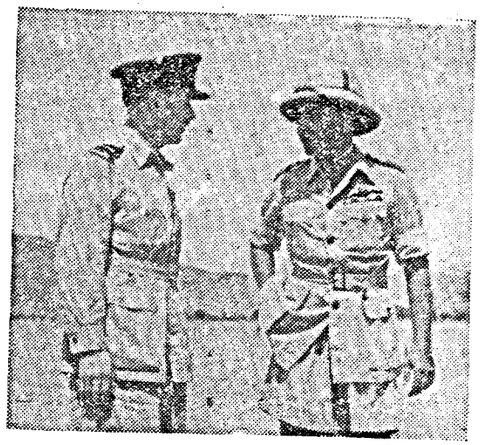
AIR CHIEF VISITS I.A.F. UNITS ON N.-W. FRONTIER

AIR Vice-Marshal M. Thomas, Air Officer Commanding, India Command, has recently concluded a two-day visit to Indian Air Force units in Kohat and Miranshah. Air Vice-Marshal Thomas arrived by air, accompanied by G-Capt. Whitehead and S-Ldr. Wigginton. He was received at Kohat by Wing Commander Mukerjee, Officer Commanding the Station, and S-Ldrs. Jaswant Singh and Prithipal Singh, Officers Commanding I.A.F. Squadrons, and S-Ldrs. Narendra and Hem Choudhuri.

During his visit to Kohat, the A.O.C. watched an operational exercise which lasted more than six hours and included photographic and tactical reconnaissance sorties. The pilots, on receiving last-minute instructions from an air liaison officer, were air-borne in their Hurricanes within a few minutes. They showed great keenness and a high standard of efficiency in carrying out their missions. The A.O.C., accompanied by Wing Commander Mukerjee, drove round the camp and dispersal areas, frequently stopping to chat with the air and ground crews and administrative staff on duty.

On his first evening at Kohat a hockey match between teams from I.A.F. squadrons at the Station was played. F|O. Desousa, Bombay provincial player, and P|O. Asghar Hussain, the well-known All-India player, captained the teams. Later, the A.O.C. was the guest of

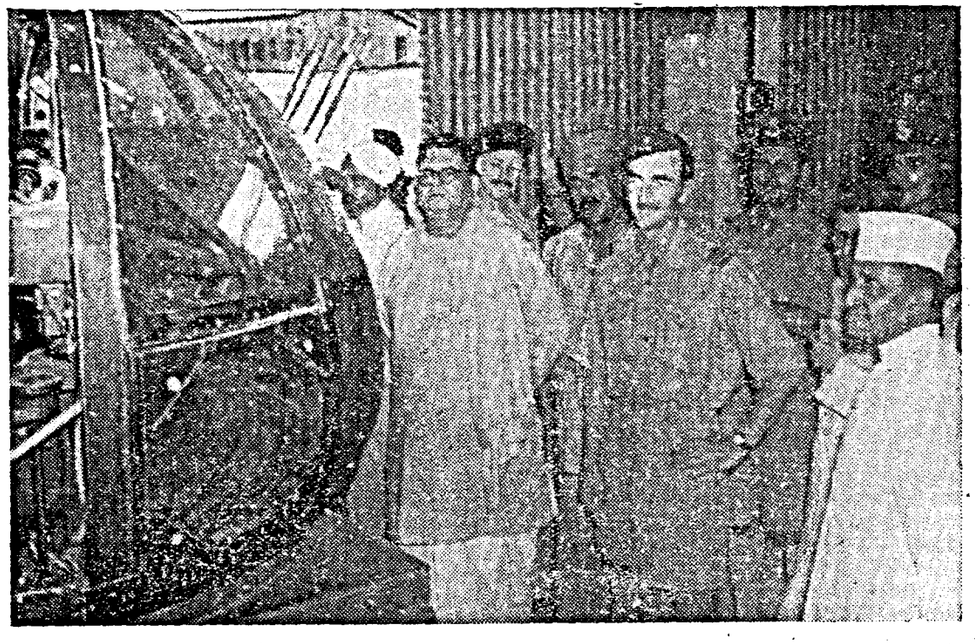
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Air Vice-Marshal Thomas chatting with Wing Commander Mukerjee.



A tense moment in the hockey match between teams drawn from I.A.F. squadrons



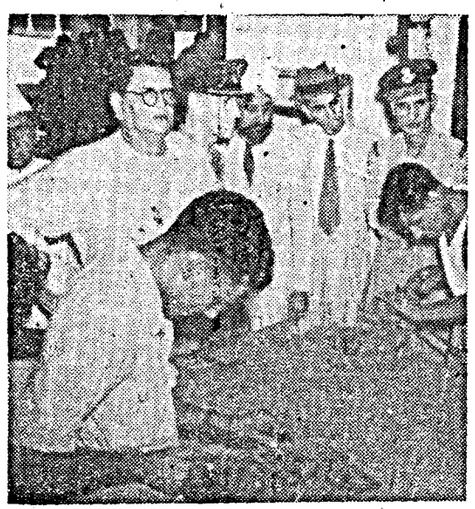
Members of the Defence Consultative Committee are shown a practice gun turret by Wing Commander Downey, acting C.O. of the Ambala station.

DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT AMBALA FLYING SCHOOL

"IT is our intention to turn out Indian officers here who are perfectly capable of taking their places beside their comrades of the Royal Air Force and who are better than the Jap whom soon they will meet," Squadron Leader Milne-Day, senior instructor at a Service flying training school in Ambala, told nine Members of the Defence Consultative Committee when they visited the school on August 7 to see cadets and officers in training.

Training of Ground Personnel

The Members inspected various types of aircraft on which the officers complete their flying training before going on for a final operational training course. They watched the training of ground personnel and inspected guns, equipment of all kinds, the parachute section, meteorological station and school rooms. They questioned the pupil officers and airmen in various stages of training and saw them at meals and in their living quarters. The Members expressed themselves as highly satisfied with the work they had seen at the station.



Here, they see Indian Other Ranks making fine parts of aeroplane spares.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, one of the Members, described to two young Indian pilots his adventures in flying the English Channel in 1926 when it was necessary to make a landing to refuel before reaching Paris.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta told the pilots that he was quite certain they would find plenty of work to do soon.

The Members were met by the acting Commanding Officer of the station, Wing Commander J. A. Downey, and were accompanied by Group Captain J. Whitehead, Wing Commander E. S. Barnes, D.F.C., Wing Commander R. House, Squadron Leader Milne-Day and Squadron Leader E. C. Eggleton.

MR. CHURCHILL'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN TROOPS

The following message was sent by H.E. the Viceroy to Mr. Churchill on behalf of the National Defence Council on July 27, 1944:

"National Defence Council at opening of 15th session to-day (August 7) desired me to convey to you their congratulations on the signal progress of our arms in Normandy and on the successful Italian campaign in which Indian Divisions are playing a distinguished part."

Mr. Churchill's Reply

H.E. the Viceroy has received the following reply from Mr. Churchill:—

"Please convey my thanks to National Defence Council. The fight will still be hard but great dangers have been surmounted. His Majesty's Government thank all those who stood unshaken in dark days which are past and gratefully acknowledge splendid deeds of India's soldiers and good work of all who have sustained our common war effort. We are resolved to keep the horrors of Japanese invasion away from peoples of India."

SIR ARTHUR GRIFFIN, CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS

Sir Leonard Wilson, Chief Commissioner of Railways, takes leave prior to retirement in September. In the meantime he will visit the U.S.A. in connection with the procurement of equipment for Indian Railways. Sir Arthur Griffin, O.B.E., General Manager of the North Western Railway, will succeed Sir Leonard Wilson as Chief Commissioner of Railways, said a Press communique issued by the Railway Board on August 9.

TWO I.A.F. OFFICERS AWARDED D.F.C.

HIS Majesty the King has approved the award of the Distinguished Flying Cross to Flying Officers Jagdish Chandra Varma and David Cordon Bhore.

In January this year F|O. Varma's aircraft was badly damaged by enemy machine-gun fire. He showed great coolness of mind and managed to bring his aircraft back to his own lines and make a successful belly landing.

The Citation

A fortnight later F|O. Varma was "jumped" by two enemy fighters. In the ensuing dog fight, he damaged one fighter and the second broke off the engagement.

"Throughout, this officer has shown great keenness in carrying out his sorties and set a very good example to other officers," says the citation.

The citation promulgating the award to F|O. Bhore says: "His work has been very thorough and he has brought back valuable information. He is a very good photographic pilot and has brought excellent pictures from his sorties for the Army. He has set a magnificent example to the remainder of his unit."

ANOTHER TATA GIFT FOR I.A.F. FUND

The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust has donated Rs. 7,500 to the Indian Air Force Benevolent Association for the benefit of I.A.F. personnel and their dependents. The trustees have now donated a total of Rs. 17,500.

Thanking the trustees for their latest gift, Air Vice-Marshal M. Thomas, Air Officer Commanding, India Command, writes:

"As you may be aware the Association is endeavouring to build up the fund to a size that will ensure lasting and substantial benefit to the Indian Air Force. I can assure you that generous gifts, such as those made by the Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, go far towards this object."

NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL

The 16th session of the National Defence Council will be held at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on October 9, 10 and 11. His Excellency the Viceroy will preside.



Their Highnesses the Nawab of Bhopal and (right) the Maharaja of Jodhpur.

INDIAN PRINCES' AIR FORCE APPOINTMENTS

Air Commodore His Highness the Maharaja of Jodhpur, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., K.C.V.O., A.D.C., and Air Commodore His Highness the Nawab Sahib of Bhopal, G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., C.V.O., are appointed Additional Staff Officers to Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, K.C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C., Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, South East Asia Command.

These appointments give formal recognition to the great interest which Their Highnesses have taken in the growth and progress of the Indian Air Force and will strengthen the firm ties existing between the Ruling Princes of India and the youngest of her armed forces.

As part of their duties, Their Highnesses will shortly visit operational squadrons and training units of the Indian Air Force to tell aircrews and ground personnel of the pride which India is taking in their achievements.

The Maharaja of Jodhpur was appointed to the rank of honorary Air Commodore in the Royal Air Force in February, 1939, and the Nawab of Bhopal in February, 1943.

HONORARY ARMY RANKS

His Majesty the King-Emperor has been graciously pleased to approve the promotion of Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Jaipur, Patiala, Gwalior, Baroda and Travancore to the Honorary rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, His Highness the Maharao of Kotah to the Honorary rank of Major and Their Highnesses the Maharajas of Cooch Behar and Bharatpur to the Honorary rank of Captain in the Army.

His Majesty has further been pleased to grant the Honorary rank of Captain to His Highness the Maharaja of Dewas (Senior Branch).

R.A.F. CARRY TROOPS' MAILS IN INDIA

Servicemen's overseas and inland mails are now carried by air in India wherever R.A.F. services exist. Air mails arriving at Bombay and Karachi are flown to inland stations and the Burma Front.

A big speed-up is already evident. One result of the innovation is a record transit time of six days from the U.K. to India—an air letter posted at a village in Yorkshire on May 11 was delivered to an officer in New Delhi on May 17.

The average transit time for "ordair" (ordinary air mail) letters and air letters from Karachi airport to the airport in the U.K. is now seven days. Airgraphs are somewhat slower because of the photographic processes involved.

In reply to a representation that families of Indian troops overseas, who can ill-afford to pay eight annas for a half-ounce letter, should be given cheaper air mail facilities an army postal officer pointed out that the four anna air mail post card already provides a cheaper air mail facility.

Regarding pilferage of postage stamps from troops' mails, which occurred in 1942, it was stated that drastic deterrent action has been taken. Various measures for the prevention of pilferage have been adopted from time to time and as an additional safeguard postage stamps on air mail articles are now defaced with unit censor stamp impression before posting.

Soldiers with Indian Post Office Savings Bank Accounts may authorise their near relatives to operate on their accounts. Letters of authority may be sent through their Commanding Officers to the post offices at which their accounts stand. The Savings Bank pass books may be forwarded free of postage, through any Army Post Office, to the persons authorised to operate the accounts.

AIR CHIEF VISITS I.A.F. UNITS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 235)

honour at the mess dinner, where he had the opportunity of meeting all the officers.

On the second day of his visit, the A.O.C. and his party left for Miranshah, the forward base from which the I.A.F. carry out their frontier watch-and-ward duties. There he met F|Lt. Engineer, Flight Commander, and air and ground crews.

NEPALESE GENERAL VISITS FRONTIER UNITS



Lt.-Gen. Sir Krishna Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana

NEPALESE units on the North-West Frontier have been visited by Lieut.-General Sir Krishna Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana, K.B.E., G. O. C.-in-C. of the Nepalese Contingent in India. These units are part of a contingent lent by the Kingdom of Nepal for the defence of India. In one remote station visited by the General they work alongside one of the regular Gurkha battalions of the Indian Army.

Gurkha troops have long been used for Frontier defence but the first occasion on which regiments of the Nepalese Army took part in operations against the tribesmen was in 1917. They were then accompanied in the field by General Baber Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana, brother of the present G.O.C.-in-C. Four years ago, our Allies again placed a contingent at the disposal of the Government.

Units are commanded by their own officers. In addition, each battalion has one senior and two junior supervising officers attached from Gurkha units of the Indian Army to assist in administration and training. Lieut.-General Sir Krishna Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana who is a nephew of the present Maharaja, is attached for duty to the staff of the Commander-in-Chief so that he can put forward the views of the Nepalese Government and advise on matters affecting the contingent.

Nepal is an independent Kingdom ruled by the King of Nepal through the Maharaja. The Maharaja is Prime Minister and actually administers the country on the King's behalf.

A treaty of "perpetual peace and friendship" between the British and the Nepalese Governments was signed in 1815 and renewed in 1923. There is a Nepalese Legation to the court of St. James in London and a British Legation in Katmandu accredited to the King of Nepal.

In addition to lending this contingent, Nepal provided more Gurkha recruits for the Indian Army in less than three years of recruiting in this war than during the whole period, 1914-20.

NEW RECRUITING BADGE

Wives whose husbands and two or more sons or daughters are serving with the forces will be able to wear a recruiting badge which is to be awarded by the Government of India. Fathers or mothers who have three or more sons or daughters in the forces will also be eligible.

The badge is being awarded to individuals other than officers of the Defence Services for outstanding recruiting work. It consists of a silver star enclosing a bronze plaque, bearing an effigy of the King. Around the plaque is a scroll with the words "For Recruiting". The badge is suspended by a ring from an emerald-green ribbon two inches in length and will be worn on the right breast.

An Indian Army Order regarding the badge will be issued in due course.

ITALIAN BAND FOR E. N. S. A. SHOWS

An Italian band that played for the Duke of Aosta at Addis Ababa before the war has joined E.N.S.A. in India.

When Addis Ababa fell the band was captured with all its instruments. It was sent to a prisoner of war camp at Bhopal and occasionally played for troops round the camp. The band appeared at the War Services Exhibition in Karachi, where it attracted great attention.

The 48 or so instrumentalists have a deep love for their art and have put in long and patient practice. A former territorial in the King's Own Malta Regiment is in charge of the band. He is Capt. F. Demajo Albanese, whose father, Mr. J. Demajo Albanese, lives at 20, Carmel Street, St. Julian's, Malta.



Sepoy Kamal Ram.



Jemadar Abdul Hafiz

V.C. FOR TWO MORE INDIAN SOLDIERS

TWO more Indian fighting men, a Jemadar and a Sepoy, have won the Victoria Cross. They are the Indian Army's 9th and 10th V.C.s of this war.

Jem. Abdul Hafiz (9th Jat Regiment) to whom the award has been made posthumously for gallantry near Imphal, is the 9th Indian Army V.C. The first Muslim to win this decoration in this war, he came from the Kalanaur village in the Rohtak district, Punjab.

The tenth Indian Army V.C. is Sepoy Kamal Ram, 8th Punjab Regiment, a Hindu Gujar of village Bholupura, Karauli State. He wins the award for bravery in Italy.

Jem. Abdul Hafiz led an attack, up a steep, bare slope on which he was mortally wounded. "Prior to the attack he assembled his sections and told them they were invincible," says the citation. "So fierce was the attack, and all his men so inspired by his determination to kill all enemy in sight at whatever cost, that the enemy, who were still in considerable numbers on the position, ran away down the opposite slope.

"The complete disregard for his own safety and his determination to capture and hold the position at all costs was an example to all ranks which it would be difficult to equal."

Jem. Abdul Hafiz, who was a Mussalman Rajput, was 28 and had been in the Army nine years. He leaves a three months' old daughter whom he never saw.

Sepoy Kamal Ram single-handed wiped out two machine-gun posts, helped destroy another, killed a German officer who was about to shoot him, rushed a house and took ten prisoners.

"By his courage, initiative and disregard for personal risk he enabled his company to charge and secure vital ground," says the citation. "His sustained and outstanding bravery unquestionably saved a difficult situation at a critical period."

Sepoy Kamal Ram, who is aged 20, has 19 months' service in the Army. He is the 8th Punjab Regiment's second V.C. of this war.

Behind the V.C. award to Jem. Abdul Hafiz is a plain tale of heroism by a man inspired, a man who gave his life for his country on the very border of India, writes an Indian Army Observer. Here is the story, told as it was reported from the battle scene in the hills ten miles north of Imphal.

In the early hours of April 6, the enemy attacked a standing patrol and took a prominent feature overlooking a company position. Jem. Abdul Hafiz was ordered to take two sections of his platoon and clear the position.

The Battle Cry

The artillery had concentrated fire on the feature. At 9-30 a.m. the Jemadar led his men to attack. He had told them that no Jap could stop them, that however many Japs might be on the feature they would be killed or flee before the Indians' attack. He was a true prophet.

Shouting the battle cry, "Bolo narae-Haideri—ya Ali," he raced with his men up the hillside, which was quite bare of cover. "It was a really magnificent and heartening sight," said a major of his battalion afterwards.

The Japs, waiting for them, opened fire with machine-guns and grenades only when they were sure of their range. The Jemadar was wounded in the leg at once. But he went on, seizing a machine-gun by the barrel while another man killed the gunner.

He took a bren gun from a wounded man, advanced and killed many of the enemy. He ignored the fire from a machine-gun on another feature on his flank, leading his men on with such ferocity that those Japs who could move fled.

He died, mortally wounded in the chest, on the hill he had taken, still grasping his bren gun. "Reorganise—I will give covering fire" he shouted. But he could not pull the trigger.

The casualties inflicted on the enemy totalled several times the number of the Jemadar's two sections. Three machine-guns, two grenade dischargers and the swords of two Jap officers were later found on the scene.

Sepoy's Award in First Action

Sepoy Kamal Ram had just taken part in the crossing of the river Gari, his first action, when he won the award, writes an Indian Army Observer.

On May 12, heavy machine-gun fire from four posts held up his company. It was essential that the guns should be silenced; a bridgehead had to be secured at all costs.

Kamal Ram volunteered to deal with the right-hand post. Rifle in hand he crawled through the wire to a flank, attacked the post alone, shot the gunner and bayoneted the No. 2 on the gun. A German officer appeared from a trench with pistol levelled but Kamal Ram shot him dead.

Still alone he went on to attack a second post, again shot the gunner, then hurled grenades into the nest. The remaining Germans surrendered.

Kamal Ram then joined a havildar who was preparing to attack another post, gave covering fire, went in and completed its destruction. His company was then able to get forward.

In the fighting which followed Kamal Ram rushed a house; killed a German and brought two more back as prisoners.

Sepoy Kamal Ram's determination enabled his battalion to attain the essential part of their objectives.

In Jem. Abdul Hafiz's Village

Kalanaur, near Rohtak, in the Punjab, is the proudest village in India to-day. It is the home of Jemadar Abdul Hafiz.

The news of the award granted to one of Kalanaur's sons spread rapidly through the village, writes an Indian Army Observer. Soon little knots of people were making their way to Jem. Abdul Hafiz's house, outside which they stood in respectful silence.

His aged mother, Mussammat Hamidan, and his widow, Mussammat Jugri Begum, holding in her arms her three-month-old baby girl, whom the V.C. hero had never seen were surrounded by relatives quietly congratulating them.

"I have only one child now," Mussammat Jugri Begum said. "Our two sons died while still babies. We have adopted a nephew; I hope he will be as brave as his uncle.

"Two of my husband's brothers are in the Army and soon one of my nephews will be old enough to join up. Naturally he will enrol in the 9th Jat Regiment. Just now he is studying for his Matriculation."

Jem. Abdul Hafiz's mother and widow consented to be photographed with the baby. After all the male members of the family had left Mst. Jugri Begum lifted her *burqa* for a few seconds. Proudly she raised her head and looked at the camera.

Bholupura, the village in Karauli State which is the home of 20-year-old Sepoy Kamal Ram is a tiny collection of mud huts deep in the heart of the Indian countryside near Gangapur, on the B.B. and C.I. line, 90 miles south-west from Muttra. To reach it I waded across 13 miles of flooded countryside and submerged roads, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Standing in three feet of water which marked the twists and turns of Bholupura's only lane, the hero's aged father, Sheo Chand, was delighted to receive a visitor from the *Lat Sahib*. Above the swirl of the floods and the beat of the monsoon rains he shouted an invitation to me to come to his hut.

It was a single-room mud building protected from the worst of the rain by sacking hanging over the two windows and the doorway. Scrupulously clean, the room was filled with the delicious smell of the evening meal being cooked.

The only illumination was that given by a wick dipped in an earthenware saucer full of oil. Flashes of lightning occasionally lit up the old man's eager face.

"Yes—My son has been given a great *inam*," he said.

Above the rumble of thunder the hero's father shouted for his two other sons. When they came, their wet bodies gleaming in the flickering light, he told them briefly the reason for the visit. When they fully understood they ran excitedly out of the hut to spread the news.

Before long almost the entire male population of the little village, some 50 or 60 men, had gathered outside Sheo Chand's home. With the flood water rushing past their knees and heavy rain drenching them they pressed forward for an opportunity to congratulate their neighbour.

"I have three sons," Sheo Chand told me. "Kamal Singh, my youngest, is 12 years old. One day he, too, will join the 8th Punjab Regiment. My eldest son, Kalwar, does most of my work in the fields. I cannot let him join up for he is my livelihood.

"My wife died about ten years ago. How proud she would have been to hear how brave Kamal Ram has been."

Sepoy Kamal Ram's Letter Home

Relatives of 20-year-old Sepoy Kamal Ram, the youngest Indian soldier to win the award, have received the first letter from him since the deed on the Italian Front for which he has won the decoration.

It is in Hindi, written for him by a comrade in his unit, and is addressed to a friend at his home, the tiny village of Bholupura. It is a simple letter from a soldier son to his aged father, a widower, and is intended for the whole village to read—he sends *Ram Ram* to almost all of them by name.

In the letter Kamal Ram says nothing about his exploits; he comments on the news of the village that he has received from the family and asks them questions about his relatives, their cattle, the crops and the weather.

He mentions that out of his soldier's pay he has sent them monthly contributions which up to July had amounted to Rs. 142.

The letter is as follows:

"I am fit and happy here and wish the same to you. I pray to God to grant you good health always. I duly received your letter and was greatly pleased to read it. I got all the news from it.

"Please always worship Hanuman and do remember Him. Also remember Kali Devi. I hope that brother Kalwar does not quarrel. Also write if his wife is not quarrelling. Try to live amicably.

"Serving with Great Pleasure"

"I am serving with great pleasure. I will never disgrace your name. I am at a great distance from you in the Italian Raj. I have good food and I am quite fat.

"Let me know all the news about the cattle, etc. Write also about the health of Gauthoe. Also tell me about the weather. See that the pandit comes and reads to you from the religious books so as to keep the Gods pleased. Remember Kali Devi.

"I note that *bajra* was sold for Rs. 110 and that 40 maunds of wheat was produced. I see that ten maunds of grain were yielded, 21 maunds of arhar was also produced and about Rs. 22 worth of sarson was yielded. I observe the current rates of all articles, I also learnt about the sheep and that the she-buffalo is carrying.

"Please keep the blanket carefully. Give uncle my love. I came to know that you have bought one tola of gold.

"Do write if Sheo Narain is in need of money and say in your letter if there is any kind of trouble. I am thinking a lot about you. Do arrange for Ram Bhan's betrothal.

"Take care of your health. I knew that Uncle Dina had had a very good harvest. This has been a good year. Convey my respects to my relatives with folded hands. Please be kind to me. Please excuse the shortcomings of your Kamal Ram."

C.-IN-C.'s CONGRATULATIONS

The Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has cabled to the Commander of the Indian Division with the Eighth Army in which Sepoy Kamal Ram, 8th Punjab Regiment, is serving, to convey to Sepoy Kamal Ram his warmest congratulations on the award of the V.C.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 243)

INDIAN TYRES FOR CHINA

IN response to an urgent plea from the Sinkiang Government, more than 4,000 Indian-made "Lease-Lend" tyres have started on the long trek from India to Chinese Turkestan by one of the oldest trade routes in Asia.

The first instalment, carried to Kashmir by Indian Army transport, is now on its way by pony-back across the high passes of the Himalayas.

Specially selected men of a R.I.A.S.C. hill driving battalion, mostly Punjabi Mussalmans and all from North India, take the tyres from Rawalpindi as far as Sonamarg, in Kashmir's beautiful *Sind* Valley. These first 250 miles, though only a quarter of the long trek to Sinkiang, need all the skill and training which the drivers have received.

Through rock tunnels and ravines, across narrow bridges, along precarious balconies jutting out from frowning cliffs, with constant danger of landslides and falling rocks, they have driven their valuable cargo without an accident.

The First Convoy

No Indian Army transport has ever used the road from Srinagar to Sonamarg before. The first convoy was led by a staff officer who commanded a transport company in the Abyssinian campaign and the Western Desert.

Two weeks earlier he had reconnoitred the route with the Commandant of an M.T. Reinforcement Centre who knew it from previous trekking expeditions in Kashmir. They received the full support of the Kashmir Government and the State Forces, who helped to service the vehicles and improved some of the worst parts of the road. For the first convoy the streets of Srinagar were cleared as if for some triumphal procession.

Six Weeks' Journey

At Sonamarg the tyres are handed over to the Naib-Tehsildar and soon afterward they set out on their long pony journey. After crossing the 11,500-foot Zoji La to the stage of Dras, Ladakhis arrange for onward transport to Leh. At this mecca of Central Asian traders they are handed over to Chinese officials, who will see them over the cold barren and desolate Karakoram Range by three major passes to Yarkand and Kashgar, the end of their six weeks' journey.

ARMY'S NEW TYRE ECONOMY DRIVE

Another big drive for economy in rubber consumption is being made by the army in India. Service personnel are being warned that although large quantities of synthetic rubber are available the rubber crisis is not over; by means of posters, handbills and lectures they are being reminded that they must "use less rubber and make the less last longer."

Tyre experts have been attached to the larger headquarters to supervise up-to-date methods of increasing the life of new tyres and reconditioning old ones.

Strict Orders

A new Indian Army Order explains that the production of synthetic rubber is going on at great speed and that both British and American tyre manufacturers are ceaselessly working to improve the methods of processing this new material. But the life of the new tyres is approximately only 75 per cent of their counterpart in natural rubber and satisfactory tyres for heavy vehicles have not yet been made from synthetic rubber alone.

Strict orders have been issued against overloading and speeding. Rules regarding maintenance and correct tyre pressure are also being enforced.

A MAGNIFICENT ACT OF GALLANTRY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 242)

The C.-in-C. has also sent the following telegram to the Commandant, 8th Punjab Regimental Training Centre: "I send the regiment my warmest congratulations on the award of its second V.C. in this war—a magnificent act of gallantry of which the Indian Army, the regiment and the Gujars have every reason to be very proud."

The C.-in-C. has sent the following personal message to the Commandant, 9th Jat Regimental Training Centre, Bareilly:

"Please accept my warmest congratulations on the award of the V.C. to Jem. Abdul Hafiz. I deeply regret that this, the first Muslim V.C. of this war, should have died in the moment of victory but his wonderful courage and magnificent leadership will remain as an inspiration to the Regiment and to his clan and to the whole Army. Please convey my congratulations and my deep sympathy to the relatives of Jem. Abdul Hafiz."



Gen. Auchinleck shaking hands with Naik Nand Singh (11th Sikh Regiment) at the C.-in-C.'s House, New Delhi. Naik Nand Singh visited Delhi recently on his way home to Patiala on his first leave after winning the V.C.

SIKH V.C. WELCOMED HOME

THOUSANDS of Sikhs sent up deafening roars of *Sat Sri Akal* as Naik Nand Singh, V.C., 11th Sikh Regiment, stepped from the train bringing him home to his village of Bahadurpur (abode of brave men), Patiala State.

Hours before the arrival of the train vast throngs from neighbouring villages assembled to receive their hero until about 20,000 Sikhs formed a solid block extending from the village to the wayside railway station, a mile away.

Tremendous Ovation

Naik Nand Singh, profusely garlanded, was officially welcomed by Sardar Abdul Shakoor Khan, District Commissioner, and other State officials, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Outside the railway station he received a tremendous ovation and rode in an open car in procession headed by a band. As he passed along a beflagged road and under triumphal arches, rose petals were showered on him and more garlands presented to him.

Sri Raja Bhalindera Singh, younger brother of the Maharaja of Patiala, welcomed him back to the State on behalf of the Ruler. Naik Nand Singh then paid his respects to the Holy Book at the Bholupura Gurdwara.

At an open air ceremony which followed Sri Raja Bhalindera Singh congratulated Naik Nand Singh on the great distinction he had brought to Patiala State. Naik Nand Singh briefly replied.

There was a touching scene when Naik Nand Singh's aged parents ascended the platform to greet their son. His mother could not restrain her tears as she blessed him; his father and four brothers warmly embraced him.

Later a big feast was held at Bahadurpur in honour of its distinguished son.

H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala has granted a life pension of Rs. 300 a year to Naik Nand Singh who was awarded the Victoria Cross recently. Along with this grant His Highness

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 247)



Members of the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing assist the instructional staff of H.M.I.S. "Himalaya" in maintaining equipment in working order.



Chief Petty Officer Betty Khan (N.W.F.P.) and (right) Chief Petty Officer Moina Imam (Bihar) were among the first Indian girls to join the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing.

NAVAL WING OF W.A.C. (I)

SECOND Officer Asiya Hasan of the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing, broadcasting from the Delhi Station of All India Radio recently said:

Now I am not a recruiting officer. So I will not inflict upon you a long list of pay and prospects of the Naval Wing. I am not sure whether I would like to do that either. After all, it is not merely a job. The pay and prospects, the smart uniform and the privileges incidental to the Service are of secondary importance. What matters more is that every woman who enters the Service releases a man for more active and hazardous participation, and that really is the main aim which makes enlistment worthwhile.

Apart from this, the war has now proved that there are many spheres of activity in which a woman can worthily play her part. Women have special aptitudes for jobs of an administrative character, office work, typing, switchboards, coding and cyphering messages, transmitting signals by teleprinter and wireless, and so forth. Not merely that she has an aptitude for it all; she enjoys her work. She puts her heart into it and the efficiency with which she deals with messages of vital importance marks the will, the spirit and the pride with which she rightly calls herself a link in the great worldwide chain of Admiralty communications. True enough, for

on every one of these women depends perhaps the successful outcome of some naval operation.

Our girls have gone further. You will now find many of them working in the ports and training establishments and at Karachi some of them are actually helping to train men in gunnery.

You will say: "I would like to do that, but I know nothing about the Navy." Well, I did not know anything myself when I first joined. The Service realises this. To begin with, a certain minimum standard of education, preferably Matriculation, is taken as the background. New entries are tested and sent in for a course of training in the trades they are best suited for. All that you need know before you join is how to speak and write English. Preliminary training in the R.I.N. Rules and Regulations takes about two weeks. Special training, like communications, takes four to six weeks usually.

Two Kinds of Service

The Service conditions are such that a great many facilities regarding the home, husband and children are given. There are two kinds of Service. If you do not have any home ties and responsibilities you can join General Service, in which case you live in free quarters, with free board, free transport, etc., but with the liability that you will be sent to other parts of India. On the other hand, if you have your husband and home and children you can join Local Service, in which case you will have to work only in the place where you have your home, but you do not get free board or lodging.

The hostels provided for the General Service girls are specially built for them and are run under very efficient supervision. I have been living in one of them for a long time and although I am terribly a home-loving person, I must say with all sincerity, I am very happy in the hostel. The rooms—we call them "cabins" —compare favourably with those of any good hotel. Food is catered to suit both Indian and non-Indian tastes. The members living there are all very friendly with each other. In the spare hours we have a lot to tell each other of the various parts of the country we have been to. Games, books, wireless and gramophones are provided for our leisure hours. We meet friends and relatives in the same way as we would meet them in our own homes. We are not put under very irksome rules and a large part of it is left to our good sense. We are happy and appreciate the confidence placed in us.

I am sure you would have a lot to enjoy and work for if you also joined us.



RSM W. E. Thomas of South Wales with the Senior Cadet of No. 3 course, O.C.T.U., Chukerbuti.

LADY CARLISLE VISITS W.A.C. (I) TRAINING UNIT

WHEN the Countess of Carlisle, Director, W.A.C. (I), visited the W.A.C. (I) Officer Cadet Training Unit at Dagshai (Simla Hills) she saw the cadets' passing-out parade commanded by Officer Cadet Moneeka Chukerbuti, the first Indian girl to carry out this duty at the O.C.T.U.

Slim and straight in her sari, Senior Cadet Chukerbuti gave her orders clearly and carried out the parade routine with soldierly smartness and exactitude. A picturesque figure as she swung along at the head of her company during the march past, she drew from RSM W. E. Thomas, who drills the cadets at the O.C.T.U., the remark, "She is as good as any Guards Officer on parade."

Second-Subaltern Chukerbuti is a daughter of the late Col. J. C. Chukerbuti, I.M.S. She lived with her brother, Major H. Chukerbuti, at the Army Signals Schools, Poona, before joining the W.A.C. (I). When she was nine she went to England with her parents and spent several years there. She is now commanding a platoon in Calcutta.



Mrs. B. N. Ball.

In purdah until she joined the W.A.C. (I) the irst Muslim girl to go through the O.C.T.U. in he cool Simla hills has just passed out with the ank of subaltern. She is Second-Subaltern Tasim Aziz of Fleming Road, Lahore.

"Wonderful Opportunity"

"I have asked to be appointed a recruiting fficer," she told an Indian Army Observer. "I think I can help the war effort best by getting Indian girls of good families to join the Corps. It is a wonderful opportunity for Indian irls to stand on their own feet. Families are eluctant to dissuade their girls when they argue o good a cause."

Before joining the W.A.C. (I) Second-Subaltern Aziz was for four years a teacher in the slamia Girls' High School, Lahore.

Judged the best cadet of her course at the O.C.T.U. was Officer Cadet Barbara N. Ball, of Rhyl, North Wales. The choice of best cadet is decided by the O.C.T.U. instructors and administrative staff on the grounds of all round merit. Character, manners, general deportment and ability in the class-room and on the parade ground are taken into consideration.

Cadet Ball married and came to India five years ago to live on a coffee estate in Coorg. She joined the W.A.C.(I) as soon as the Corps was formed. Her husband, Major S. B. Ball, is serving in the R.I.A.S.C.

INDIAN MOBILE CINEMA IN ITALY

News recently flashed round an Indian divisional H.Q. resting behind the front line in Italy that an Indian mobile cinema unit had arrived in the area. "Nai Roshni" and "Sant Sakhubai", it was said, were the films to be shown on two successive nights.

Indian troops poured in by the hundred each night. British officers and men who were curious to see an Indian picture also joined the throngs. As they saw the familiar sights of India on the screen and heard again their favourite stars Indian troops showed their delight in no uncertain manner. Both films proved extremely popular.

The films are provided by an Indian mobile cinema unit which travels about Italy in three trucks. Responsible for the unit is W.O. R. J. Brown, R.E.M.E., of Sele-road, Hertford. He and a team of Indian soldiers of the I.E.M.E. go from one Indian unit to another, not neglecting even the smallest and often showing Indian films close to the front line.

Films for the troops are carefully selected. Those which proved popular in India are booked for showing to the men who are fighting so successfully in a campaign far from their homes.

SIKH V. C. WELCOMED HOME

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 244)

has, in recognition of the signal honour won by Nand Singh, remitted the land revenue, water rate and all other rates and taxes payable by the people of Nand Singh's village for the whole year.

"The deed of conspicuous gallantry and valour," says the announcement made by His Highness, "for which His Majesty the King-Emperor has been graciously pleased to award the Victoria Cross to Naik Nand Singh is in accordance with the great and noble traditions of the 'Khalsa.' It adds lustre to the brilliant war record of Patiala, more than 60,000 of whose sons have gone forth from their homes to do battle against the enemy."

Two out of the ten V.Cs. won so far by the Indian Army in the present war have gone to men from the Patiala State.

Nand Singh comes from a family with a long tradition of military service. His brothers, uncles and other relations have been serving in the Army. The village from which he hails is called Bahadurpur (village of brave men) and is so named after one of Nand Singh's ancestors, Bahadur Singh, who founded it.



W.V.S. volunteers waiting to distribute cigarette packets and match boxes to troops.

HOW W.V.S. IS HELPING INDIAN TROOPS

WORK for Indian troops has a special place in the activities of the Women's Voluntary Service. Members of the W.V.S. visit their homes, particularly in the villages, see that their families are receiving the appropriate allotments, write letters for those whose husbands are prisoners of war and take cases of genuine hardship to Civil Liaison Officers for help.

Behind the counters of hundreds of canteens throughout India hard working and self-sacrificing British and Indian women are helping on the war by catering for the off-duty needs of servicemen. Like their counterpart in Britain the W.V.S. are best known for their canteen work, largely because at one time or another every soldier enjoys their hospitality and kindness.

During a halt in a long train journey the W.V.S. are usually there with tea and biscuits; canteens in many cities and towns provide a good meal, a change of scene and an escape from military environment. In the forward areas mobile canteens visit the more fortunate men on their own sites.

But there are many other aspects of wartime welfare work on which these women Samaritans are engaged. In the military hospitals W.V.S. work is seen at its best; here the tasks include help with nursing, supervising the kitchens and the serving of meals, teaching the men embroidery, knitting and other crafts as part of the diversional and occupational therapy service, organising libraries, shopping and postal facilities and entertaining convalescents.

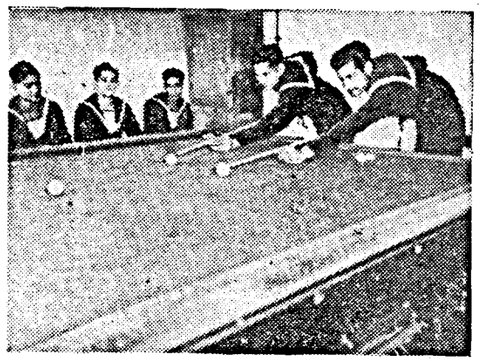
Link With Red Cross Work

British and Indian ladies regularly visit the patients, who look forward to the opportunity of a friendly talk in their own language, possibly with one who knows their own districts. Gifts of sweets, cigarettes and illustrated papers distributed by these W.V.S. members are much appreciated.

They also help as masseuses, dispensers, clerks, assistants to matrons, dieticians, in slide rooms and as Red Cross storekeepers. Closely linked with this service is that of the Red Cross work parties and depots.

A noticeable feature of the clubs, leave camps, convalescent homes and private hospitality organised for officers and men is the friendly, "welcoming" atmosphere and the special attention which is given to catering. And at the home of many a W.V.S. member soldiers have been enabled to spend happy holidays in pleasant domestic surroundings.

The W.V.S. in India started simultaneously in various provinces as the need for women's war work arose. Now the membership exceeds 10,000 and the W.V.S. is recognised by the Adjutant-General in India as the largest body of women working for the troops.



R.I.N. Ratings playing billiards.

CLUBS FOR INDIAN TROOPS IN ALEXANDRIA

Indian troops on leave or stationed in Alexandria now have an Indian Forces' Hostel. It can accommodate up to 60 men and is under the management of the Indian Y.M.C.A.

Another meeting place for Indian troops in Alexandria is the recently-opened Indian Forces Centre in Rue Bombay Castle. This club is also managed by the Indian Y.M.C.A. and consists of a dining room, lounge, games room and officers' room. Indian meals, sweetmeats, tea and soft drinks are available and there are indoor games, a gramophone, a wireless set and vernacular literature.

Ceylonese troops may also use the club.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR TROOPS

His Excellency the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 2,00,000 from his War Purposes Fund for providing Christmas gifts to Indian troops overseas and extra Christmas fare to British and Indian troops in India and Ceylon.

BEGUM SHAH NAWAZ VISITS SOLDIERS' FAMILIES

BEGUM Shah Nawaz, the only woman member of the National Defence Council, who is in charge of the Women's Section, Department of Information and Broadcasting, recently completed a tour of remote Indian villages to talk to the wives and families of serving soldiers.

As a result of this and other tours which she has made in the past, she has been able to submit to the Government several proposals for making life easier for families whose menfolk are serving in far-off areas. Among these are reorganisation of the Sevadarnis Scheme, representation of responsible women on soldiers' boards and employment of women welfare officers.

She is hoping that before long arrangements for free education, medical treatment and marriage of soldiers' children will be further expanded.

"India's Brave Soldiers"

"While India's brave soldiers are upholding the great traditions and name of their country on the battlefield it is our foremost duty to protect their womenfolk against want and disease and see that their honour suffers no blot," said Begum Shah Nawaz to an Indian Army Observer.

"Tell the soldiers from me that their interests and the care and protection of their wives and children is our first concern. We in this Department, and many other ladies in all parts of India, are sparing no pains to ensure that the soldier's family is happy and prosperous."

In the Information Department the new section supervised by Begum Shah Nawaz serves as a link between the civil and military authorities on one side and the public and the Government on the other in all matters touching the soldier's family. Besides, Begum Shah Nawaz's Department is assisting in the recruitment of Indian women in the W.A.C. (I), and keeps a general watch over the interests of serving women.

GRANTS FOR SEAMEN

Further grants of Rs. 2,00,000 each have been made from H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to the British and Allied Seamen's Amenities Fund and the Indian Seamen's Amenities Fund which were created in May last with a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 each.

RUSSIAN HONOURS FOR INDIAN SOLDIERS



Hav. Gajendra Singh and (right) Sub. N. R. Nikkam.

"Order of the Red Star"

AT an impressive ceremony at the Soviet Embassy at Teheran the Soviet Ambassador, M. Maximov, on behalf of the Presidium of the Supreme Council of the U.S.S.R., presented Russian decorations to officers and men of the British and Indian Armies for distinguished services in the transportation of arms, material and food to Russia.

The Order of the Red Star was presented to Sub. Narayan Rao Nikkam, village Nerala Hatti, tehsil Kankanhalli, district Bangalore, and Hav. Gajendra Singh, of village Baraloo, tehsil Shor district Almora, who are serving in General Purpose Transport Companies of the R.I.A.S.C.

Two British officers of the R.I.A.S.C. who also received decorations were Lieut.-Col. N. G. Hunter, Order of Patriotic War (1st class) and Capt. A. G. Wallis, Order of the Red Star, Lieut.-Col. W. F. B. Higman, Indian Engineers, and Lieut.-Col. H. A. Davis, O.B.E., Royal Engineers, also received the Order of Patriotic War.

In addition, two generals, two brigadiers, two colonels and six lieutenant-colonels also received Russian decorations.

Sub. Nikkam and Hav. Gajendra Singh were personally congratulated by the Soviet Ambassador and Lieut.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, C.-in-C., Persia and Iraq Command.

M. Maximov acknowledged the help given to the Red Army. "It again emphasises the military co-operation of our peoples, not only in the field of battle but also in those quarters which influence the success of operations in the field against our common enemy, Hitlerite Germany", he said.

The British *Charge d'Affaires*, Mr. D. W. Lascelles, warmly thanked the Russian Ambassador on behalf of the British and Indian forces for the honour bestowed on them.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Arthur Smith, on behalf of the British and Indian officers and other ranks who had been honoured, said: "Those of us who have been decorated realise that we are but the representatives of the many British and Indian soldiers who have done loyal and steady work which, though not in the limelight, has been the backbone of our aid to Russia."

He was particularly glad that Indian soldiers had been honoured.

"GURKHA SAMACHAR"

A troop of Gurkhas from a brigade reconnaissance unit were driving up the winding road leading to the town of Monte S. Maria in Italy a few hours after it had been captured by British troops of an Indian division when they met an Indian Army Observer. He was able to hand them the latest copy of their own newspaper, *Gurkha Samachar*, produced by the Indian Army Public Relations Directorate.

Gurkhas Delighted

The delighted Gurkhas took it at once and a driver started to read it aloud. Suddenly they heard the scream of a heavy German shell and dived into the ditch. The Germans had no doubt seen the jeeps coming up the hill and flung out searching shells.

After the burst the driver stood up and, not worrying about the shells, went on reading.

Little known outside the Indian Army the paper is very welcome to all Gurkha troops, giving them as it does home news and news of their friends and sister battalions on other fronts in their own language.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

The Government of India have appointed Mr. J. M. Ghose, Professor of History, Maharaja's College, Jaipur, nominee of the Jaipur State, on the Indian Historical Records Commission and its Research and Publication Committee as Ordinary and Associate member for a term of five years with effect from July 24, 1944.

HINDU LAW COMMITTEE'S DRAFT CODE

Adoption, Marriage and Divorce, and Succession

A draft Hindu Code prepared by the Hindu Law Committee of which Sir B. N. Rau is Chairman has been published for eliciting public opinion thereon. In an explanatory statement, the Committee say that it is generally felt that the evils of piecemeal legislation on the subject should be avoided and that an entire Code acceptable to the general Hindu public should be in operation at an early date.

The Committee prepared a draft Code on those topics of the Hindu Law on which the Centre can legislate under the existing Constitution and had it circulated to leading lawyers in India. This draft was revised by the Committee in the light of the criticisms received by them. The Committee hope to visit important cities in India later in the year and hear the views of representative persons on the subject. All individuals and associations wishing to be heard by the Committee are requested to write to the Secretary to the Committee at Fort St. George, Madras, before October 1 with an intimation of the city at which it will be convenient for them to appear before the Committee. Those who prefer to submit their views on the draft Code in writing are requested to do so before that date.

The Draft Code

The draft now published is only a tentative one, intended to focus the attention of the public on the main issues and the Committee intend to revise it in the light of public opinion. The Code should be regarded as a whole and no part should be judged as it stood by itself.

The draft Code which is divided into six parts deals with the following subjects; intestate and testamentary succession and matters arising therefrom including maintenance; marriage and divorce; minority and guardianship; and adoption.

Part I of the draft Code deals with preliminary matters. The Code has been made applicable to all Hindus in British India, "Hindu" being defined as meaning a person professing the Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh or Jaina religion and as including any person who would have been governed by the Hindu Law if the Code were not in force.

Part II deals with intestate succession, and is mostly based on the Intestate Succession Bill as amended by the Joint Select Committee. Changes made by the Committee are explained in the marginal notes. The main changes are:

The list of heirs entitled to succeed simultaneously to a person in the first instance has been confined to his widow, son, daughter, grandson by a predeceased son, and great-grandson by a predeceased son of a predeceased son. Dependent parents and the widowed daughter-in-law who were included in this category by the Joint Select Committee have been omitted from it; the Committee have provided for the maintenance of these relatives and consider that this is right and sufficient.

Three Classes of Heirs

The Committee have re-arranged the heirs specifically enumerated in the first two classes of the Joint Select Committee's Bill into three classes. The new Class I is confined to the heirs mentioned in Yajnavalkya's text, which, in addition to the simultaneous heirs mentioned above, include the daughter's son, mother, father, brother, and brother's son.

The Committee's Class II consists of the son's daughter, daughter's daughter, and son's daughter's son and other descendants in the third generation; and the Committee's Class III consists of the other heirs in Class II of the Joint Select Committee's Bill. The re-arrangement proposed by the Committee gives precedence to the father and mother over the son's daughter and daughter's daughter. The Committee have included the father's sister, father's father's sister, and mother's sister among the specifically enumerated heirs, each of these heirs being placed before their respective sons.

To prevent a married daughter obtaining a share in her father's immovable property from creating trouble, the provisions of the Partition Act, 1893, have been made applicable where she sues for partition. The other members of the family are thus enabled to purchase her share at a valuation if they wish to do so.

A slight change has been made in the order of devolution of *stridhana* property. All grand-children have been made joint heirs and the children of daughters will not exclude the children of sons.

The Committee have added a provision disqualifying descendants of a convert to any other religion from succeeding to the property of their Hindu relatives, unless they have reverted to Hinduism. This provision merely embodies the existing law, as finally laid down by the Privy Council.

Part III of the Code consists of a single clause providing for the application to Hindus of the provisions of the Indian Succession Act and other enactments which may for the time being be applicable to them.

Part III A is headed "Provisions common to testamentary and intestate succession." The first clause provides that interest in joint family property shall devolve in every case by testamentary or intestate succession and not by survivorship. The Committee point out that the Deshmukh Act of 1937 has repealed the principle of survivorship where a member of a Mitakshara family dies intestate, leaving a widow.

The repeal of the principle in favour of the daughter also seems called for as she has been made a simultaneous heir along with the son. The exclusion of these two cases will leave very little room for the operation of the principle, and the simplest course, according to the Committee, is to abolish it altogether, thereby bringing the law in provinces other than Bengal into line with that now prevailing in that province. The Committee have adopted the Bengal or the Dayabhaga rule for the whole of India in another respect, by abolishing the right by birth. The son's rights having been cut down by the inclusion of the widow and the daughter as simultaneous heirs along with him, and the widow and daughter taking an absolute interest in their shares, the Committee consider that it is difficult to give lesser rights to the son. This change has the advantage of making the law uniform throughout the country.

Maintenance

Part III A also provides for the maintenance of certain near relatives of a deceased male Hindu from out of his estate where they fail to obtain any share in such estate by succession, testamentary or intestate, or where the share obtained is less than what would be awarded by way of maintenance. The following relatives are entitled to this right: the father, mother, widow, minor son, grandson (by a predeceased son) or great-grandson (by a predeceased son of a predeceased son), unmarried daughter, widowed daughter or daughter-in-law who is unable to obtain maintenance otherwise, minor illegitimate son, unmarried illegitimate daughter, and a concubine kept continuously by the deceased up to the time of his death.

The only addition made by the Committee to those who are entitled to maintenance under the present law, is the illegitimate daughter. There is a conflict of judicial opinion as to the rights of the widowed daughter and the widowed daughter-in-law and the Committee have adopted the more liberal view in both cases. The award of maintenance will not be obligatory in every case and will be made only where necessary, having due regard to all the circumstances, for example, the net value of the estate, the share, if any, obtained by the dependant, the position and status of the parties, the reasonable wants of the dependant, etc.

Marriage and Divorce

Part IV of the Code (Marriage and Divorce) is divided into three chapters. Chapter I, dealing with the celebration of marriage, is largely based on the Marriage Bill as introduced in the Indian Legislative Assembly. The Committee observe that this Bill has been subjected to criticism on the ground that while one clause of it lays down as essential conditions of a valid marriage that the parties must belong to the same caste and must not have the same *gotra* or a common *pravara*, another clause of the Bill validates marriages where these conditions are not fulfilled. The Committee consider it desirable to avoid even the appearance of a conflict in the Code, and the only conditions now laid down by them for a valid marriage are:

(1) neither party must have a spouse living at the time of the marriage;

(2) neither party must be a lunatic or an idiot,

(3) the parties must not be within the prohibited degrees of relationship,

(4) they must not be *sapindas* of each other, unless the custom or usage governing each of them permits of a sacramental marriage,

(5) where the bride has not completed her 16th year, the consent of her guardian in marriage must be obtained.

The Committee claim that the clause suggested by them is very simple and provides without incongruity for those who are not Hindus by religion, for example, Buddhists, and for those who are not orthodox Hindus, for example, members of the Brahmo Samaj. Any general provision applicable to Hindus as a whole has necessarily to embody only such requisites as are or should be common to all of them and the most suitable course, according to the Committee, is to embody in the general law only the most fundamental requirements, leaving persons free to follow other customary practices at their discretion.

The draft provides that a sacramental marriage may be solemnized in accordance with the customary ceremonies of either party. This is considered to be the only provision practicable as the ceremonies vary considerably from one place to another and from one community or group to another.

The Committee have suggested alternative drafts if the form in the Bill as introduced in the Assembly is preferred.

The Committee have specifically prohibited marriages such as those between a father-in-law and a daughter-in-law, such marriages being countenanced neither by the ancient *smritis* nor by modern systems of law. Marriages between children of brothers have also been prohibited.

To facilitate proof of a sacramental marriage, a provision for the optional registration of such marriages as sacramental marriages has been included in the Code. No such registration can however take place unless the parties or their guardians agree to it; and failure to register the marriage will not prejudice or affect its validity in any way.

Civil Marriages

No substantial changes have been made by the Committee in the provisions relating to civil marriages. They have added a clause for the registration of a sacramental marriage as a civil marriage as the parties to a sacramental marriage sometimes desire to prevent all doubt as to the fact or validity of the marriage by registering it as a civil marriage.

Chapter II of Part IV deals with the consequences of marriage and the duties of husband and wife. The husband is laid under an obligation to maintain his wife, while she lives with him. But the wife is entitled to live separately without forfeiting her claim to maintenance, if the husband is suffering from a loathsome disease, or keeps a concubine in the house, or is guilty of cruelty or of desertion, or has ceased to be a Hindu, or for any other justifiable cause.

Persons governed by the Marmukkatayam, Aliyasanthana, or Nambudiri law of inheritance who contract civil marriages will have the succession to their property governed by the Code and not by the provisions of the Indian Succession Act. To check the dowry evil, a clause has been added, providing that any consideration paid directly or indirectly, to a relative of either party to the marriage, for procuring his or her consent to the marriage should be held by such relatives in trust for the benefit of the wife and transferred to her on her attaining majority, or if she is already a major, on demand made by her. In the case of her death, the amount is to be paid to her *stridhana* heirs.

Chapter III of Part IV deals with the subject of nullity and dissolution of marriage. The following grounds will justify a decree of nullity: (i) impotency of the respondent at the time of marriage and at the time of the institution of the suit, (ii) the parties being within the prohibited degrees of relationship, (iii) either party having been a lunatic or an idiot at the time of the marriage, (iv) either party having a wife or husband living at the time of the marriage.

Divorce

As regards divorce, the Committee say that all Hindu marriages having been made monogamous, there is a natural demand for a provision for divorce. The Hindu Law texts provide for the husband putting away his wife and taking another where she is barren, vicious or diseased. Any provision for divorce which may be suggested for enactment at the present time has necessarily to operate impartially as between the husband and wife. The clause proposed is based on proposals made by the late Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar, with some of the conditions made more stringent than in his draft. The object aimed at is that dissolution of marriage should be allowed to a minimum extent where justification for it is of the plainest description and where it will raise the standard of morality, but not to such an extent as will lead to a general loosening of the marriage tie and promote immorality or the ruin of the Hindu family ideals. The following are the grounds which will justify a divorce:

(1) the respondent being incurably of unsound mind, having been continuously under care and treatment for not less than seven years;

(2) the respondent suffering from a virulent and incurable form of leprosy, not contracted from the petitioner;

(3) desertion by the respondent for not less than seven years;

(4) the respondent having ceased to be a Hindu by conversion to another religion;

(5) the respondent suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form for not less than seven years;

(6) the respondent, if a husband, having another woman as a concubine;

(7) the respondent, if a wife, being a concubine of another man or leading the life of a prostitute.

Petitions for nullity or dissolution of marriages may be presented only to the District Court or High Court. The decree of the District Court will require to be confirmed by the High Court.

Part V of the Code deals with minority and guardianship. The provisions suggested,

which are non-controversial, will be supplemental to those of the Guardians and Wards Act, 1890, and other enactments on the subject. A minor has been defined as one who has not completed the age of 18 years. The father, and after him the mother, will be the natural guardians of a minor, but the custody of the minor will ordinarily be with the mother, until the minor completes three years. The husband will be the natural guardian of a married minor girl. No guardian is to be appointed in respect of a minor's undivided interest in joint family property. The power of a natural guardian to alienate the minor's property will be subject to the same restrictions as a guardian appointed by the Court. A *de facto* guardian will have no power to deal with the minor's property. The guardian is required to bring up a Hindu minor as a Hindu.

Adoption

Part VI of the Code deals with adoption. The Committee consider that only the *dattaka* form of adoption need be preserved and that forms like the *dwyamuyashyana, kritrima* and *illatom* prevailing in certain parts of the country might well be abolished. If almost the whole of India can do with the *dattaka*, there is no reason to permit any other forms.

As regards the widow's authority to adopt to her deceased husband, the Committee have embodied the Bombay view in the Code; the widow will thus have power to take a son in adoption to her husband unless he has expressly or impliedly prohibited her from doing so. The Committee point out that the widow will be an heir of her husband even in a Mitakshara coparcenary, and that she will get an absolute estate under the Code. In many cases, the adopted son will divest no estate but that of the widow. Thus, there will be no motive for her abusing the power to adopt and in future all adoptions are likely to be actuated by the religious motive.

As regards the capacity of a boy to be taken in adoption, the law has been made uniform by prohibiting the adoption of one who has been married or of one who has had his *upanayana* ceremony performed except where the boy belongs to the same *gotra* as the adoptive father. The Code also lays down that the boy should not have completed the age of 15 years.

The law on the subject of the divesting of estates in cases of adoption by a widow has been simplified. Where a widow adopts within three years of the death of the adoptive father, the adopted son will be entitled to all the rights (except the right to mesne profits) to which a natural-born son would have been entitled. In other cases, the adopted son will take a moiety of the estate inherited by the widow and divest no other estate. Adoptions made before the Code comes into operation, will be governed by the previous law. Adoptions made after the Code comes into force to a person dying before will also be governed by the previous law in regard to the divesting of estates other than that of the widow.

Provision has been made for the registration of adoptions based on the English Adoption of Children Act 1926. Applications for registration should be made to the District Court within 90 days of the adoption. The Court, after giving notice of the application to the parties concerned and satisfying itself about the fact of adoption, will give directions for the making of an entry in a register of adopted children prescribed for the purpose. A certified copy of the entry will be received as evidence of the fact of adoption in any court of law.

INDO-U. S. WIRELESS CIRCUIT

A Press Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on August 16 stated:

On the opening of the direct wireless circuit between India and the United States of America, the following messages have been exchanged between Mr. James L. Fly, Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, and the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council, in charge of Posts and Air Department:

MR. JAMES L. FLY: "It is a pleasure indeed to greet the Indian Government and people on the occasion of the opening of the first direct commercial radio telegraph circuit between the United States and India. By means of such radio circuits, messages which a century ago would have taken weeks or even months to reach their destination are now transmitted with the speed of light. I trust that the new circuit will further strengthen the bonds of friendship between us and will hasten the day of victory in the war which we are fighting together."

Sir M. Usman's Reply

SIR MAHOMED USMAN: "I warmly appreciate your message on the occasion of the opening of direct radio telegraph circuit between India and the United States and heartily reciprocate the sentiments expressed therein. I am confident that this measure will help to hasten the day of victory and further strengthen the bonds of friendship between our countries."

MEASURES TO CHECK HOARDING AND PROFITEERING

WITH reference to the maximum wholesale and retail selling prices as already fixed by the Central Government in respect of imported woollen cloth, a Notification issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance and published in the *Gazette of India* dated July 29, 1944, directs that so long as a cloth bears the stamping "Made in England" at either end, the prices for cloth imported from the United Kingdom would apply; and the prices of other imported cloths will be determined on the assumption that the cloths are made elsewhere and therefore their prices will be subject to a reduction of 40 per cent.

Prices of Silk Fabrics

Under the provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has directed all dealers in pure and artificial silk fabrics to exhibit prominently in their shops a price list showing the retail selling prices of these articles as already fixed by the Central Government, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on July 29.

Sale of Radio Valves and Spare Parts

By a Notification issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has authorised any accredited distributor of or authorised dealer in radio sets of a particular make to refuse to sell valves or spare parts of that make if the valves or spare parts are required otherwise than for servicing a set of that make; or if the intending purchaser does not, on a request being made in that behalf, furnish correct information as to the model and serial number of the set for servicing whereof the valves or spare parts are required, and the name of the owner thereof, said another Press Note issued on July 29.

It added: Any accredited distributor of radio sets of a particular make is also authorised to refuse to sell valves or spare parts of that make to a person other than an authorised dealer therein or a dealer approved in this behalf by the Controller General of Civil Supplies.

Any retail dealer is authorised to refuse to sell a valve or a spare part of a radio set unless the intending purchaser returns the valve or the spare part in replacement whereof he wishes to purchase the new valve or part.

By an amendment issued to the Footwear Control Order in the *Gazette of India* dated July 29, 1944, it has been made clear that the wholesale prices specified in Part A of Schedule III to the Order will also be applicable when footwear is sold by manufacturers to retailers direct.

By another notification the Controller General of Civil Supplies, his Deputies and Assistants and Inspectors of Civil Supplies have been authorised to exercise the powers specified in Clause 8 of the Footwear Control Order, 1944. They can now require any person to give information in his possession in regard to any business carried on by that or any other person or inspect books or documents belonging to any person or enter or search any premises or seize any article in respect of which there is reason to believe that the Footwear Control Order has been violated.

Motor Spirit and Kerosene Prices

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on July 31 stated:

With effect from August 1, 1944, the Government of India have authorised prices of motor spirit and kerosene which show a gratifying decrease of -|1|6 per gallon in the case of motor spirit and -|4|- per bulk unit of 8 Imperial Gallons in the case of both superior and inferior qualities of kerosene. Simultaneously the price of kerosene tins (4-gallon capacity) will be increased by -|1|- per tin owing to higher package manufacturing costs; the net decrease in the price of packed kerosene will, therefore, be -|2|- per unit of two 4-gallon tins.

An Amending Notification

By an amending Notification issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, the Controller General of Civil Supplies directs that it is not necessary now for importers in bicycles and cycle parts, fountain pens, all varieties of woollen cloth and garments, all varieties of silk cloth and garments including artificial silk, crockery, cutlery, razor blades, toilet articles, spectacle frames, stationery items and boot polishes to furnish the information which they were required to do with regard to these articles by an earlier Notification.

These articles are now included in the Schedule to the Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order, 1944; and the requisite information regarding them need not be supplied

under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance.

The Central Government have, by a Notification issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, cancelled an earlier Notification fixing the maximum selling prices of "Waterman 32-B" fountain pen at Rs. 19 wholesale and Rs. 24 retail. Now the retail selling price of this fountain pen has been fixed at Rs. 19; and a discount of 20 per cent on this price is to be allowed by importers and wholesalers to all retailers.

By another Notification dealers in tinned provisions at specified hill stations are permitted to charge 3 per cent over the maximum prices already fixed by the Central Government.

Everready Battery Cells

By a Notification issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, the Central Government have fixed the maximum wholesale and retail prices chargeable by a dealer or producer in respect of Everready 950 and 935 unit battery cells manufactured by the National Carbon Company of India Limited as follows:

The maximum price which the manufacturer is permitted to charge to a wholesaler is Rs. 27-8 per gross *f.o.r.* Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Karachi, Madras and Cochin.

The maximum price which a wholesaler is permitted to charge to retailers is Rs. 31-8 per gross in cities other than Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Karachi, Madras and Cochin. Railway freight from the nearest of these cities and terminal taxes may be charged in addition.

The maximum retail price is fixed at 0-4-6 per cell in Calcutta, Bombay, Delhi, Karachi, Madras and Cochin; and 0-5-0 per cell elsewhere.

Wholesalers and retailers in these battery cells have been directed by another Notification to exhibit prominently in their shops the prices fixed by the Central Government.

Sale of Indian Malt Whisky

The Controller General of Civil Supplies has, under the Ordinance, authorised all manufacturers, accredited distributing agents or dealers in Indian Malt Whisky to refuse to sell Indian Malt Whisky to any person who is not one of their old and genuine customers; or to refuse to sell it to any person, so long as they have not met the rationed demand of their old and regular customers; and for the purpose of meeting such rationed demand they shall divide the stocks in their possession at any given time into 12 equal weekly lots and any surplus remaining in any week after meeting the rationed demand of the old and regular customers shall be made available to other genuine customers in quantities not exceeding a bottle at a time.

Sale could also be refused to any person who does not offer in exchange an equivalent number of empty bottles of a type similar to those in which the Indian-made foreign spirits to be sold are bottled.

PACKING OF "BIDIS" IN PAPER

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on August 4 stated:

The Government of India have decided to permit under the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, the use of labels on packets of *bidis* and the packing and wrapping of *bidis* in paper subject to the following conditions:—

1. Packets of 25 *bidis* may be wrapped in a single sheet of tissue paper provided the size of the sheet does not exceed 20 square inches.

2. Twenty packets of 25 *bidis* each may be packed in a single sheet of kraft paper or other packing paper not exceeding 216 square inches in area subject to the condition that each manufacturer makes it a condition of supply of *bidis* to his distributors that at least 50 per cent of these sheets are returned before fresh supplies are made. The returned sheets, shall be re-used by the *bidi* manufacturers for packing fresh supplies of *bidis* if they are not so damaged as to be unsuitable for this purpose.

3. That on a packet of 25 *bidis*, if wrapped in tissue paper a label not exceeding the size 1½" x 1¼" shall be used.

4. That on packets of 25 *bidis* not wrapped in tissue paper bandroll labels not exceeding 16 square inches shall be used.

5. Each manufacturer of *bidis* can use paper for the printing of labels or bandrolls up to 50 per cent by weight of the weight of paper consumed by him in 1943.

Paper for Packing Goods

The Government of India have decided under the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, to allow goods to be packed in packing paper and-or board, for transmission by post, by rail or by steamer, provided packing in paper and board is essential for the protection of such goods and provided the minimum quantity of paper and board necessary for this purpose is used.

BEVIN SCHEME OPEN TO TECHNICAL TRAINEES

TO enable persons trained under the Technical Training Scheme to take advantage of facilities for higher training afforded by the Bevin Scheme, arrangements have been made to include in each future batch of Bevin trainees 15 ex-trainees from the Technical Training Scheme provided they have passed the prescribed trade test with credit and have acquired at least one year's practical workshop experience in a factory engaged on war work. In all other respects these candidates will have to satisfy the usual conditions prescribed for selection. Of the 15 ex-trainees, 10 will be from ordnance factories and 5 from civil industry.

Hitherto only workmen who had at least 3 years' engineering experience in workshops were selected for training in the United Kingdom under the Bevin Scheme. Due to this restriction, persons trained under the Technical Training Scheme, even though they may be quite suitable, were not eligible for selection.

The New Scheme

The new scheme provides that employers may recommend the names of suitable candidates to the Chairman of the National Service Labour Tribunal concerned who will interview them and make the final selection. The employers may also indicate the trade in which their nominees are to be trained and their wishes will be carried out as far as possible.

JOBS FOR TECHNICAL WORKERS

Employment Exchanges Becoming Popular

Over a thousand workmen have been placed in employment through the Employment Exchanges set up early this year in Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore and Madras with a view to building up an organisation capable of dealing with the registration and voluntary placement of the many skilled and semi-skilled workers who will be thrown out of employment after the war.

The total numbers of workmen registered and placed up to the end of June by the Exchange in Bombay were 1,981 and 819, respectively. Having started work in January, 1944, it had on its registers 532 workmen at the end of February. Out of this number 79 workmen were placed. Since then the number of workmen coming to it has been steadily increasing. Thus in April 234 workmen were registered and 63 placed, in May 566 workmen were registered and 377 placed and in June 441 were registered and 254 placed.

As provided in the Scheme for Employment Exchanges, an Employment Committee, including representatives of employers and labour, is attached to the Exchange in Cawnpore and has held three meetings. Up to the end of June, 706 workmen had registered themselves at this Exchange and employment was found for 79.

In Madras, the Exchange has been working with a whole-time manager. An Employment Committee has also been set up and has met once. The number of workmen registered at the Exchange increased from 75 in January, 1944, to 474 by the end of June. Out of this number 78 workmen were placed in employment. The number of workmen registered at the Exchange in Delhi is 167.

Increased Recruitment

There are indications that the services of the Employment Exchanges are being used by more and more employers and a steadily increasing number of orders for workmen is being placed on them. In February, 1944, the four Exchanges at Bombay, Calcutta, Cawnpore and Madras were ordered to recruit only 122 workmen. But in June 1944, this number had increased to 1,036.

After the completion of their training, the men will ordinarily be returned to their previous employers on the condition that they will fix the wages of the trained men on the basis of their market value to be assessed in consultation with the Tribunal concerned.

A REPORT DENIED

A Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on July 11 stated:

Government's attention has been drawn to the *Reuter* message containing what purports to be a statement made by an International Monetary Conference spokesman at Brettonwoods, U.S.A., to the effect that the 100 million ounces of silver recently lend-leased by the United States Government to India is being used exclusively for coinage.

Government wish to make it perfectly clear that the objects for which this silver was acquired, as agreed between the United States Government and the Government of India, were as stated in Government's Press Communique issued on June 15 last, *viz.* for coinage and for sale to the public, if required, in furtherance of Government's anti-inflationary policy. There has been no change in these objects.



Men of the 2nd Punjab Regiment show their booty to a War Correspondent after their return from a patrol in Italy.

WAR CHRONICLES OF A PUNJAB REGIMENT

MEN of the 2nd Punjab Regiment serving in Italy have a battalion chronicler, who is recording the everyday events in the life of the unit. No war report could better express the glowing comradeship which grows up among men at war than the recordings of this front line diarist, writes an Indian Army Observer.

One of his latest "chapters" describes, as a series of homely anecdotes, the events of 40 days in the line, with all their successes and jubilations. In the simple language of what is in fact an unvarnished record for the battalion's friends he tells of one of its most notable actions, a raid by a platoon of the Sikh Company, led by Jem. Pritam Singh, in which, during a savage hand-to-hand battle many Germans were killed.

"Even the badly wounded Sikhs made their own way back, refusing assistance lest it should interfere with the job of killing Germans," he says: "It was a grand show and they rightly received the thanks of the divisional and corps commanders because they brought back with them a valuable identification in the shape of a prisoner of an enemy division which was in the process of taking over the line to relieve the previous one, identified two days later as being used to stem the Eighth Army attack.

NEW TRAVELLING CONCESSION FOR SOLDIERS' RELATIVES

Relatives of Indian or British troops who are reported to be dangerously ill in hospitals in India may now visit the men free of charge.

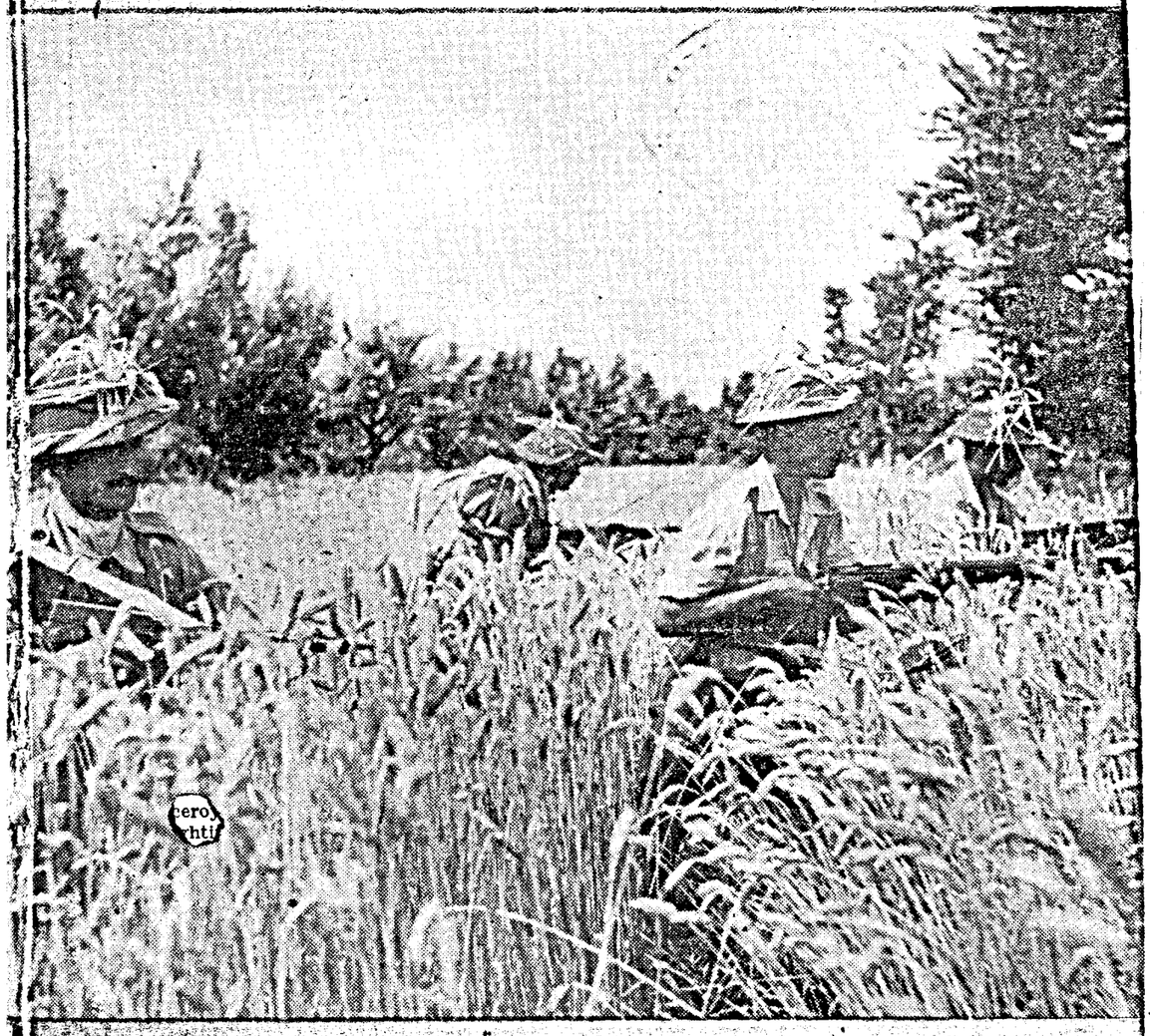
The return fare for the journey will be given to two persons, one of whom must be a relative, wishing to see an Indian other rank who may be ill. Relatives of British other ranks and officer cadets will be entitled to the concession.

The cost of conveyance, which will be paid on the visitors' arrival at the hospital, will be for the class of accommodation to which the patient visited is entitled.

The concession has been introduced by the Movements Directorate, G.H.Q., India.

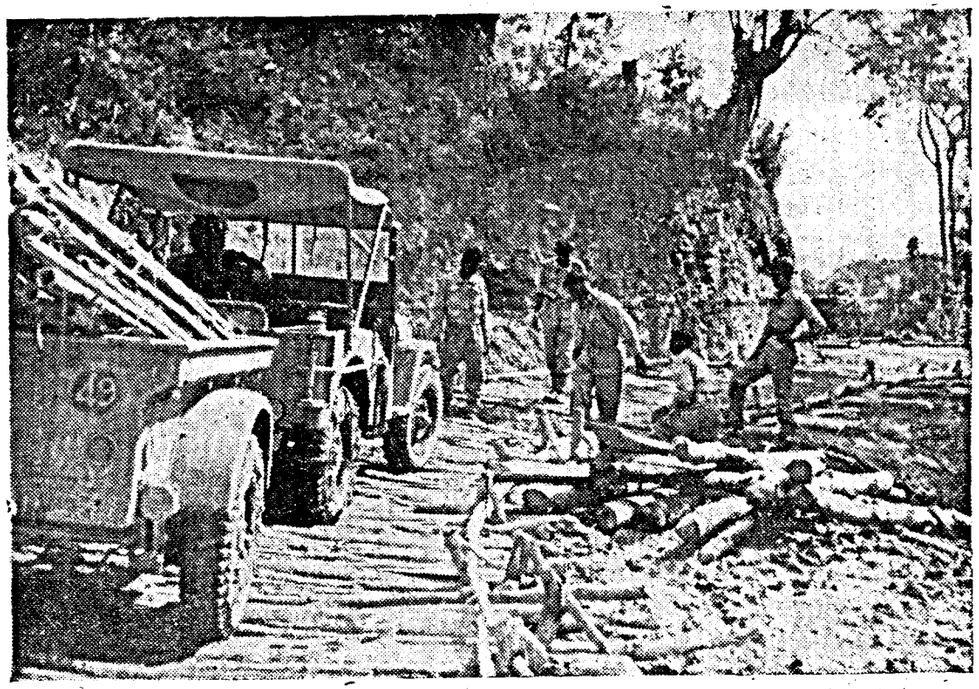
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INDIAN INFORMATION



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● SIR SULTAN AHMED ON PUBLICITY PROBLEMS IN WAR AND PEACE



Madras Sappers and Miners working on the Jessami track, east of Kohima

Vol. 15, No. 145. INDIAN INFORMATION SEPT. 15, 1944

AIMS:—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading, but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

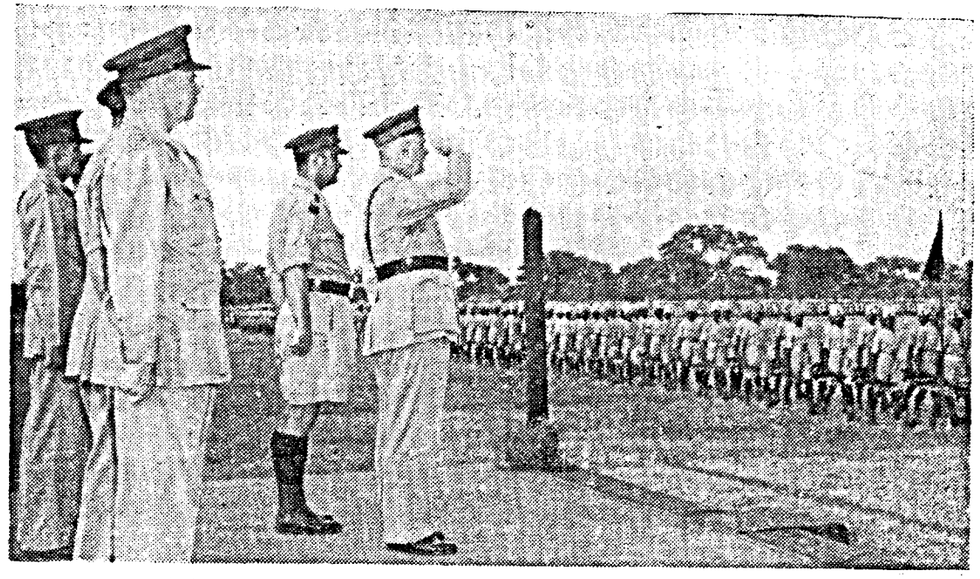
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source, it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Issued Fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.
Associate Editor: P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: A patrol of a Punjab Regiment moving through a cornfield in Italy.



H.E. the Viceroy taking the salute at the march past of the Rajrif Battalion.

INDIAN VETERANS RETURN HOME AFTER FIVE YEARS

Viceroy and C.-in-C. Greet Famous Rajrif Battalion

THE Fourth Battalion (Outram's) of the 6th Rajputana Rifles, who recently returned to India after five years overseas, during which they fought in some of the greatest battles of the war, are probably the only unit in the Indian Army to be welcomed by both the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief, under each of whom they had served in action.

They were inspected by the C.-in-C., General Sir Claude Auchinleck on August 23. The Battalion was visited the following day by the Viceroy, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, who took the salute.

Brilliant Fighting Record

The Viceroy complimented the men on their brilliant fighting record and referred to the time when they were under his command in the Middle East. Those were the dark days when they were faced by almost overwhelming odds but in which they finally gained a great victory —thanks to the Indian soldiers, he said.

The Viceroy presented the D.S.O. to Brig. L. B. Jones, Commandant of Officers' Training School, Bangalore, who commanded the battalion in 1940. His award was for conspicuous gallantry at Sidi Barrani.

TROOPS' ARRIVAL IN BOMBAY

Happy memories of tranquil days spent with their families in their scattered homesteads or in the towns and villages throughout India were evoked in the minds of hundreds of Indian troops when they landed in Bombay recently.

Many of them were returning to India after five years' service in the Middle East and the Mediterranean theatres. They included war-tried veterans of the 4th Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles, who went overseas to join the Fourth Indian Division in September, 1939.

Some of the men fought in Field Marshal (then General) Wavell's first Western Desert campaign and afterwards saw service in successive campaigns in Eritrea, Syria, Tunisia and latterly in Italy. They vied with one another in pointing out some feature of the Indian landscape which they remembered as it receded at the beginning of their adventures five years ago.



Lord Wavell talking to Brig. Jones after pinning the D.S.O. on his breast.

It was an inspiration to see these smiling, confident warriors, writes an Indian Army Observer. As I wandered from group to group I heard from their own lips the stirring story of the battles in which they had fought so well and earned such signal honour.

Sharers in India's Feats of Arms

Among these proud sharers in India's feats of arms across the seas was a particularly distinguished group of "Rajrifs," four of whom had seen continuous action since December, 1940. Subedar Jagma Ram of Urika village, Jaipur State, went on overseas service before the war began and won the I.O.M. (second class) at the battle of Sidi Barrani under General Wavell.

Jemadar Bhopal Singh of Sairyari village, Jodhpur State was a sepoy when he left India; to-day he wears the ribbon of the I.O.M. (second class) and I.D.S.M., earned in Syria in 1941 and Tunisia in 1943 respectively. This V.C.O. has served in Egypt, the Western Desert, Eritrea, Syria, Tunisia and Italy. To a comment on this remarkable record of service he simply remarked, "We did well—that's why we are here to-day."

Cassino, scene of some of the heaviest Italian fighting, was where another veteran, Havildar-Major Dhanpat Ram of Narodah village, Jaipur State, won his I.D.S.M. Havildar Neki Ram of Ilakhar village, also in Jaipur State, was awarded I.D.S.M. for bravery in Tunisia, having previously served in the early Western Desert battles and at Keren, in Eritrea, where he was wounded.

Before the men disembarked they paraded on the deck for an inspection by a brigadier who gave them a hearty welcome back to India on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief. With them were some ex-prisoners of war.

C.-in-C.'s Message

The Brigadier read this message from the C.-in-C. to the men of the 6th Rajputana Rifles: "I am glad to welcome you back to India after an absence of five years, during which time you greatly enhanced the reputation not only of your regiment but of the Indian Army. Your record of fighting as part of the famous Fourth Indian Division in North Africa and Italy will be long remembered. I wish all ranks the best of luck and am looking forward to meeting you again in the near future."

To the other troops General Auchinleck said he was glad to welcome them back to India. During their tour of duty they had been of considerable assistance in maintaining lines of communication overseas.

The Brigadier announced the following new immediate awards, all for bravery at Cassino, to men of the 6th Rajputana Rifles: I.O.M. (2nd class), 13420 Havildar Waryan Khan of Kanwal village, Jhelum District; I.D.S.M., 11777 Subedar Kalyan Singh; 24606 Subedar Usman Ghani of Ketgullah village, Campbellpore district; 13755 Havildar Surjan Singh of Rampur district, Alwar State; 16788 Naik Mumtaz Ali of Mohri village, Gujerat district; 18825 Rfn. Joga Ram of Piluan village, Jodhpur State.

Delhi Reception

General Auchinleck and senior officers of the Indian Army on August 17 welcomed home its most famous fighting unit, the 4th battalion of the 6th Rajputana Rifles.

As the train steamed alongside the Delhi Railway Station platform the regimental band, dressed in green, white and red, struck up the regimental march and played while the officers and V.C.O.s of the battalion were presented to the Commander-in-Chief. Lt.-Col. E. T. Williams, Commanding Officer of the battalion, accompanied the C.-in-C. along the line.

General Auchinleck chatted with many of the returning veterans. Later, when the troops lined up on the platform, he visited each platoon.

A special message of welcome and congratulation from the Viceroy was handed to the Commanding Officer, Lord Wavell recalled their service during the early days in the Western Desert and Eritrea, when they had been under his Command.

The men are going on leave.

"INDIA IS PROUD OF YOU"

C.-in-C.'s Tribute to Rajrifs

"THE whole army and the whole of India is proud of you and glad to have you back amongst us," said the Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, when he inspected the 4th Battalion (Outram's) 6th Rajputana Rifles at the regimental centre near New Delhi on August 23.

After the inspection the C.-in-C. decorated officers and men of the Battalion for gallantry in Africa and Italy. He congratulated the Battalion on their magnificent achievements in Africa, Syria and on the Italian mainland.

The Commander-in-Chief said, "As you know, the Battalion served under Lord Wavell, now our Viceroy, and under me in Africa. I am very proud to have had you under my command again. The record of the Battalion, like that of the Fourth Indian Division, with which it has served so long and gloriously, is second to none in any Army.

"I want you now as soon as you have had your well-earned leave to get ready to take your place in the firing line against those deadly enemies of India and of justice, the Japanese.

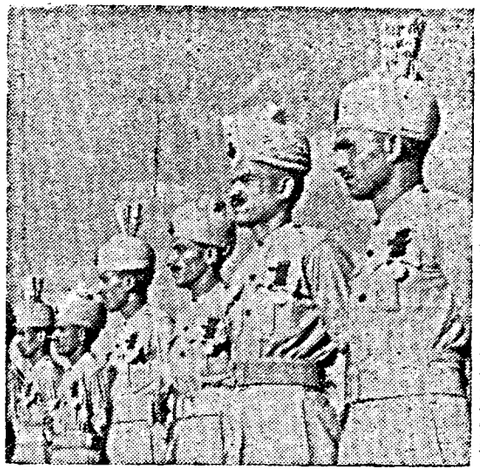
"I have no doubt that you will do to them what you did to the Italians and the Germans and that the Battalion will add even more lustre to its already famous name."

The 4/6 Rajputana Rifles then marched past the Commander-in-Chief. Amongst those who watched the ceremony were the four Army Commanders, General H. Finnis, General A. G. O. M. Mayne, Lt.-Gen. Sir Noel M. de la P. Beresford-Peirse, and Lt.-Gen. R. B. D. Willcox, and the Chief of the General Staff, Lt.-Gen. J. G. des R. Swayne.

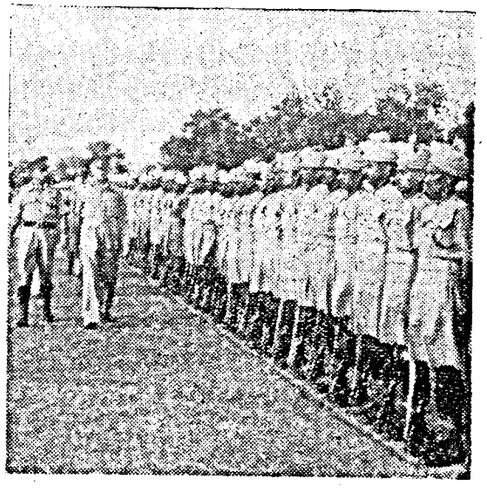
Signal Success

The fourth battalion of the 6th Rajputana Rifles left India in September, 1939, and disembarked in Egypt at the beginning of October. They became part of the Fourth Indian Division.

After a period of training at Beni Yusuf they moved in May, 1940, to Amariya and went on into the Western Desert in June, when they came under the command of Gen. Wavell. They built defences and continued training until December, when they went into action in the Desert for the first time in the battle of Sidi Barrani. Here they scored a signal success against the Italians.



Some of the N.C.O.s and I.O.R.s of the Rajrif Battalion who were decorated by the C.-in-C.



The C.-in-C., accompanied by Lt.-Col. E. T. Williams, inspecting the Battalion

After the battle they were pulled out of the Desert and took part in the Eritrean campaign. They took part in the gallant but unsuccessful attacks on Acqua Col. They were in the line throughout the battle for Keren and in the final assault which ended in the complete rout of the Italian Army.

The battalion returned to Egypt after Keren but May, 1941, found them in Palestine. By the beginning of June they were in the Syrian campaign in the Fifth Indian Brigade, taking part



General Auchinleck also met the Officers of the Battalion. He had a word with each one of them.

in the attack on Dera and moving up the Damascus road. They had tough fights at Kissouye and at Mezze, where they fought themselves to a standstill. Their ammunition exhausted, part of the Battalion had to surrender but not before their action had helped materially to open the way to Damascus and bring about the collapse of Vichy resistance.

These prisoners who were taken at Mezze were repatriated under the Armistice. The 4/6th were in Syria in July, 1941, and on the Turkish border until September when they went to Egypt and thence to Mersa Matruh. In November of that year they were back with the Fourth Indian Division and fought with the Eighth Army under General Auchinleck in its advance to Benghazi; but in January Rommel came on again and the battalion withdrew to Gazala, where they stayed until February 1942, when they went back to the frontier area about Sollum.

Eventually they moved back to Palestine and were stationed about Haifa. In June they went into the Desert again to help the Eighth Army in its fighting retreat, first at the famous Hellfire Pass and then at Mersa Matruh, where they were encircled and broke out. They were withdrawn to Alexandria to re-fit. Soon they were in the line again, taking part in the great battle of El Alamein (October 1942). As part of the 5th Indian Brigade they broke through the German defences and opened up the way for our tanks to advance. After the breakthrough they moved to Benghazi in January, 1943. In March, 1943, they took part in the attack on the Mareth Line and in April in the assault on the Wadi Akarit position, followed by the Djebel Garci action. Later they helped to clear the hills around Tunis city.

After the fall of Tunis the Battalion went to the Tripoli area, back to Palestine, into Egypt again and finally to Italy in January this year. They landed at Taranto, moved into the line and fought their toughest battle at Cassino. In May, they moved over to the Adriatic coast.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 263)

INDIA'S WELCOME FOR 14TH ARMY

HUNDREDS of Indian and British troops of the 14th Army, taking their first leave after the recent victories in Burma, were given a special welcome as they travelled across India to their rest stations, writes an Indian Army Observer.

The boredom and discomfort of their journey was considerably relieved as a result of a scheme sponsored by the Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, under which entertainments and amenities were provided. At long halts police and military bands played at the stations, specially enrolled barbers arrived and arrangements were made for cigarettes, meals, a wash and brush up and for posting letters.

Telephone calls warning local centres of the train arrival times were made from district headquarters all over India. Many temporary workers were engaged and special funds were allotted to provide comforts; at many stations flags and banners were put up. Throughout India the war service organisations, including the National War Front, the W.V.S. and the local civil authorities, joined in the scheme.

Reception at Madras

Madras gave a trainload of Jap chasers a particularly handsome reception. The Hospitality Committee was out in full and the men were taken to the camp rest house, fed and entertained. The Governor, H. E. Sir Arthur Hope, personally welcomed them and praised their work on the Eastern Front.

A special leave train from Assam arriving at Allahabad was met by Lady Hallett, wife of the Governor of the United Provinces, the Area Commander and civil representatives. The troops were given tea and cigarettes and a military band played for them.

At Gorakhpur, one of the first trains to arrive carried many Gurkha troops. Mr. J. L. C. Stubbs, the Commissioner, headed a reception committee which included Mr. G. A. Rowlinson, general manager of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway. The troops were garlanded and given refreshments. As a mark of appreciation officers of a Gurkha regiment presented the local W.V.S. with a Japanese officer's sword.

This ready tribute to the men's service and sacrifices by the civilian population in India has brought many expressions of appreciation from the men and from their leaders. As General Slim said to Sir Claude Auchinleck in reply to the original proposal, "This is yet another example of the unstinted help and co-operation the 14th Army has received from you."

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

THE Hon'ble Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Member for Defence, Government of India, has conveyed the following message from the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, to members of the Governor-General's Executive Council:

"I should like to ask Sir Firoz Khan Noon to convey to his colleagues the grateful appreciation of the War Cabinet of the great contribution India has made to the common cause both in the field of supply and in the feats of arms of her fighting men during the five years of this war. As a Punjabi Sir Firoz may well take pride in the deeds of his own countrymen on the battlefields of Asia, Africa and Europe."

AWARDS TO RAJRIFS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 262)

In their campaigns the men have won the following awards:

Victoria Cross (both posthumous)	2
Distinguished Service Order	4
Indian Order of Merit (1st Class)	1
Order of the British Empire	1
Member of the British Empire	1
Military Cross	7
Indian Order of Merit (Second Class)	17
Indian Distinguished Service Medal	38
Military Medal	1
Mentioned in Despatches	64
Croix de Guerre	4

The total casualties of all descriptions have been nearly 2,000, of which only 123 were prisoners of war. Of the original Battalion 107 are now still serving with it; none of the original officers is left in the Battalion. Their two V.C.s, both posthumous, were won by Subedar Richpal Ram at Keren in February, 1941, and C.H.M. Chhehlu Ram at Djebel Garci in April, 1943.

"FIVE YEARS OF WAR"

Brigadier Jehu's Broadcast

BRIGADIER I. S. Jehu, Director of Public Relations, India Command, broadcasting from All India Radio, New Delhi, on September 3, the fifth anniversary of the war, said:

We have had to wait a long time for a war anniversary with news so bright from every theatre. Great events pile one upon another daily. Most of us live in the present and look forward with increasing optimism to the future and it may seem a little superfluous to reflect back on the past five years. But a remark made by one of our Generals the other day, an officer with numerous decorations for gallantry in the field—made me pause to think. This General, still in his early forties, was amongst the first in France in 1914. "It is," he said, "a bit of a thought that for nine years of my life I have been fighting the German and the German's Allies." It certainly is a bit of a thought—even the five years of the present war have been a big slice out of the lives of millions of young men and women.

India's Military Effort

Looking back on India's own military effort during the last five years of fluctuating fortunes, I can deem myself lucky in having visited every front on which Indian troops have fought. In October, 1939, I was for a few days in Hong-Kong where a British, Indian and Canadian garrison was overwhelmed by the Japanese some two years later. In November, 1940, in Egypt's Western Desert a party of Editors of Indian newspapers and I watched, although we were not aware of it, the Fourth Indian Division having a dress rehearsal for the battle of Sidi Barrani.

A few days later I saw troops of the Fifth Indian Division skirmishing with the Italian on the Eastern borders of Sudan. 1941 brought visits to Indian troops in Eritrea and Abyssinia; later to Iraq, Syria and Persia. Towards the end of the year, only a few weeks before the Japanese attacked, I accompanied Lord Wavell, then Commander-in-Chief, on a flying visit to Indian troops in Malaya and Burma. Since then there has been Tunisia, Italy and the Burma Frontier to add to the list.

The list is a long one and is significant, not only of the numbers but of the quality of units of all kinds India has raised in these years. The actual part they played in these various operations from day to day has, I think, been well publicised in India. Still more so since Indian newspapers and news agencies started sending war correspondents to the front. But the significance (in Indian Army history) of the recent victories of the Fourteenth Army has, perhaps, even now not been as widely appreciated as it should have been.

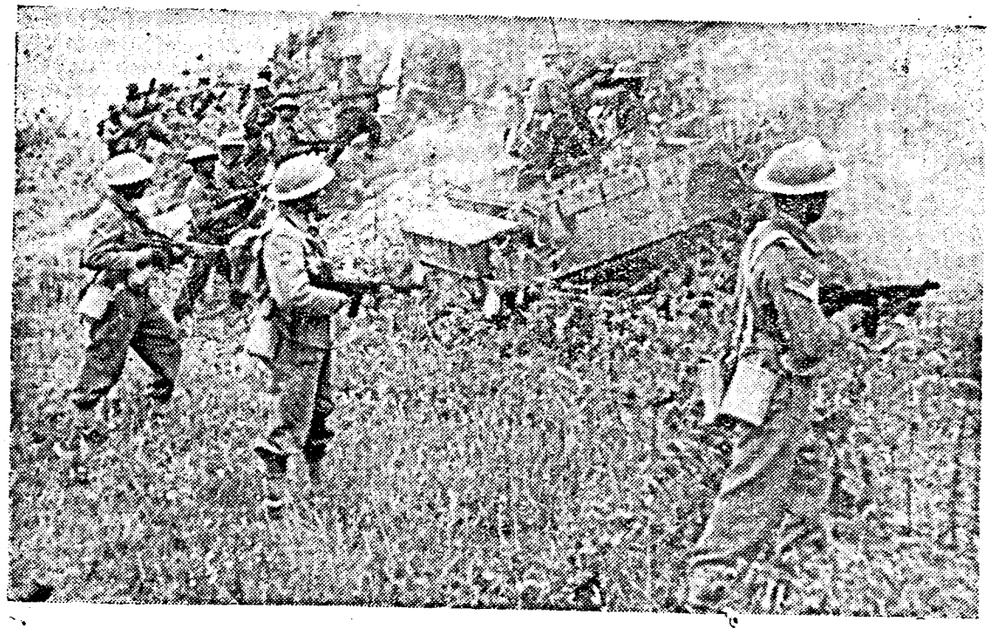
At Sidi Barrani in the Western Desert in December, 1940, the proportion of Indian troops who fought in that battle with their British comrades was about 25 per cent and in Tunisia in 1943 perhaps 4 per cent of the Allied fighting units. In the campaign leading up to the victory of Keren, and the ultimate surrender of the late Duke of Aosta to the Fifth Indian Division, the Indian troops involved were probably half of the total force. In Iraq and Persia, where the Tenth Army was built up to block the German attempt to by-pass the Middle East and to stand against the threat to the Caucasus, India provided the bulk of the troops but, through no fault of their own, they never had any prolonged fighting to do.

In Italy, to-day, there are more Indian troops fighting at one time—and that in itself seems very significant of the tremendous progress made—than in any previous campaign in the West. General Alexander has under his command the veteran Fourth Indian Division, led by Major-General Holworthy, the no less famous Eighth Indian Division under the command of Major-General Russell and the Tenth Indian Division, commanded by Major-General Reid. The Tenth—General Slim's first Division—previously had some brief fighting in the North of Syria, Persia and the Western Desert, but more will be heard of it in the future.

Fought Japs to a Standstill

The Indian Army has been able to share, as it had won the right to share, in the final victorious offensive against Germany at a time when, on their own frontier, India's soldiers have also provided the bulk of a Commonwealth Army involved in some of the most intensive and savage fighting of the whole war.

The Fourteenth Army successfully fought the Japanese to a standstill and on the Manipur front alone has driven, beaten to ragged remnants, three crack enemy divisions from Indian soil. That Army is, I think, the largest example in history of that combination of British and Indian troops which has proved so successful throughout the war. As most people are aware roughly one-third of what are known as Indian Divisions is provided by British units. These British units have not always received the public



Mahratta Infantry with carrier support going into action on the Italian Front.



Madrassi signallers laying a telephone cable in a shell-shattered Italian village. Restoring telephone wires destroyed by rain or storm and laying cables often under enemy gunfire, these frontline signallers are greatly helping to speed up Allied advance in Italy.



German prisoners rounded up by Indian soldiers in Italy.

credit they deserve for their share, fully appreciated by their Indian comrades in arms, who know the contribution they have made to the success of the Indian Divisions.

But the most important point about the great fighting effort which Indian troops are today making, both in the West and in the East, is that these units are now paying victorious dividends for the long and elaborate build up and expansion, training and equipment of the officers and men concerned. Moreover, it represents a recovery which has some parallel with that which Britain produced after Dunkirk. India started off the war in 1939 with a cadre of some two thousand regular officers, a number insufficient to put the standing Indian Army of barely 200,000 on a full war footing. I need not describe the inadequacy of the bulk of that Army's equipment to prosecute modern war against a great Western power. Up till 1942 India poured forth to the Middle East, to Iraq and Persia, and finally to Malaya and Burma, everything she could produce in war manufactures and trained troops.

Rommel's drive to Alamein and the threat of a German drive through the Caucasus almost coincided with the disastrous losses in Indian fighting and base personnel incurred in Hong-Kong, Malaya and Burma. 1942 had some similarities for India to 1940 for Great Britain. Reinforcements had to be sent to the battered but unbeaten Indian Units in Egypt. The Army in Persia and Iraq had to be built up. Only the gallantry of the rearguard action fought by General Alexander's tiny Army in Burma gave India the time to change over from an arsenal, up till then many hundreds of miles away from danger, to preparedness for defence against direct assault.

British Aid

The story has not been told of how few scantily equipped troops stood, with the monsoon and mountain barriers, between the Japanese and India when General Alexander's tired troops withdrew. Nor has it yet been fully appreciated what a tremendous effort had to be made. Formations had to be hastily produced from troops training for open desert warfare, had to be disposed, not merely along the 700 mile long land frontier with Burma, but also from Ceylon to Chittagong. The few guns that were available of every type had to be parcelled out by the General Staff in pathetic numbers. Heavy equipment started to pour in but the bulk of Indian troops available had still to be trained in their use.

Hard pressed as she was, Great Britain came to India's aid with thousands of reinforcements, equipped and trained to use the vital equipment that came with them. But these many thousands of British, and a smaller but substantial quota of American troops, arriving in



Men of the 2nd Gurkha Rifles operating a 3-inch mortar gun on the Arakan Front.

this country created a major problem. At a time when a tremendous programme of defensive works had to be undertaken and the building of between two and three hundred airfields got going, efforts had also to be made to house, feed and provide for this huge influx. Remember the expansion of the Indian Army itself had up till then been governed by our capacity to accommodate and train.

The strain temporarily placed on India's resources was colossal and the air and land personnel arriving in this country had for a long time to exist in conditions of material discomfort. Only hard and continuous work has alleviated this situation, work which had to be carried on against increasing demands as still more equipment, aircraft and Allied forces reached this country.

"The End of the Beginning"

More than half of a modern Army in these days consists of engineers, supply services, electrical and mechanical engineers, pioneers and so forth. India's contribution under these heads has been more widespread and more vital than is generally realised. Units of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps were at Dunkirk and on the Maginot Line in 1940. India's Pioneers played a large part in the building of the railway across the Western Desert to Tobruk and Indian units helped to operate the docks during the great advance to Tripoli. Indian Pioneers have recently been decorated by the Commander of the United States Fifth Army in Italy for help given to American Units. The Soviet Government decorated representatives of the Royal Indian Army Service Corps who have played a major part in getting supplies through to Russia. On the Burma front alone Indian units of these types have done tremendous work building roads, airfields and other essential installations on the whole 700-mile front.

In a message to General Auchinleck the other day the Supreme Allied Commander of South East Asia gratefully acknowledged the debt owed by the Fourteenth Army to this hard and ceaseless work which still goes on. He also referred to the excellent co-operation of the Royal Indian Navy and to the participation of the Indian Air Force.

Mr. Churchill once aptly described the destruction of Axis power in North Africa as "the end of the beginning." Two years ago, in a message to the troops in this country, the Prime Minister asked them to hold on. They have done so against odds which are not even yet fully appreciated and perhaps the heavy blow dealt to the Japanese on the Burma front this year may be described as the end of our beginning in this theatre.

INDIANS FIGHT WITH FRENCH MAQUIS

INDIAN soldiers are taking part in the liberation of France. When the full story of their exploits is told it will prove to be one of the most remarkable chapters in the history of the Indian Army.

Reports from Switzerland which have been received at G.H.Q. show that Indian troops who escaped from a prisoner of war camp at Epinal are fighting with the Maquis, the French patriot forces in the interior. At many centres where the Maquis have begun their campaign of wrecking, shooting and generally causing confusion among the Germans, the Indians are working alongside of them, acting as snipers and guerillas.

The Indian prison camp was situated near Epinal, capital of the Department of Vosges and close to both the Swiss and German borders. The town has a small steel works, probably now grown much bigger since the Germans began to move their Ruhr industries and also cotton mills. It is normally a prosperous place of about 40,000 people.

Gestapo Hoodwinked by Indians

To destroy some of the industries and the railway junction the town was bombed by the Allies and the camp in which the Indians were confined was hit. The men took the opportunity to make off to the countryside, hoodwinked their pursuers and the Gestapo and went into hiding.

Some marched by night and eventually crossed the border into Switzerland. Others, helped by French civilians, found their way to the headquarters of the Maquis, who welcomed these unexpected additions to their ranks.

To get to the Swiss border these men had to traverse 40 to 50 miles of difficult, hilly and well-guarded country. They included many Gurkhas. When they crossed the Swiss frontier no one could understand them and an interpreter was sent for.

C.-in-C.'s Message

They were taken prisoner in North Africa during the Eighth Army's retreat to Alamein. To the Maquis they have been valuable allies; one report states that the Indian snipers are giving the Germans "considerable trouble."

The Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has sent a congratulatory message to these Indian soldiers praising their determination and courage. His telegram was sent to Switzerland through the India Office, London.

PUBLICITY PROBLEMS IN WAR AND PEACE

Sir Sultan Ahmed's Address to Advisory Committee

PRESIDING over the third meeting of the Publicity Advisory Committee held in New Delhi on August 28, the Hon'ble Sir Syed Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, reviewed the work done by the Department of Information and Broadcasting and the problems ahead. The meeting lasted two days.

Sir Sultan Ahmed said: It is a great pleasure to welcome you in the third meeting of the Publicity Advisory Committee. Less than a year has passed since this Committee came into being, but already I feel that it has abundantly justified itself. It started with a good deal of foreboding and fear in some quarters, a certain amount of suspicion and doubt in others. Would the public co-operate with Government and could Government co-operate with the public?

I think I can say that our proceedings have shown that such co-operation is not only necessary, but that it is fully practicable. When such co-operation is achieved, it is fruitful to all concerned both in creating understanding and trust in Government's intentions and appreciation of their difficulties and also in giving Government an insight into the needs and problems of the public. Frankness and friendliness have been the notes of our meetings and these are the foundation-stone of understanding. We have been encouraged by your attitude not only to go forward but to try to do better; I feel that the time and effort expended on these conferences by you, as much as by us, has been well worth while and is likely to prove abundantly fruitful for the public good.

14th Army's Triumphant Come-back

Disraeli once said that when one was young one had large plans and high hopes, but when one grew old one learnt that everything arranged itself more or less ill. Our experiment is bidding fair to disprove this cry of disillusioned age, for we find that the more the public knows about our activities, the more it comes to understand them, and the more it understands our difficulties the more it sympathises with our plans.

The first meeting of this Committee opened to the echo of Russian guns thundering across the Ukraine. It was a period of hope but we knew the way to victory must still be long. The second conference heard those guns pounding the



Sir Sultan Ahmed.

borders of Rumania and the thud of the first bombs which heralded the Western Front. It was a moment of expectancy rich with promise. Since then we have witnessed the Russian sweep across Poland, the liberation of Rome, the opening of the Western Front, and now the world echoes to the liberation of Paris.

In Sight of Victory

We have seen the dictatorships in both Germany and Japan visibly shake and reel before their impending doom. We have lived through the anxious days of the Japanese invasion of Assam and we have seen the triumphant comeback of the 14th Army and hailed the heroic campaign in North Burma. We have watched the Americans in the Pacific stride from island to island and begin to rain on the Japanese homeland that iron monsoon which has already shaken Hitler's power to its foundations.

We are, in the words of General Montgomery, in sight of victory. All this calls for redoubled effort so that the last lap of the race may be the shortest and the sufferings and chaos of war may be ended at the earliest moment. But it also opens out to us new vistas and new horizons. Victory is the answer to many of the troubles brought on by the war, but it is not the answer to the problems of the future. It is a beginning as well as an end; it opens the door to the manifold problems of reconstruction as it closes, we may hope for ever, the door leading from the dark avenue of destruction.

My Department is now busy readjusting its mental focus to the problems of peace and reconstruction without forgetting the problems of war and victory, and you will see the effects of this readjustment in the agenda which lies before you to-day.

Before surveying the activities of the Department in the last five months and discussing our plans for the future, I should like to say a word about the suggestions made at our last meeting. All of them have been carefully considered and on a number it has been possible to take action. The mention of some of the things which we have done will be regarded, I hope, as a proof of the weight which we attach to the proceedings of the Committee. As suggested by the members, a full report was circulated based upon the verbatim record of the proceedings. The agenda was also sent out in good time, though I fear, we have had to add two items subsequently.

It was a matter of great regret to all of us and to me personally that it was necessary to alter the proposed venue of the meeting from Bombay to Delhi at a late date, after considering its cancellation. I most sincerely regret any inconvenience which was caused to members and can assure you that it was only overriding considerations of public importance which compelled this change of plan.

Operational Pictures

The first suggestion made at the last meeting was for a security drive. Members will find that this has been taken up very seriously indeed. I shall deal with the subject in detail a little later. An important suggestion was made by Mr. Siddiqui that more photographs and films of Indian troops in action should be supplied. We have taken up this matter with the military authorities whom we found most sympathetic and anxious to do all in their power to help. But the military authorities have their own difficulties and not even they are able always to get everything they want. They have been faced with a man-power problem and with lack of equipment, and we have always to remember that there is such a thing as enemy action which may interfere with our supplies. These deficiencies have already been partly remedied, and we hope for further progress in the near future. Another difficulty in the way of publishing scenes of actual fighting has been the conditions under which Indian troops have been operating. The monsoon in Burma and night fighting in Italy are both unfavourable to good photography. Nevertheless those of you who follow the Indian News Parade will have noticed that there is sometimes as much as 500 feet devoted to the Services and that an increasing proportion is of actual operations.

The suggestion that Correspondents visiting the front should relate their experiences on the radio has been taken up, but a successful result depends upon the Correspondents agreeing to speak as well as upon the radio asking them to do so. We would ask those who return from the front to be ready to share their experiences with the public when invited to do so.

The suggestions made about the All India Radio have been carefully considered. We have not set up any more advisory committees as suggested by Mr. Ali Zaheer because advisory committees already exist. The personnel of these committees are periodically changed in rotation and we watch them carefully with a view to making them as representative in character as possible. We have taken up the question of radio fees and this important matter is now under discussion.

"Film Ke Kahani"

Mr. Laharry's suggestion for brightening the radio programmes by bringing film stars to the microphone has also not escaped our notice. Though film stars are less eager to face the microphone than the camera, the first item of this kind was given from the Delhi Station as recently as August 7 last under the title *Film ke Kahani*. Various suggestions were made in the course of discussion for improving our methods of approach to the public. These have been considered in the planning of publicity campaigns, and you will have all opportunity of seeing how far we have benefited by them as you study the directives which have been placed before you.

Finally, I am glad to say that the Sub-Committee appointed to consider the placing of Government advertisements in the Press reached an amicable agreement at its meeting on March 31. Advertisements have been divided into 'urgent' and 'non-urgent' the former of which the Press has undertaken to publish complete and even at short notice. For the non-urgent advertisements they will be given a fortnight's notice. A great help in reaching this agreement has been the decision to increase the newsprint quota by 1/7th which has considerably eased the former acute space position in the Press.

Five months is a long time in the life of a publicity machine at any time but especially in time of war. A publicity machine, if it is to be effective, must be sensitive to every change of atmosphere and to every wind of opinion; it must not only record the changes like a barometer, but must also, like a ship at sea, trim its sails and tack on its course to catch the changing breeze without altering its general direction.

At our last meeting I mentioned the technical developments in the All India Radio and the great expansion expected in our services in co-operation with the Far Eastern Bureau of the Ministry of Information. I am glad to tell you that the two 100-K.W. transmitters of which I spoke, one belonging to All India Radio and the other to the Ministry of Information have both been brought into full operation considerably earlier than we expected. This means that with two others supplied by the Ministry, there are now nine transmitters operating from Delhi and that in addition to our regular internal services, we have been able to conduct an increasing external service and in concert with the Far Eastern Bureau and the military authorities, to launch an extensive campaign of political warfare and organise important programmes for the Allied troops in the forward areas.

Foreign Broadcasts

Our foreign broadcasts now cover the whole of Asia and beyond. They reach the farthest corner of Japanese-occupied territories, exposing his mendacious propaganda and empty boasts, carrying a message of hope to oppressed peoples and preparing them for the era of peace and security to come. To Afghanistan, Persia and the Arab countries they convey a message of neighbourly goodwill from a friendly India, which has contributed with all its might to the Allied cause and which as a proud member of the Commonwealth looks forward with confidence to a peaceful and prosperous Asia.

Now that victory is no longer a matter of faith but of demonstrable certainty, I think we can look back with satisfaction on the lines of publicity we have pursued, and turn ourselves to preparing the minds of men for the task of tackling the problems of peace, of pooling the goodwill of peace-loving and freedom-loving countries of the world. To this end we are to-day pursuing a vigorous campaign of broadcast publicity beyond the frontiers of India in no less than 24 languages; and as the chief broadcasting instrument of the Allies in an important theatre of war, All India Radio has assumed a responsibility and a significance equal in its own sphere to that of any broadcasting system in the world.

A comprehensive post-war plan is under consideration and is being pushed forward as rapidly as possible. The re-organisation of the whole radio service on a first-class scale and on a permanent footing has also been planned and is now under consideration.

The Bureau of Public Information is making arrangements to improve its photographic service to the Press. When these are complete, we hope to have a photographic service which can bear comparison with any other in India.

With the steady development of controls of all kinds in Indian life the need for information and explanation about them has been increasingly felt. Controls are likely to increase in the near future rather than to diminish and they must last well beyond the termination of the war. They intimately affect the lives of the general public and as such they are a novel feature of Government activity in Indian life. Controls cannot work without co-operation and co-operation cannot come without understanding. There will be no understanding unless the public realises the problems the controls are designed to meet and the difficulties which have to be overcome.

Much can be done, and more is being planned in the way of day to day publicity through the Press, the Radio and our other means of publicity. But there is a need for something more substantial and more permanent which is yet more popular than Government Blue-Books or departmental notifications. For this purpose, we are setting up a special Production Section whose function will be to provide readable and informative pamphlets on the creative activities of Government departments. The Section is now in the process of formation and we are already receiving enquiries and requests from various departments. In this way we hope to fill a real gap in our publicity and to add another span to the bridge of understanding between Government and the public.

Work of Women's Section

The work of our Women's Section has also been developing. The Lady Organiser, Begam Shah Nawaz, has been untiring in her tours and has visited five Provinces since our last meeting. We have worked out a scheme for a network of Women's Organisations in the Provinces and hope this will shortly be put into operation.

The Departments of Government interested in securing women workers, have begun to realise the value of the Lady Organiser in explaining their needs to the women of India and in advising them upon women's problems. Here is a field of great promise where we can hope to render real service to the progress of the country.

The Information Films of India have made further progress in their cultural films and have recently released a number of them dealing with the dances of India and one on "India's Musical Instruments." We are hoping to develop this side of our activity still further. In addition, we have introduced a new type of film in the two minute "Quickie" which is designed to drive home a single point in the most effective way possible. Two have been produced on the "Travel Less" theme. We are also releasing an anti-Japanese film.

National War Front

The future of the National War Front has been a subject of earnest consideration. We have no intention of abating its war activities one jot so long as the war emergency continues. But it is clear that this will not last for ever and will, in fact, end within a measurable period of time. There is no place for a war front as such in time of peace, but we feel that the organisation which has been built up is too extensive and valuable to scrap the moment the guns cease firing. The War Front Organisation enables us to carry our publicity right to the people throughout the country and it has already proved a valuable vehicle for publicity in other subjects besides those strictly pertaining to war. We are, therefore, considering how best we can use this valuable publicity instrument to serve the cause of the nation in the period of reconstruction which lies before us.

External Publicity

At our last meeting I mentioned that external publicity was undergoing a process of re-organisation. I am now in a position to tell you something of the lines upon which it works.

We have two general objectives in organising India's foreign publicity; one is the publicising of India's war effort and the other and wider objective is the publicising of India herself to the world. We desire to make India, her peoples, her culture, her achievements and her potentialities known to the world at large and specially to those countries where we have special interests. We proceed on the principle that knowledge breeds understanding and understanding sympathy. We do not deny the existence of problems and difficulties; we do not represent her as a glittering El Dorado, but we try to represent her as she is with all her greatness, her beauty, her problems and her opportunities.

This work is carried on partly within the Department itself and partly by the Foreign Publicity Office, which, established in January, 1941, was attached to this Department nearly a year ago. The Foreign Publicity Office in the early days of its existence largely confined itself to supplementing the work of the Ministry of Information in the Middle East. But from the very beginning the publications of this office included material about India's war effort and her cultural and commercial treasures. For the last two years, the publicity of India as India has taken precedence over everything else.

The principal instruments of the Foreign Publicity Office are illustrated magazines. These magazines have from the very beginning enjoyed a remarkable popularity, one of them known as the *Bugle* and published in separate French-English, Arabic and Persian editions having reached a circulation of 60,000 and being generously recognised by the Ministry of Information as being more popular than any of their own publications. Quite apart from the extensive information which they contain about India, the appearance of these well-produced and entertaining magazines in the Middle East has done not a little to raise the prestige of India in the eyes of foreign countries.

Magazines, Pamphlets, News-Letters

In addition to the magazines, a large number of books, pamphlets, news-letters and other items have been circulated. With one or two minor exceptions, the material is all sold and is bought in bulk by the Ministry of Information to such an extent that more than half the cost of production is recovered.

The countries in which the publications of the Foreign Publicity Office are circulating include Persia, Iraq, the Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Transjordania, Palestine, Syria, Egypt, Turkey, China and Russia. The last two areas are the latest to be included. A magazine called *India* is now being circulated in Chungking and Kunming. An Indian News-letter in Russian has for some time past been sent to the U.S.S.R. besides several pamphlets. Two Russian magazines are now in course of preparation, the first being an illustrated monthly primarily intended for circulation among Russians in Persia, and the second, a bi-monthly called the *Indian Chronicle* made up of statements of prominent officials and non-officials, state documents and outstanding articles from the Indian Press.

A comprehensive scheme for informing foreign countries of India's potentialities in the matter of trade and production is now under way. This scheme includes the issue of a number of pamphlets on India's products in Persian and Arabic and also the insertion in the magazines of coloured plates advertising commodities which are now or likely in the near future to be exported from India. The principle observed in all publicity material put out by the Foreign Publicity Office is to represent India as a progressive country which possesses at the same time great cultural traditions and commercial

possibilities. We have not glossed over difficulties inherent in the Indian problem but they are never treated as insuperable.

Within the fold of the Department itself, there is an American Section which deals with the problem of India's publicity in America, and, to a lesser extent, in the Empire countries. It was thought best to have material for this purpose prepared within the Department itself mainly because the Public Relations Officer with the Agent General in Washington, who is in charge of the Indian Information Services in America, is an officer of this Department.

In dealing with America, we have to remember that, apart from the very small vocal section, the bulk of Americans are profoundly ignorant of India and her people. On the other hand, the large number of Americans now in this country, bearing their part in the campaign against Japan, is bound to quicken interest in an ever widening circle of the American public. India's position as a spring-board in the campaign against the Co-Prosperity Sphere and a base for supplies to China will extend that interest far beyond the circle of friends of the troops actually engaged. So we have a position in America of little knowledge but growing interest in the affairs of India.

It is the purpose of the American Section to inform America about India on the same principles as the Foreign Publicity Office informs other countries. We seek to portray her as a progressive country which possesses both great artistic and cultural traditions and commercial and industrial possibilities. India is a country of the future no less than of the past and she will be a power to be reckoned with in Asia in world affairs after the war.

Progress of Publicity Campaigns

I now turn to the progress of our publicity campaigns, which also brings us to the subject matter of our discussions to-day. Publicity undertakings of the type we call "campaigns" are an increasingly important feature of our work. They are our way of putting across the message we have to give, and their purpose is to integrate all the publicity means at our disposal into a harmonious whole. Though we need all the guidance we can get from our friends of the public—from the receiving end as it were—I think I may claim that our technical skill in campaigning—our capacity to dish it out, as the Americans would say—is improving very greatly. It is difficult for anyone not actually here in the Department to realise how massive some of these schemes are.

Some of the campaigns we are to-day deploying in the form of broadcasts, press releases, field-work, advertising, song publicity, posters, and films, all playing a part in a concerted plan are very substantial undertakings indeed. They involve the delivery of hundreds of millions of messages—and whereas formerly much of our delivery was in the form of the written word, I am glad to say that we are now adding substantially to this through visual and oral means as our film, song, and field-work activities grow in seale.

We have long been able to reach the literate population, but this is not enough. To convey information, understanding and exhortation to all those whose state of mind and output of work are important for the nation's good, we must regard our coverage of the illiterate masses as vitally important. Big strides in that direction are of course impossible without much extra equipment such as mobile cinemas and village radio sets. But what we can do, we are doing. Progress is all the time being made.

General Savings Campaign

Since we last met, several campaigns have been launched or have been taken in hand for planning. You may have noticed that what we call the General Savings Campaign is now running at full strength. This is not so much a new undertaking as an intensified undertaking. The campaign started in a small way last year, but during the past six months it has been revived and enlarged. Its main purpose is to warn the public against wasting money on to-day's very high-priced shopping articles in cases where buying could, with a little self-discipline, be deferred. It preaches the value of war-time savings, and guides those who save to prefer investments that are both safe and anti-inflationary.

We have had occasions recently to re-state the Anti-Japanese publicity problem for the benefit of our Branches, and the new directive is included in the agenda for discussion to-day. We shall very much welcome your views. In carrying on this campaign we have borne in mind the suggestions made at the last conference, and I am sure you will be glad to hear that the All India Radio has reported a steadily decreasing difficulty in securing speakers and an increasing response to this theme.

Also on the agenda for discussion is the plan of the campaign we are launching on behalf of Industries and Civil Supplies Department. The aim here is to make the various price controls better understood among the general public, so that people may be a little better able to protect themselves against the 'exactions' of the shopkeeper. We are, of course, thoroughly familiar with the complaint that as soon as an article is controlled, all stocks

disappear into the black-market. We do not imagine that publicity is the whole answer; but public understanding and appreciation of an administrative measure do help in no small degree to increase its effectiveness. The public are being cheated by the tradesman to a far greater extent than the actual shortage of goods justifies in some cases and we believe that by encouraging the consumer to know and demand his rights of the shopkeeper, we are making a useful contribution.

Also on the agenda for discussion and connected with the last item is our draft plan for an Anti-Blackmarket campaign, which will form the complement to the campaign explaining the controls. I think you will agree that this is at one and the same time perhaps the most difficult and the most important of our new lines of publicity. The draft plan explains itself. We sincerely need and confidently expect your advice in connection with this scheme.

At our last meeting, Mr. Lawson expressed his feeling that insufficient was being done, at any rate on the eastern side of the country, to make people security-minded. Some of you endorsed this belief. We promised to look into the question of how Security publicity was being managed by the military and whether the help of this Department might be welcome. This we have now done, and have gone into the whole problem with the military authorities. As a result a working arrangement has been reached and plans for a campaign of Security education have been prepared in draft form. This draft directive is for discussion, and we now invite your views before the plans are finalised and the campaign released.

Post-War Planning

It remains for me to mention, last but by no means the least, the draft plan of publicity that has been drawn up in connection with Reconstruction. This again is a completely self-explanatory plan. Its aim, like the aim of so many of the other publicity undertakings for which we are becoming responsible, is simply to increase understanding. I am personally inspired by the range and scope of the post-war planning that Government has in hand to-day.

In the Reconstruction Reports one can indeed see a vision of a new India, and it is an exciting experience, an experience to make old men glad and young men eager. But we question whether the average member of the general public is yet in possession of that vision. We cannot expect the mass of people to buy and read these inspiring Reports. It is not human nature. Our intention, therefore, is to convey the gist of these plans to the public through "popularised" publicity on a very large scale.

In this task the newspapers have their usual invaluable part to play, and they have already done much to summarise for their readers the purport of these Reports. We plan to supplement this editorial publicity with illustrated and visual publicity. We believe that post-war planning must become an affair of the people.

These great schemes, which will intimately affect the country's health and wealth and real freedom, must not remain the preserve of Government officers and the intelligentsia only. Political conditions operate against us in these matters. There is much distrust and apathy and cynicism. Publicity once again is not by any means the whole answer. But there is an information job here that must be done. We shall do it, gentlemen, and I want you to help us with your advice to do it well.

Second Day's Proceedings

Publicity for the controls of distribution of consumer goods introduced by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, was discussed when the Committee re-assembled on August 29. Sir Akbar Hydari, Secretary, Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, was present by invitation.

The members of the Committee expressed satisfaction at the success with which the controls had worked but urged more intensive publicity in order to educate the masses on the working of the controls, closer supervision of shopkeepers and full publicity for deterrent punishment accorded to offenders. In response to questions Sir Akbar Hydari explained the working of the various controls. The Chairman assured the members that their suggestions would be carefully considered by the Information and Broadcasting Department and implemented wherever possible.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to Sir Sultan Ahmed for the friendly manner in which he had conducted the proceedings. Mr. A. R. Siddiqui, speaking on behalf of his colleagues, expressed appreciation of the service which the Department was rendering to the poorer classes.

In the morning the members witnessed a number of documentary and educational films produced under the auspices of the Department of Information and Broadcasting at the Regal Theatre, New Delhi. The members said that the subjects were well-chosen and that the films were of a high quality. They made suggestions for future films which Sir Sultan promised to consider.

In the evening the members of the Committee visited the new 100-kilowatt transmitters installed for All India Radio.

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR ON POST-WAR EMPLOYMENT OF SKILLED WORKERS

"NO plan for the future development of the country can be deemed to be complete which does not provide for technical and scientific training. This is the age of Machine and it is only those countries in which technical and scientific training has risen to the highest pitch that will survive in the struggle that will commence when the war is over, for maintaining decent standards of living for their people. The Government of India is not oblivious to these considerations and would like to see the Technical Training Scheme not only maintained but extended all over the country and become a permanent part of the country's educational system." Thus observed the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, addressing the Technical Training Scheme Advisory Committee in Calcutta on August 24.

The Committee, which was appointed by the Central Government to consider the adjustment of the Technical Training Scheme to the needs of civil industry, consists of representatives of engineering associations, the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, the Employers' Federation of India, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the Supply Department, the Railway Board and the Institute of Engineering. The meeting lasted three days.

LABOUR MEMBER'S SPEECH

Here is the full text of the Labour Member's speech:

Gentlemen: In welcoming you here, to-day, I should like to express to each one of you my appreciation and thanks for the trouble you have taken to attend this meeting. In these days, we are all so fully pre-occupied with our normal duties, that any addition to them must involve a heavy strain. I am all the more grateful to you for undertaking this task of helping Government to re-mould their Technical Training Scheme to meet the changing needs of the country.

I need hardly say how great is the importance I attach to the work of this Committee. The fact that, notwithstanding a last moment hitch, I decided to come down to Calcutta to meet you and to wish you good luck and full success in your labours, is evidence—if there is need for any—of the sincerity of what I am saying.

You have assembled here to-day to consider the future of our Technical Training Scheme,



Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

which was introduced as an emergency measure to cater to the technical needs of the Army and has resulted in providing India with semi-skilled man-power to an extent unheard of before.

Just to give you an idea of the magnitude of the work done in the field of technical training, I might refer briefly to the history of the Technical Training Scheme from its early stages. It was started 3½ years ago to overcome one serious obstacle—the lack of technical personnel for the requirements of the Army. We started with a target for training about 3,000 men at a time, but within two years we had to raise this figure to 48,000 which required setting up 394 training centres. By the end of 1942, we had already supplied 54,000 trained personnel to the Army. By June, 1944, we had turned out 75,000 trainees of whom 63,000 joined the technical branches of the Defence Services and 3,000 went to the ordnance factories. I am sure you will agree that this is no mean achievement having regard to the period within which it has been accomplished.

As I said this Technical Training Scheme was started to meet the needs of the Army which had arisen out of the war. The war, as everybody can see, is coming to a close, and the demand for technical training which came for the Army will abate.

In view of the situation that will arise at the end of the war there are two questions that arise for consideration. The first is: What are we to do for those who have already been trained, and who have been serving the Army, but who will soon be discharged from the Army and would be waiting for employment? The second question is: What are we going to do with this Technical Training Scheme?

Some people have formed the conclusion that Government have decided to liquidate the Technical Training Scheme. This is altogether untrue. It is true that Government has closed some of the training centres. We have now 170 training centres with a capacity to train about 32,000 trainees, in place of 400 training centres with a capacity to train 45,000 trainees which we had in 1942. This is due to various causes, foremost among which are two. One is the decreased intake of the Army. The other is the heavy cost of maintaining small centres.

Government's Intention

These steps only show that what Government has done is to make necessary adjustments called for by the exigencies of the situation. They do not indicate any intention on the part of the Government to liquidate the Technical Training Scheme. If such was the intention of the Government, the Government need not have constituted this Committee. No plan for the future development of the country can be deemed to be complete which does not provide for technical and scientific training. This is the age of Machine and it is only those countries in which technical and scientific training has risen to the highest pitch that will survive in the struggle that will commence when the war is over, for maintaining decent standards of living for their people. The Government of India is not oblivious to these considerations and would like to see the Technical Training Scheme not only maintained but extended all over the country and become a permanent part of the country's educational system.

Industry Should Absorb Trainees.

While this is the objective of the Government, the success of the Scheme must depend upon the possibilities of the trainees getting employment. If the trainees, after they are trained, fail to get employment, then the Technical Training Scheme is doomed to failure. The answer to this question must entirely depend upon the attitude of the Industry to the trainees coming out from the training centres. The whole fate of the Scheme depends upon it. If the Industry refuses to employ the trainees it is obvious that nobody is going to bother about technical training, and the training centres will have to be closed down. This unfortunate consequence can be averted only if civil industries were to show eagerness to absorb our trainees.

Out of the 6,000 surplus trainees, civil industry has only taken 3,000. Indeed, they prefer to employ untrained workmen in the expectation that they will acquire the necessary skill and training in the course of employment or as apprentices. This reluctance to employ the trainees from our technical training centres may be due to various causes. I have heard of complaints that our training is inadequate. Civil industry insists on their technical personnel possessing a higher degree of skill than can be provided by our Scheme, in which we attempted —no doubt under the pressure of war—to give technical training in 8 months which before the war took 5 years.

I am, however, satisfied that it is not at all necessary that a training scheme should run the full length of a five-year course in order to satisfy the requirements of civil industry. Experience gained by wartime technical training schemes in other countries shows that with intensive training semi-skilled men can be quickly trained for most industries.

Industry's Responsibility

If, therefore, the training imparted under the Technical Training Scheme is supplemented by further 'biassed' training, the final product should be acceptable to civil industry. I am, however, prepared to admit that there are faults in our Training Scheme. I am also prepared to accept any reasonable changes that may be suggested to make our trainees passable to Industry. But unless Industry agrees to absorb our trainees, there is no hope of a technical training scheme being made a success in this country. Industry therefore should note that a very heavy responsibility lies on its shoulders.

You, gentlemen, know the needs of industry better than I do. All I can say is, that if the Scheme is to succeed it must have the co-operation of employers and workers in determining its future. We have no time to lose or else we may find that we have only won the war, but done nothing for the peace.

As I have already said we have two questions to deal with: (1) To find employment for trainees who will be discharged from the Army after the war is over and for trainees who are completing the prescribed courses of training. (2) To revise the scheme for technical training as a part of the Post-War Plan of Industrial Reconstruction. These are two distinct questions and we propose to tackle them separately. That is why we have thought it desirable to



Trainees assemble a vertical steam engine at a Travancore training centre set up under the Government of India's Technical Training Scheme.

proceed by two stages. Relevant to the second stage is the question: What changes can be made in our Technical Training Scheme to make it serve fully and completely the present-day needs of civil industry. It involves the consideration of the long-term policy, of providing trained technical personnel for the post-war industrial development of the country.

Employment of Skilled Workers

On the other hand the problem we have to consider as relevant to the first stage is to find ways and means for the rehabilitation of the thousands of our skilled workers, turned out by our training centres, now serving in the Army but who will be soon thrown out of employment at the close of the war. Our expectation is that Industry should not find it difficult to take over these men, especially, as we hope that there will be a post-war expansion of civil industry and a consequent increase in the demand for men technically trained.

The immediate problem before us is: How to fit them to our peacetime industrial structure, we want to examine the difficulties connected with it and to plan to meet them well in advance. To accomplish success in this we have to see what further training and what additions and modifications in our training syllabuses, or introduction of subsidiary courses are necessary in order to make our trainees more acceptable to existing industries. The results of your deliberations will determine what future progress we can make in the next stage. The two stages are closely connected and the second is no less important than the first.

I do not wish to take more of your time as I know you have a heavy agenda. But before I close I should like to say how important it is that we should have an adequate supply of skilled personnel if we are to plan a brighter future for our country. It is only by tripartite co-operation between Government, employers and workers that we can hope to develop a technical training scheme on sound lines. I would here make a special appeal to employers and industrialists. Their specialised knowledge and experience is invaluable, but no less is their future co-operation in maintaining any technical training scheme that may be set up by Government.

One word more and I will close. Is unemployment to be the fate of the trainees who have gone to the Army and who will before long be returning to civil life? Is that to be the reward of the services they have rendered and the risks they have taken? I am sure we shall not fail them. If we neglect them, they will constitute a powerful centre of discontent in industry. Suitably accommodated in civil life after the war, they will help to give stability to industry. They will bring to civil industry the sense of discipline which they have acquired in the Army. It is for you to say what measures Government must take to re-condition them for civil employment. I can assure you Government will not only be grateful to you for your advice but will do its best to give effect to such measures as may be found reasonable and practicable.

COMMITTEE'S DISCUSSIONS

Later the Committee discussed various problems relating to technical training and emphasised the importance of improving educational standards of technical trainees. Mr. S. Lall, Joint Secretary, Labour Department, presided.

The basis of the Committee's preliminary discussions on adjusting the Technical Training Scheme to the needs of civil industry was a note prepared by the Director of Training, suggesting that a joint type of training scheme should be arranged in order to obtain the right type of mechanic. This should be so divided that raw trainees are schooled in particular training centres for a period of 12 to 18 months. At the conclusion of this training period, trainees should pass a specially prepared trade test, after which the successful candidates should pass the industrial concerns as improvers. Further training for a period of 12 to 18 months on production work and factory methods should then be given by the industrial concerns. The note suggested that at the conclusion of this period the men so trained should prove themselves up to the standard required.

Mr. Preston's Scheme

Mr. Preston, Principal, Usmania Engineering College, Hyderabad, representing the Institution of Engineers, briefly outlined a scheme of training for four years, starting training early at the age of 14. He supported the opinion expressed by other members of the Committee that general education of the trainee should continue along with technical training, and that it may be necessary to amend the Factories Act with a view to admitting boys in the technical training centres at the early age of 14. According to Mr. Preston 33 per cent of the time at the training centres should be devoted to general basic education. Under his scheme, the total training period would be 4 years, starting from the basic stage of 14, as in the Sargent Scheme, and finishing at 18.

An important suggestion in Mr. Preston's scheme, which also received support from other members of the Committee, was that the trainees should be nominated by industrial concerns. He said that at the end of the training period he would like to see an elaborate system of national trade testing, where trade test would become a national certificate of craftsmanship recognisable all over India.

Summing up the discussions the Chairman suggested that the scheme may be modified and improved as desired by industry. There could be no question of winding up the Technical Training Scheme, but they should now concentrate on quality rather than quantity.

Last Day's Proceedings

A scheme of three years' course in technical training divided into 18 months' training at the training centre and a further 18 months' training in production work at the factory was discussed by the Committee on the last day of the session (August 26).

It was felt that this scheme would impart both the skill and practical factory experience required for making the trainees acceptable to civil industry.

The Committee further recommended that certain training centres should be set apart for training men for civil industry. In these centres the age limit may be lowered in order to attract the right type of boys of the 14-15 age group, and to avoid the undesirable gap between the normal cessation of school education and the beginning of technical training.

It was felt that it was necessary to improve the general educational standard of the trainees and that at the time of admission to the training centre, they should at least have passed the VIII standard. With the opening of separate centres for civil industry, in the opinion of the Committee, it would be possible to get trainees with better educational standard. It was stated that at present 12 to 16 per cent of training time was devoted to general education. The new scheme provides that general education for two hours a day should be continued throughout the training period of 18 months at the training centre.

The question of co-ordinating the apprentice training system in various factories with the Labour Department Technical Training Scheme was also discussed. In the opinion of the Committee, this could be done if nominees of specific

industrial units were accepted as trainees in the Labour Department training centres established especially for civil industry.

Earlier the Committee considered the existing needs for tradesmen in civil industry and it was agreed that a questionnaire should be circulated to the Engineering Associations, Government industries and Chairmen of the National Service Labour Tribunals in order to estimate the requirements of technical personnel in civil industry.

The possibility of using Employment Exchanges as media for engaging men thus trained and the terms of employment of the Labour Department trainees in civil industry were also considered.

VISIT TO EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGE

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who arrived in Calcutta on August 23, inspected the Calcutta Employment Exchange, accompanied by Mr. S. Lall, Joint Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, and formerly Deputy High Commissioner for India in London.

The Labour Member discussed various matters relating to the operation of the Employment Exchange Scheme in Calcutta and the working of the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance with Mr. A. Hughes, Labour Commissioner with the Government of Bengal. There was also a discussion on Government of India's policy to close down technical training centres as far as it affected Bengal.

Dr. Ambedkar saw a large number of workmen who had come to the Exchange for registration. Mr. Hughes and Mr. Bennett (Manager of the Exchange) explained the process of registration and the card index system.

Rise in Employment Figures

The Labour Member noted that there was a progressive rise in the figures of men registered for and placed in employment through the Exchange. He was informed that according to the latest available figures 1,029 ex-trainees of the Technical Training Scheme had been registered at the Employment Exchange and out of this number 388 were placed in employment. The total number of technical personnel registered at the Exchange from January, 1944, to July 31, 1944, was 2,264 and the number of those placed in employment in the same period was 537.

Dr. Ambedkar and party were also shown a chart giving up to date information about the progress of Technical Training Scheme in Bengal. He was informed that there were 24 centres with a training capacity of 4,164 in addition to 15 civil centres with a training capacity



Trainees making and assembling stirrup pump parts.

of 2,270. Seventeen of these centres were technical institutes and two belonged to industrial undertakings. Up to July 31, 1944, 2,540 trainees who had passed out of these training centres were posted to civil industry. The Labour Member also visited the Government of India Press and the Central Stationery Office.

Later in the day he addressed members of the Trade Union Advisory Committee set up by the Government of Bengal and discussed the working of orders recently issued by the National Service Labour Tribunal.

WAR PRODUCTION CONTINUES

The Government of India's attention has been drawn to reports published in certain sections of the Press to the effect that orders have been issued to all contractors asking them to withhold new production of goods.

It is stated for general information that the activities of the Supply Department are going on as usual and that there is no foundation in these reports, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on August 31.

Ninth Batch of Bevin Boys Returns Home

FIFTY-TWO trainees of the 9th batch and one of the 8th batch have returned to India after finishing their training in factories in the United Kingdom under the Bevin Training Scheme.

The party includes 7 trainees who have specialised in locomotive fitting and erecting. Five have been trained in automatic operating and setting, 8 in general tool room fitting, 5 in central lathe turning, 2 in general welding and 4 in general fitting and manufacture of diesel-oil engines. The batch also includes three motor mechanics, and one trainee who has specialised in aircraft rigging and inspection.

Other trades in which some of the returned trainees have received training are milling, electrical engineering maintenance, instrument making, tool and gauge fitting, electrical instrument making, die sinking, general railway welding and general tool room grinding and machining.

The party consists of 11 trainees from Bengal, 1 from Orissa, 3 from Bihar, 11 from Punjab, 1 from N.-W.F. Province, 6 from the United Provinces, 2 from C.P. and Berar, 8 from Bombay, 6 from Madras and 1 from Assam. It also includes 1 trainee from Cochin State and 2 from Mysore.

INDUSTRIAL STOPPAGES

One hundred stoppages of work involving 45,562 workers occurred in British India during the quarter ending September 30, 1943, as against 267 stoppages involving 3,14,047 workers for the same quarter of the previous year. The total number of man-days lost was 1,77,663 as against 24,31,419.

During the period under review there was only one stoppage involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers. There was no stoppage in which 1,00,000 or more man-days were lost.

Textile (cotton, silk, woollen and jute) mills accounted for 25 per cent of the number of stoppages, 42 per cent of the workers involved and 45 per cent of the man-days lost. In 50 stoppages or 50 per cent of the total, the demands related mainly to wages or bonus.

The number of stoppages in which the workers were wholly or partially successful was 56 or 59 per cent of the total number of stoppages and in 35 per cent the workers were wholly unsuccessful.

Letters to Relatives in Enemy Territory

CORRESPONDENCE for relatives or friends in enemy territory may now be sent through Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son, Ltd. This scheme is not intended for letters addressed to prisoners of war or to civilian internees.

Communications must be clearly typed or written on plain unwatermarked paper. They should be in English or in the language of the country for which they are intended. The sender's address must be omitted.

Correspondence should be of a personal nature only. No reference may be made to money matters or business nor to any phase of the war.

No indication may be given that the writer is not in Portugal nor is it permitted to refer to a letter received from or sent to any enemy-occupied country. The addressee should be asked to reply to the writer's full name, c|o Post Box 506, Lisbon.

Memorandum

Each letter should be placed in an open unstamped envelope without watermark or maker's name, fully addressed and then enclosed in another envelope. The outer envelope should be sent by registered post to Messrs. Thomas Cook and Son Ltd., Mail Department, Bombay, Calcutta, Karachi or Madras.

The letter should contain a memorandum with the writer's name and address and also a self-addressed envelope for forwarding a reply should one be received from the addressee. A Postal Order for Rs. 2 must accompany the memorandum.

A Postal Notice giving full details of this scheme is available at all post offices.

INCREASED PAY FOR I.M.N.S. SISTERS

The Government of India have raised the initial pay of Sisters on appointment in the Indian Military Nursing Service from Rs. 215 to Rs. 230 per mensem. After one year's service a Sister will draw Rs. 258 in the scale of Rs. 258—11—313 and after ten years' service Rs. 335. Uniform allowance and charge pay have also been increased, says a Press Note issued on September 1 by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service.

HAJ PILGRIMAGE

Instructions to Pilgrims

TO enable Indian Muslims to proceed to the Hedjaz for the ensuing Haj pilgrimage, the Government of India have decided to allot ships to carry a limited number of pilgrims this year, said a Press communique issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on August 22.

It added: Owing to urgent war needs it is not possible to provide ships to carry a large number. As far as possible all necessary precautions will be taken for the safe voyage of pilgrim ships, but the possibility of danger from enemy action cannot be entirely eliminated. The Government of India, therefore, wish to make it clear that those who choose to proceed on the pilgrimage by sea do so at their own risk.

Applications for Passage

Another Press communique issued on August 26 stated:

Pilgrims intending to proceed to the Hedjaz for the ensuing Haj are required to send their applications for passage on a pilgrim ship to the Haj Booking Officer, New Delhi, by registered post.

No special form has been prescribed, but the application should contain the following particulars in legible handwriting in English, Urdu, Bengali, Sindhi or Gujarati:

Full name, father's name, age, place of birth and province|State|country, present address, village, post office, tehsil, district, Province|State|foreign country, whether 1st class ticket is required or deck class, amount of passage money sent by postal money|order presented in cash, No. and date of the postal money order, signature and place and date of application.

Return Tickets

The cost of a 1st class return ticket is provisionally estimated at Rs. 867 and of a deck return ticket at Rs. 328 inclusive of food charges on voyage and Jedda and Kamaran dues. This amount should accompany each application for passage—subject to adjustment later. Applications received in illegible handwriting and without full passage money will not be considered under any circumstances.

First class passage will be reserved by the Haj Booking Officer in accordance with the priority of applications and deck passage will be reserved similarly but subject to the quotas fixed for British Indian Provinces, States and neighbouring countries. Reservation cards will be issued by him to successful applicants. His decision shall be final.

Reservation Cards

Steamer tickets will be issued only to persons who are in possession of reservation cards which should be produced at the time tickets are purchased. In order to guard against loss or theft of such cards, pilgrims can affix their photographs on applications if they so desire.

Persons who do not receive reservation cards must not leave their homes for the port as their passage cannot be guaranteed and they may have to go back disappointed.

Unsuccessful applicants will get their passage money refunded to them less the money order commission on conclusion of the outward pilgrim season. Persons who secure reservation cards must reach the port mentioned therein by the date specified. They are warned that if they fail to do so, they run the risk of not getting their passage money refunded.

Children under 12 years of age will not be allowed to accompany pilgrims on the pilgrim ships.

Approximate Cost

A Press Note issued on August 30 stated:

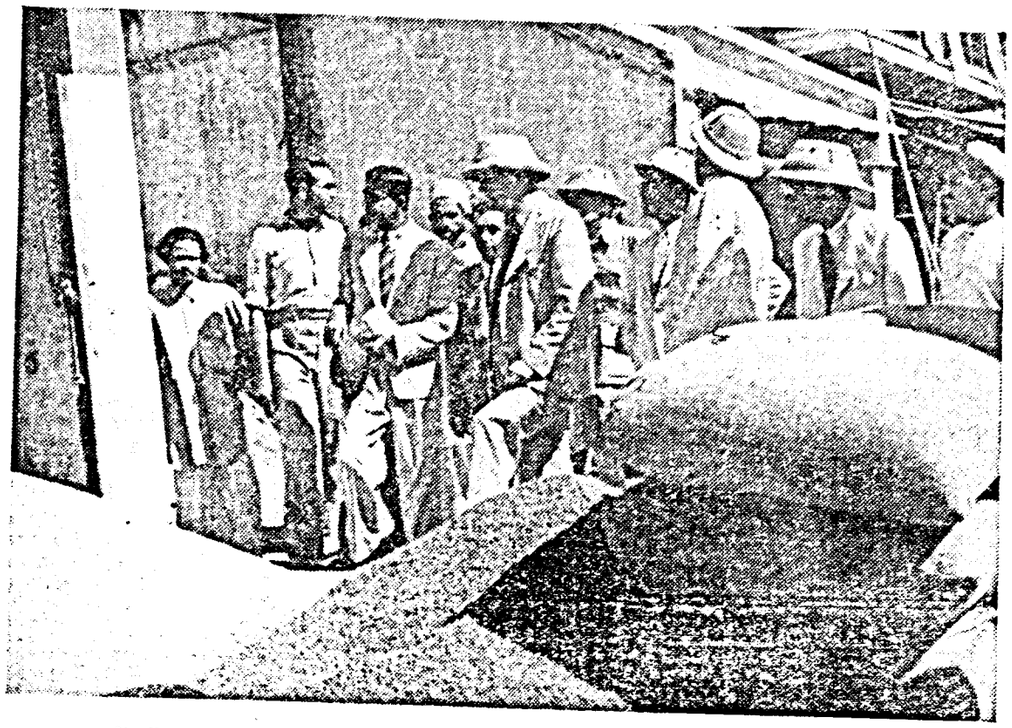
Owing to the present abnormal conditions, it has not been possible to estimate accurately the total cost of the next Haj pilgrimage including a visit to Medina but on the information available at present, the approximate cost will be as follows:

(1) Pilgrim travelling by 1st class on the pilgrim ship and using car in Saudi Arabia, Rs. 3,200.

(2) Pilgrim travelling deck class on the pilgrim ship and using bus in the Hedjaz, Rs. 1,920.

(3) Pilgrim travelling deck class on the pilgrim ship and employing camel for travel in the Hedjaz, Rs. 1,600.

These estimates include steamer fare, taxes payable in the Hedjaz and the cost of transport and living in that country for a period of 8 to 10 weeks. Pilgrims are advised, in their own interest, to provide themselves with funds, on the scale indicated above, otherwise they may be put to hardship.



Sir Henry French and Mr. R. K. Ramadhyani, Controller of Rationing, Delhi, at a grain shop.

SIR HENRY FRENCH ON RATIONING IN INDIA AND UNITED KINGDOM

SIR HENRY FRENCH, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Food in the United Kingdom, who is at present on a visit to India told some Press representatives recently that for the last 8 years he had devoted practically the whole of his time to matters connected with the supply and distribution of food in wartime. He said that his interest in this subject was very great and he, therefore, considered himself very fortunate in being able to avail himself of the present opportunity of visiting India to study food conditions in different Provinces.

Rationed Commodities

He said that although it was less than a week since he arrived, it was already apparent to him that there were wide differences between conditions in India and in the United Kingdom. For example, in the case of food rationing, the distribution of a large number of commodities was controlled in the United Kingdom either by rationing or by some similar means.

In India, on the other hand, the number of food commodities which were at present being rationed was extremely small. In the United Kingdom the amount of the ration in each case had for a long while been held at the minimum level required to maintain the nation in a good state of health under existing conditions. The result was that the average "take up" of each rationed commodity was high for every week in the year. In India, the average "take up" was surprisingly low. Sir Henry said: "I imagine that the explanation of this is that in India there is nearly always some other commodity not subject to the ration which is widely used as a supplement to the rationed article."

Another wide difference between the rationing arrangements in India and in the United Kingdom was that, whereas in India rationing was restricted to large cities and towns, in the United Kingdom it was universal, applicable to



Sir Henry French (left) chatting with Mr. A. V. Askwith, Chief Commissioner, Delhi Province.

the family which lived in the country just as much as to the family which lived in the town.

As a result of a careful study of the rationing arrangements in Karachi and in Delhi, Sir Henry expressed the opinion that the machinery of rationing in India was "running itself in" very satisfactorily. Having regard to the short period during which this scheme had been in operation in India and allowing for the extremely difficult conditions which had had to be provided for here, and the novelty of the scheme itself, Sir Henry doubted whether any experienced person could reasonably criticise what had been already achieved so far as the actual machinery of rationing was concerned.

Present Arrangements in India

Rationing, however, was only the end of a long line along which food supplies had to pass in war conditions from the cultivator to the consumer. "Present arrangements in India for procuring and distributing food supplies both in the surplus and deficiency Provinces," Sir Henry said, "appear to have presented greater difficulties than the actual machinery of rationing."

Two points with which he was deeply concerned were: first, the quantity of grain which was being brought into the hands of Government for distribution either to rationed consumers, or for bulk supply in the deficit districts; second, the quality of such grain. In his view the success of Government's distribution scheme would, ultimately be judged very largely by these two factors. He was aware that the Government of India had these points very much in mind at the present time.

In the different Provinces of India which Sir Henry was about to visit these would be the items to which he intended to pay special attention. In his view it was most desirable that when a consumer was tied to a particular shop for a staple food commodity he or she should, at the very least, have confidence that the quality of the foodstuffs supplied by that shop was up to the highest practicable standard.

TO STUDY MANUFACTURE OF DEHYDRATED FOODSTUFFS IN U.K.

The Central Food Department is deputing Dr. B. C. Guha, its Chief Technical Adviser and Mr. M. L. Khanna to the United Kingdom to acquire first-hand knowledge of the latest developments in the manufacture of dehydrated foodstuffs.

Dehydration is of recent growth in India, and the experience acquired by the two officers in U.K. should be of great assistance to the numerous factories for dehydration of meat, fish and vegetables in this country.

GRAIN SUPPLIES FOR CALCUTTA

As against the quota of 6,40,000 tons of foodgrains to be supplied to Calcutta for the period ending December 31, 1944, latest reports indicate that the Central Food Department has supplied a total of 4,94,000 tons up to August 15. Of this quantity 1,45,000 tons is rice and 1,75,000 tons wheat.

The Central Food Department is taking up with Provinces the question of fixing minimum prices for rice to protect producers against an undue fall in prices.

FOODGRAIN SURPLUSES

As the *Kharif* year draws to a close and the war situation continues to register an improvement additional offers of foodgrains from internal sources are being made to the Central Food Department. An important trade association has recently made a large offer of rice to the Government of India and a reliable report indicates that revised estimates for the Army in 1944 show a welcome reduction in the demand for foodgrains.

THE FAMINE INQUIRY COMMISSION

Further Evidence Recorded

THE Famine Inquiry Commission, at its sitting in Calcutta on August 15, recorded the evidence of Mr. L. G. Pinnell, Special Officer, Civil Supplies Department, who was formerly Director of Civil Supplies, Bengal.

He elucidated and amplified the points arising out of the memoranda furnished by the Bengal Government to the Commission. The Commission discussed with him in detail the operation of the Boat Denial Policy in 1942 and its effects on different classes of people in the affected areas and on the movement of foodstuffs.

Mr. Pinnell gave particulars of the development of the organisation for procurement and distribution, the nature of the difficulties encountered and the present position. The reasons for the failure of the Price Control measures adopted during 1942 and the insufficiency of procurement of supplies within Bengal in the early months of 1943 were discussed. The merits of the proposal made by the Bengal Government at the time for treatment of the whole of the Eastern Region as one unit for purposes of procurement and distribution of foodgrains were examined.

Mr. Pinnell also gave an account to the Commission, from his experience as Commissioner of Chittagong, of the extent of the famine, the classes affected and the organisation of free kitchens in the famine areas.

Additional Storage Facilities

The following day, the Commission heard the evidence of Mr. Ayyar, Director, Civil Supplies, and in the afternoon, of Mr. Stevens, Food and Civil Supplies Commissioner.

The Commission discussed in detail the administrative organisation for procurement storage, transport, distribution and rationing. The arrangements in force for storage last year, the difficulties encountered, the steps taken to remedy the defects revealed and the further action under contemplation for additional storage facilities were reviewed.

Other topics which were discussed included the progress of procurement and the probable future requirements of Bengal in respect of external supplies and the development of the organisation for tightening up the enforcement of the Foodgrains Control Order.

On August 17, the Commission heard Mr. McInnes, formerly Grains Purchasing Officer under the Bengal Government. They heard a full account of the transactions for the purchase of grains through agents and by direct purchases and the effect of these transactions on prices and available supplies.

Mr. McInnes also gave an account of conditions in Chittagong during 1942 and the valuable results achieved during that year by active association of the public with the local officials through the Price Control Advisory Committee.

In the afternoon, the Commission heard Mr. Ispahani, one of the chief purchasing agents of the Bengal Government. He gave a detailed account of the purchasing operations undertaken last year on behalf of the Bengal Government within Bengal and in other provinces. The progress of the *Aman* Procurement Scheme was reviewed and the possible lines of improvement for the future were discussed.

Medical and Public Health Services

Four witnesses were examined by the Commission on August 18 on medical and public health services. They are Major-General Paton, formerly Surgeon-General, Colonel Fitch, Deputy Surgeon-General, Dr. B. Mookerjee and Major Lakshmanan, past and present Director of Public Health, Bengal.

General Paton described the opening of emergency hospitals in various parts of the province and the extensions made to the existing hospitals last year. He referred to the difficulties in the system of reporting epidemics and the delays in securing information about outbreaks in different parts of the province.

He narrated the difficulties experienced in recruiting adequate numbers of doctors and trained nurses and the reasons therefor. When the Army entered the scene in November, 1943, they brought to the medical services a well-knit organisation and set up large numbers of hospitals, for which drugs were supplied from provincial resources.

Col. Fitch's Account

Colonel Fitch gave an account of his experiences when he toured the different parts of the province and emphasised the need for constant inspection and guidance in order to keep hospital management and control up to the required standard.

The Commission discussed with him proposals regarding improvements in the organisation for medical services necessary for securing prompt action in emergency. Colonel Fitch also gave his impressions of the gruel supplied in different free kitchens.

Dr. Mookerjee explained the steps taken to increase the production of vaccines in Bengal and to import supply of vaccines and quinine from outside and furnished figures of the quantities distributed last year.

Major Lakshmanan gave a general picture of the Public Health Organisation in the province and his proposals for improvements and changes required in the organisation. He also described the programme for sinking new tube-wells and repairing old ones and the progress made so far in carrying it out.

The Commission discussed with him the estimated figures of mortality last year.

Hospitals and Preventive Services

More witnesses were examined by the Commission on August 19 on medical and public health services. Mr. E. W. Holland, Secretary, Public Health and Local Self-Government Department, Bengal, gave an account of the running of hospitals and preventive services by the local boards and the improvements necessary. He gave reasons for the shortage in the number of doctors on the provincial cadre in 1943 and the difficulties in recruitment. He also described the measures taken to set up emergency hospitals and the powers given last year to District Magistrates to incur expenditure for the purpose, without previous sanction.

Mr. Holland then explained the scheme for taking over the sadar and sub-divisional hospitals under provincial control as an emergency measure. He also referred to the improvements carried out in the system of collecting vital statistics.

The Commission discussed reasons for the large number of unserviceable tube-wells in the districts and methods by which a better maintenance staff can be employed, and education through schools in the proper use of these wells.

Control of Epidemics

Dr. Grant, Director of the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health made a comparison between the standard of public health services in Bengal and that elsewhere in India, as well as in other Asiatic countries. He indicated the changes necessary in the administration and adaptation of methods followed elsewhere to suit conditions in Bengal for better control of epidemics during emergencies.

The Commission discussed the estimates of mortality last year with both Mr. Holland and Dr. Grant.

Other witnesses examined were Mr. K. C. Basak, who was Regional Controller in the Civil Supplies Department last year, and Mr. A. C. Hartley, Controller of Rationing, Calcutta area.

The Commission, on August 21, heard the Nawab of Dacca, who was Minister for Agriculture and also acted as Minister for Commerce for a short time in the Fazlul Huq Ministry.

The Nawab of Dacca gave an account of the steps he took to establish a Directorate of Civil Supplies and his assessment of the deteriorating food position at the time.

He also referred to his attempts as Minister of Agriculture, to pass through the Legislature a Marketing Bill for paddy and rice and mentioned the initial difficulties in launching the "Grow More Food" campaign and getting the necessary trained agricultural staff.

The Commission also heard the evidence of Major-General A. V. T. Wakely, Director of Movements in the Civil Supplies Department, and Mr. Carberry, Director of Agriculture.

Major-General Wakely traced the work of his Directorate from the time it was established in November, 1943, and the growth of the organisation, which now includes 62 officers and over 1,500 other personnel. He gave an account of the arrangements for reception and storage of foodgrains received from outside and by procurement within Bengal, plans for increasing storage capacity and the quantities that are being moved by all means of transport to various deficit areas. He also referred to the establishment of the country craft organisation, the programme of construction of new boats and repair of old ones and the work of the Movement Officers in different districts, who are responsible for arranging transport further into the interior.

Rationing and Storage Arrangements

The Commission discussed with Mr. Carberry, the statistics of acreage and production, the nature of the errors to which they are subject and the inferences to be drawn therefrom. He also gave an account of the scheme for encouraging the cultivator to produce compost and the help given for distributing seed fertilisers. The possibilities of the "Grow More Food" effort were also examined in detail.

The Commission, on August 22, heard Mr. P. N. Banerjee, who was formerly Minister of Revenue and was the first Minister of Civil Supplies in the Fazlul Huq Ministry.

In a memorandum submitted to the Commission, he traced the course of events leading to the famine and explained his analysis of the causes of the famine.

The Commission discussed with him the facts stated and the views expressed in the memorandum, particularly as regards the scope and effect of the Denial Policy and the difficulties arising out of the constitutional relationship between the Centre and the Provinces and between the Governor and the Ministry.

Mr. Banerjee also gave his views on the extent to which Bengal's food supplies could be met from its own resources and the need for external assistance. He drew attention to the widespread increase in bribery and corruption.

In the morning, the Members of the Commission inspected rationing and storage arrangements in Calcutta.

Mr. Fazlul Huq's Evidence

Mr. Fazlul Huq gave evidence before the Commission on August 23. He was followed, later in the afternoon, by the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy, Minister for Civil Supplies.

In a written memorandum, Mr. Fazlul Huq traced the course of events leading to the famine, the steps contemplated by the Ministry from time to time and his participation in the Conference in New Delhi in 1942, when the first Food Conference was held and his estimate of the Bengal food position at the time.

In the course of his evidence, Mr. Fazlul Huq gave his views on the working of the Denial Policy, price control and the effect of purchases by Government agents and the trend of exports from Bengal before and after June, 1942, when exports were banned except under licence.

He mentioned the gradual deterioration in the food position and the need for setting up a Food Ministry soon after the Midnapore cyclone.

Mr. Fazlul Huq also gave his views on the relations between the Governor and the Ministry and the need for co-operation between the Government and the people in ensuring the success of food administration.

The Commission also discussed with him the extent to which Bengal can rely on her resources.

The First Rescue Plan

The Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy gave an account of the relations of the Bengal Government with provinces in the eastern region during last year, the extent of the help received under the first Rescue Plan, the purchases made subsequently under free trade and the difficulties which Bengal had to face when free trade was abrogated. He also gave an account to the Commission of the extent to which the food drive was successful in June, 1943, and the amounts obtained by requisitioning of stocks and gave his reasons why rationing of Calcutta could not be started earlier.

The Commission discussed in detail the Bengal Government's present procurement scheme and the improvement necessary. They also discussed methods of procurement followed in other provinces and heard Mr. Suhrawardy's views on their suitability with reference to conditions in Bengal.

THE RAT MENACE

Rodent Damage to Foodgrains

Closely connected with the problem of storage of foodgrains which is now engaging the attention of the Central Food Department, is the question of the seriousness of the rodent damage to cereals. The rat is not only the least useful but one of nature's most expensive parasitic animals living at man's expense. Even in advanced countries like the U.S.A. it is recognised that grain losses from rats are colossal.

A U.S. official publication says: "The cost of feeding a rat is generally estimated at nearly two dollars per annum. Assuming that the number of rats in U.S.A. equals that of the human population, the cost of feeding these dangerous pests amounts to approximately 250 million dollars per annum. As the value of material destroyed by rats in addition to what they actually eat is estimated to be ten times this amount, we find that the annual cost of maintaining our normal rat population reaches the staggering sum of 2,500 million dollars (about Rs. 87½ crores)."

Destruction of Grains by Rats

It is calculated that 100 rats eat about a ton of food a year, which in India will amount to about four million tons. All of this is not edible food, but even if a quarter of it were, the loss in grain totals up to 1,000,000 tons, which is the quantity recommended by the Foodgrains Policy Committee, that should be annually imported into India to help the country to tide over the food crisis. The rat is also a prolific breeder, a scientific estimate being that one pair of rats can produce 800 descendants a year!

The economic losses resulting from the destruction of foodstuffs by rats is a matter of great concern to India which is faced with the problem of conserving to the utmost all her available food supplies.

MORE GRAIN FOR BOMBAY

In addition to 385,000 tons of foodgrains already allotted to Bombay under the basic food plan of the Central Government it is authoritatively learnt that a further allotment of 80,000 tons of foodgrains has been made by the Government of India to meet Bombay's deficit.

WHEAT IMPORTS

Over 15,000 tons of wheat arrived in India from overseas during the week ending August 15 and about 10,000 tons during the week ending August 29.

INDIA'S RECIPROCAL AID TO U.S.A.

IT is now possible to give some later information than that contained in the Finance Member's Budget Speech, 1944, concerning the scope of Reciprocal Aid by the Government of India to the United States of America.

Reciprocal Aid is being given under three main categories, namely, to the U. S. Armed Forces in India, to U. S. shipping arriving in Indian ports, and to the U. S. Government itself in the matter of raw materials and certain commodities such as tea.

Reciprocal Aid to the U. S. Forces consists of works of all kinds such as buildings and airfields, stores, rations, transportation facilities, telegram and telephone facilities, hiring charges and compensation for accommodation and for lands and buildings placed at their disposal and the services such as water and electricity connected therewith, labour, repair services for motor transport and aircraft and so on.

It would be quite impossible, even if a large expert staff were available, to keep an itemised and exhaustive record of everything which has been handed over or made available to the Americans and no attempt is being made to do so, but a reasonable estimate is possible of the major services rendered.

Value of Works

Thus the value of works sanctioned up to the end of 1943 is about Rs. 33 crores. Some of the works have been completed and some are in progress. Stores of various sorts valued at about Rs. 1¼ crores have been transferred to the Americans, rations valued at about Rs. 2¼ crores and transportation facilities may be put at Rs. 1¾ crores during the same period. Telegram and telephone services to the extent of about Rs. 85¼ lakhs have been rendered. Labour has been provided to the extent of about Rs. 185 lakhs.

The cost of petroleum products works out to Rs. 5.65 crores. This figure represents only such charges as are incurred in India and does not include the landed cost in India of imported petroleum products as payment for this is not borne by Indian revenues. Tea estates and jute mills have been requisitioned and placed at their disposal and substantial compensation will be payable by the Government of India on this account in due course.

Other miscellaneous services cannot be readily estimated, but they are considerable.

American shipping using Indian ports is entitled to practically all harbour facilities including repairs on Reciprocal Aid. The value of these up to December, 1943, may be put at Rs. 105 lakhs.

India has also agreed to provide raw materials and certain available commodities for the war purposes of the U. S. Government from April 1, 1944. The value of this aid will be very considerable but it is not yet possible to estimate it.

It must be emphasised that these estimates are broad and incomplete. Goods and services are transferred in a constant stream all over the country without any price being attached to them, and no attempt has been made to build up detailed accounts of them. To do so would involve a serious misuse of man-power which cannot be tolerated when other vital war administration is suffering from lack of it.

WAGONS FROM UNITED STATES ASSEMBLED IN SIND

Hyderabad, on the edge of the Sind desert, is usually associated with hot winds and high temperatures. It is, however, the scene now of another example of the joint activity of the United Nations.

Under the increasing tempo of the war, the demand for railway wagons steadily increased. When the resources of the wagon fabricating firms of India had been fully mortgaged by orders for the manufacture of broad-gauge wagons, other sources of supply had to be sought and a proportion of the vast productive capacity of the U.S.A. was diverted to meet the demand for metre-gauge wagons in India.

With a large import programme for wagons which arrived in a dismantled condition for assembly here, it was essential to select a proper site. With the approval of H.H. the Maharaja of Jodhpur's Government, arrangements were made for the creation of a large Assembly Yard in Hyderabad (Sind).

Shipping Consignments

Planning had to allow for the bunching of shipping consignments. This necessitated capacity to receive and store wagons in the dismantled condition totalling double the required monthly output which itself represented a high figure, but the joint efforts of the Jodhpur and N.-W. Railways have resulted in the creation of a large erecting depot which is jointly manned by staff of the Indian Army and the Jodhpur Railway.

Wagons which are of the 'Austerity' design to ensure the maximum conservation of material have been arriving in large numbers. Many of them are already in service and are proving a valuable addition to the stock serving India's Lines of Communications.



Food transport in Bengal. Bags of rice being unloaded at a river siding and on to river flats and launches for distribution in the interior of the province.

RAILWAYS HELP MEET COUNTRY'S VITAL NEEDS

IN spite of the tremendous strain imposed on railways by the varying and pressing demands of the war, no effort has been spared in catering to the vital needs of the country, particularly in respect of foodgrains which were sorely needed in deficit areas.

Bengal has been amply supplied with foodstuffs. Commercial statistics reveal that from July 1943 to February this year, 9,30,000 tons of foodgrains were moved into Bengal, the corresponding figure for the comparative period being only 4,20,000 tons.

The effect of the stress laid by the railways on urgent movement of foodgrains may also be seen from the fact that despite the curtailment of wagon supplies, over 12½ million tons of foodgrains were transported by rail during the financial year of 1943-44, a figure which surpasses all past averages.

B. B. & C. I. RAILWAY'S RECORD

During the past two years, operating methods have been geared to wartime needs, and transportation has been speeded up on all railways; but on the metre-gauge section of the B.B. and C.I. Railway, the unusually high figure of 82.9 wagon miles per wagon day was reached during this year.

This figure, according to the efficiency statistics of foreign railways available in India, is the highest ever achieved by any railway in the world with a similar mileage.

A few railways in India, in common with railways in other countries, operate their own marine departments. The activities of these departments, however, are confined to river operation and, in common with the experience of the traffic departments, a great deal of extra work has been thrown upon them.

Over the most heavily worked section of the Bengal and Assam Railway, the Railway's Marine Department have succeeded since the outbreak of the war in increasing the number of wagons carried over their ferry by no less than 400 per cent. Elsewhere their work has also contributed materially to the increased carrying capacity of the railways.

Lieut.-Gen. Sir Clarence Bird, K.C.I.E., C.B., D.S.O. (Retd.), has been appointed Regional Food Commissioner, Northwest Region, in place of Sir Colin Garbett, whose term of office expired on August 31, 1944.

PRICES FIXED FOR IMPORTED BICYCLES, NEWSPRINT, INDIAN-MADE PAPER AND BRASS UTENSILS

THE Government of India have, by notifications issued under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, fixed the prices of certain makes of imported bicycles, Sissoo timber, brass utensils, vegetable ghee, Indian-made paper, newsprint and other articles. Here are the latest notifications.

The *Gazette of India* dated August 19, publishes the revised maximum wholesale and retail selling prices chargeable by a dealer or a producer in respect of certain makes of bicycles.

The prices that follow against each make are the wholesale and retail selling prices respectively:

Raleigh, Rs. 104-6 and Rs. 121-13; B.S.A., Rs. 105 and Rs. 122-8; Beeston Humber, Rs. 103-3 and Rs. 120-6; Rudge Whitworth, Rs. 104-12 and Rs. 122-4; Hercules (less saddle) Rs. 112 and Rs. 130-12; Dayton, Rs. 123-10 and Rs. 144-4; Phoenix, Rs. 115-10 and Rs. 134-14; Phillip, Rs. 99-10 and Rs. 116-10 and Norman, Rs. 106-13 and Rs. 124-10.

The prices fixed are for bicycles complete with manufacturers' parts in accordance with specifications contained in the relative manufacturers' catalogues. The price in respect of lady's bicycles may exceed the prices of bicycles of particular makes by Rs. 10.

Prices of Bicycle Parts

The maximum wholesale and retail selling prices of a large range of bicycle parts such as frames, chains, pumps, wheel and crank, forks, free-wheels, mudguards, pedals, saddles, carriers, chain-covers, lubricating oils, solution tubes, trouser clips and tool bags have also been fixed.

The maximum retail prices which a dealer may charge elsewhere than at Bombay, Karachi, Madras and Calcutta in respect of any of these articles may exceed the specified maximum prices of those articles by a sum, not exceeding Rs. 10, equal to the freight from the nearest port to the place of sale and the octroi duty actually paid. Dealers in certain specified hill stations are permitted to add 5 per cent. to the maximum wholesale and retail prices.

Dealers in bicycles and bicycle parts, wholesalers and retailers, have been directed by the Controller General of Civil Supplies to exhibit prominently in their shops revised wholesale and retail prices of bicycles and bicycle parts as revised by the Central Government.

The maximum prices of Sissoo timber in the Punjab have been fixed.

The maximum prices of logs are fixed according to size, quality and girth and vary between Rs. 1-4 and Rs. 4 per cubic foot except that a special price not exceeding Rs. 4-8 per cubic foot may be fixed for first class logs 17 ft. long and over and of 5 ft. girth and over.

The price of Battens and Reepers varies from Rs. 3-14 to Rs. 4-12 according to thickness and length and of boards and planks from Rs. 7-3 to Rs. 10-15 according to size. Scantlings (free of centre-heart) and all other cross-sections that cannot be classified under the above classes of sawn timber are priced from Rs. 5-10 to Rs. 9-6 according to size. It is provided that sawn timber containing centre-heart may not be sold at prices exceeding two-thirds of the above prices.

Dealers are allowed to charge up to 10 per cent. over and above the maximum prices for specially ordered sizes. The standard of logs has been fixed by specifying various defects which may be taken into consideration and methods of measuring the length and girth have also been provided.

The Controller General of Civil Supplies, Government of India, has called upon all dealers in Sissoo timber in the Punjab to exhibit at a prominent place in the shop and godown a price list showing clearly the selling prices as fixed by the Central Government. These prices are required to be written legibly in English or in the local language of the district and the price list is to be shown to any purchaser who inquires about the correct selling prices.

Condensed Milk

The maximum selling prices chargeable by a dealer in respect of Milkmaid Sweetened Condensed Milk in 14 oz. tins have been fixed at Rs. 42 per case of 48 tins, wholesale (f.o.r. any town in British India); and Re. 1 per tin retail. Dealers at hill stations are permitted to charge 3 per cent. more than the above maximum prices.

All dealers in Milkmaid Sweetened Condensed Milk have been directed to exhibit these prices prominently in their shops.

Brass Utensils

The prices of utensils made from brass sheets released by the Government of India in the Industries and Civil Supplies Department have been fixed by the Brass Utensils (Control) Order, 1944, and range from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-4 per lb. The Order requires that these prices should be stamped on the utensils.

The prices of all other varieties of brass utensils made almost wholly from brass scrap have hitherto remained uncontrolled. Under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, the Central Government have now fixed the maximum price at which these utensils may be sold at Rs. 2-9 per lb.

It must be emphasised that it is the maximum price which the Government have now fixed and that most varieties of such utensils should be selling at prices somewhat below this figure as is the case in respect of utensils made from brass sheets released by Government.

Vegetable Ghee

The *Gazette of India* dated August 26, publishes the maximum prices which may be charged by a dealer or producer in respect of vegetable ghee. These prices vary between Bombay city and suburbs, other places in Bombay Presidency and the rest of India by an anna per pound in each case. Six pies per pound over and above the maximum prices may be charged for Kotogem (Mody's), Binaula and Sitar (Ganesh Flour Mills) and Cotex (Amrit Banaspati). Prices of small packs of the above, Dalda and other brands have also been fixed taking into account the average expenditure on freight and octroi.

The price of 5 lbs. tins of all brands is Rs. 4-0; of a 10 lb. tin of Dalda, Rs. 7-8; of Kotogem, Binaula, Sitar and Cotex, Rs. 8-1, and of other brands Rs. 7-12. The price of a 2 lb. tin of Dalda is Rs. 1-10-6 and of a 1 lb. tin Re. 0-13-6.

Strawboard and Millboard

The ceiling prices of strawboard and millboard have also been fixed. The mills' *f.o.r.* destination ceiling prices for the more common substances have been fixed at Rs. 24-8 per cwt. for strawboard and Rs. 35 for millboard. Dealers may sell strawboard or millboard in lots of bales of 5 cwts. each at a price not exceeding by 5 per cent. the mills' *f.o.r.* destination price. Sales by dealers in lots smaller than a bale of 5 cwts. may be effected at a price not exceeding by 15 per cent. the mills' *f.o.r.* destination price. According to these instructions the retail price of strawboard and millboard in common substances works out to Rs. 14-1-6 and Rs. 20-2 per bundle of ½ cwt. of strawboard and millboard respectively.

It has also been laid down that on every bale and bundle of strawboard and of millboard the mills' *f.o.r.* destination ceiling prices and the wholesale and the retail selling prices shall be conspicuously indicated. Dealers in strawboard and millboard are also required to display in their shops a list of ceiling prices fixed by Government for wholesale and retail transactions.

Indian-made Paper

The Government have fixed ceiling prices for all varieties of Indian-made paper and board whose manufacture is permitted. No paper of other description will be allowed to be sold after the existing stocks are depleted. Mills' *f.o.r.* destination prices for main varieties are as follows:

	As.	p.
Printing and Writing Paper	*(Per lb.)*	
White	8	0
Unbleached	7	9
Badami	7	5
Wrapping Paper.		
Brown	7	3
Kraft	8	0
Boards.		
Cardboard, pulpboard, Manillaboard. Pasteboard	8	0
Duplex and triplex boards	14	0
Greyboard	7	9

Uniform wholesale and retail prices have been fixed for sale throughout India. Wholesale prices have been fixed at 10 per cent. and retail prices at 25 per cent. above mills *f.o.r.* destination prices.

Transactions in ream lots or in the case of board in gross lots or lots of 100 sheets are considered wholesale transactions while transactions in smaller quantities are considered retail transactions. In smaller towns where the mills' *f.o.r.* destination price will not apply, dealers are permitted to charge for wholesale and retail transactions 3 pies per lb. in addition to the price based on the percentages stated above, to cover transportation and other incidental charges in securing paper from the main centres of trade.

Dealers have been asked to display conspicuously in their shops a list of permitted prices and to show it on demand to purchasers.

Toilet Articles

The Central Government have revised the maximum prices, wholesale and retail, chargeable by a dealer in respect of certain toilet articles as follows:

The up-country wholesaler's issue price in repect of Hazeline Cream and Hazeline Snow has been fixed at Rs. 17-8 per dozen. Importer's issue price, port wholesaler's issue price and up-country wholesaler's issue price in respect of Oatine Cream have been fixed at Rs. 16-8, Rs. 18-12 and Rs. 18-12 per dozen respectively. The port retailer's and up-country retailer's issue price for eau-de-cologne (of Fazalbhoy

Ltd.) have been fixed at Rs. 4 per unit of 4 oz. pkt. Port retailer's issue price in respect of Danderine small has been fixed at Rs. 1-7 per unit of 2-3|4 oz. For Genoza Tooth Paste Large, the up-country retailer's issue price per unit has been fixed at Rs. 1-13.

The prices of Pompeian cold cream, Pompeian face powder, Brylcream, Amami Wave Set, Nicota tooth paste and Amami liquid pine tar shampoo have also been revised and the importer's issue prices in respect of these articles are on a freight paid basis *f.o.r.* any railway station in India.

Dealers at specified hill stations are permitted to charge 5 per cent. more in respect of any of these toilet articles.

Newsprint

The ceiling prices of newsprint have been reduced as follows:

	Price per lb. As.	Ps.
(a) For newsprint in reels:		
(i) at a customs port	5	6
(ii) at any other place	6	0
(b) For newsprint in sheets:		
(i) at a customs port	7	0
(ii) at any other place	7	6
(c) Waste newsprint including clippings and reel ends	3	6

Estrela Battery Cells

The maximum wholesale and retail prices chargeable by a dealer or producer in respect of battery cells manufactured by Estrela Batteries Ltd., have been fixed as follows:

The maximum prices which a wholesaler is permitted to charge a retailer in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Karachi and Delhi in respect of Estrela Standard Cell No. 112, Estrela Small Cell No. 113 and Estrela Tube Cell No. 114 are Rs. 39, Rs. 36 and Rs. 39, per gross respectively, and Rs. 75 per hundred for Estrela flat Cell No. 111. Railway freight may be charged in addition in places other than those mentioned above.

The maximum retail prices to consumers in respect of Estrela Standard Cell No. 112, Estrela Small Cell No. 113, Estrela Tube Cell No. 114 and Estrela Flat Cell No. 111 have been fixed at 0-5-6, 0-5-0, 0-5-6 and 0-15-0 per cell respectively in Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Karachi and Delhi and 0-6-0, 0-5-6, 0-6-0 and Re. 1 per cell elsewhere.

Wholesale and retail dealers in these battery cells have been directed to exhibit the maximum prices prominently in their shops.

AMENDMENTS TO FOOTWEAR CONTROL ORDER

The *Gazette of India* dated August 19 publishes some changes made by the Government of India in the Footwear Control Order, 1944.

In order to allow shoe retailers to dispose of shoes which cost more than the controlled maximum price of Rs. 18 it has been decided to extend the period within which these more expensive types of footwear may be sold to October 31, 1944. Festivals such as Id, Pujas, Dasara and Divali during which large sales of footwear take place fall within this period.

Further Assistance

As a measure of further assistance to the cottage manufacturers who are largely illiterate, it has been decided to abolish the classification of different quality grades for each type of controlled footwear.

In the new amendments the schedule fixing a separate margin for wholesalers has been omitted. The incidence of packing and transportation charges has also been clarified. Additional types of shoes such as Indian pattern footwear and new Bata types have also been brought under control. The Indian pattern footwear includes *jutis* with embroidery not exceeding four inches in area. No ceiling prices have been fixed for other embroidered *futis*.

A Misapprehension

There would appear to be some misapprehension among footwear manufacturers and the connected interests that they can carry on business as usual till October 31, 1944. This is incorrect. The provisions of the Order come into force immediately. The only exception made is in respect of retail sales which can take place in the usual manner till October 31, 1944.

A Notification in the *Gazette of India* dated August 25, also authorises Assistant Inspectors of Civil Supplies to exercise the powers specified in clause 8 of the Footwear Control Order. So far these powers could be exercised only by the Controller General of Civil Supplies, the Additional Controller General of Civil Supplies, his Deputies and Assistants and Inspectors of Civil Supplies.

The Government of India have allowed a small increase in the ceiling prices of various categories of Leather (other than E. I. Kips).

To enable the public to distinguish between sole leather produced by a controlled tannery from that produced by an uncontrolled tannery for which separate ceiling prices have been fixed, it has been decided that the Controller of Leather and Tanning Industry will stamp the sole sides released by him to the controlled tanneries for sale in the civil market in the following manner:

1. Stamp showing the name of the producer (the name of the controlled tannery), (2) the grade of the leather (super sole or sole No. I or sole No. II), (3) the weight selections (e.g. lights, or mediums or heavies).

In addition to the above markings each side will bear one seal of the Inspector on the neck end of sole sides indicating that the leather has been produced by a controlled tannery and released by the Controller of Leather and Tanning Industry for sale in the civil market within the ceiling prices notified.

A different ceiling price has been fixed for women's Platform, Lifty or Wedge heel Sandals. Half Slippers have also been included in the list.

PAYMENT OF FEES UNDER INDIAN PATENT AND DESIGN RULES, 1933

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on September 1 said:

As a result of the modifications made by the Reserve Bank of India, Calcutta, in the system of collection of cheques, the Controller of Patents and Designs, Calcutta, can no longer accept fees payable under the Indian Patents and Designs Rules by cheques drawn on non-scheduled banks outside the Calcutta City area. The Rules have therefore been amended to provide payment of fees by cheques drawn on Scheduled Banks only, as defined in the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (II of 1934).

The necessary amendment to the Rules has been published in the *Gazette of India* (Part I, Section I) dated September 2, 1944.

CALCUTTA HIGH COURT APPOINTMENTS

The Governor-General has made the following appointments in the Calcutta High Court:

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das, who was appointed to be an Additional Judge up to August 31, 1944, to continue as such up to August 31, 1945.

The Hon'ble Mr. Justice W. McC. Sharpe, I.C.S., who was appointed to be an Additional Judge up to August 31, 1944, to continue as such up to August 31, 1945.

PRICES OF BALING HOOPS FIXED

Distribution Arrangements

The Government of India have made the following arrangements for the distribution of cotton baling hoops during the next cotton season commencing from September 1, 1944. The arrangements apply to all baling hoops whether imported under Lease-Lend or produced in India, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 29.

It added: As in the last season, cotton baling hoops will be distributed by the Iron and Steel Controller, Calcutta, on the advice of the Baling Hoops Advisory Committee. The Committee will scrutinise all applications from cotton ginning and pressing factories for supplies of baling hoops and recommend the extent to which they may be granted. The Committee is composed of the present members of the Indian Central Cotton Committee and has its office at Vulcan House, Nicol Road, Ballard Estate, Fort, Bombay.

The Government of India have fixed the selling price of 3|4" x 20 G. baling hoops at Rs. 45 per cwt.

Baling Charges

A cotton ginning and pressing factory receiving baling hoops from the Iron and Steel Controller will have to execute a bond to the effect that it shall not, except with the prior permission of the authority specified by the Government of India (which for the present is the Baling Hoops Advisory Committee) recover in respect of any baling operation baling charges exceeding the rates prescribed by the Government of India.

For the next season, the Government of India have fixed the maximum rate which a factory can charge for pressing cotton at Rs. 10 per bale. The Baling Hoops Advisory Committee will not permit a higher rate to be charged except in those cases in which it is satisfied that the factory concerned has to use hoops more expensive than those supplied by the Iron and Steel Controller.

Any infringement of the conditions of the bond will render the factory liable to heavy penalties and also debar them from receiving any further supplies of baling hoops from the Iron and Steel Controller.

P. AND T. DEPARTMENT'S INCREASING SURPLUS

Public Accounts Committee Meeting

THE Public Accounts Committee met on August 18 and examined the Appropriation Accounts of the Posts and Telegraphs Department for 1942-43.

The accounts for the year revealed a net surplus of Rs. 4.52 crores compared to Rs. 3.41 crores in the previous year. Profits are still increasing, the surplus for 1943-44 being over Rs. 9 crores and that estimated for 1944-45 being about Rs. 11½ crores. The accumulated surplus of the Department at the end of 1942-43 stood at Rs. 6.66 crores.

Savings Bank Deposits

Savings Bank deposits at the beginning of the War stood at about Rs. 83 crores but had declined since then till 1942-43 when they touched their lowest level which was less than Rs. 50 crores. Since January, 1943, there has been a distinct upward trend and these deposits now stand at about Rs. 65 crores. Interest allowed on Savings Bank balances has recently been increased from 1½ per cent. to 2 per cent. provided a minimum balance of Rs. 200 is maintained.

Other interesting facts mentioned at the meeting were that the percentage of losses to the Post Office through theft, fraud and the like to total turnover was the microscopic figure of .009 and that the number of postal articles that the Post Office was now carrying was no less than 120 thousand million per annum.

To Relieve Quinine Shortage

On August 21, the Committee examined the Appropriation Accounts for 1942-43 for which the Departments of Education, Health and Lands, and of Commonwealth Relations are responsible.

The Committee learnt that the quantity of quinine sulphate in stock with the Government of India at the end of 1942-43 was about 189,000 lbs. compared to 220,000 lbs. at the close of the previous year. In order to increase Indian production, an area of 600 acres of land was planted with cinchona in 1943 for the extraction of quinine on the Russian model which enables extraction to be made at the end of three and a half years against the normal seven: 1,500 acres are expected to be similarly planted in 1944 while another 1,250 acres will be brought under cultivation next year. The first quinine will be extracted from these plantations towards the end of 1945. Large quantities of mepacrine are also being imported to relieve the shortage of quinine.

During 1942-43, the Government of India spent Rs. 121 lakhs on Indian evacuees and refugees from the war zones. In addition substantial expenditure was incurred on evacuees of other nationalities. This will, however, be recovered from the Governments of these foreign nationals, the liability of the Government of India being limited to Indians alone.

The Committee on the following day examined the Appropriation Accounts for 1942-43 of the Central Board of Revenue and the Commerce Department.

The Committee were informed that the buoyancy of income-tax revenue still continued. The net receipts (excluding payments to provinces) from this source were Rs. 120 crores in the last year, while the budget estimate for the current year was Rs. 159 crores. Revenue in the last pre-war year was no more than Rs. 16 crores.

Revenue from Central Excises

Another interesting development was that the revenue from Central Excises had now outstripped the revenue from Customs which used at one time to be the mainstay of Central Finance. The revenue from the former source was Rs. 26½ crores in 1943-44 and is expected to be over Rs. 40 crores in the current year compared to total receipts of less than Rs. 9 crores in 1938-39. Customs receipts on the other hand have lagged behind and are expected to amount only to Rs. 38½ crores in the current year which figure is in itself a considerable improvement over that of the actuals of 1943-44.

Supply Department's Accounts

On August 23, the Committee examined the accounts for 1942-43 of the Home Department, the Supply Department and the Department of information and Broadcasting. Interesting information with regard to the working of these departments was given.

The Supply Department have entered into an agreement with an oil company by which the Government of India will finance to the extent of Rs. 60 lakhs expenditure on a scheme of oil prospecting. In return the company will give to Government a rebate of Rs. 5 per barrel of crude oil on the first two million barrels of oil obtained from the new sources. The Supply Department also administer the scheme for the purchase of rubber. Since October, 1942, all rubber purchased in India is purchased by Government who then re-sell it to approved manufacturers. In 1942-43, purchases to the extent of about Rs. 80 lakhs were made.

The growing popularity of broadcasting in India is illustrated by the increase in the amount of fees received from radio licenses. In 1930-31, these amounted to less than Rs. 83,000; in 1942-43, they exceeded Rs. 18 lakhs. The number of license holders on March 31, 1943, was 1,67,123.

Denial Measures

Denial measures and Air Raid Precautions were among the subjects discussed by the Committee when it reassembled on August 24 to examine the Appropriation Accounts for 1942-43 of the Departments of External Affairs, Posts and Air, War Transport, Industries and Civil Supplies, and Defence.

The cost of denial measures to the Central Government in 1942-43 was about Rs. 123 lakhs and consisted mainly of expenditure incurred on compensation paid to the owners of boats, bicycles, carriages and elephants which were removed from areas threatened by the enemy in order to deny to him forms of transport which might facilitate his advance. Some part of this expenditure will be recovered on the restoration of this property—a process which has already commenced.

Expenditure on A.R.P.

Expenditure on Civil Defence (which includes Air Raid Precautions) is shared between the Centre and the Provinces in accordance with an inter-governmental agreement. The grants to Provinces which the Central Government made during the year under review on account of the cost of Air Raid Precautions amounted to about Rs. 5½ crores. A.R.P. is, however, now being rapidly wound up except in certain areas on the Eastern frontier which are still considered to be vulnerable to attack.

Early in 1942 a number of Kazaks had migrated into India. Government appointed a special officer to look after them and they have all now been settled. About 700 have been settled in Bhopal through the co-operation of the Bhopal Government while the remainder have scattered themselves over the North-West Frontier Province and neighbouring areas.

On August 25, the Committee examined the accounts of a number of Departments of the Government of India and concluded its review of the entire body of Government accounts for 1942-43.

INDIAN CUSTOMS AND CENTRAL EXCISE REVENUE

ACCORDING to returns received in the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, the total gross Indian Sea and Land Customs Revenue, excluding Salt Revenue, collected in British India during the month of July, 1944, amounted to Rs. 6,98 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 7,05 lakhs in June, 1944 and Rs. 3,63 lakhs in July, 1943. The total gross Central Excise duties on motor spirit, kerosene, sugar, matches, etc., amounted to Rs. 2,31 lakhs in July, 1944, as compared with Rs. 2,07 lakhs in June, 1944 and Rs. 1,91 lakhs in July, 1943.

Increased Import Duties

The grand total of gross Customs and Central Excise Revenue realised in the four months ended July, 1944, was Rs. 35,57 lakhs as compared with Rs. 20,37 lakhs during the same period of the preceding year. Of this amount, import duties accounted for Rs. 23,87 lakhs, export duties for Rs. 79 lakhs, land customs and miscellaneous for Rs. 35 lakhs and central excise duties for Rs. 10,56 lakhs.

Comparing the figures for April to July, 1944, with those for the corresponding period of the preceding year, there were increases under import duties on motor spirit, liquors, silver bullion, coin, sheets, plates, etc., iron and steel, machinery, raw cotton, tobacco, kerosene oil, dyes derived from coal-tar and coaltar derivatives, electric lighting bulbs, betelnuts, spices, woodpulp, railway plant and rolling stock, metals other than iron and steel, silver and block tin, cotton yarn and thread, artificial silk yarn and thread, and paper and stationery, under export duty on jute manufactured, under land customs receipts and under excise duties on tobacco, matches, sugar, vegetable products and tyres.

On the other hand, import duties on sugar, motor vehicles, wireless reception instruments and apparatus and batching, fuel and lubricating oils, exports duties on raw jute and rice and excise duties on motor spirit, kerosene and steel ingots showed decreases.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO GOVERNMENT LOANS

During the five weeks ending August 5, 1944, Rs. 32 crores were invested in Central Government Loans of which Rs. 14½ crores represent subscriptions to the 3 per cent. Victory Loans, 1957, and Rs. 17½ crores other loans on sale through the Reserve Bank, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on August 16.

INDO-U. S. DISCUSSIONS ON WORLD AIR SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVES of the Government of India arrived in U.S.A. recently at the invitation of the Government of the U.S.A. for a series of talks with American officials on the subject of post-war civil aviation, said a Press Communique issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on August 29.

It added: The discussions which have now terminated were conducted on a friendly and informal basis and were preliminary and exploratory in character.

International Conference

Both the sides were agreed that it was desirable to adopt all practicable measures to promote the early expansion and development of international air services for the common benefit of the peoples of the world.

Questions relating to transit and commercial entry of aircraft as well as constitution and functions of an International Air Organisation were discussed. The exchange of views disclosed a considerable measure of agreement in regard to regulatory measures in the technical field. Both the sides were also agreed that calling of an International Conference to draw up a multilateral air navigation convention would be both beneficial and desirable.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

A Press Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on August 22 stated:

The Commonwealth Communication Council have submitted to the Governments of U.K., the Dominions and India proposals for a reorganisation of the Telecommunication Services of the Commonwealth and the Empire by the establishment of Public Utility Corporations in the United Kingdom, in each of the Dominions and in India which would be separately owned with necessary linking arrangements. Advantage was taken of the recent visit to London of Prime Ministers of Dominions and Representatives of India to have a preliminary discussion on the proposals.

No decisions were taken but without entering into any commitments it was agreed that the proposals should be examined in detail.

B. N. RAILWAY TO COME UNDER STATE CONTROL

The last of the large private railway companies operating in India is to come within the ægis of Government according to the decision of the Standing Finance Committee, which has approved of the termination of the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company's contract from October 1, 1944.

A Press communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on September 1, stated:

"The contract of the Bengal Nagpur Railway Company which was due to expire on December 31, 1950, will be terminated on September 30, 1944. The Railway will pass under State management on October 1, 1944."

Progressive Nationalisation

The policy of progressive nationalisation of railway companies was adopted by the Central Legislature in 1925, but it was popularly believed that transfer of managements during wartime was too stupendous a task to be undertaken. It is, therefore, no mean achievement to have successfully carried out all the major arrangements in the midst of the great war when so many other new, urgent and important problems have demanded the immediate attention of the Railway Board.

There is another very satisfactory aspect of the matter. No better utilisation of the vast sterling assets could have been made at this moment. The country's foreign debt is thus curtailed and its wealth increased.

CONVICTIONS FOR OFFENCES AGAINST FOOD LAWS

Latest reports available in the Central Food Department regarding convictions for offences against food laws in the provinces indicate that Bengal tops the list, with 900 convictions and an individual fine of Rs. 5,000; Madras comes next, with 600 convictions and the largest single fine of Rs. 3,000. Hyderabad (Deccan) though a third with 400 convictions and a fine of Rs. 1,500 leads in confiscation of stocks worth about Rs. 32,000.

By an amendment in the Defence of India Rules, confiscation of stocks for breaches of food laws has been made compulsory unless, for reasons to be recorded in writing, the trying magistrate thinks that this penalty should be waived.

Biography

SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON

SIR Firoz Khan Noon, Member for Defence, Government of India, has a record of public service unbroken from 1920.

The youngest Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council, he is not yet 52, his career can be divided into two important parts. As a young man he interested himself in the affairs of his native Punjab, and for 16 years was closely associated with the economic and educational development of a Province which, having supplied the bulk of the Indian Army, takes pride in its title of the "Sword Arm of India." The second part of his career began when he was invited to take charge of the office of High Commissioner for India in London. After five years in this arduous post he entered the Viceroy's Executive Council as Labour Member, to take up a year later the portfolio of Defence.

Sir Firoz comes of a family deep-rooted in the traditions of the Punjab. His father, after a distinguished career in Government service, became a member of both Provincial and Central Legislatures. One of his brothers, a Colonel in the Indian Army, was among the first Indians to get the King's Commission.

Early Education

Sir Firoz was educated at the Chiefs' College, Lahore, and Wadham College, Oxford, of which he is an Honorary Fellow. Returning to India in 1918 he set up practice as an Advocate of the Lahore High Court. But his professional career was of short duration, for in 1920 at the comparatively young age of 27 he was elected to the Punjab Legislature and soon afterwards had to assume the responsibilities of a Minister. For nearly ten out of the 16 years he sat in the Legislature, he was in charge of various portfolios including those of Public Health, Education, Medical and Local Self-Government.

In 1936, Sir Firoz Khan Noon was appointed High Commissioner for India in London—the first non-official to hold this high office. In this capacity he represented India on a number of international bodies like the International Rubber and Tea Committees. He led the Indian delegations to the International Labour Conference in Geneva and to the World Textile Conference in Washington in 1937. He also served on various Empire Committees including the Imperial Shipping, Communications and Economic Advisory Committees.



Sir Firoz Khan Noon

When war broke out, the heavy responsibility of looking after hundreds of Indian students stranded in London fell on Sir Firoz who also interested himself in providing comforts and other amenities to Indian mercantile seamen. Sir Firoz was in London during the worst period of the blitz on the Imperial metropolis and along with millions of Londoners had many narrow escapes.

An opportunity to contact the statesmen of the New World came in 1941 when he went to the United States to negotiate a trade treaty between the U.S.A. and India. In the U.S.A. he travelled from one coast to another, coming into contact with leaders of American opinion. As a distinguished Empire statesman he received a warm welcome in Canada where the honorary LL.D. degree was conferred on him by the Toronto University. One of the results of his Canadian tour was his work "India and Canada" in which he compared the constitutions of the two countries.

Towards the end of 1941, after five busy years spent in the exacting office of High Commissioner, he returned to India to assume charge of the portfolio of Labour in the Governor-General's Executive Council. A year afterwards he became the first Indian Member for Defence, a portfolio which now includes Civil Defence.

Early this year Sir Firoz was nominated a representative of India at the British War Cabinet. He recently returned to India after four months' stay in England.

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CLAIMS AGAINST ENEMY SHIPOWNERS

PERSONS having claims against enemy shipowners in respect of debts due or cargo undelivered (with the exception of cargo on German vessels in neutral ports) were hitherto required to forward their claims to Messrs. Mackinnon. Mackenzie and Co., of Calcutta, as agents of the Enemy Shipping Claims Committee, London. The object was to assist the Committee in prosecuting such claims against the enemies during the war, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on August 31.

It added: The Government of India understand that the Committee has used and is still using its best efforts to recover by legal process and direct methods, wherever possible, moneys or cargoes in respect of which claims have been lodged with it through its agents in Calcutta. But with the extension of the theatre of war, the Committee's field of action has been considerably reduced and its capacity to prosecute claims successfully restricted in scope, in consequence.

Registration of Claims

There is also in force machinery for voluntary registration with the Director of Commercial Intelligence, 1, Council House Street, Calcutta, of any claims in respect of debts or other moneys due from the enemies and of property in enemy territories. The object of these registers is to facilitate any settlement that may be found possible after the war. It should, however, be noted that such registration does not imply any recognition by Government of the validity of any claim nor that Government accept any responsibility that the claim will eventually be met or compensated for.

Persons who have claims in relation to non-German enemy ships, etc., are nevertheless advised to register their claims with that officer, who is already registering claims relating to German ships. For this purpose Messrs. Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Company of Calcutta have been asked to return to claimants the documents respecting claims which may have been registered with them.

The Central Food Department is allotting a further quantity of 13,000 tons of foodgrains to Madras to meet the food shortage in Malabar.

ITALY TO COMPENSATE FOR WAR DAMAGE

PERSONS, other than enemy aliens, who were permanent residents in Ethiopia on September 11, 1935, have now been enabled by a proclamation of the Emperor of Ethiopia to file claims for damage caused by the Italians during the years of occupation, said a Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on August 4.

It added: The last date for filing claims with the Governor-General of the Province or the Governor of the District in which such claimant was resident in Ethiopia is December 9, 1944.

The proclamation establishes, under the Minister of the Interior, a Reparations Commission to review all such claims and make recommendations. Persons making false claims are liable to a fine of 100 Maria Theresa Thalers (about Rs. 134) or to three months' imprisonment, or both.

The majority of British Indians who were expelled from Ethiopia, or who were allowed to remain but whose property was expropriated during the Italian occupation, have been compensated by the Italians or have since filed claims with the restored Ethiopian Government.

The present measure will, however, give an opportunity to those who are dissatisfied to file a claim for any further compensation to which they may feel entitled.

ENEMY AGENTS SENTENCED TO DEATH

In October, 1943, the execution was announced of four enemy agents who were members of a party landed by a Japanese submarine on the west coast of India. Since then two more spies, who were connected with this party but who had entered India by a different route, have paid the extreme penalty after trial under the Enemy Agents' Ordinance. These were T. P. Kumaran Nair of Malabar and Ramu Thevar of the Ramnad District in Madras, both of whom were living in Malaya at the outbreak of hostilities with Japan.

Another case under the Enemy Agents' Ordinance has also been recently concluded, in which five persons were sentenced to death. They were members of a party who had been landed by parachute in India with money and equipment, including wireless transmission sets.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 299)

STORY OF THE INDIAN MATCH INDUSTRY

THE story of the Indian match industry commencing from the sporadic efforts of a few small capitalists to manufacture matches on a cottage industry scale during the years immediately preceding the last Great War to its present highly modernised position, comparable in efficiency to the match industry anywhere in the world, is told in an interesting article appearing in the latest issue (July) of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research* which is the inaugural number of the 3rd Volume.

The imposition of heavy import duties by the Government firstly on the finished matches (1916) and later on the semi-finished (1924) and even on the raw materials greatly stimulated the initiation, growth and consolidation of the indigenous industry, so much so that to-day India is not only self-sufficient but is also in a position to export matches to foreign countries. As a matter of fact, during the present emergency, matches have been exported to the United Kingdom and to the Middle East.

Beginning of Industry

The decision of the Swedish Match Company to establish a factory at Ambernath in 1924 may be looked upon as the beginning of the modern match industry in India.

The Western India Match Company, Ltd., whose Board is composed mainly of prominent Indian businessmen and half of whose capital is subscribed by investors in this country, controls a large number of factories and supplies 80 per cent of the local demand. It has completely ousted the Japanese imports from the Indian market.

An outline of the stages of fabrication from the raw log to the finished matchbox is described in the article. The exploratory work carried out for finding out Indian softwoods suitable for match manufacture has revealed that *semul* (*Bombax malabaricum*), which flourishes in the heavy forests of Burma, Bengal, Assam, U.P., C.P., parts of Gujerat and Malabar, conforms to the requirements.

Future Prospects

The article concludes with a discussion on the future prospects of the industry; considering the universality of the match as an article of everyday use and the potentialities of the home market, a great expansion of the industry is foreshadowed. The threatened shortage of suitable timbers, about 6,000 tons of which are used up every month, is causing considerable anxiety to the industry and the need for a planned programme of afforestation has become urgent.

Lac—Its Chemistry and Utilisation

Another article of considerable interest relates to lac. India enjoys, virtually, a monopoly of this important commercial natural resin and its application in various fields of industry such as plastics, paints and varnishes, gramophone records, electrical and hat industries—to mention but a few—has greatly expanded recently, thanks to the systematic investigations initiated by the Indian Lac Cess Committee. The article is written in a non-technical language.

The bulk of India's produce is exported as the consuming industries in India at present absorb only a small fraction of the total production. The market demands a product free from adulteration. A new method has been developed by workers in the Indian Institute of Science. Bangalore, which renders possible the detection and estimation of adulterants in the commercial product. The method which consists in determining the optical activity of lac is described in another article appearing in the same number.

The Malt Products Industry

The possibility of manufacturing malt products was first indicated in 1917 as a result of the experimental work carried out at Coimbatore on *jowar* and *ragi* (*Eleucine carocana*). The work was extended and more crucial investigations were undertaken in 1935, under a scheme financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

Experiments were also undertaken at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, which showed *ragi* to be a raw material *par excellence* for the malting industry. Encouraged by the results obtained, a pilot plant was set up at the Agricultural College, Coimbatore in 1942 for the manufacture of malt from jowar; a small scale factory with a turn-over of 12,000 lbs. of malt extract per annum was also started. The malt flour and the extract, either plain or fortified by vitamins, find a ready sale and there is a great demand for increasing the turn-over. Malt flour from *ragi* is being made on a cottage industry scale in the Chittoor District and in Bangalore.

The process of malt manufacture, the plant required and the costs have all been worked out. The plant can be fabricated in one of

the many workshops in India. The work at Coimbatore has shown the way for the production of infant and invalid foods and tonics. The time is now ripe for starting production on a commercial scale. An article from the Central Agricultural Marketing Department, Delhi, on this industry also appears in the Journal.

Bihar Mica Industry

Among other articles of topical interest included in this number, mention may be made of the Bihar mica industry, and the dehydration and packing of molasses.

A plea is made in the editorial article for establishing a close liaison between Universities and Research Institutions on the one hand and Industrial establishments on the other. It is suggested that the establishment of Joint Standing Committees of the Chambers of Commerce and Universities will prove beneficial to both science and industry.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES FOR INDIAN STUDENTS FROM AFRICA

The Government of India have arranged with Provincial Governments to reserve a number of seats in their medical and engineering colleges for Indian students coming from South and East Africa, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on July 12. It added:

Representations were received from the Colonial Indian Students Association, Bombay, and others that South and East African students were experiencing difficulties in securing admission into medical and engineering colleges in India. They could not proceed to Europe for studies and, therefore, they appealed to the Government of India to secure them seats in colleges in India.

Reservation of Seats

Arrangements have now been made to reserve a limited number of seats for colonial Indian students. The Governments of Bombay and Madras have reserved two seats each in their medical and engineering colleges. The United Provinces Government have reserved four seats in their medical college and two seats in their engineering colleges. The Government of Bihar have promised to reserve a seat in their medical college from 1945.

This arrangement is for the duration of the war.

RUBBER DELIVERIES UNDER BONUS SCHEME

Deliveries of rubber to Government in the first period of the Production Bonus Scheme introduced in April last have fallen short of the tonnage required to maintain the bonus for the second quarter. The bonus of Rs. 11-1-9 per 100 lbs. on rubber delivered to Government is, therefore, withdrawn with effect from August 1, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the office of the Rubber Controller on August 3.

It added: The Scheme provided for bonus payments for rubber ranging from Rs. 11-1-9 to Rs. 33-5-3 per 100 lbs. over the existing price based on the production achieved during each year. A basic annual production figure was fixed and divided into appropriate quarterly quotas. As production results in 1943 exceeded the base by the necessary proportion an immediate bonus of Rs. 11-1-9 per 100 lbs. was paid in respect of all rubber delivered to Government between April 10 and July 31. It was, however, provided in the Scheme that if production during the first quarter was not maintained at a high rate the bonus will be withdrawn for the second quarterly period. Under this provision, the bonus for the remaining period of the second quarter has lapsed automatically.

Information received by Government indicates that although production during the period, April 1 to July 31, showed increase more than sufficient to have maintained the bonus, this rubber has not been delivered to Government.

If the rubber now being held is delivered to Government before September 30, 1944, it is likely that the bonus for the ensuing quarter will be reinstated.

CONTROL ORDER AMENDED

To ensure the prompt delivery of rubber to Government, and to discourage unauthorised holding, certain amendments to the Rubber Control and Production Order, 1942, are published in a *Gazette Extraordinary,* dated August 21.

The possession of rubber, other than by the owners or occupants of estates and holdings, and authorised dealers and manufacturers, is prohibited, and contravention may render the rubber liable to be confiscated.

Powers are also taken by the Government to compel any person to sell to the Government the whole or a portion of his stocks if the Government is satisfied that rubber is being unduly withheld from sale.

The Governments of Travancore and Cochin have been invited to incorporate similar amendments in their Rubber Control Orders.

TO PREVENT DISPOSAL OF ILL-GOTTEN GAINS

WARTIME conditions have inevitably provided opportunities for defrauding Government on a large scale and a number of cases have unfortunately occurred in which dishonest persons have not been slow to take advantage of these opportunities, said a Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on August 22.

It added: Government consider it their plain duty to take every possible step to prevent these practices and bring the offenders to book; and it has been brought to their notice that the ends of justice have been seriously obstructed by the ability of offenders so to dispose or conceal their ill-gotten gains, as to avoid their eventual recoupment to Government, and thus render it more difficult to substantiate the charges against them.

Special Powers

After full consideration and consultation with Provincial Governments it has been decided to take special powers to prevent the disposal or concealment of property procured by means of certain offences and the result is the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944, promulgated today, which provides powers to attach or "freeze" assets of the kind under consideration. Government fully recognise the exceptional nature of these powers. They believe, however, that they are justified by the emergency; and the provisions of the Ordinance have been drawn with care to provide safeguards. The powers of attachment are strictly limited; their exercise has been placed in the hands of the Courts; and there is full provision for appeals.

ENEMY AGENTS SENTENCED TO DEATH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 296)

These five persons were Ajaib Singh of the Amritsar District and Zahur Ahmed of the Sheikhupura District in the Punjab; S. L. Mazumdar of the Chittagong District in Bengal; and Audeshwar Rai and Sham Lal Pande of the Gorakhpur District in the United Provinces. Their convictions and sentences were confirmed by the Judge of the High Court who reviewed the cases, but the death sentences passed on the two last mentioned persons have been commuted to transportation for life.

COAL PRODUCTION FUND ORDINANCE

AN Ordinance promulgated to-day enforces the levy of a cess on coal produced in British India, or imported from abroad or Indian States. The proceeds of the cess will constitute the coal production fund to finance activities for the improvement of the production, marketing and distribution of coal, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on August 25.

It added: Government has recently undertaken various measures involving large expenditure in order to help solve the coal problem.

Firstly, there are not enough regular coalminers for a large increase in production, and it has, therefore, been necessary to import labour in organised gangs from other areas. This labour is naturally not skilled in mining, it has to be housed and it is, therefore, more expensive per ton of coal produced than regular mining labour is. Also, in order to encourage colliery owners to increase production, a bonus is being paid them free of Excess Profits Tax on all production above a target figure based on past performance.

To meet this expenditure and any other which may be necessary to incur in order to increase production and improve the distribution of coal, Government has decided to levy a cess not exceeding Rs. 1-4-0 per ton (the actual amount will depend upon the sum actually required) on every ton of coal dispatched.

Powers have also been taken to levy a corresponding customs duty on coal imported from foreign countries or Indian States.

INSURANCE AGAINST WAR INJURIES

Special Officers will shortly be appointed by the Central Government for the purposes of the War Injuries Compensation Insurance Scheme.

Generally speaking the duty of these Officers will be to ascertain whether the requirements of the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act have been complied with. They will also see that those who are required to insure have actually insured and that there is no understatement in regard to the men employed and the wages paid in the application forms submitted by employers.

Employers who are required to take out policies of insurance, but have not done so, are liable to severe penalties under the Act if they do not apply for insurance in the prescribed form to any of the Government Agents appointed for the purpose.

JAPS EXPELLED FROM INDIA: HUMAN DESOLATION ON THE TIDDIM ROAD

OUR forward patrols have crossed over the 75 milestone on the Tiddim Road—the milestone that separates India from Burma. This means that there are no organised Japs left on Indian soil and that the great "March On Delhi" which went into reverse at Kohima three months ago is over.

Driven across the Burma border at Tamu, to straggle back dispirited and defeated to the Chindwin, the Japs have now been also pushed over the border on the other road to India, said an Indian Army Observer writing from Tamu on August 20. Now the whole road from Imphal to the Burma border is free of them and the last Jap invader has staggered out of India.

Only a few odd stragglers left starving, and abandoned by their comrades, crawl feebly out on to the road and wait for our advancing troops to pick them up. They are the lucky ones; the others are found dying in jungle holes and primitive bamboo shelters, too ill to crawl away. Most of these die before they can reach our nearest medical post.

Drive from Imphal

The drive from Imphal to the front line tells its own story of the defeat of the Japanese Imperial Army. Twenty miles south of Imphal on the Tiddim road are the carcasses of Jap tanks and lorries, grim reminders of the battle which finally broke them and caused them to retreat as fast as they could from the plains of Manipur to where the Tiddim road rises abruptly into the hills, with our army in full cry after them. After this battlefield the whole road bears unmistakable signs of a rout.

Burnt out trucks marked with the Red Rising Sun of Nippon hang crazily over the high gorges. Boots, rifles and dead men, looking like evil smelling bundles of rags, lie at the side of the road. Every few minutes as you jeep up the road, edging carefully past bomb craters made by our close support aircraft, comes the smell that denotes dead Japs in the jungle by the roadside.

As our tanks and infantry go steadily up the road they find little fight in the Japs. There are fierce little battles for hill tops and road bends when a handful of Japs with machine-guns try to cover their retreat but they never last for more than a few hours.

Dramatic details are coming in daily from scouts and light mobile troops which reveal the full extent of the Jap rout. Runners arrive at a little bamboo-camouflaged truck off the road bearing strange tales of the Jap retreat. Two stories which came in to-day reveal the plight of the Japs.

One of our mobile formations hearing that there were some Japs resting in a Chin village burst in on them. Sitting round a cooking pot were a group of skeleton-like men with greenish complexions clothed in rags. When our patrol fired on them they fled into the jungle without making a shot in reply. In the cooking pot was their evening meal, which was a simmering mess of jungle grass.

A few days ago under cover of darkness three Jap trucks rumbled slowly across one of the crossings of the Manipur River. A friendly villager peered into the trucks. Each vehicle was full of dead men's hands. Having no time to cremate their dead the Japs cut off a hand which they burn behind their lines so that some ashes of the dead soldiers of Nippon might be returned to his homeland and placed in the shrine of his ancestors.

The Japanese army which invaded India had many orders from its commanders, most of which we prevented them from carrying out. But one Jap commander issued an Order of the Day which told his men to "join in a spiritual union of happy death."

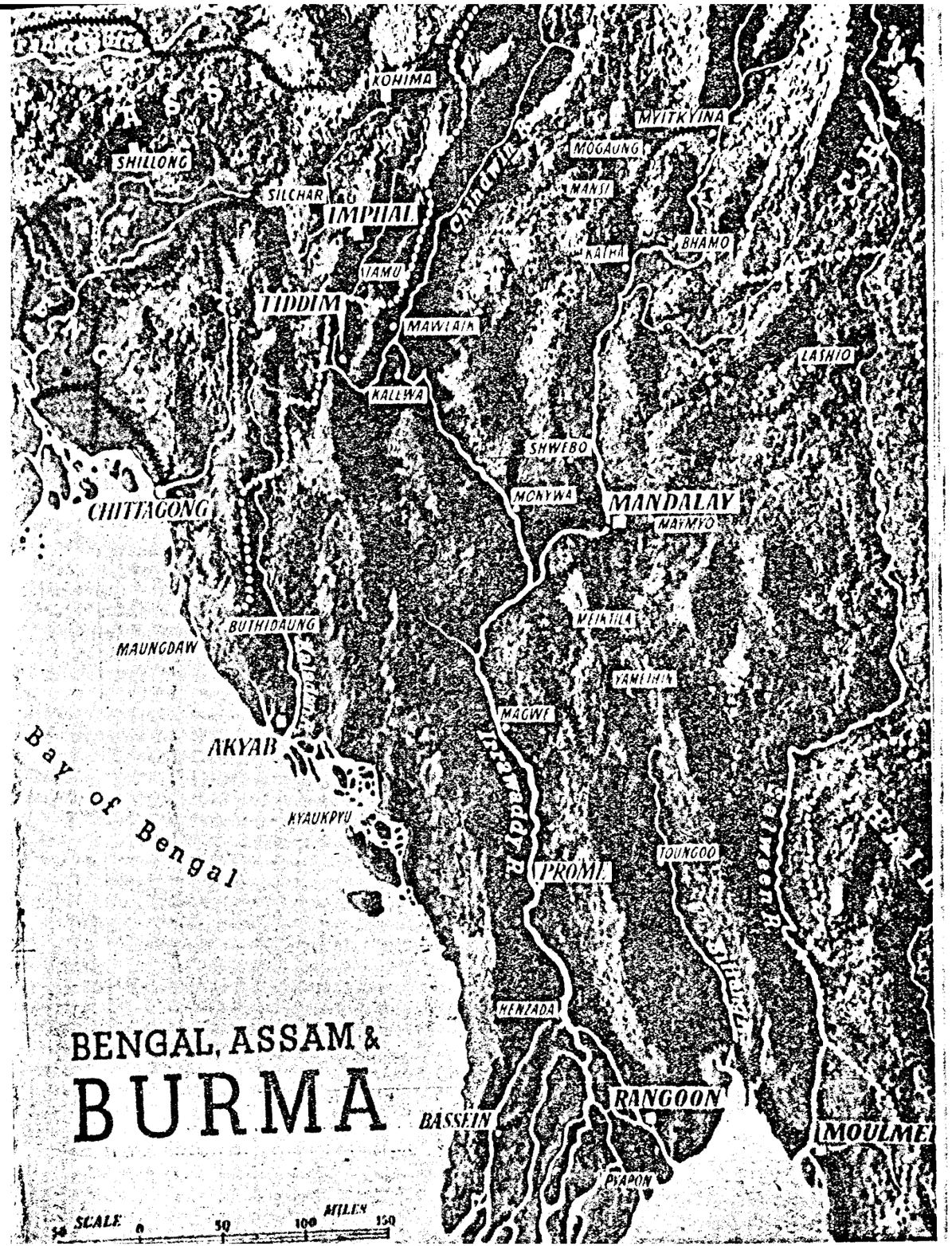
This is one order they have been able to obey. Anyone who has watched their retreat on this front can testify that there is no doubt that most of them are now so united.

ARAKAN TANKS KILL 400 JAPS

It can now be disclosed that tanks of the Indian Armoured Corps, hidden till the moment Japs thought our forces had withdrawn and they had an easy task, obtained decisive results and killed 400 Japs whom they surprised in an Arakan clash. The action had a considerable effect on the course of operations in the Arakan before the monsoon made the ground unworkable for tanks.

The tank commanders' plan was based on leaving the flat paddy country and keeping to the hills as the paddy was likely to be flooded, wrote an Indian Army Observer from Maungdaw on August 29. A captured Jap order had indicated that they believed that one division and our armour had already been withdrawn from the Arakan.

The day before a brigade sweep in Buthidaung was due to move, the Japs made a general attack in strength and cut off the Brigade H.Q. and two battalions. One squadron of tanks had been retained for just such an emergency and



was quickly on the scene. They killed a large number of enemy, who were obviously surprised as they were caught in the open.

One 75 mm. gun was seen going into action. The crew were shot and the gun was overrun.

Afterwards, in small troop actions, the tanks covered the move of the Brigade H.Q., two battalions and a battery of guns. This was accomplished with negligible casualties, those that occurred being evacuated on the tanks.

"There is no doubt that the presence of the tanks came as a complete surprise," said an officer. "Almost all the 400 Japs killed were disposed of directly by the tanks."

INDIANS ROUT JAP PARTY

Three men of the 3rd Madras Regiment on patrol in dense jungle broke up a party of 15 Japs. Lance-Naik Krishna Reddy of Kanipakkapatanam village, Chittoor district, Madras Presidency, heard a noise behind him and on turning saw the Japs, one of whom was in the act of throwing a grenade. The grenade burst, wounding the N.C.O. and another man, but the naik gave the Japs a well-aimed burst from his tommy-gun and killed two. The rest fled.

FOR GALLANTRY ON BURMA FRONT

Posthumous V.C. for Sgt. H. Turner

FOR gallantry on the Burma Front, which, in the words of the citation, "will ever be remembered in the regiment," Sgt. Harold Turner of the West Yorkshire Regiment has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross.

Saying, "I will sort them out," Sgt. Turner single-handed stormed a Jap position five times with grenades, defying intense small arms fire, to prevent the enemy outflanking his platoon. He was killed while making a sixth attempt.

Each time he returned, he jokingly gave his estimate of the number of Japs he had killed. Next morning 12 dead were counted; others had already been removed by the Japs.

At Ningthoukhong, south of Bishenpur, soon after midnight on June 7, Japs heavily armed with machine-guns attacked the Battalion. The first weight of the attack largely fell on a sector held by a weak platoon in which Sgt. Turner was second-in-command.



Jeeps and trucks moving forward through slush and mud on the Palel-Tamu Road while sappers and miners of a Bengal Field Company keep the road clear of landslides.

Using grenades with deadly effect the enemy forced the platoon to give ground. The platoon commander was killed.

Sgt. Turner immediately took charge and, "with a rare coolness and fine leadership," quickly reorganised the party 40 yards behind the original line. For two hours he and his dwindling group of 20 men beat off repeated and determined counter-attacks.

When it was clear that the enemy were trying to outflank his position Sgt. Turner determined to take the initiative. But the men left under his command were the minimum required to maintain the position and speed was essential if the enemy were to be frustrated.

The Citation

The citation says: "Without the slightest hesitation he at once, boldly and fearlessly, went forward from his position alone, armed with all the hand grenades he could carry, and went into the attack against the enemy single-handed.

"He used his weapons with devastating effect. When his supply was exhausted he went back for more and returned to the offensive again. During all this the enemy were keeping up intense small arms and grenade fire.

"For the second time he went and bombed the enemy. Again his supply of grenades was used up but he was so determined in his purpose that he went back for more and set off on a third killing mission. In all he made five journeys and it was on the sixth occasion, still single-handed, while throwing a grenade among a party of the enemy that he was killed and fell.

"His conduct on that night will ever be remembered within the regiment. His superb leadership and undaunted will to win in the early stages of the attack was undoubtedly instrumental in preventing the enemy plan from succeeding.

"His personal bravery and offensive spirit in going out alone repeatedly, showed devotion to duty of the highest order. The number of dead enemy found the next morning was ample evidence of the deadly effect his grenade throwing had had.

"He displayed outstanding valour and had not the slightest thought of his own safety. He died on the battlefield in a spirit of supreme self-sacrifice."

PATIALA INFANTRY'S VICTORIES

A battalion of the 1st Patiala Infantry have gained many successes against Japs on the Imphal Front. One of their most recent objectives was a hill feature east of Imphal —a good observation post nearly 4,600 feet high and 15 miles across from where they were. The enemy were well dug in on this steep height and isolated from all directions.

One morning Naik Mohendar Singh, 11 years with the battalion and an experienced soldier, went with another Naik and silently crept into the enemy positions, writes an Indian Army Observer. After staying there for four hours and gauging their defences, he returned to his H.Q. and volunteered to take a section into the midst of the enemy.

The same evening one of their companies started and arrived behind the enemy lines of communication next morning at an appointed time. Another company was sent later to approach the enemy position from the north but they remained hiding until the signal was given to attack.

When the 'O.K.' was heard from both companies, the Naik and his section slowly crept to the enemy position and lay in wait there. Half an hour later the company coming from the north started a vigorous attack and the enemy opened fire. Immediately the Naik and his section shouted "Sat Sri Akal" from the centre of the enemy position itself, which was followed by the same war cry by the attacking company.

The enemy was confused, stopped firing and dispersed immediately, leaving the feature to us. We captured the position without casualties on our side. One Jap was killed and many wounded. The enemy did not retreat along his lines of communication to avoid suffering a worse fate; instead he scattered indiscriminately.

Latest Victory

Two long notes on the bugle, ringing out in the jungle as a success signal, marked the latest victory over the Japs in the Tamu sector. They were blown by the bugler of a forward company of the First Patiala Infantry, whose wireless sets were temporarily out of commission, to announce to troops following up that Ralph Hill, a feature near Chimol, had been taken.



H. H. the Maharaja of Jaipur talking to Hav. Major Sagar Ram of Narhra, Jaipur, during his visit to Indian State troops serving in Italy.

The Company "boxed" the enemy going to the rear of his gun positions and forward troops and completely surprised him, writes an Indian Army Observer. The Japs, who were 200 strong, knew of the attackers' presence only when they were within 250 yards—they then opened fire. The Patialas had no supporting arms or mortars but pressed home the attack, killing 83 and taking four prisoners.

Motor vehicles, wireless equipment, maps and documents were found on the scene. The Patialas also claim a ribbon of the Order of the Rising Sun, left behind by a Jap general who had no time to pack his kit.

Difficult Terrain

All along the road to Tamu are similar indications of Jap speed in retreat. Paddy is growing on their abandoned rice bags; ammunition, rations, staff cars, trucks and pack saddles lie everywhere.

Punjabi, Mahratta and Rajput troops are pushing forward with the First Patiala Infantry. Deep mud, ravines and monsoon torrents must constantly be faced and landslides appear with dramatic suddenness. All the time the rain beats down through a thick mist.

The men have had little time to rest and have been sleeping in knee-deep slush.

RETURN FROM BURMA

After more than two years on the Burma Front, during which they killed hundreds of Japs and captured 15 enemy flags, men of a battalion of the 1st Patiala (Rajendra Sikhs) Infantry were recently on their way home to Patiala on leave. Senior officers of the Indian Army gathered at Delhi station to greet them as they passed through.

The departure of the battalion for Patiala State from Delhi station presented a remarkable sight. As the train moved off, out came the 15 captured flags which were tied to the handrails by the troops.

As the train gathered speed the emblems, symbols of one of the greatest of Jap defeats of the war in which the men of Patiala had taken so notable a part, fluttered out as stirring demonstration of the jungle warriors' victory.

Major-General C. O. Harvey, Military Adviser-in-Chief, Indian States Forces, accompanied by Brig. H. D. H. Y. Nepean, Deputy Military Adviser-in-Chief, inspected the battalion in the Auchinleck *Aramgah* at the station.

Lt.-Col. Balwant Singh, the Commanding Officer, who was recently awarded the C.B.E., for his leadership of the battalion, introduced his company commanders to Gen. Harvey. The General talked to the men and heard something of their adventures.

C.-in-C.'s Message of Welcome

The Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, sent the men a message of welcome. "I realised when I saw you last November what a magnificent record you were building up for yourselves," he said. "'Riasat Patiala' has every reason to be proud of your achievements. I wish you all a good time on leave and may every man return fit to battle."

This battalion took part in the defeat of the Japs in Manipur.

"Sat Sri Akal"

Shouting *Sat Sri Akal*, their war cry, the Patiala Infantry made many raids into enemy-occupied territory. During one of these they planted a hastily improvised Union Jack on a captured Jap civil post. When someone remarked that the design was not accurate the Commanding Officer said, "Don't worry—it's the right spirit."

One of the warmest tributes which the battalion has received was paid by General W. J. Slim, Commander of the 14th Army, who told General Harvey that this was one of the best units which had served under him.

NEPAL'S CONTRIBUTION TO ST. DUNSTAN'S

The G.O.C.-in-C. of the Nepalese Contingent in India, Lt.-Gen. Sir Krishna Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana, has sent a cheque for Rs. 10,000 to the Commander-in-Chief on behalf of the Maharaja of Nepal as a contribution to the All India Committee of St. Dunstan's.

The C.-in-C. has forwarded the cheque to Sir Clutha MacKenzie of the St. Dunstan's Home for the Blind, Dehra Dun.

Acknowledging the gift in a personal letter to General Sir Joodha Shamshere Jung Bahadur Rana, Prime Minister and Supreme C.-in-C. of Nepal, General Auchinleck mentions his own recent visit to the Home in Dehra Dun, assuring him that the money will be put to very good use.

A JAP-HEAD HUNTER



A Haka levy cutting bamboo into twine to build a shack.

NAGAS HELP DEFEND INDIA

THE Nagas, who are doing such a good job of work on the Assam-Burma border, were head-hunters until recently but now their hunting is confined to Japanese heads. Courage and loyalty are in the blood of these doughty hillmen of Manipur, whose militant "Home Guard" helped in knocking the eyes out of the Japanese "face".

These picturesque hill tribes inhabiting part of the wild expanse of forest, mountain and stream between the Brahmaputra Valley and Upper Burma, had a passion for head hunting, and in 1936 an expeditionary force was sent into the Naga hills to put down this practice. To-day they have taken to new ways; and know the arts not only of destruction but of creation, not only of killing the Japs but of tending our wounded.

The Nagas live in bamboo huts with plaster over them. In choosing sites for their villages

they show a partiality for the tops of hills which afford them a natural defence. To reach a village you have to go up a long series of steps at the end of which is a heavy wooden door, apparently set in a wall. You negotiate another series of steps, to be rewarded by the sight of another door. Then comes a man-driven hole in a large rock just enough for one person to get through, and you are in the village at last.

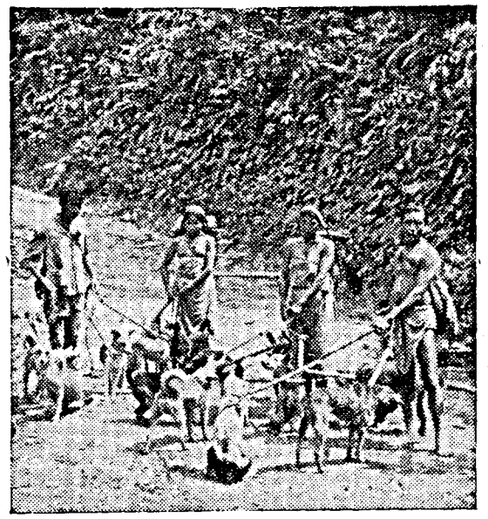
The Nagas practise agriculture and fishing, the latter mainly with the use of intoxicants which kill or incapacitate the fish. Dogs are reared for food as well as hunting. The Nagas' favourite drink is Zu, their native wine, which they drink in a big wooden horn. Arts and crafts include weaving (on simple tension looms), dyeing, pottery and rough wood-carving. The Naga dance takes one's breath away. The Nagas' chief weapon is the throwing-spear, but cross-bows are also used.

The Naga Girl

And the Naga girl—very attractive she looks with her hair fringed and bobbed in the Anna May Wong way and her throat girded by brightly coloured necklaces made of seeds and beads and even buttons and shells. But even the most eligible girl has to work hard for her daily rice. Even while quite a tiny girl she has to look after her baby brother or sister, and later she helps her mother to husk the daily rice. She is also taught how to weave, for a Naga woman is expected to clothe her entire family. On festive occasions the Naga girl dances in the fire-light, often until dawn, with other girls and the handsome young men of the village, who present a gorgeous spectacle with their bare, bronzed torsos, bright necklaces and head ornaments of vivid flowers, leaves and feathers. Once she is married, however, all that comes to an end. The wife must devote herself to the household chores, to the field work and spinning and weaving.

Such is the background against which is set the story of Naga grit and courage in the war against the Japs; a story which the Allies will ever recall with pleasure and gratitude and the unfortunate Japs whisper to one anoher in awe and despondency. The Naga tribes were in the thick of the fight in and around Kohima, and they have come out of it with credit. They have proved courageous, cheerful and friendly.

They brought valuable military intelligence, helped in evacuating casualties, took prisoners, worked on roads, killed the enemy whenever they had a chance. The information they brought has



Naga tribesmen returning to their mountain homes with newly purchased dogs which are reared for food and hunting.

been a major factor in our success. Many of our air strikes resulted directly from it. The Nagas not only gained us information. They went one better: they fooled the Japs by giving them false information and grossly exaggerating the strength of our troops. A number of village Government officials were impressed by the Japs as interpreters and held as hostages. In several cases the enemy is now killing these or carrying them away as prisoners.

Our jungle allies have not only captured a large number of Japanese prisoners but also killed several enemy troops in combat. Their co-operation has been a main factor in preventing the infiltration of agents. They have consistently harboured and guided Japanese deserters and our prisoners escaping from enemy custody. Never did they falter.

Viceroy's Tribute

Through our successes and failures their loyalty continued and it was never more evident than when the enemy looked like being near a major success. Villages which have been three months in enemy hands have maintained resistance, kept in contact and, when possible, have sent runners with information. Well have they deserved the Viceroy's tribute: "....Both as soldiers and by bringing in intelligence and helping in every possible way, it is very largely due to your help and assistance that we have been able to drive the Japs out and win such a victory."

HOW I.A.F. HELPED TO SPEED JAP RETREAT

INDIAN Air Force pilots who with the R.A.F. helped to speed the Jap retreat eastwards have been visiting Tamu, where grim evidence of their efficiency is still to be seen, writes an I.A.F. Public Relations Officer.

Near the Kabaw Valley—aptly called the "Valley of Death" because it is considered the most malarious spot in the world—we saw the effect of the deadly strafing by the I.A.F. and R.A.F.

S/Ldr. Arjan Singh's Squadron

Dozens of dead Japs were strewn all along the road. They lay right up to Tamu, dead officers and soldiers, piles of ammunition, light and heavy artillery, bayonets, hand grenades, detonators, medical goods and maps—carnage and desolation giving the most complete picture of Jap ambition trampled in the mud.

S-Ldr. Arjan Singh, D.F.C., and members of his squadron, who during and after the siege of



F.O Jagdish Chandra Varma (Karachi) won D.F.C. for his part in Burma operations.



Sqdr.-Leader Arjan Singh.

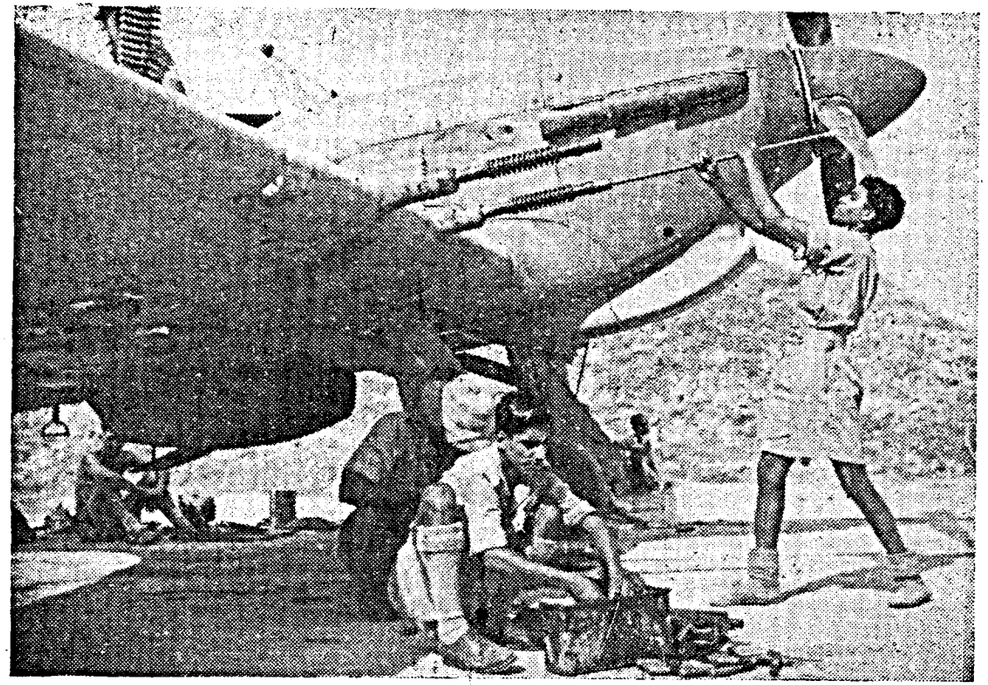
Imphal had flown over the Tamu area for reconnaissance or "kill", were particularly interested in the Jap camouflage technique. In Tamu itself the peculiar huts built on bamboo stilts particularly attracted S-Ldr. Arjan Singh's attention; in order to eliminate signs of smoke which could be spotted by our aircraft the Japs bored a hole in the floor of the "living room" and cooked their food on the ground.

Accompanying S-Ldr. Arjan Singh, who commands an I.A.F. squadron, I left in a jeep to visit Tamu. Not many days ago the Japs were swaggering in this border town; today the whole area is in our hands and we are pushing ahead both south and east.

Accuracy in Strafing

The main highway from Imphal to Tamu was humming with life. The day's work here begins early; jeeps and bulldozers, huge trucks and mules, officers and men kept the mountain highway as busy and bustling with traffic as Hornby Road, Bombay. Military police dotted the length and breadth of the road, keeping order in the wilderness.

The road up to Palel was fair but on and from Tongoupal, which is nearly 5,500 feet above sea level and the highest point on the route, it was not so good. The accuracy of our shelling and the strafing by pilots of S-Ldr. Arjan Singh's squadron had churned it up until it had resembled a ploughed field.



Armament of the "Hurries" have to be regularly and carefully serviced when the machines return from a sortie. Here, ground crew are cleaning and re-loading the cannon.

But here we could see the work of the Indian Pioneer Corps. They were repairing the road with amazing speed. Steel matting over large areas kept the traffic on the move.

The Lockchou Bridge, which our artillery had demolished to hamper retreating Japs, has already been replaced. I doubt if the Japs will ever try to invade India again—so smashing has been their defeat.

SERVICEABILITY RECORD

An I.A.F. squadron, which has been operating for the last six months from a forward airfield on the Assam Front, had the highest percentage of aircraft serviceability among squadrons in the Third Tactical Air Force for July. Its serviceability was 98.5 per cent, which is an extraordinarily high figure. The squadron is commanded by Squadron Leader Arjan Singh, D.F.C.

The man behind the wings mainly responsible for this achievement is Flying Officer Ram Singh, squadron engineering officer, who comes from village Jamsher, District Jullundur, Punjab. On 20 days in July F|O Ram Singh and his ground crew had every Hurricane in the squadron serviceable.



F/O D. G. Bhore, M.B.E., I.C.S., son of Sir Joseph Bhore, won the D.F.C. in Burma.

F|O. Ram Singh is one of the oldest members of the Indian Air Force. He was among the first batch of eleven men to join the I.A.F. as ground apprentices in 1932. He was commissioned in February, 1943.

AIR MARSHAL LEES VISITS I.A.F. UNITS

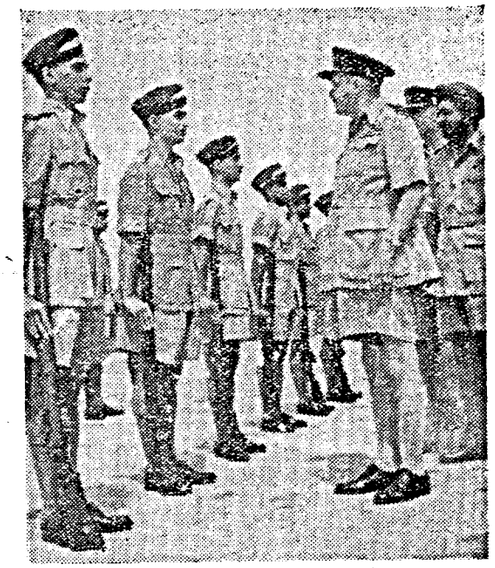
During a lightning two-day tour in South India, Air Marshal A. Lees, Air Officer in Charge of Administration, Air Command, South East Asia, has just visited numerous Indian Air Force training centres, including a school of elementary flying training, technical and non-technical training schools, an officer cadets' course and an R.A.F. Regiment depot.

On the first day Air Marshal Lees, who was accompanied by Air Commodore F. J. Vincent, visited five centres where more than 3,000 I.A.F. personnel are being trained as fitters, electricians, wireless operators, armourers, motor transport drivers, equipment assistants and clerks. He showed keen interest in the welfare of the trainees, visiting their living quarters, cookhouses, canteens and sports and recreational centres.

I.A.F.'s Traditions

Addressing officer cadets at the elementary flying training school, Air Marshal Lees reminded them that in a little over ten years the Indian Air Force had grown from one flight to a Service of increasing strength. Its pilots had operated successfully over Burma and had earned praise from the Viceroy and high officers. He hoped that the newcomers would always strive to maintain the good name and traditions of the I.A.F.

The Air Marshal also paid a brief visit to an airmen's club run by the W.V.S. and an R.A.F. farm where the men rear a large number of sheep, pigs and poultry and grow a variety of vegetables, maize and even paddy.



Air Marshal Lees inspecting officer cadets at the Secunderabad Elementary Flying Training School.

GOERING'S GOOD TURN FOR I.A.F.

Tubby, always smiling, P/O Krishna Chandra, the meteorologist at the Ambala training school for Indian airmen and crews, got his qualifications with the kind permission of Reichminister Hermann Goering at the Tempelhof airfield, Berlin. The Nazi air chief would kick himself hard if he knew how quickly and efficiently his pupil is putting meteorologist boys through their course at Ambala.

P/O Chandra went to London in 1933 to study meteorology and all that goes with it, writes an I.A.F. Public Relations Officer. He did well but what he wanted for a complete round off was a course at the Tempelhof airfield, Berlin. His



The Air Marshal talking to a trainee in the wireless class at the Hakempet Technical Training School.



P.O Krishna Chandra.

English college fixed it, but when he arrived in Berlin he found his course was to follow one just taken by Japanese students. The Japs had made themselves most unpopular by taking forbidden pictures of the aerodrome and were packed off in a hurry. There were to be no more foreign students at Tempelhof.

Goering Gives a Chance

Chandra argued, and was told to go and see Goering. He did, and had 20 minutes' talk with the great man who sat in a special chair to bear his weight and had a desk with a semi-circle cut out to allow him to get near it.

"He was quite pleasant, very impressive, talked to me about India, and knew what he was talking about," says Chandra. The Marshal gave Chandra a chance to take the course. He took it, and got the special qualifications which make him so useful at the moment.

Before the war Chandra was doing meteorological work at Poona. Now he has his hands full teaching Indian pilots and staff how to hold the weather gauge.

ARMY CONVOYS CARRY SUPPLIES FOR CHINA

Long Journey Over the Himalayas

Following the age-old caravan route from the Indian border to the interior of China, Army convoys are now carrying much needed supplies from India to the Kashmir-Tibet border for onward transmission to the Chinese authorities.

A subaltern in the Duke of Wellington's attached to the R.I.A.S.C. who has just returned from handing over a convoy described his trip to an Indian Army Observer. Lieutenant Benjamin Goodall of Scarford Thorner, near Leeds, was in charge of the latest convoy which left Rawalpindi and worked its way for four days through Kashmir to Sonamarg, where the road ended and the supplies were strapped on to the backs of Tibetan ponies to complete the long journey over the Himalayan passes to their ultimate destination.

Heavily Laden Trucks

"This is the first time military convoys have ever gone over this route," stated Lieut. Goodall. "The 30 three-ton lorries which carried the supplies had to follow a road which in many stretches had been cut out of solid rock, through tunnels and across bridges which swayed and groaned as the heavily laden trucks rolled over them."

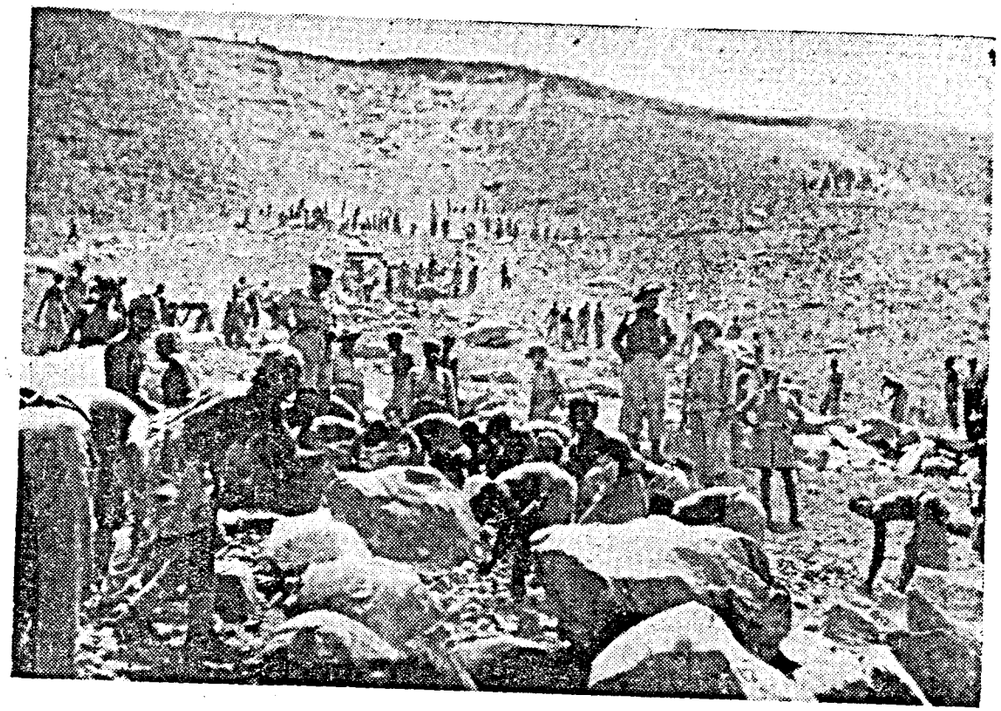
As the convoy passed through Srinagar, capital of Kashmir, hundreds of people lined the streets and cheered lustily at the unfamiliar sight of a long line of lorries with red-capped military police on motor cycles, acting as escort.

From Srinagar the route follows the beautiful Sind valley to Margund where the supplies are off-loaded from the heavy vehicles on to lighter and more manœuvrable 15 cwt. trucks. It is from this point that the ancient trade route across the Himalayas into China commences.

Narrow and Dangerous Road

The road is narrow and dangerous, with deep defiles on either side where the slightest error of judgment would result in the vehicle plunging down the khud into the valley far below.

At Sonamarg the supplies are sent forward by ponies crossing a pass nearly 12,000 feet high to Leh where they are handed over to officials of the Chinese Government who send them on to Yarkand and Kashgar.



Indian Pioneers besides making roads and jeep tracks have constructed several air-strips in Burma. Here, they are working on a stone quarry for a nearby airfield.

INDIAN PIONEERS—"FIT FOR ANYTHING, ANYWHERE"

"INDIANS have proved themselves first-class pioneers. They are fit for anything, anywhere. We are proud of them." So runs a statement issued by the Directorate of Pioneers and Labour, G.H.Q., Middle East, on the work of men of the Indian Pioneer Corps in North Africa, Sicily and Italy and elsewhere in the Middle East.

Men of the Pioneer Corps have been everywhere in all the campaigns in which India's fighting troops have been involved. In fair weather and in bad, in desert conditions and in the jungles, they have built roads, constructed airfields, laid railway lines and pipe-lines, carried ammunition to troops in the forward areas and worked in ordnance depots, petrol dumps and quarries.

Personnel is drawn from all parts of India. Companies in the Middle East contained Punjabi Mussalmans, Sikhs, Madrassis, Bihar aborigines, Bengalis and men from Bombay and the Central Provinces.

During the Eighth Army's advance into Tunisia, the Indian Pioneer Corps were always among the forward troops. They carried ammunition and supplies and worked at Tripoli and other ports under heavy bombing raids and shell fire. Their work on roads, petrol dumps and in the factories was especially valuable.

Gallant, Hard Working Men

Some companies of the Corps landed under shell fire in the assault on Salerno and continued to unload ammunition on the beaches in spite of heavy bombing. They also worked as stretcher-bearers and on petrol dumps. They landed in Sicily and on the toe of Italy with the Eighth Army and received a special mention by a Divisional Commander, who, referring to their work said, "Their contribution to victory has been a notable one."

In Arakan and in the forward areas of the Imphal Front these gallant, hard working men of the Pioneer Corps are carrying on in the

same determined way and upholding the fine tradition which has sprung up within the Corps since the beginning of the present war.

"The Punjabi Mussalman and Dogra companies had bad luck in finding enemy localities allotted to them for raiding to be empty on the two occasions on which they put carefully planned operations into effect. On our fronts the Germans held many alternative positions and it was quite usual to find localities under reconnaissance empty on periodical nights.

"We have not yet fought in a battalion or bigger action. But Heaven help Jerry when we do; he will certainly need it on the showing so far."

The diarist records with regret the names of fallen officers and V.C.O.s. "They were buried in a battalion cemetery on the right of the Ortona-Pescara road. Neat and attractive name boards have been skilfully made by our mistri and carpenters, and their last resting place is tidy and well kept."

The letter concludes: "All ranks are well pleased with life. Now that leave to India is speeded up we hope to get many of the officers and men who have been overseas so long an opportunity to visit their families and homes."

MADRASSI BULLDOZER OPERATORS IN ITALY

Three thousand feet above the Italian battlefield bulldozers operated by Madrassis forced a road for tanks to reach the top of the Alpi di Poti feature and thereby beat off ten counter-attacks in six hours on a battalion of Gurkhas.

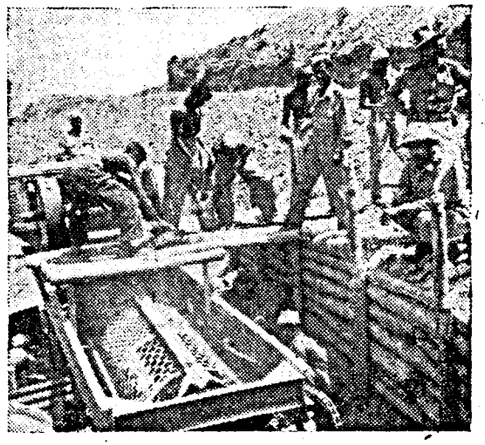
Madrassi soldiers, so well-known for their mechanical aptitude, have made their mark as bulldozer operators; many an advance has been speeded up by their quick appreciation of a technical situation.

The bulldozer mounts no gun, it has no armour and the operator sits exposed to shell and mortar fire. But the Madrassi drivers who operate them, ignoring all dangers, use them almost as offensive weapons.

Quick Road Building

In the mountains in Central Italy, where a veteran Indian division has been fighting, the bulldozers, with Madrassis at the controls, have enabled our troops to surprise the enemy on more than one occasion by making jeep and tank tracks over the hills and filling demolitions so that tanks can proceed.

Madrassi bulldozer operators built in 24 hours a diversionary track over steep hills so that the troops could by-pass the stubbornly defended town



Indian Pioneers at work on a stone crusher.

of Monterchi, five miles from the Gothic Line. The work had been estimated to take ten days.

Again it was the Madrassis' quick road building which enabled a battalion of Sikhs to beat the Germans on the summit of Mount Favalto.

South of Rome another Indian division bulldozed tanks over a mountain range, taking the Germans completely unawares without their anti-tank guns.

SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 295)

Sir Firoz is a firm believer in the destiny of his country as a free and equal partner in the British Commonwealth of Nations. He also hopes to see India more prosperous, and considers that this could be partly achieved by improving the methods of farming which is his ancestral profession and the profession of the majority of Indians and by stabilizing agricultural prices. He himself is a keen farmer and has established two large fruit farms in the Punjab which are run on scientific lines under the direction of three agricultural graduates.

The rare leisure which he gets from his busy official life he devotes to literature. He has written four books, the latest of which is a novel "Scented Dust" now running in the second edition. He has also written a children's story book called "Wisdom From Fools."

Sir Firoz is very fond of riding and never likes to miss his morning ride if he can help it. Even the worst that the Germans could do through the blitz on London did not prevent him from indulging in this hobby.

"RECOVERY" GENIUS OF I.E.M.E. MEN

MEN of the Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers fighting the incessant problem of recovering damaged vehicles along roads where every bridge is a wreck and forward approaches are constantly jeopardised by a destructive enemy in retreat, have made a new name for themselves in Italy.

"Recovery", the new front-line art in which transport is kept on the road by soldier-mechanics may mean the difference between success and failure when a division is advancing. A broken-down vehicle on a vital road, or a truck bogged in the softer ground of the diversions which are necessary, might hold up a column of hundreds of vehicles.

A high officer who has just returned from the Italian Front, where he visited Indian divisions, spoke to me in warm praise of the Indian mechanics who man the recovery units, writes an Indian Army Observer.

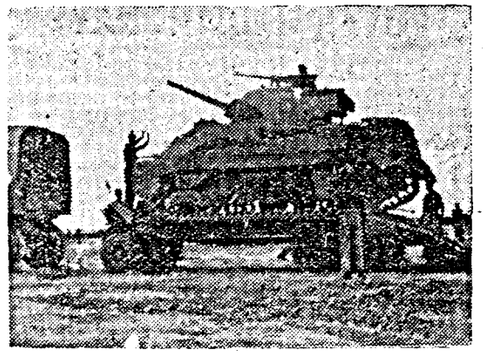
Masters of Improvisation

"What struck me most was the high morale shown by Indian and British troops alike," he said. "The Indians impressed the British tremendously, they had no idea they were so tough."

The Indians are proving themselves masters of improvisation. "I found one brigade workshop in an old public garden," said the officer.



Unwinding the cable to winch a disabled tank on to the transporter.



A damaged tank taken aboard a transporter for removal to the repair workshop.

"The blacksmiths were working in an ornamental fountain, using the trough for drenching the hot metals they were working on. The statuary was draped with dhobi and pieces of machinery and tools."

At the time the Indian divisions were advancing. The enemy were destroying all roads and bridges and much recovery work was required. The I.E.M.E. men were working day and night.

Driver Daulat Rao Maigo, under constant shell and mortar fire at the crossing of the Sangro, stayed on the far bank of the wide river for days, popping out whenever it was necessary to haul a vehicle out. While there a shell splinter destroyed his carburettor. Instead of rushing back about it he searched until he found a damaged lorry, took the carburettor for his own and carried on.

WOOLLEN SCARVES AND GLOVES FOR INDIAN TROOPS IN ITALY

H.E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 2,00,000 from the War Purposes Fund to the Central Woollen Comforts Fund for the supply of woollen scarves and gloves to Indian troops in Italy.

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

Contributions amounting to Rs. 5,40,989 during July, 1944, raised the total of H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to Rs. 10,54,35,544. Payments in the same month amounted to Rs. 7,64,754 making the total of payments Rs. 8,97,93,455. The balance in hand on July 31, 1944, was Rs. 1,56,42,088 of which about Rs. 1,25,00,000 represented unearmarked money.

ROYAL INDIAN NAVY OFFICER PROMOTED TO FLAG RANK

Rear-Admiral A. R. Rattray

IT is officially announced that Commodore A. R. Rattray, C.I.E., R.I.N., has been promoted Rear-Admiral, R.I.N. Rear-Admiral Rattray has hoisted his flag in Bombay.

This promotion to flag rank restores to the Indian Navy a distinction which it last held 260 years ago. On August 24, 1684, a Royal Warrant under the hand of King Charles II appointed Sir John Child, Bart., Captain General and Admiral of the Honourable East India Company's Land and Sea Forces, with Sir Thomas Grantham as Vice-Admiral and the senior officer of the Company's ships as Rear-Admiral.

Rear-Admiral Rattray, who is 53, comes of an old Scots seafaring family. He received his early nautical training in H.M.S. *Conway*, which he joined in 1907. He gained seagoing experience in sailing ships and obtained his Master Mariner's "square-rigged" ticket at an early age.

In 1911, he joined the Royal Indian Marine, whose principal duties at that time were transporting troops in Eastern waters, furnishing supply vessels to lighthouses and carrying out marine surveys.

During the Great War (1914—18) Lieut. Rattray was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps and saw much active service in Mesopotamia. He took part in many engagements in that theatre and was badly wounded in air combat. Later he was employed on flying duties in England.

Returning to the Royal Indian Marine at the end of the war, Lieut. Rattray served in several ships, chiefly as navigating officer. In 1924, he was promoted Lieut.-Commander and ten years later he became Commander.

Commanded H.M.I.S. "Indus"

In 1937, he commanded H.M.I.S. *Indus* when she proceeded to the United Kingdom to represent the Royal Indian Navy at the coronation of King George VI.

During the present war he has held important appointments and has played a leading part in building up India's Navy, which to-day is 20 times larger in ships and men than it was in September 1939. As Director of Personal Services, he successfully dealt with many problems arising out of the Navy's greatly-increased need for officers and men.

Promoted Captain in 1940, he became a Commodore (First Class) in 1941, when Naval Headquarters moved from Bombay to Delhi. Commodore Rattray remained in Bombay as Commodore, R.I.N., in which capacity he has taken a leading part in the work of the great port of Bombay, also in the organisation of convoys and protection of shipping on the west coast of India.

A genial personality, Rear-Admiral Rattray is prominent in the public life of Bombay. He is well-known to and liked by all his brother officers in the R.I.N. and is equally popular with the ratings. His promotion is welcomed both as an honour to the Service and as recognition of his constant labours on behalf of India's Navy.

INDIAN WARSHIP HELPS DESTROY SUBMARINE

An enemy submarine was sunk in the Indian Ocean some time ago as a result of a prolonged attack by three warships belonging to the Royal Navy, Royal Indian Navy and Royal Australian Navy.

When the submarine's presence was detected near a convoy, the escort vessels manoeuvred quickly and attacked her with depth charges. Columns of water shot up over a wide area as the under-water explosions occurred. After a sustained and relentless pursuit, the warships registered a "kill".

Beat Off Jap Aircraft

For H.M.I. Ship's part in the successful operation, the Commanding Officer, Commander H. Murray Clark, R.I.N., has been mentioned in despatches.

This is the second time Commander Murray Clark's services have been so recognised, the previous occasion being in connection with his work as First Lieutenant of H.M.I.S. *Sutlej* when she was on convoy-escort duty in the Singapore sector during the Japanese attack on Malaya. While so employed, the *Sutlej* frequently beat off Japanese aircraft attempting to bomb merchant vessels in her charge.

When a large transport near Singapore harbour was set on fire by bombers and had to be abandoned, Commander Murray Clark was one of the party of officers and ratings from the *Sutlej* who boarded the blazing vessel, and at great risk to themselves removed ammunition and depth charges.

CAUSES AND REMEDIES OF WATERLOGGING

Irrigation Board President's Address

AN account of the evils, causes and remedies of waterlogging, a subject of great interest to the Punjab, was given by Mr. F. F. Haigh, C.I.E., I.S.E., President of the Central Board of Irrigation, in his opening address to the Irrigation Research Committee at their 14th annual meeting which opened on August 1 at Simla. Delegates from many parts of India and Ceylon attended the session which concluded on August 5.

Mr. Haigh said that the evils of waterlogging were of two kinds—the actual permanent flooding or saturation of surface soil known in the Punjab as *sem*, and the concentration of salts which poisoned plant growth, land in this condition being known as *thur*. Waterlogging being due to a high subsoil water table to which both irrigation and rainfall contributed, the speaker emphasised that "our policy should be directed towards lowering it, or in the first instance, reducing its rate of rise."

He then described the various factors most potent in raising the water table and outlined the complex physical processes involved in the passage of water through the soil.

The principal sources of addition to the water table, according to Mr. Haigh, were (a) seepage from large canals; (b) accumulation of rainfall in hollows; and (c) wet irrigation. The speaker showed how lining of canals and constructing drains could provide remedies.

Causes of Floods

The Committee, *inter alia*, discussed the technical causes of breaches in the Indus river bunds which led to the flooding of large areas of Sind in 1942 and the methods of river stabilisation above canal headworks. The discussions revealed that more had been discovered regarding the transport of sand in flowing water, important in its bearing on the behaviour of rivers and the design of irrigation channels.

It was emphasised that though attention had been focussed, in America and elsewhere, on the particular evil of soil erosion in producing floods by allowing rainfall to flow more rapidly over the ground, a factor having equal or greater effect in causing floods was that the soil washed into the rivers deposited, causing rivers to breach their banks and even seek new courses across the country.

Another subject discussed was Soil Mechanics. The Irrigation Department has been responsible for the construction of many of the military airfields recently completed in India and the Committee had no doubt that the experience gained in applying new methods in this work would be very useful in constructing earthen dams and canal and river bunds.

Earlier during the session the Committee reviewed the progress made in the various branches of irrigation engineering, from river training to land reclamation. This year's papers and discussions showed that progress achieved in this respect during the last 14 years was being well maintained. Progress was also noted in tube wells, discharge gauging, rainfall runoff and the lining of canals

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POST-WAR POWER DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

American Engineer Appointed

The services of an American Hydraulic Engineer, Mr. William L. Voorduin, have been secured for service under the Government of India. He will be mainly responsible for advising in connection with hydro-electric planning and the investigation of potential hydro-electric resources.

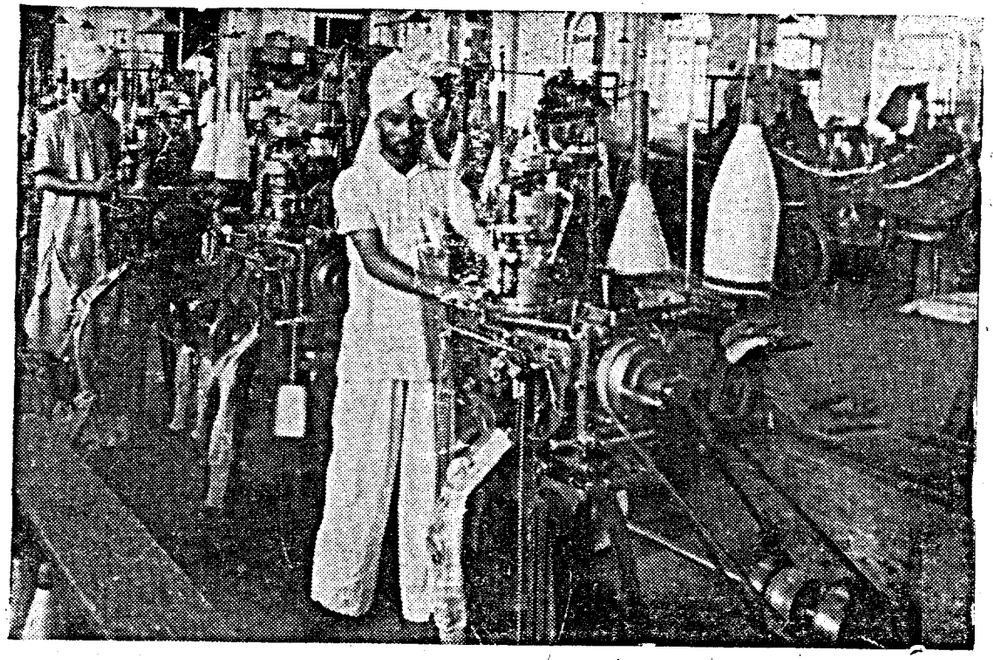
He will also be available to advise on the general lines on which the hydrographic surveys should be carried out and collated. It is felt that this appointment may be a first step towards the formation of a Central Technical Power Board which is under consideration.

Mr. Voorduin has been, for the last 10 years, head of the Project Planning Division with the Tennessee Valley Authority in U.S.A. Earlier in his career he served with various engineering concerns in America and acquired considerable experience in hydraulics, hydro-electric developments, power studies, specifications and layouts.

MAXIMUM SALE PRICES FOR TIMBER

It is understood that the Government of India propose to fix very shortly maximum selling prices for all kinds of timber for sale to the public.

The prices will be fixed on the basis of Supply Department's schedules of wholesale prices in Provinces and States plus average freight to normal consuming centres plus a profit to the retailer not exceeding that allowed by trade practice in 1939.



Manufacture of Woollen hosiery in a big mill in Dhariwal. The industry has made great progress in recent years and has received added stimulus from the war.

CONTROL OF TEXTILE EXPORTS TO AUSTRALIA

AUTHORITATIVE information received in New Delhi from Australia shows that the textile export quota system, which is being worked out by the Commerce Department of the Government of India to control and regulate exports from India, coupled with the Australian importing licensing system, is working smoothly and that the quality of textiles sent from India to that country is very satisfactory.

In the beginning, it is understood, there were a few complaints of low grade Indian textiles being imported into Australia. As soon as the Commerce Department came to know of these instances, they took the matter up with the authorities in Australia to know the nature and extent of this evil and prevent it at this end. As a result of these inquiries, it is now known that these imports were purely on behalf of private traders and not very large, compared to the total requirements of Australia. These traders were obviously unfamiliar with Indian market conditions and in some cases the purchases are believed to have been made in the bazaars and not from the manufacturers direct.

But, as soon as the first of these imports arrived in Australia, the Import Procurement Division of the Australian Government took immediate action to impose an import control, under which each importer had to obtain the prior consent of the Division to what he wanted to import. Before a Consent Order was given, the Division satisfied itself regarding both quality and price of the civilian textiles to be imported.

These remedial measures, combined with arrangements for the co-ordination of the licensing systems of the two countries, have ensured that only reasonably-priced and good quality textiles are imported into Australia and enabled that country to utilise the Indian quota to the best advantage.

GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE

The Governors' Conference, which lasted three days, has now ended and the Governors have returned to their Provinces, said a Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on September 1.

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INDIAN INFORMATION



●SIR A. R. DALAL ON WORK OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT



H. E. the Viceroy inspecting a Gurkha Regiment in Assam.

Vol. 15 No. 146. INDIAN INFORMATION OCT. 1, 1944.

AIMS:—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

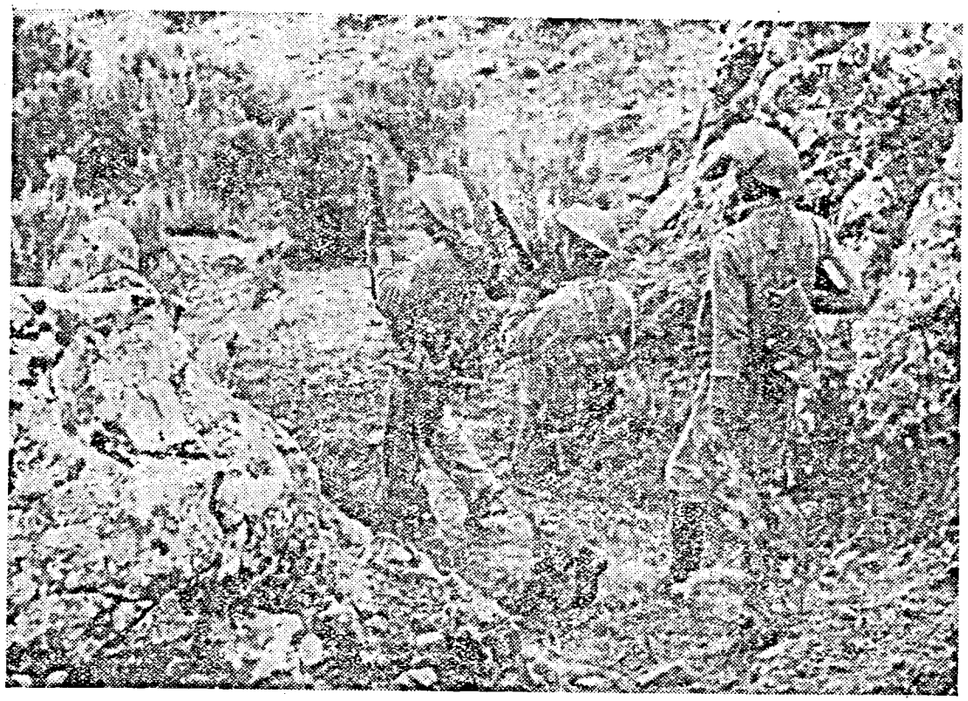
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Issued Fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.
Associate Editor: P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: Gurkhas in action on the Italian Front.



Gurkhas with the Eighth Army in Italy going into action.

THE TENTH INDIAN DIVISION'S EXPLOITS

THE announcement that the Tenth Indian Division is fighting in Italy alongside the famous Fourth and Eighth Indian Divisions emphasises the extent of India's war effort overseas. With three divisions in the line on this vital European front, India is playing her full part in crushing the menace of Nazism in Europe.

In Italy, the Tenth Indian Division has added lustre to the name it had already earned by its exploits from Persia to the Western Desert. It has fought in four vital campaigns—the revolt in Iraq, the ousting of Vichy influence from Syria, the "four-day blitz" in Persia, the great defence in the Western Desert during Rommel's last push—and now it is engaged in a fifth great campaign in Europe. Its successes have been brilliant and, up to the present, secret.

Formed at Ahmednagar in February, 1941, under the command of Gen. W. A. K. Fraser, C.B., M.B.E., the Division consisted of three Indian Infantry Brigades. Its first "show" was to settle the Nazi-instigated revolt in Iraq under Rashid Ali. Two brigades set sail from India for Iraq. The King's Own Regiment made what was probably our first airborne invasion when it was flown from Karachi to the relief of Habbanyah. For a month there was severe fighting as our troops advanced up country until Baghdad was seized and the revolt crushed. Thus the Tenth had the honour of foiling the Nazis' farthest eastward thrust.

Syrian Campaign

Major-Gen. W. J. Slim, now 14th Army Commander, took command soon afterwards and the Division was called on to help in the Syrian Campaign. After a historic march of several hundred miles across the Iraqi desert and into Eastern Syria, Deir-ez-Zor was captured and the resultant threat to Aleppo was a major factor in the rapid collapse of Vichy resistance.

Persia came next. One brigade helped the Eighth Indian Division take the southern Persian oilfields and the rest of the division, with some light armour of an Indian armoured brigade, made the assault on the Pai-Tak Pass and Kermanshah. The Persian positions here, physically as strong as Keren, were held by several well-armed divisions but the Tenth broke through in a lightning thrust and pushed on so vigorously that the opposition collapsed.

Gen. Slim with a flying column pressed rapidly northward and at Aveh, roughly halfway to the Caspian, took place the historic meeting when, for the first time in this war, British and Russian Allies met in the field. As a result of these operations in the summer of 1941 the German threat to the oilfields of Iraq and Persia was removed, the air route to India was made secure and a new supply line to Russia was opened up.

Record-Breaking March

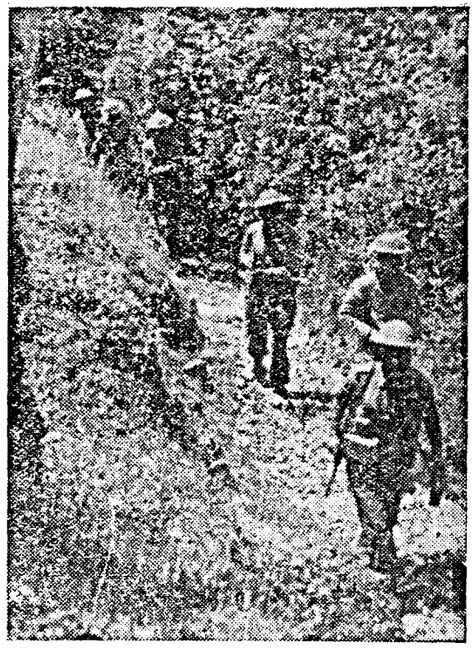
Later, when Gen. Slim returned to India to take part in the Burma Campaign, a new Commander, Major-Gen. T. E. Rees, was appointed and led the Division to North Africa in time to help in General Auchinleck's great battle which saved Egypt and the Suez Canal in the summer of 1942.

The Tenth made a record-breaking march from Baghdad to Knightsbridge, in Cyrenaica, a distance of 1,500 miles in 14 days, losing only four vehicles, which were written off en route. One brigade in the van ran straight into Rommel's main armoured thrust at the end of May at Knightsbridge and after a two-day battle the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry and a Field Regiment were overrun having no weapons to counter the heavy armour.

Fierce Tank Battle

Another brigade held the El Duda, Belhamed and Sidi Rezegh boxes against several attacks, while the third brigade occupied the Sollum-Capuzzo-Halfaya triangle. The fierce tank battle which raged in the "Cauldron" favoured Rommel and when the Eighth Army was forced to withdraw, the Tenth Indian Division formed part of the rear-guard.

The Division prepared to hold the Capuzzo triangle to the last man, even with two brigades sadly weakened. Major-Gen. Nicholls here took over from Gen. Rees. The unexpected fall of Tobruk, however, rendered the Capuzzo box untenable and the Division was ordered to fall back on Mersa Matruh, where they manned the perimeter defences with the 50th British Division holding the escarpment. At this time one brigade was withdrawn to form Rees-Force in



A patrol of the 8th Punjab Regiment on the Italian front.

the Nile Delta and another fresh but veteran Indian Infantry Brigade took its place.

After some days' hard and confused fighting in the interior, the Tenth still held the Matruh defences intact and the Eighth Army had successfully withdrawn to the Alamein line. It remained only for the Tenth Indian Division to hold on long enough for Corps H.Q. and the 50th British Division to be withdrawn, then to destroy Matruh with all its immense stores and equipment and get back itself. By this time, however, Matruh had been encircled and the desert was full of Rommel's armour.

Explosion of Stores

The glare and explosions of the stores gave the signal for the withdrawal and the Division fought its way out into the desert to the south. The rear-guard were the 11th Sikhs. Dense fog came down and rendered movement difficult. Rommel's panzers were ranging far and wide and it was a depleted division that formed up behind Alamein.

Men cannot cover the withdrawal of an army for 300 miles against troops of the calibre of the Afrika Korps without suffering casualties; all that had been asked of the Division had been done and time had been given for the Eighth



Indian Signallers in Cyprus.

Army to get into position on the Alamein line. For another ten days until Rommel was beaten back the Tenth supplied a "battle group" of infantry and guns and was then withdrawn to refit.

In August, 1942, the Tenth Indian Division was ordered to Cyprus, where it remained for nine months under the command of Major-Gen. A. B. Blaxland, chiefly training in mountain warfare. Later it was sent to Syria. In the autumn of 1943, riots broke out in Syria and the Lebanon and the Tenth was hurriedly moved up to cover Beirut, the seat of the Government. Action was not needed, however, as the political crisis resolved itself.

Major-Gen. W. L. Lloyd took over command of the Division in the summer of 1943 but was killed in a car accident. His place was taken by Major-Gen. D. W. Reid, who now commands the Division.

Arriving in Italy in April of this year the Tenth went into the line against the Germans in the Adriatic sector, taking over from the Eighth Indian Division. While the Battle for Rome was going on, the Tenth fought its way up the coast, capturing the important ports of Ortona and Pescaro. More recently, it has been switched to the mountainous Central sector, where its long experience of mountain warfare is standing it in good stead.

The Division has now been overseas for over three years. For the first time it receives its need of publicity and praise.

MAJ.-GEN. D. W. REID
Commander of 10th Indian Division

Major-Gen. Denys W. Reid, G.C.B., D.S.O., M.C., Commander of the Tenth Indian Division, formerly commanded a battalion of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry. He has been associated with the regiment throughout his Indian service.

Major-General Reid was 17 when the last war started. He served with the Seaforth Highlanders and won the D.S.O., and bar and the M.C.

In 1918, he joined the Indian Army and was posted to the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry, one of whose battalions he commanded early in the present war in Eritrea when he won a bar to his D.S.O. In 1941, he was in command of an Indian Infantry Brigade.

In June, 1942, Brig. Reid was captured by the 15th Panzer Division at Fuka in the Western Desert during Rommel's drive to Alamein. He was a prisoner of war for over a year but escaped and walked into the American lines at Venafro (Italy) in November, 1943. He was afterwards awarded the C.B.E.

After a period of leave in England Major-General Reid was given command of the Tenth Indian Division last February, in time to bring the Division from the Middle East to Italy. After a successful phase on the Adriatic coast he is now leading his Division in the drive against the Gothic Line.

Somewhat stern in appearance, Major-General Reid still knows how to relax and outdoor games are a feature of life at his divisional headquarters. He speaks slowly and clearly, thinks logically and chooses his words and expressions with care.

Well disciplined himself, he rises with the lark and is usually out before sunrise. He likes his men to be out of bed early like himself.

During a battle he keeps in close touch with all his units, including the most forward elements. It is not unusual to see his jeep driving steadily along a road being heavily shelled by the enemy, the General unperturbed, looking about and taking stock of the situation.

One story is told of Major-General Reid visiting a portion of his front on the Adriatic sector and wanting to go to a certain spot. The brigadier in charge advised him not to do so "because an enemy sniper was there only an hour ago." "Let's go and see if he is still there," said the General. And off he strode with his long, quick steps.



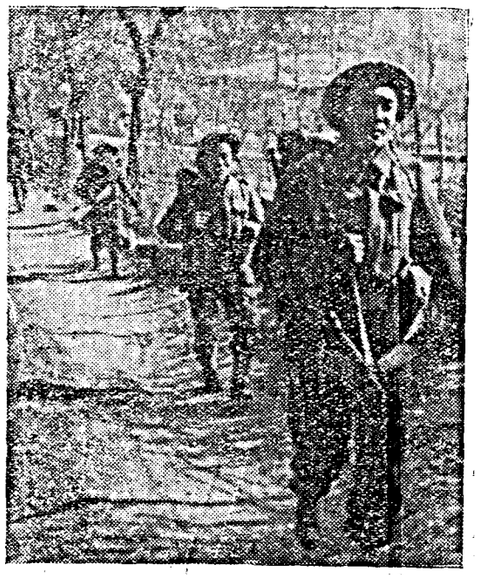
Jem. Bishanbahadur Gurung shows General Devers of the American Army how Gurkhas use their kukri.

"KAT . . . MAR" AND KUKRI MEAN DEATH TO THE HUN

GURKHA troops have once again proved that the infantryman armed with his rifle and bayonet or kukri is the man in the last resort who can assault and hold a position where every other arm of the Service will fail.

Fighting among the mountains of Central Italy, men of the Gurkha Rifles recently found the enemy strongly entrenched along the crest of a difficult hill feature, writes an Indian Army Observer. The Germans apparently considered themselves secure, surrounded as they were by steep approaches negotiable only by the nimblest of men.

One night, the Gurkhas silently made their way up to the German defences and by dawn they had reached undetected a point some 50 yards from the nearest German outposts. The enemy was blissfully unaware of their danger.



Gurkhas on the road to Cassino (Italy).

For a few moments the Gurkhas paused to look around them. They could see Germans reading the mail, which had evidently only just been distributed; some were yawning and stretching themselves after their night's sleep and others were unconcernedly walking about.

A whispered order went down the lines of waiting Gurkhas and suddenly a terrific yell rent the air. Shouting their war cry *"Kat. . Mar"* (cut and kill) and with their kukris flashing in the morning light they flung themselves against the enemy in an irresistible charge. A few minutes later not a German remained. Surprise was complete and a seemingly-impregnable position had been captured by a band of determined men.

"BOCHES PANICKED AND RAN . . ."

War is a noted destroyer of cherished illusions, but I must confess that I took it the hard way when a Gurkha officer assured me that the kukri was now rarely, if ever, brought into active service by the up to date Gurkha sepoy, writes an Indian Army Observer in Italy.

The Gurkha 1944 edition, had adapted himself to the rapid development of mechanised warfare, one of their officers told me.

"The Gurkha is a quick learner and has a correct sense of perspective," argued this officer. "He knows full well that a big knife is no answer to the automatic weapon, and for that reason he has learnt to substitute the tommy-gun for his kukri.

"Whatever the traditionalists may try to tell you, it is now only in very exceptional circumstances that he attempts to make use of his kukri."

All this seemed rational enough, but it was with a deal of reluctance that I permitted myself to absorb this new concept of the sturdy citizens of Nepal. Mr. Churchill without his cigar, or even M. Stalin without his moustache, would be a less disturbing spectacle than the little man without his big "chopper."

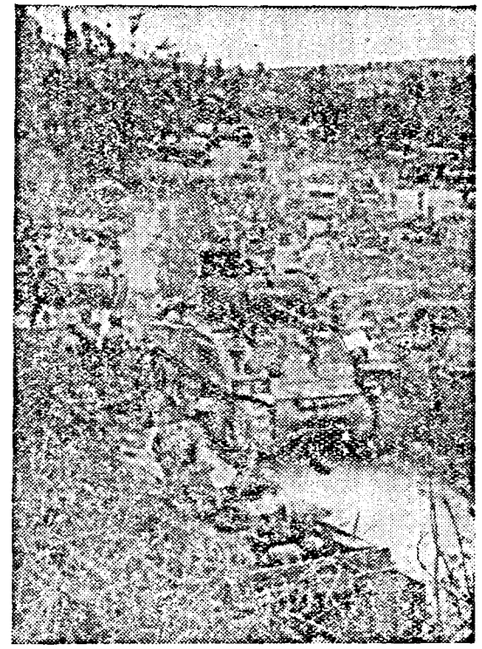
Eyewitness Account

However, it was not a week later, I was reading an eyewitness account of an action fought on the summit of 4,000 ft. Il Castello.

The following excerpts are re-published with relish and without apology:

"Grimly, our little party waited for the Hun to show himself. At any moment we expected him to charge from the undergrowth.

"It was at this stage we saw the Army's finest sight—the fearless hillmen of Nepal, Kukris drawn, yelling their cry *kat. . .Mar* (cut and kill) going in to the rescue.



Bren Carriers and "Heavies" at an Allied strongpoint in Italy.

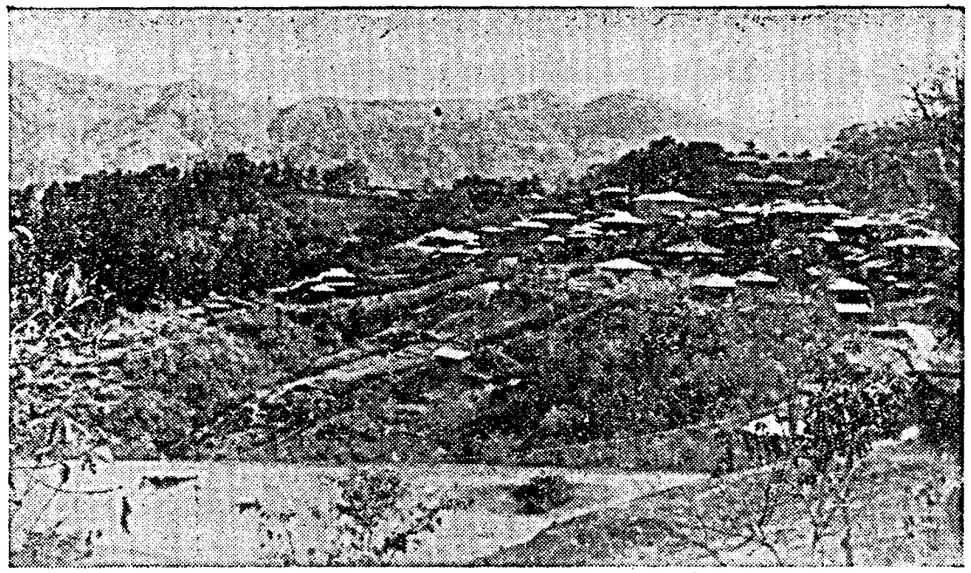
"During the next few minutes that wood was a scene of hell. Boches panicked and ran, others crouched on their stomachs for mercy, while others who attempted the impossible—hand to hand fighting with Gurkhas—literally lost their heads. One Gurkha alone killed four enemy with his kukri after dumping his tommy-gun.

"Later came the reckoning—more than 90 dead counted, and many more uncounted, and 40 prisoners."

The conclusion, surely, is clear enough. If the Gurkha with his kukri can do this to "a force of panzer Grenadiers and a detachment of technical troops with 'bazookas' etc., totalling over 300," then where is the iconoclast who will still tell me that the kukri is as outmoded as the pike or the arquebus?

NAWAB OF JUNAGADH'S CONTRIBUTION

H.H. the Nawab of Junagadh has contributed a further sum of Rs. 2,000 to H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund (earmarked for the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association) which His Excellency has gratefully accepted.



The Tiddim Village, from which the Tiddim Front has derived its name.

FIFTH INDIAN DIVISION'S ADVANCE ON TIDDIM ROAD

ONE of India's famous divisions, the Fifth Indian Division, is back in the news with their advance down the Tiddim Road into Burma, wrote an Indian Army Observer from the Imphal Front on September 2. In the past six weeks they have covered over 70 miles of road against a persistent Japanese rearguard action and the going has been tough, especially as the fighting goes deeper into the frontier mountains.

The country through which the present fighting is taking place is inhospitable in the extreme. The Tiddim Road—that tenacious track cut through a chain of mountain ridges and flanked for most of its way by a particularly dense form of jungle—is unsuitable for the deployment of forces on a large scale. The battle is along the road and the road is the battlefield.

Road-Blocks

The Japanese have realised that a lengthy holding action in any one position is impracticable but in their retreat they strive to delay our forces as long as possible. At carefully chosen points along the road they have laid their road-blocks and deployed their forces on adjacent dominating features.

Near Khoadam, in the area of Milestone 90, they recently held up the advance of the leading brigade for about three days. This action was typical of many that have taken place since the advance began from the Imphal Plain.

Where the road edges narrowly round the side of an exposed hill, the Japanese had the corner covered by an anti-tank gun. The road was too narrow for more than one tank and it would have been impossible to get one round without having it shot up, thus blocking the road.

Artillery Support

Above this bend was a forward battalion of the 1st Punjab Regiment facing the enemy across a four or five hundred yards' dip in the hills. With artillery support and deep-dug bunkers, the Japanese were able to hold up any forces exposing themselves. A frontal attack would have cost many lives against a well-prepared position—and yet the area had to be cleared for the advance to continue.

A battalion of the Royal West Kent Regiment was, therefore, sent on a long detour march through the hills to the east, and arrived at a point on the road three miles further on

Here they put a company across the road and cut the retreat line of the Japanese holding up the advance.

At this stage the Japanese did what they have done on several other occasions along the Tiddim Road. During the night, having held up the advance sufficiently for them to prepare another similar position to the rear, they slipped out through the jungle without giving our patrols a chance to contact them.

Encircling Move

Next morning, the feature was clear and the advance continued for another four miles. It is this sort of fighting which the Fifth Indian Division has had to do since they started along the road. It is not a spectacular form of warfare. It brings in few prisoners and costs the Japs not a great many lives, but would mean heavy casualties for the British and Indian regiments employed if the plan was not worked out patiently. The main delays occur when the rearguard position is reached and time has to be allowed for the encircling move to develop.

Marching through these jungles with mule transport—there are no jeep tracks off the road—demands progress at the rate of three to five miles a day. Every yard covered has to be cut through elephant grass, tangled undergrowth and a heavy covering of trees. Direction is one of the hardest things to keep, for once into the jungle there is nothing to see beyond a few yards ahead.

Supplies are equally exacting and any delay on the route which would lengthen the time taken probably means arranging an airdrop on a scarcely distinguishable feature. But the system works, although the daily average of ground covered in the advance may seem small. In many respects the plan is simple, but its details demand competent staff work and a high degree of patience. The result, recovery of more territory in Burma, is worth it every time.



Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, congratulating Jem. Asghar Ali, M.C., of the 14th Punjab Regiment, when he visited the Burma front.



Indian troops 'bagged' many a Jap in the recent fierce clashes around the Imphal plain.

JAP BONES WHITEN ROAD TO CHINDWIN

Skeletons by the thousand in immobile transport—some were still at the wheel—in deathly silent camp areas, and scattered as the men they had once been had fallen by the side of the jungle tracks, were discovered by Allied columns clearing the west bank of the Chindwin River in Burma.

They are all that remained of the Japanese "Invade India" Army. The magnitude of the disaster which overcame its remnants is only now beginning to be known, writes an Indian Army Observer.

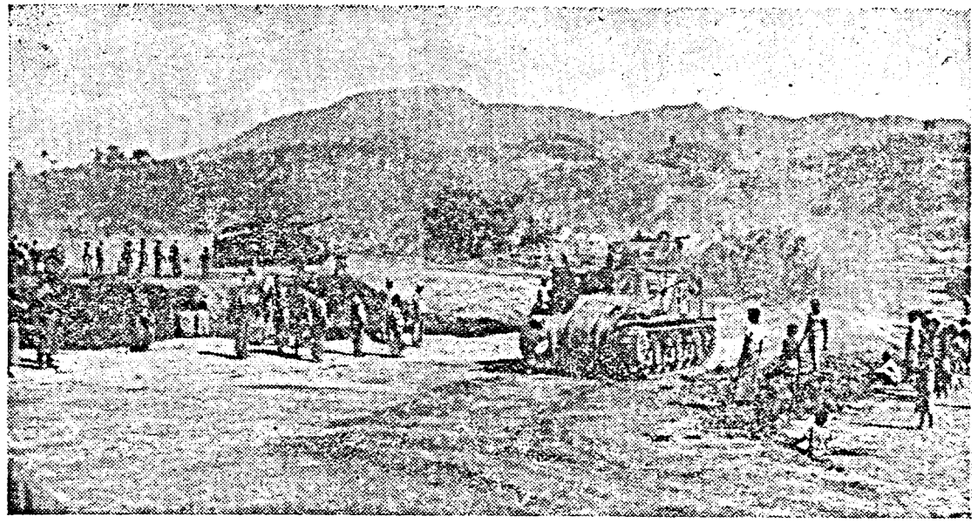
In the area to the north and east of Tamu, there are lying the skeletons of uncounted hundreds of Japanese, strewn amid the wreckage of their abandoned transport. The story, given by a liaison officer, Captain D. D. Young, of Cathcart, Glasgow, who has just returned from the area, is one of complete desolation.

Along an eleven-mile stretch of road between the villages of Thanan and Tonke, transport facing in both directions lies derelict in groups of up to 12 vehicles, with little more than 300 yards separating each group. In and around this transport, he gave a conservative estimate of the Jap dead as over a thousand. There were skeletons still sitting at the wheels of their trucks. Staff cars had four or five skeletons sitting in them, the backs of lorries were filled, and on the road lying with their hands beneath their heads as though asleep lay more. All the bodies had been eaten clean by white ants and maggots. In some cases, the boots and putties were still on the leg bones.

In a rest camp area there were 80 or more skeletons lying in *bashas*, on their backs, curled up on the floor, and in various positions of collapse. This scene was repeated at frequent intervals all along the route, and it was the same ghastly scene on the road north from Thanan to Humine, the track used for the unsuccessful drive on Kohima. Transport was jammed up the road because of the dead Japs.

These skeletons are all that is left of the Jap 15th and 31st Divisions, and the extent of the disaster which overcame them is still unappreciated. It is likely that this vast mortuary may extend far into the mountainous tracks used by the Japs.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 327)



Tanks of the 25th Dragoons moving forward to blast Jap positions in Burma.

TANKS IN ACTION ON ASSAM-BURMA FRONT

BRITISH and Indian manned tanks played so important and often decisive a role in this year's battles up and down the mountain ranges of the Assam-Burma Front that a squadron-by-squadron account of an Armoured Brigade that fought in Manipur would read like a story of the whole campaign, for the tanks were in the thick of every major engagement.

Two Regiments of the Brigade were brought in to operate on the Four Corps Front around Imphal. One was the Third Dragoon Guards (Carabiniers) which came out to India as Horsed Cavalry in 1937 but whose mounts have since become General Lee tanks. The other was the Seventh Light Cavalry of the Indian Armoured Corps, manning fast Stuart tanks with Jats, Punjabis and Sikhs.

Army Observer's Account

They fought with such gallantry and initiative that their immediate awards of decorations were made in the field to men of the Brigade. For the loss of comparatively few tanks they inflicted enormous damage on the enemy. The nature of their tasks demanded the utmost courage and efficiency not only from tank crews but from "recovery men" whose job was to keep the tanks in fighting trim.

One action, writes an Army Observer, exemplifies the strain placed on men and tanks by the nature of the terrain.

In the middle of June, a squadron of the Indian 7th Light Cavalry was acting in close support of an attack on a feature, named "Sausage" because of its shape, which lay 18 miles from Imphal. It was raining and the ground was soggy. Tank tracks slipped continuously.

Mounted on a bulldozer Trooper Thompson, a Yorkshireman, worked for 11 hours winching a troop of Stuarts up a long, steep and dangerous gradient. He drove from one comparatively flat ledge to the next, anchored the bulldozer and winched up the tanks after him. Then he repeated the process from a series of ledges. The chances he took were almost unbelievable. An intentional slide down 50 feet just to get a better grip on new ground was a matter of course to him. Finally Trooper Thompson towed two of the tanks up to the "start line" under shell fire and sniping which was so intense that everyone else dived for cover while he drove his conspicuous and unprotected bulldozer about on an open crest.

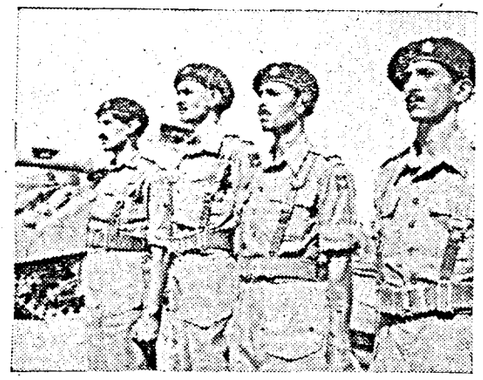
Infantry casualties that day were heavy but thanks to the Indian-manned Stuarts, the position was captured.

Only one tank-versus-tank battle occurred during the campaign. The Japs ambushed an armoured column and a stand up fight between tanks resulted. Five of the enemy's tanks were put out of action and after that the noise of our tanks was sufficient to make the enemy withdraw, so unwilling were they to fight another armoured battle.

On another occasion the Indian-manned Stuarts had gone down the Tiddim Road to assist the 17th Division in its fighting withdrawal from an attempted trap. It was the first time tanks had been used on this front. For their bravery on March 22, Capt. T. O. Cole was awarded the Military Cross and Risaldar Bharat Singh the Indian Order of Merit.

Punjabis of the 7th Light Cavalry were engaged in the two Ukhrul Road Battles of the Saddle. On June 11, Lieut. Elson, his crew all casualties, fought an engagement single-handed. He later received the Military Cross. Then the same squadron fought in the Bishenpur battles at a time when the mud was so deep that it covered the tracks of the Stuarts.

In the Manipur-Road sector a Sikh squadron fought through the crucial struggle for Kanglatongbi where the Japanese made their nearest approach to Imphal on the Manipur Road. Five



Men of an Indian Armoured Corps Division in Burma.

Stuarts were knocked out in the final attack on this village in May. Through brilliant recovery work they were all recovered and repaired.

In June, the same Sikh squadron helped the West Yorkshires to take the Zero feature near milestone 116, climbing 200 feet of zigzagging path to reach their objective.

Complicated Duties

Throughout the campaign (writes the Observer) Indian tank crews proved their worth, carrying out their complicated duties with admirable coolness and efficiency. Fitters and workshop men did magnificent work. And behind, but close to the scene were the Transport Company which supplied the Brigade and the Delivery Company whose giant tank transporters were driven down roads fit only for Jeeps. Sappers cleared mines and built bridges. The Bombay Grenadiers (infantry of the Brigade) fought beside the tanks. A Signal Company kept communication open at all times.

There were bad moments when valuable lives were lost and hardships became almost unendurable. But there were good moments too —when the tanks chased terrified enemy over paddy fields and pulverised bunkers to let our infantry go storming through. They took it all in their stride—the Japs, the monsoon and the mountains.



Troops passing through Imphal-Kohima Road.

RAJA OF BHOR'S GIFT

The Raja of Bhor has contributed Rs. 2,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The gift has been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.

JAP GUNS FOR BATTLE TRAINING



Reassembling a captured Japanese 75 mm. mountain gun.

Punjabi Battalion's 'Bag'

IN five months of jungle warfare a battalion of the 14th Punjab Regiment has captured almost a complete range of Jap infantry weapons—from the 75mm. regimental gun to hand grenades.

Captured enemy equipment is evacuated from forward areas and used for research and training purposes. With the aid of such equipment troops gain invaluable experience both in battle practice and in the emergency employment of enemy weapons.

A Daring Raid

Most valued of the battalion's capture are four guns taken south of Imphal by two of its platoons. Early one morning while on patrol they made a daring raid on an enemy artillery unit which had moved into position during the night. They captured anti-tank, regimental and mountain guns and a British two-pounder being used by the Japs. All were brought back complete with ammunition.

For their part in this exploit Jem. Feroze Khan, an Awan of Uchhali, Shahpur, received the I.O.M. and Jem. Mohamed Zaman, a Yusufzai of Shahbazgari, Mardan, the M.C.

The battalion's "bag" includes two machine-guns, one in working order and the other shattered by supporting fire from our tanks, 180 rifles and bayonets, five 50mm. grenade dischargers, several pistols, hand and stick grenades and a pair of rifle discharger caps—all very useful weapons for familiarising our troops with Jap methods of warfare.

Japanese Swords

They also have taken six long, cumbersome swords, varying in quality according to the ranks of their late owners. A modest business-like example is a warrant officer's issue sword captured near Tamu; the others are ornamented with carved bone or shagreen hilts and coloured tassels and were presumably their owner's private property.

The battalion has won two I.O.M.s, four M.C.s, one I.D.S.M., and three M.M.s.

JAP DEAD ON ROAD TO CHINDWIN

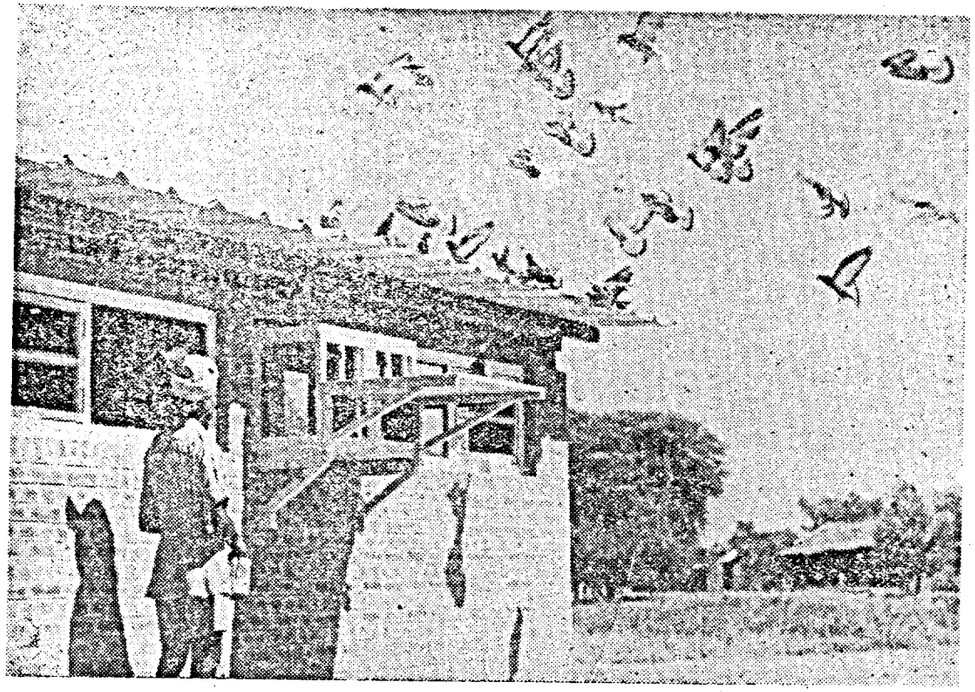
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 324)

The explanation for this debacle is not yet fully known, but it is generally believed that the men died of starvation, exhaustion and disease.

Among the skeletons there were those which showed signs of complete physical collapse. At the beginning of this summer the Japanese "Invade India" army set out across the Chindwin and, using dry weather paths they succeeded in operating deep into the border mountains of Manipur State. Behind them they dragged local labour to improve the jungle paths and make them passable for heavier military transport.

The rains came, and when they were forced to withdraw by their defeat in the Imphal-Kohima area they found the tracks impassable. Their transport was bogged down, they were without the food they hoped the fertile Imphal Plain would yield them, and they were in too exhausted a condition to re-form and march back to the Chindwin.

Today their skeletons lie in the jungle-bound tracks which a mule could scarcely penetrate—symbol of a vainglorious failure.



Homing pigeons in training with the army in India.

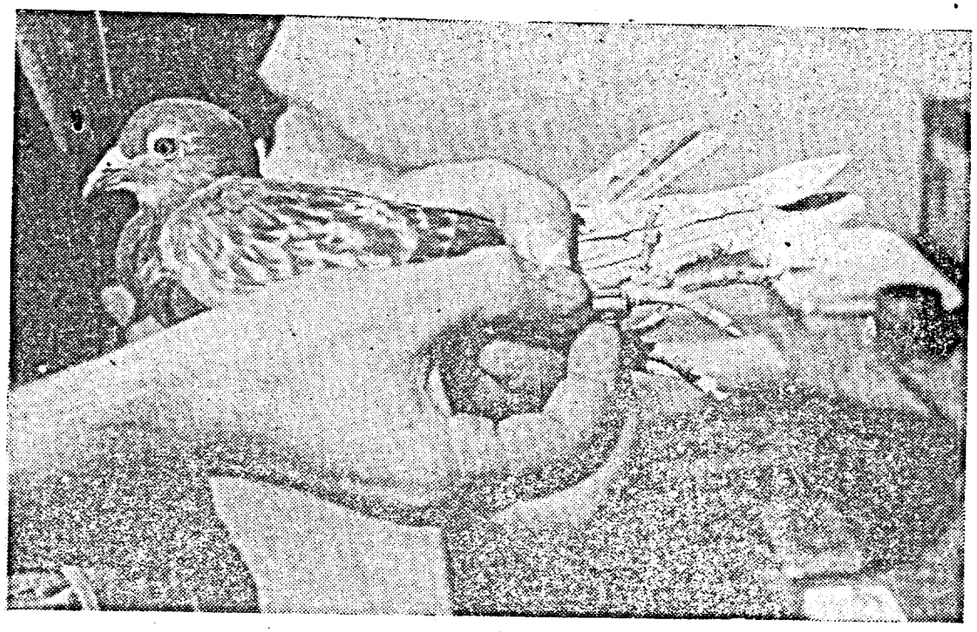


The pigeons are taken in cages to forward areas where they are released from mobile lofts.

HOMING PIGEONS ON BURMA FRONT

DESCENDANTS of some of the homing pigeons used to maintain communications during the Battle of Britain are helping the 14th Army patrols to defeat the Japs in Burma, writes an Indian Army Observer. In recent operations in the Imphal area, they carried urgent messages from our forward units to base when wireless equipment had been lost. The pigeons carried their messages at an average speed of 40—45 miles per hour and one pigeon actually covered 80 miles in 85 minutes.

Men of the Indian Signal Corps, taught by British troops, who were racing pigeon enthusiasts in civil life, are adapting the homing instincts of these pigeons for frontline tasks in the Burma jungle. The patrols carry the pigeons in small hand baskets and as the necessity arises the birds are released carrying urgent operational messages in small containers fitted to their legs. On arrival at the home loft, the containers are removed and sent by despatch rider to the Unit Headquarters concerned. The



Attaching the cylinder containing the message which the pigeon carries, on its leg.

pigeons themselves are fed and watered and prepared for their next flight.

They have many hazards to face. Even more dangerous for them than the Japs or the monsoon is the Burma falcon. Light coloured birds have been found to be most vulnerable to the attacks of these birds of prey, so now birds chosen for active service have dark feathers—a natural camouflage when flying over jungle areas. Even so, attacks are frequent but wounded birds still get their messages through. Upon arrival, expert veterinary treatment is awaiting them and they are soon ready for service once more.

Often in the jungle, communication between forward positions is so difficult that it is impossible to get the pigeons from the loft to the point where they can be released with messages. The Indian Signal Corps has trained a number of pigeons which will fly from the loft to the forward position and bring the message back and as an extension of the idea will take a message and bring back the reply! Hence they are called Boomerang pigeons.

This development in homing pigeon training has aroused the interest of pigeon fanciers all over the world. This system proved most useful in the Arakan and is now being adopted all over India.



Feeding the bird.

COMMEMORATION OF BATTLE OF BRITAIN

Allied Air Chief's Broadcast

"FOUR years ago today a great wave of exultation and a thrilling sense of relief were felt throughout Britain. The culminating point of a struggle in the air which all knew would decide the fate of the British Nation had been reached. This came on Sunday, September 15, 1940, after three months of bloody and heroic struggle between the Royal Air Force and the German Luftwaffe; a decision so overwhelming that only a crippled remnant of the enemy struggled back to its bases, whilst Southern England and the English Channel remained the graveyard of the German air armada which thought to strike the Royal Air Force from the skies."

Thus said Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, K.C.B., D.S.O., A.F.C., Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, Air Command, South East Asia, in a talk, commemorating the Battle of Britain, broadcast from All India Radio on September 15.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse

Unconquerable Spirit

He continued: "As in 1914, when the German Armies thought to overrun France and crush for ever the puny British Armies, the Old Contemptibles stood their ground and remained unbroken and unbeatable, so in 1940 the young Contemptibles of the air did likewise.

"They had inherited the same unconquerable spirit. The odds they faced were tremendous—day after day, month after month, those FEW faced the MANY, in the skies above Southern England. London reeled under the blows intended to break the spirit and the fighting power of the capital of the Nation. But it never for one moment wavered in its resolve to fight on and back its slender air forces to the full in their epic struggle.

"The spirit of London was the spirit of the Nation, and the spirit of the Air Forces. Each supported the other, and all knew, with a grim and quiet certainty, that Hitler's air forces must be vanquished.

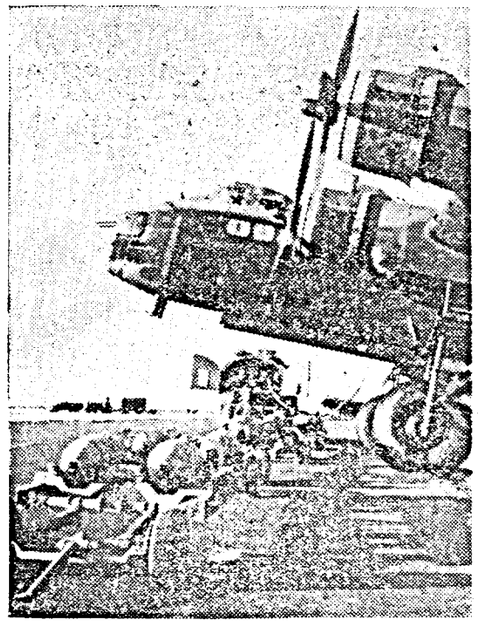
Pledge of Victory

"They believed with confidence in the unquenchable will to fight and win of those FEW on whose young shoulders the brunt of the battle was falling with unremitting ferocity. It is, therefore, well to remember the wave of quiet exultation which caught the heartstrings of our people on September 15, 1940.

"September 15, 1940, was the pledge of victory, and today—four years later—we honour those men who have for us made ultimate victory possible.

"Twice during that memorable Sunday the German Air Force struck what should have been knock-out blows at the heart of the British Empire. For 90 minutes in the morning, 20 squadrons of fighters battled with about 250 enemy aircraft. In the afternoon, for almost as long, 21 squadrons engaged another 250 of the enemy. At the height of this death struggle above the peaceful fields of England, German aircraft were being shot out of the sky at the rate of two every minute. And when the day was over and the remnants of Hitler's boastful Luftwaffe had retired, maimed and broken, 185 German aircraft lay wrecked around our coasts and on the soil they now could never conquer.

"There were other great days in the three months during which the battle raged. A month before, 180 German aircraft had been destroyed in one day. But it was on that autumn Sunday that the most spectacular bid was made to smash the Royal Air Force Fighter Command and lay waste to London. It failed, as the others had done, and civilisation saw a gleam ahead, the way out of the dark abyss to which Nazidom sought to drive it.



These bombs are for the Nazis.

"This battle which we commemorate today was fought on the ground as well as in the air. It was won by the pilots of our Hurricanes and Spitfires, but it was won also by the armourers and the flight mechanics and the schools of technical training; it was won by the maintenance units, by intelligence staffs, by flying controllers and equipment personnel, by signals sections and administrative organisations. It was won by those bomber crews which struck at the Channel ports and the invasion fleets, and by the operational training units which taught them their craft. It was won by those men of Coastal Command who guarded our convoys.

Victory of Common Unity

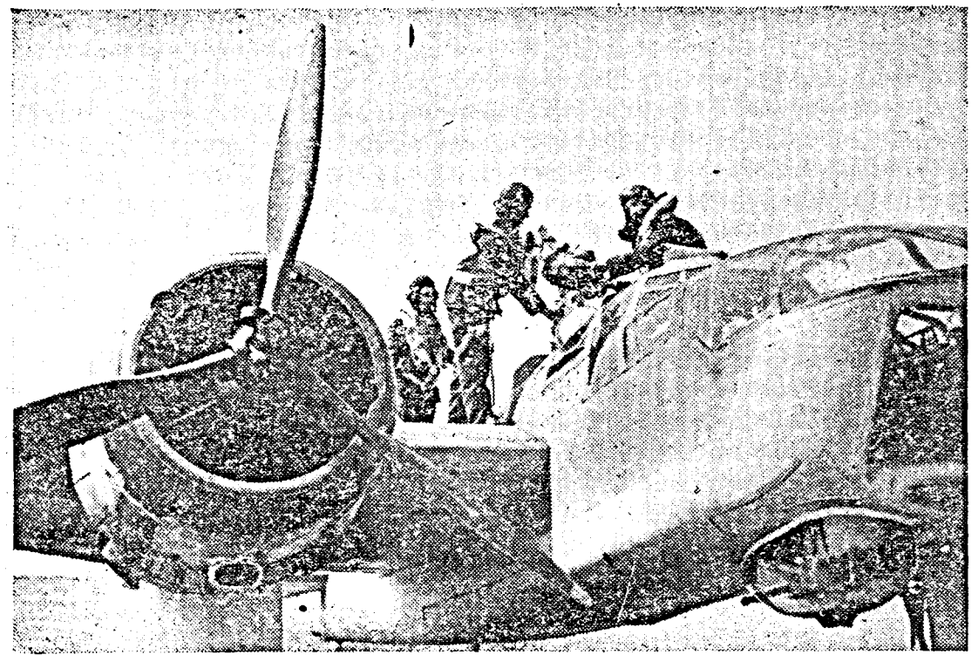
"It was won on the drawing board and in the factories, whence came those superlative aircraft which were the terror of the Luftwaffe. It was won by English men and women, who fought the fires, sheltered the homeless, tended the sick and comforted the distressed. It was a victory of common unity, a victory inspired by high ideal. It set us all a standard which can never be surpassed: not for want of trying, for to do less would be to fail the memory of those who gave their lives, but because the standard was supreme.

"The same unconquerable spirit and the noble courage and sacrifice typified the Allied Air Forces who, outnumbered, faced the Japanese Air Force in the skies above Malaya, the Dutch East Indies and Burma. American, Dutch, Australian and British Air Forces, driven before the invading fleets and armies of the enemy, made their final stand in Java and Burma, and fought until not one single aeroplane remained to take the air. Indeed, the gallantry of these FEW, fighting hard as they withdrew, knowing that annihilation awaited them, giving everything and more than the enemy was meeting out to them, must rank amongst the highest traditions of air forces the world over. A glorious epic—a glorious sacrifice.

"Those were grievous times, but today the horizon has cleared—India is safe, and in India a great weapon has been fashioned—an Allied Air Force which quickly turned to the offensive and has gained a complete mastery over the Japanese Air Force in Burma. Today an Allied Air Force—American, British, Dominion, Indian and Dutch—is poised in South East Asia ready to strike again when the moment comes, as have the Allied Air Forces in Europe.



R.A.F. armourers checking over the bombs before they are loaded into the aircraft.



Blenheim bomber's crew alighting from their aircraft after a sweep over the seas in search of enemy shipping.

"Its strength grows with ever-increasing momentum. Already Japan has had a small foretaste of what is to come. The tide is sweeping back through the Pacific. Japanese Armies and air forces already lie broken and destroyed in Burma. Inexorably the Allied Nations will close in upon that island from whence a barbarous and savage people endeavoured to take advantage of a temporary Allied weakness and preoccupation. A doom which has already overtaken Italy, and is even now about to crush Germany, awaits Japan.

Torches of Victory

"And so I repeat that the torches of victory kindled from the spark which flared into avenging flame in the Southern skies of Britain on Sunday, September 15, 1940, are heralding for the United Nations victories which will bring peace and freedom to the freedom-loving peoples of the world.

"So in thankfulness and pride we remember those in whose honour this day is dedicated. They laid the foundation stone of our victories.

"It is our proud heritage to finish the job."

R.A.F. PARADE IN NEW DELHI

A Royal Air Force Colour Hoisting parade in commemoration of the Battle of Britain was held in the Stadium. New Delhi, on September 15, the fourth anniversary of the greatest day in the Battle. Air-Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse took the salute and addressed the parade.

September 15, 1940, was the day on which the Luftwaffe lost 185 aircraft in making a desperate, unavailing bid to destroy R.A.F. Fighter Command and to devastate London. Their assault came in two waves and at the height of the action German aircraft were being shot down at the rate of two a minute. This victory of "The Few" marked the beginning of the end of the Battle of Britain and was commemorated at Royal Air Force stations all over the world.

Wing Commander C. G. Clegg, D.S.O., Officer Commanding, R.A.F. Station, New Delhi, commanded the Stadium parade. Officers of Air Rank and Group Captains of the Headquarters staff took up their positions behind the flagstaff,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 370)



Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck with Sepoy Kamal Ram at the C.-in-C.'s House, New Delhi.

SEPOY KAMAL RAM, V.C., RETURNS TO INDIA

"I am very happy to be in India once again," said Sepoy Kamal Ram, V.C., 8th Punjab Regiment, as he stepped from the aeroplane which brought him to Delhi on September 5. A short time ago he was fighting the Germans in Italy.

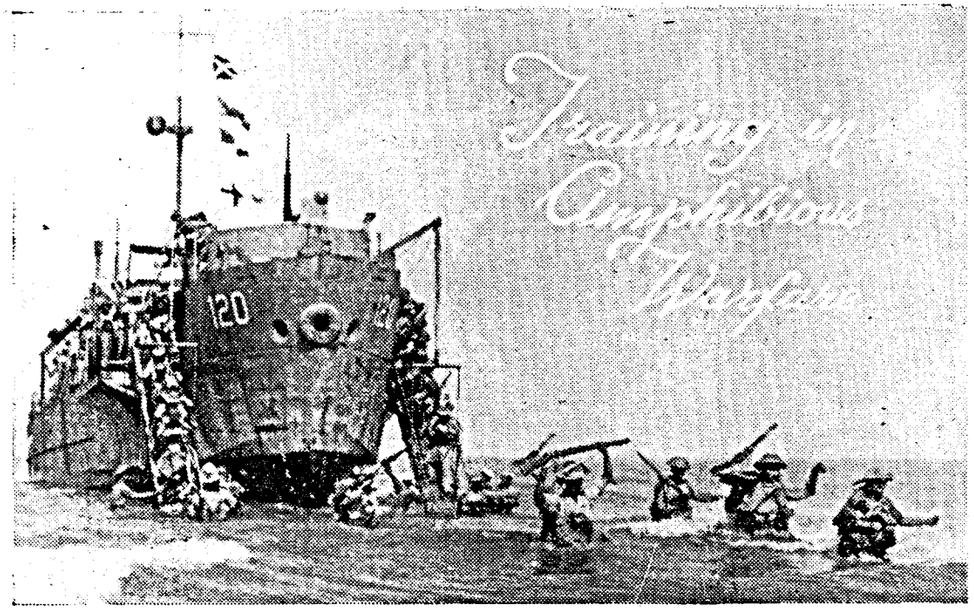
"I have had a fine time," he told an Indian Army Observer, "and now I am hoping for some leave. At the end of it I shall be ready to return to my battalion."

Soon after his arrival, Sepoy Kamal Ram was received informally by the Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, who congratulated the Indian Army's tenth and youngest V.C. on his bravery which had won him the supreme award.

Sepoy Kamal Ram, whose home is in Bholupura (Karauli State) left for Lahore a few hours later to report to the training centre of his regiment.



Indian soldiers at a Rest Camp near Rome gave a tea party to Sepoy Kamal Ram when he visited the Italian Capital.



Combined Operations Exercises:—A constant stream of troops wades ashore to back up the initial landings during the exercises. In the background is an L.C.I. (landing craft infantry).



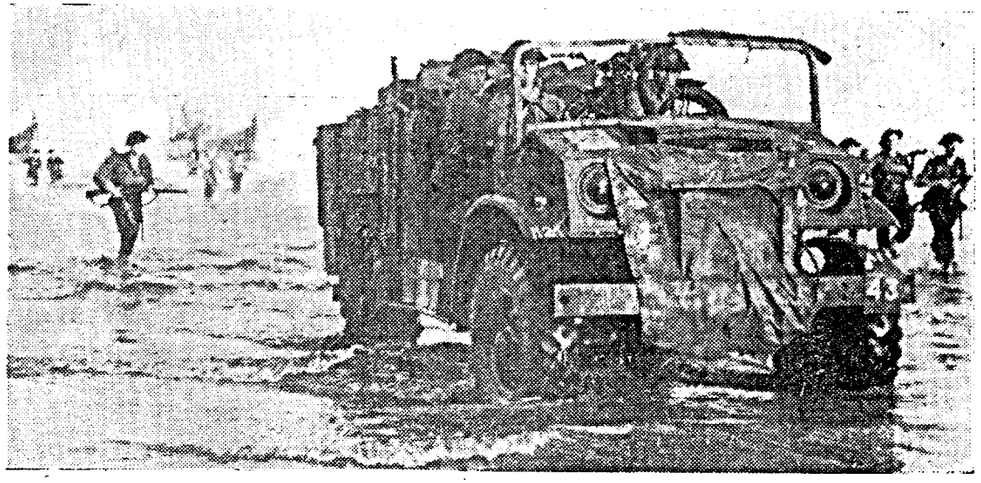
Aircraft give close support to the landing.

ASSAULT LANDING EXERCISES

SOMEWHERE in India, officers and men of the Royal Indian Navy and Indian Army, together with the R.A.F., are strenuously training in amphibious warfare. These sailors, soldiers and airmen work with complete understanding of one another's methods, preparing for the day when they will be the spearheads of assaults on Japanese-held South-East Asia.

At these Combined Training Centres, located on the coast of India, the lessons of combined operations in Madagascar, North Africa, Italy and Normandy are being studied and applied by officers and N.C.O.s. who have taken part in these operations. Amphibious warfare comprises all kinds of offensive action from small raids to large assault landings, and, under the Directorate of Combined Operations, Indian fighting men are being trained to strike hard at the enemy in unexpected places.

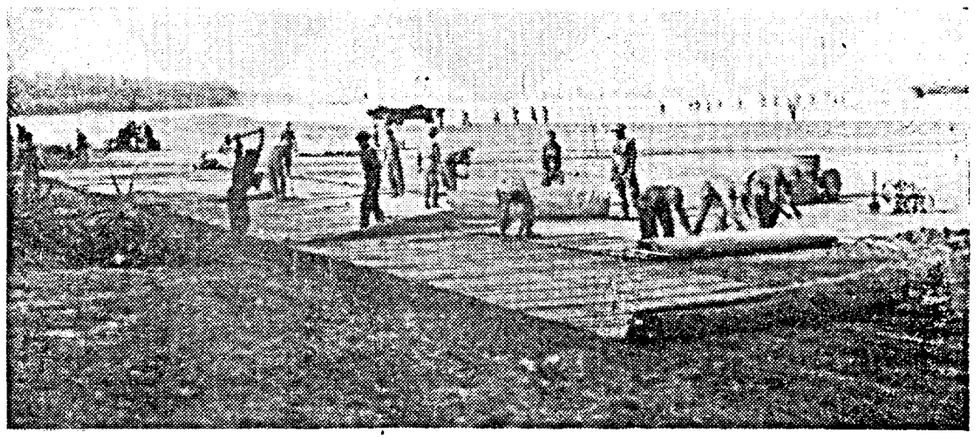
Earlier in the war, the Royal Indian Navy began training landing craft crews. In time,



Troops and a vehicle land during the exercises.

the Landing Craft Wing developed into an organisation of considerable size, its training centre being then the largest naval establishment in India. Because the Royal Indian Navy could not itself provide all the many naval officers and ratings required, volunteers were obtained from the Indian Army, and under the guidance of R.I.N. instructors they became sailors. They have provided crews for landing craft as well as beach parties.

Navy, Army and Air Force personnel work at the Combined Training Centres under a staff representative of all three Services. Troops learn the routine of living on board the ship and disembarking into landing craft by means of scrambling nets. On quiet stretches of the Indian coast assault landings are practised—a complicated task that involves not only landing men, equipment and vehicles but also maintaining them at full fighting efficiency. Special formations called Beach Groups move supplies across the beaches. India has raised and trained her own Beach Groups, the personnel of which is 90 per cent Indian.



Steel-netting tracks are laid on the beach to prevent vehicles from sinking in the sand.

SIR A. R. DALAL OUTLINES WORK OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

ADDRESSING a Press conference on September 14, the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Rustomji Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, said he had been busy with the organisation of his new Department and that his secretariat would soon be fully staffed. He would be taking over the subject of the detailed planning and development of Industries and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research from the Industries and Civil Supplies Department on September 18.

The organisation of the Industrial branch of his Department, he added, still remained to be done, and experienced personnel for the purpose was extremely difficult to secure. Very little progress with industrial planning had been made so far, and he was disappointed to find that the response from industrialists to the two questionnaires which had been issued some months ago, was very poor. He would appeal to the industrialists to co-operate with him by supplying the information called for, the sole object of which was to afford a basis on which further development of industries could be planned.



Sir Ardeshir Rustomji Dalal.

Progress in Planning

Considerable progress had been made in planning in other directions. The Sargent Report had been issued long ago and was under the active consideration of the Provinces. A report on Road Transport had also been issued, and one on railways was being considered at the Centre. A report on the technical possibilities of agricultural development by Dr. Burns and one by a Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on the whole subject of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry had attracted a great deal of attention.

The Policy Committee on Agriculture had recently appointed a number of sub-committees to go into such important questions as the stabilisation of prices, agricultural indebtedness, land utilisation, fish and milk. Reports on fisheries, forests, power development, etc., had also been issued, and a Central Technical Power Board would shortly be formed. It was also intended to form a Central Irrigation Board to deal with such questions as river training, 'hydel' schemes and gravity irrigation. The question of taking effective anti-erosion measures was one of the greatest importance for the future wellbeing of India, and was engaging the serious attention of Government. A few very highly qualified foreign experts might have to be recruited to deal with some of these important problems.

Most of the subjects to be dealt with by his Department were the responsibility of the Provinces. While his Department would plan for the development of the country as a whole, it would necessarily proceed on the basis of the existing Constitution. But whatever shape the future Constitution might take, and whatever political affinities the future provinces or states of India might have, they would all profit by the measures of development now being contemplated.

Regionalisation of Industries

The Government was keen on regionalisation and the dispersal of industries as widely as possible, subject, of course, to the availability of natural resources such as fuel, power, water, as well as markets. The Provinces had been requested to form Development Committees and offices of their own, and most of them had already done so. In fact the Province of Bombay had prepared a five-year plan which in many respects was worthy of emulation.

Regarding industries, Sir Ardeshir explained that it was proposed to form a separate committee for industries, as distinct from the present Policy Committee on Commerce and Industry, consisting of a number of prominent industrialists and representatives of the Provinces and States. While questions of policy would be discussed with this Committee, the planning of different industries would be carried out by a number of panels for different industries, or groups of industries. Each of these panels would consist of two or three industrialists, concerned with those industries, together with one or two representatives of Provinces. To them would be attached one or more experts as required and an officer of the Industrial Branch of the Planning Department.

Geological Survey

The Provinces had also been requested to form Industries Committees of their own, so that their own special needs should not be lost sight of. The reports of the panels, together with those of the Provincial Committees, would then be coordinated for the purpose of the general planning. This would not prevent the Provinces from proceeding immediately with such industrial schemes as they may have ready. The Government of India would examine such schemes from the point of view of the controls and any assistance that might be required.

Sir Ardeshir added that he would also shortly be dealing with the planning and development side of the Geological Survey and the Utilisation Branch of that Survey in co-operation with the Labour Department, so as to expedite further exploration and utilisation of the mineral resources of the country.

As regards the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, the establishment of national laboratories for chemistry, physics and metallurgy, and research institutes for fuel and glass, which was approved sometime ago, was being actively pursued.

Training of Personnel

"To my mind," said Sir Ardeshir, "the question of personnel is probably the most serious of the difficulties in the way of planning, and is likely to impose well-defined limits to the pace of development." The most essential preliminary step, therefore, was the training of our future scientists, engineers, geologists, doctors, agriculturists, educationists, administrators, etc., in the innumerable different jobs for which they would be required. Our educational institutions would have to be expanded and multiplied and a generous system of scholarships and research studentships would have to be devised for the training of our men, both in India and abroad.

It was intended to send a large number of such men for training in the near future to the U.K. and the U.S.A. Mr. John Sargent, the Educational Adviser to Government, had been making investigations in both those countries for that purpose, and a detailed scheme would be worked out after his return. One of the most urgent needs of the country was the training of geologists and an increase in the existing personnel of the Geological Department. Our universities should take up the question of geological teaching as an urgent measure. The establishment of a very high grade technological institute on the lines of the M.I.T. in America, as well as of an all-India medical centre, were under consideration.

Concluding, Sir Ardeshir said it would be seen that in spite of the pre-occupations of the war, satisfactory progress had already been made, for which very great credit was due to his colleagues as well as to some of the Provinces and the Departments concerned. The rate of progress and the ultimate success of the measures contemplated would depend to a very large extent on the co-operation received from the public, and in that respect he appealed for help from the Press.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Central Government's monthly accounts for June, 1944, show that, excluding periodical adjustments and the transactions of Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, expenditure in the first three months of the financial year 1944-45 exceeded revenue by Rs. 45 crores against Rs. 33¾ crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. Revenue was actually better by about Rs. 12 crores but Defence expenditure increased by Rs. 24 1|3 crores to Rs. 72 1|3 crores.

There has been an increase of Rs. 69¼ crores under Permanent Debt during this period.

CALCUTTA HIGH COURT APPOINTMENTS

H. M. the King has been graciously pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Sudhi Ranjan Das to be a Judge of the Calcutta High Court upon the resignation of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Torick Ameer Ali, Kt.

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint Mr. Ernest Charles Ormond, Barrister-at-Law, to be an Additional Judge of the Calcutta High Court from November 11, 1944, to August 31, 1945.

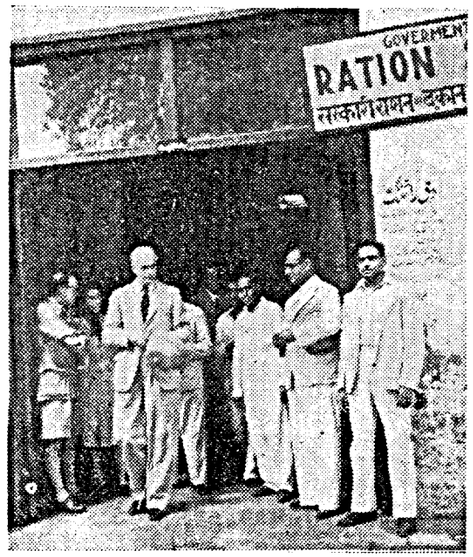
SIR HENRY FRENCH ON FOOD CONTROL IN U. K.

Lecture at Delhi University

"FOOD control in the United Kingdom" was the subject of a lecture delivered by Sir Henry French, K.C.B., K.B.E., Secretary to the U. K. Ministry of Food, at the Delhi University on September 13.

Sir Henry, at the outset, explained that he had come to India to study the feeding of the people of India during the present emergency. He had brought with him no books of reference respecting the work of the Ministry of Food and could consult none while travelling about India. He had no diagrams or charts to illustrate the results achieved. In spite of these handicaps he had decided to accept the invitation of the University of Delhi to speak on the subject of food control in the U.K. because he had been greatly impressed since his arrival with the interest which many people in India were taking in this subject and their desire to obtain further information about it.

He emphasised that nothing he was going to say was intended to point a moral to India. He would, to the best of his ability, give facts regarding the United Kingdom in precisely the same way as if he were addressing an audience in any English University.



Sir Henry French at a Government retail ration shop in Delhi.

Early Origin

Food control in the U.K. began in December, 1916, when Mr. Lloyd George became Prime Minister and included in his Government for the first time a Food Controller. The early efforts of the first Ministry of Food were rather timid and tentative and produced little result either in improving the distribution of food then in short supply or in lowering prices which during 1914-16 had risen to an altogether unreasonable level. Then Lord Rhondda was appointed and things soon began to move, but—and this is often forgotten—it took such a long time to create machinery throughout the country, that the war was over before rationing on a national scale could be introduced. As regards price control the most that the (then) Ministry of Food could do was to stop the upward rise. It could not lower the level already reached.

The next important milestone was in 1934 when a Cabinet Committee was appointed under the chairmanship of the Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence (then Sir Thomas Inskip now Lord Caldecote) to see that the Departments concerned were making the necessary arrangements for dealing with food should war come. The Committee first tackled food production and, as an officer of the Ministry of Agriculture, Sir Henry attended its meetings. In 1936, the Committee appointed a Sub-Committee of which Sir William Beveridge was the Chairman, to advise on what preparations should be made for food rationing in the event of war. As a result of this Sub-Committee's report, Ministers decided to create a new Department for the sole purpose of preparing plans for the supply and distribution of food and animal feeding stuffs in wartime. On November 28, 1936, this decision was announced, and in the official Press Notice Sir Henry was named as the Director.

Food Executive Officers

The development which followed could be easily seen from a few figures. On the date of its establishment the Department consisted of one man, within a week four other civil servants had been added; in September, 1938, at the time of the Munich Crisis the staff comprised about 250; in August, 1939, the regular staff had increased to about 350 but thousands of men and women had been earmarked for service

if war came and had each been supplied with a provisional letter of appointment; on September 3, 1939, these officers reported for duty, some on the headquarters staff but the majority at the local food offices all over the United Kingdom, with the result that by the end of the first month of war an organisation of about 10,000 officers was in being. To-day it was the largest trading organisation in the world, with a staff of 45,000 persons and trading accounts of £600 million per annum.

During the interval between 1936 and the outbreak of the war the organisation of the future Ministry of Food was devised and personnel selected. A Food Executive Officer was appointed in every Local Authority area (1,500 in all) and supplied with a sealed and secret code of instructions which he was required to keep in safe custody but not to open until instructed to do so. Telegrams instructing these officers to open their sealed packets were issued in cypher 3 or 4 days before the outbreak of the War. A great deal of attention was also devoted to conferences with representatives of national trade associations as a result of which food traders in every part of the U.K. came to know what would be expected of them if war came. The first ration book was drafted, special machinery for printing, cutting and binding was devised, and the final proof was passed for press in July, 1937.

Food Reserves

The most dramatic thing, however, which the Food (Defence Plans) Department did during its three years of existence was to purchase secretly and without any Parliamentary authority security stocks of wheat, sugar and whale-oil. Parliament subsequently passed the Essential Commodities (Reserves) Act retrospectively regularising these purchases. Under this Act, the Department bought more wheat and whale-oil as well as some canned goods, and on the outbreak of the war in addition to stocks in the U.K. it owned a valuable supply of wheat along the water side in Canada.

The war opened very differently from what was expected and some of the plans made in advance were not put into operation. Some of the measures taken as a precaution against the heavy enemy air attacks that were expected proved to be quite necessary. For example, large supplies of tea normally held in London were dispersed hurriedly all over Great Britain. Fish markets were transferred from the East Coast ports to new sites about 10 miles inland. The disorganisation which resulted from such action attracted much attention and criticism. There was, in fact, plenty to criticise the Ministry of Food for during the first six months of "phoney warfare." The newly-born Department suffered from teething troubles. It made many mistakes. But some of the criticism was directed towards protecting vested interests. Sir Henry said that this was the only period in the last five years during which he had sleepless nights. He knew that a machine had been created which was capable of rendering valuable service to the nation but he had reason to fear that it might be pulled to pieces before it had been properly run in and might be ruined before it could demonstrate what it was capable of.

Organisation of Food Ministry

With the appointment of Lord Woolton as Minister of Food in April, 1940, and the terrible anxieties resulting from military developments in the next three months leading up to Dunkirk the whole outlook changed. It took Lord Woolton only a few weeks to appreciate the nature and capabilities of the organisation of which he had become the head. When he had weighed it up and was satisfied that it was a good thing, he proceeded to vitalise it and he then "sold" it to the public. He never changed it. It remained to-day just as it was planned before the war, but he gave it courage and confidence, he converted it into a great and inspiring service, something to take a pride in, something to fight for.

Sir Henry proceeded to describe the organisation of the Ministry of Food. The Headquarters consisted of three main Departments: (i) Supply, through which all commodities were bought, sold and distributed down to the retailer; (ii) Divisional and Local Services, which were concerned with the consumer and retail distribution, including rationing in all its varying forms; (iii) General, concerned with policy and especially with thinking forward on such important questions as the nutritional requirements of the nation.

The local organisation consisted of a Food Control Committee in each area comprising 11 persons representative of all kinds of consumers in the area, five food traders and one employee in a retail food shop. There was also in each local area a Food Office through which ration books were distributed and food retailers, restaurants, etc., given their permits to buy.

Between the 1,500 Food Offices and the headquarters of the Ministry there were 15 Divisional Food Officers who were the highest representatives of the Ministry in each Division.

The consideration which made the Government decide that the releases of food to the public would have to be drastically cut was the impossibility of maintaining food imports at their peacetime level. In normal times the

larger part of the U.K. food supplies came from overseas. With the heavy demands on shipping for war purposes food ships had to be diverted to other uses.

To overcome the reduction in food imports, the Government decided on increased home production and the restriction of consumption.

National Cropping Programme

The Ministry of Food had no responsibility for food production. That rested with three Agricultural Departments in London, Edinburgh and Belfast. The Ministry of Food would begin to operate when the crops or fat stock came off the farm to be sold. It was the customer of the Agricultural Departments. Every year it told them what acreage it would like to see planted with each food crop. After detailed discussion a national cropping programme was agreed upon and the Agricultural Departments had always succeeded in "delivering the goods." The gap between home produce and the essential requirements of the nation was filled by imports.

Sir Henry said that in his opinion the great achievements in food policy in the United Kingdom since 1939 were three. First, a most drastic reduction was made in the quantity of food imported into the United Kingdom. Second, farmers in the United Kingdom were called upon to make and they made a great contribution towards filling the gap caused by the reduction of imports. Third, the supplies obtained from increased home production and reduced imports, although in the aggregate far less than the total available in peacetime, were so utilised and distributed as to keep the nation as a whole in at least as good health as before the war.

Food Imports

In justification of these claims, Sir Henry gave some interesting figures. Imports of food for human consumption and feeding stuffs for animals were cut by over 50 per cent. The arable area was increased by nearly 50 per cent. The area under permanent grass was reduced from 18,750,000 acres to 11,641,000 acres. The potato acreage was nearly doubled and the wheat acreage increased by 75 per cent. Imported animal feeding stuffs were reduced almost to nil; consequently the pig and poultry population was drastically cut. Canned goods like fruit and soups containing a large percentage of water were cut out of the import programme. Imported dried eggs were substituted for shell eggs and housewives were taught how to use them with great benefit to the family dietary. Thus food production and distribution policies were worked together so that although the Food Minister was obliged to make a big contribution to the war effort by releasing large quantities of shipping tonnage for military operation, he nevertheless kept the nation "Fighting Fit" and ensured that there would be no lowering of morale owing to inadequate feeding.

An important factor in securing these results was that every possible device was used to avoid waste and to make the best use of supplies available. Imported meat was deboned before shipment, and carcases were telescoped so that every ton of shipping space should bring in the maximum amount of food for human consumption. Housewives were taught how to cook and serve meals made from leftovers and shown how to use the new kinds of food which war conditions had brought. When a city, such as Coventry or Sheffield, was blitzed all regulations were swept aside; beverages and snacks and, where required, hot meals were made available promptly to prove the truth of Lord Woolton's phrase, "The Ministry of Food not only copes but cares."

Rationing

Rationing was one of the most important means through which the policy of "Equal Shares" was achieved. The rations were definitely restrictive; 1s.|2d. worth of meat per person per week, with 2 oz. of tea and 2 oz. of butter represented a drastic change in pre-war habits. In restaurants and hotels the amount and value of food supplied per meal was also much lower than before the war. In most cities in India better meals could be obtained to-day in any good hotel than in the best hotels in London

Rationing was extended to a large variety of foodstuffs. The list, which was a little changed for the last two years, now included meat, bacon, sugar, cheese, butter, margarine and cooking fat, tea, jam and marmalade, a large group of canned goods and dried fruit. Eggs and milk although they were strictly speaking not rationed, were closely controlled.

Rationing, although it guaranteed an equal share for all, could not provide for the nutritional needs for special classes. Special arrangements were, therefore, made for mothers and young babies. Workers were encouraged to have meals "on the job" and children to have meals at school. The number of workers' canteens was increased from about 1,000 before the war to over 17,000 to-day. In addition, over 2,000 British restaurants were maintained by local authorities. By means such as these the needs of special classes were met.

Sir Henry said that one of the most important facts to bear in mind was that the Ministry itself owned at some stage of their distribution practically all the essential foods which

were being consumed in the United Kingdom, or, in the case of manufactured foods, the raw materials from which they were made. On the day on which war broke out the Ministry by order took possession of all stocks of staple foodstuffs, such as wheat, oil seeds, meat, bacon and tea, and put an end to private importation and itself became the sole importer. This drastic step would have caused a panic among traders had they not been prepared for it. But they were fully informed as to what was going to happen and they knew that they would continue to earn a reasonable livelihood as first-hand distributors acting as agents of the Ministry. Gradually as the months passed this system was extended beyond the staple products and now covered almost the whole range of imported foodstuffs and nearly all home-grown produce except fresh fruit and vegetables, over which a modified form of control was exercised not involving direct purchase by the Ministry.

The importance of ownership was obvious. It gave the Ministry complete power. The Ministry fixed margins which it considered reasonable for distribution and for processing; it arranged for quantities to be allocated to particular towns and even to individual shops and restaurants as it thought fit; and it fixed its selling price and the maximum price to be charged at each stage of distribution, right down to the ultimate consumer.

Effect of Control

The importance and effect of such a full control of supplies could be best realised by two examples showing how it could be made to work in accordance with Government policy. The normal quantity of meat allowed to a restaurant or hotel was one-penny worth for each main meal served. That applied to the most expensive establishments often spoken of as luxury hotels, as well as to cafes which catered for the needs of clerks and other black-coated workers. But the Government felt that heavy workers needed more meat than other classes of consumers. It was not prepared to make a difference in domestic rations. Accordingly canteens at factories in which the majority of the workers were engaged on heavy duties received two-penny worth of meat. There was an intermediate class to which the allowance was three-half pence. In this way the surprising result was reached that the meat allowance per meal served was twice as much in a heavy workers' canteen as in a luxury hotel.

Another example of distribution directed by policy was the case of oranges. When oranges were scarce in the U.K.—and this was practically all the year round in the war period—they were supplied to retailers on the condition that for the first five days after a supply arrived in the shops they must be reserved for customers producing a young child's ration book.

It would be seen that the Ministry of Food had not merely obtained and distributed food supplies but it had directed them to the consumers which needed them most. This policy demanded great sacrifices from non-priority consumers. For example, never had so much fresh liquid milk been produced and consumed in the U.K. as in these war years. Yet many households and many parts of the country had never been so short of liquid milk. Millions of gallons had been diverted from London to industrial areas in Scotland and the North. Supply to adults had been cut to the barest minimum while expectant and nursing mothers and young children had never had so much milk. To encourage milk consumption by those who needed it most, specially low prices were charged and in some cases it was provided free. The proportion of potential beneficiaries who availed themselves of these facilities was jumped from 69 per cent when the scheme started to 96 per cent in 1944.

Results Achieved

The efforts of the Ministry of Food to keep the nation fighting fit were greatly assisted by the increased purchasing power of wage earners and by the subsidising of food by the Government. Some £200 million per annum was being expended in this way. In calculating this sum all the costs of the Ministry, including staff salaries and travelling expenses, were included.

The complete scheme of food control enabled the Government to keep the cost of living in the United Kingdom remarkably steady during five different years. No system of food subsidies without full control could have achieved this result. In the First World War, the Food Index rose from 100 in 1914 to 276 in November 1920. The peak reached was 291. Between 1939 and August, 1944, the increase in the Food Index was only 23 per cent. What this control of food prices had meant in preventing inflation and in reducing the cost of the war needed no emphasis.

The cut in domestic supplies and in the character of meals served in hotels and restaurants demanded a considerable sacrifice from a part of the public in the United Kingdom. Yet, in spite of the heavy demands made on citizens, and especially on women, to change their habits, to be prepared to try new things and generally to co-operate with the Government, the Ministry of Food was a popular Department. It

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 342)

Surplus Stores: Disposals Board Constituted

THE Government of India have constituted a Disposals Board for controlling all disposals operations and for dealing with questions of policy arising in connection with the disposal of surpluses, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on September 18.

It added: With the Secretary, Supply Department, as the Chairman, the Board consists of the Secretaries to the Industries and Civil Supplies, War, Commerce, Planning and Development, Finance, and Food Departments, the Financial Adviser, Military Finance, the Master-General of the Ordnance, the head of the Ministry of Supply Mission in India, and the Director-General (Disposals.)

Subject to the general control of the Hon'ble the Supply Member, the functions of the Board, broadly speaking, will be to decide the methods and means of disposal to Government Departments (Central, Provincial and States) or to the civil market, to take steps against the possibility of excessive surpluses arising, and to plan for the orderly disposal of surpluses which might arise in future.

The Main Principles

The main principles governing the disposal of surplus stores will be to release stocks at a rate which, while fast enough to get the goods into the hands of consumers where they are most needed, will not cause the internal market to be so flooded that there are adverse repercussions on internal economy or production plans; to ensure that the goods are sold to the ultimate consumer at prices which are reasonable in comparison with current prices of similar articles, and to prevent an unnecessary number of intermediaries or profiteering by middle men; to use, as far as possible, the normal trade channels for distribution with a view to ensure that the usual traders or manufacturers, as well as the ultimate consumers in different parts of the country, get their fair share of the quantities available; and to consider the requirements of the Government of India, Provincial Governments and the States, for their own use, before the release of any goods to the civil market.

The decisions of the Board will be executed through the organisation of the Director-General (Disposals), who will also provide the Board with data required by them. In the case of lands and buildings, factories and foodstuffs, however, the actual executive organisation for disposal will be the respective Departments concerned.

The Disposals Board will deal with all true surpluses available for disposal in India and reported to the Director-General (Disposals) by the Military Surplus Stores Section and procurement and other Civil Departments of the Government of India.

The Provincial Governments and the Governments of the Indian States may also report surpluses to the Director-General (Disposals).

FOOD CONTROL IN U. K.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 341)

had made hundreds of mistakes. Yet the public forgave it and continued to believe in it. The main reasons for this remarkable result, Sir Henry said, were first that politics had been kept completely out of food administration; secondly, the public had always been taken into the confidence of the Ministry, mistakes had been frankly acknowledged, new schemes had been explained, suggestions from the public and the trade listened to and often adopted. Sir Henry said that he attached so much importance to the support of the public that he felt that the Ministry could not have reached its objectives if consumers generally had not co-operated with it.

Finally, the Ministry's staff whether tenders, permanent civil servants or temporary officers recruited from varying occupations, had not regarded its task as an ordinary piece of administration. It considered itself engaged on a crusade, as fighting for the health and the well-being of the nation through the medium of food at a time when short supplies, transport and manpower difficulties might easily have reduced to a dangerous level the national will and determination to fight on until complete victory was won.

Dr. S. N. SEN

The Government of India have nominated Dr. S. N. Sen, Director of Archives, as their representative to the Seventh Session of the Indian History Congress to be held in Madras in December, 1944, and permitted him to preside over the deliberations of the Congress, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on September 9.



Indian farm labourers harvesting paddy.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SCHEMES FOR 1945-46

THE Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research met in New Delhi on September 4 and 5, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh (Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India) presiding, and sanctioned the research and development programme for 1945-46 presented by its Advisory Board.

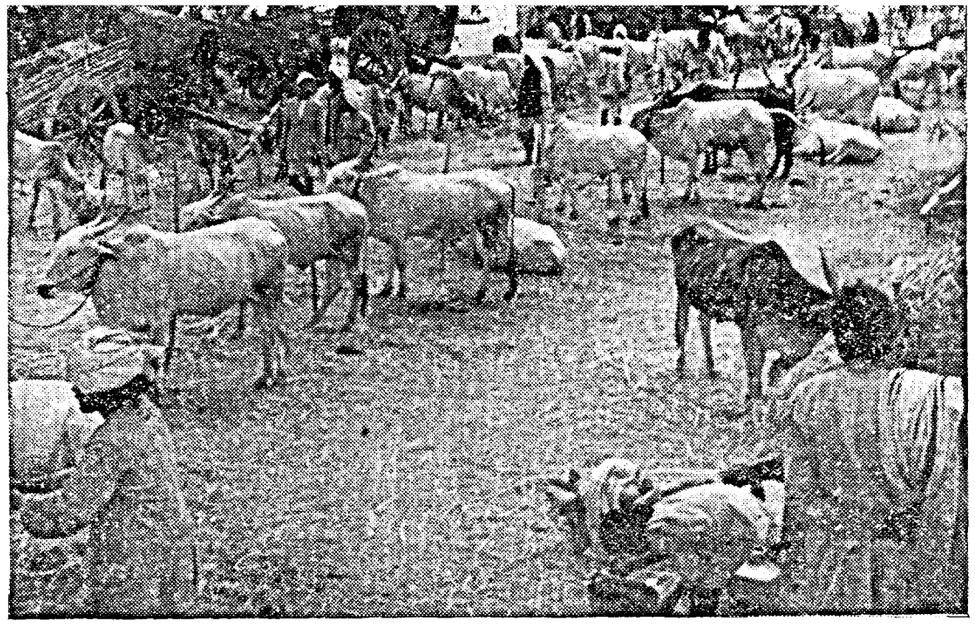
A large number of new research and development schemes, both in agriculture and animal husbandry, has been sanctioned for the next year. The total grants amount to Rs. 8 lakhs, while extensions of existing schemes will cost over Rs. 3 lakhs. Another Rs. 3 lakhs have been kept in reserve for sanctioning extensions of other existing schemes which may expire before March, 1946.

Fruit and Vegetable Preservation

The Governing Body accepted the offer made by the Punjab Government to place its laboratories and equipment for fruit and vegetable preservation at the disposal of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to set up a Central Fruit and Vegetable Technological Institute in Lyallpur. The annual expenditure on the Institute will be about Rs. 60,000.

Another scheme sanctioned is connected with village rehabilitation in Baroda State. The State proposes to buy out five villages in Baroda which are at present in the hands of moneylenders and to rehabilitate the cultivators in these villages in five different ways to determine under what conditions of farming and under what system of land tenure best results are obtained.

In one village a consolidated holding of 15 acres will be given to each family. The holding cannot be sub-divided and must be cropped according to a programme fixed by the State. The cultivators in this village will ultimately buy out their holdings. The second village will be similar but the cultivators will always remain tenants of the State. In the third village, the experiment of consolidated cropping will be tried. All crops will be grown in blocks by the community and the produce will be shared in proportion to the area of land and by each cultivator in the block. The fourth village will be cultivated by collective farming. Each cultivator will receive a share of the whole produce proportionate to the labour he and his cattle have put into the cultivation. In the fifth village, State farming will be adopted. The land



Cattle for sale at a village fair.

will belong to the village as a whole. The cultivators will receive a daily wage together with a share of the profits at the end of the year.

An investigation into the possibilities of vernalisation of rice in India is to be taken up by the Calcutta University. Vernalisation was originally introduced in Russia to shorten the growing period of crops in order that they might escape damage from frost and other adverse conditions. Certain initial treatments are given to seed or seedlings and the crop comes to maturity sooner than ordinarily. If rice in India can also be similarly treated, it is claimed, the crop can escape damage by floods or other unfavourable factors.

Research in Mycology

The Governing Body have also sanctioned Rs. 45,000 for the establishment of schools of research in mycology. The aim is to co-ordinate the research activities in this science all over India to eliminate duplication and to make the maximum use of all available facilities. It is intended to establish schools later in other agricultural sciences so that individuals and institutions which possess special qualifications and facilities for special aspects of research may specialise in those lines.

On the animal husbandry side, new schemes to be undertaken include investigations into the incidence of bovine tuberculosis, poultry diseases and diseases of sheep and goats,

CONSERVING AND REARING OF LIVESTOCK

"In view of the enhancement of prices prevailing today and in the face of his own pressing need for work bullocks, the cultivator is probably more willing to receive advice and more ready to act upon it than he has ever been in the past," says a Circular issued by the Government of India to all Provincial Governments and Local Administrations.

The Circular contains suggestions made by the Animal Husbandry Commissioner on steps necessary to conserve livestock and to increase the production of good breeding stock. "If only animals over ten years of age are killed, it is most improbable that any useful bullock or breeding cow will be sacrificed," says the Animal Husbandry Commissioner.

The custom of slaughtering cattle while in poor condition is wasteful; provided the animals are healthy, even old cattle can be brought up to slaughter condition within the course of some three months if they are stall-fed. The purchase and fattening for slaughter of what are recognised to be otherwise useless cattle should be organised wherever circumstances permit.

The use of dry cows for draught work should be encouraged.

To cope with contagious diseases among work animals, more stockmen should be trained to supplement the present shortage of veterinary surgeons. Many cultivators other than regular breeders, are again turning their attention to the rearing of their own bullocks. In place of whole milk (which is in short supply) for calves, skim milk and other milk derivatives and calf meals are suggested. The importance of feeding roughage and silage of good quality to young stock should be made more widely known. Demonstrations of silage making and feeding should be arranged.

For cows in calf, silage or good hay is suggested, but failing that, either in quantity or quality, a small supplement of a well-balanced, mineral-enriched cheap concentrate will meet the requirements.

Madras Scheme

Schemes should be promoted, such as the one under consideration by the Madras Government in which it is proposed that male stock below one year old should be bought by Government and reared in forest tracts, which are inaccessible to other cattle and where grazing is plentiful, until they are fit for work.

Finally the Government of India have asked for a report, by December 31, 1944, on action taken by the Livestock Departments in the Provinces on each of these recommendations.

FRUIT-CANNING FACTORY IN N.-W.F.P.

With the installation of the largest fruit-canning factory in India at Nassarpur, North-West Frontier Province, the Central Food Department has given a fillip to an industry which has a bright future in post-war India.

The canning plant recently imported by the Government from the United Kingdom has a productive capacity of nearly 50,000 cans which approximates to 45 tons of fruit per day. If worked to full capacity, this factory should be able to supply India's canned fruit requirements, and it would benefit the growers by relieving seasonal gluts of fruits. Though under Central Government control, the Nassarpur factory is operated by a private company which has long experience in the manufacture of canned fruit.

WHEAT FOR N.-W.F.P.

To meet the wheat requirements of the North-West Frontier Province, the Central Food Department has allotted 17,000 tons of wheat in addition to a further quota of 4,000 tons for seed purposes.

FOODGRAIN IMPORTS

Advisory Committee's Resolution

A meeting of the Standing Food Advisory Committee of the Central Legislature was held in New Delhi on September 9, the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, presiding.

On the question of improving the quality of foodgrains purchased by Government, majority opinion in the Committee favoured the establishment of an intermediary agency to guarantee quality, where it was not practicable to establish a Government monopoly.

The Committee concluded its sitting the following day after adopting a resolution advocating that the Government of India should continue to press His Majesty's Government to import 1½ million tons of foodgrains this year and such quantities as might be necessary in subsequent years.

The Committee also considered the food position in the several Provinces.

PROGRESS OF BASIC FOOD PLAN

As against a total movement target of about 26,00,000 tons of all foodgrains from surplus to deficit areas under the *kharif* and *rabi* plans of the Central Food Department, about 13,00,000 tons have already been despatched up to August 15.

The shares of Bombay, Bengal and Travancore-Cochin are 262,000, 196,000 and 160,500 tons respectively. The *kharif* plan is operative from November 1943 to October 1944 and the *rabi* plan from May 1944 to April 1945.

On the basis of present estimates the rice, wheat, gram, barley and millets quotas are likely to be fulfilled within the respective crop years. There is likely to be a short fall in the case of millets.

FOODGRAINS FOR DECCAN STATES

Prompt action by the Food Department, Government of India, on timely information from the Resident has saved Deccan States from what might otherwise have been a serious food crisis. About 30,000 tons of foodgrains have already been despatched by the Centre with the co-operation of the Provinces, and a further allotment of 16,000 tons has been made.

FAMINE INQUIRY COMMISSION VISIT BENGAL DISTRICTS

Food Storage and Distribution Arrangements Inspected

TRAVELLING by road, rail and river, members of the Famine Inquiry Commission recently spent nearly a week in different districts of Bengal visiting a number of towns and villages and inspecting transport arrangements, distribution, storage and medical facilities, and then returned to Calcutta.

In order to cover as wide an area as possible, the Commission divided into three parties. Sir John Woodhead, the Chairman, visited Chandpur and Chittagong and, on the way, made a study of the localities which in 1942 came under Denial.

Sir Manilal Nanavati and Mr. S. V. Ramamurty, who visited Midnapore and Contai, later travelled to Khulna, an important rail and river junction. Khan Bahadur Mian Afzal Hussain and Dr. W. R. Aykroyd went to Dacca, Narayanganj, Munshiganj and the villages in the neighbourhood.

The members received both officials and non-officials and heard their experiences of the past and present. The members, it is understood, have derived great benefit by a study of conditions on the spot and paid special attention to the problems of relief and rehabilitation.

FURTHER EVIDENCE

The Commission resumed their sitting in Calcutta on September 1 when they recorded the evidence of the Official Congress Parliamentary Party, who were represented by Dr. Sanyal and Dr. A. C. Ukil.

The memorandum furnished by the Party gave a detailed account of the causes which led to the food shortage. It pointed out that both in 1942 and 1943 the Party had advocated the association of all sections of the people in the food administration of the province and had suggested a food council.

Dr. Sanyal, in his evidence, elaborated the proposals which the Party had made from time to time and detailed his Party's criticisms of the measures of price control and procurement followed last year.

Dr. Ukil submitted a supplementary memorandum on the problem of food and nutrition. He drew attention to the lack of crop planning and gave an account of what could be done to improve the nutrition of the people by planning on scientific lines. He suggested that as part of the agricultural policy of the province, Bengal should take steps to grow pulses, which are necessary for a balanced diet and emphasised the value of growing soya beans as a supplementary food, and outlined the scope for the development of food technology in the province. He also mentioned the great possibilities of the fishing industry.

The Commission then heard the representatives of the Krishak Proja Samity, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmad, Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashmi and Mr. Humayun Kabir.

Various points arising out of the memorandum presented by the Party and their criticisms of the policy pursued by the Government last year were discussed. Mr. Hashmi stressed the prevalence of bribery and corruption and also gave his views on the effect of the food drive undertaken in June, 1943, on the rural population.

Earlier in the day, the Commission heard the evidence of Mr. K. W. P. Marar, Secretary, Supply Department, Assam Government.

Food Administration

The following day, the Commission heard the evidence of the representatives of the Indian Federation of Labour, the Radical Democratic Party, the Communist Party of Bengal, the Bengal Provincial Kisan Sabha and the Bolshevik Party of India.

In their evidence, the importance of close association of the people with the food administration was stressed. The witnesses gave details, from their experience, of the extent to which hoarding and profiteering prevailed last year. Improvements in the methods of procurement, fuller use of co-operative agencies and the intensification of "Grow More Food" efforts were among other subjects discussed.

Detailed memoranda analysing the causes of the famine were furnished by the parties.

The Bengal Provincial Hindu Mahasabha, the Indian Association and the British Indian Association gave evidence before the Commission on September 4.

Mr. Manoranjan Chowdhury and Professor Haricharan Ghosh on behalf of the Mahasabha, analysing the events of 1942 and 1943, gave reasons for the failure to check rising prices and hoarding. Mr. Chowdhury also gave an account of his experiences in Midnapore where the Mahasabha established a relief organisation soon after the cyclone of October, 1942.

Rai Bahadur C. L. Roy, Rai Bahadur B. B. Mukherjee, Messrs. J. M. Datta and K. C. Neogy represented the Indian Association. The provisions of the Famine Code and the feasibility of their application in the conditions of last year were discussed. The Commission also examined the Association's criticisms of the Food Drive of May, 1943, and the procurement organisation.

Giving evidence on behalf of the British Indian Association, Mr. P. N. Singh Roy, Kumar S. C. Sinha, Dr. Sochin Sen and Kumar Jagdish Chandra described the part played by zemindars and landowners in the provision of relief in the villages. The views of the Association on the present method of procurement and the "Grow More Food" campaign were also discussed.

The Commission also heard representatives of the Marwari, Bengal National, Indian and Muslim Chambers of Commerce.

The extent to which purchases were made by large employers of labour and the quantities and prices paid for these purchases were examined. The Commission also discussed the views of the trade on the present system of procurement and distribution and possible lines of improvement.

Messrs. C. M. Saraf, M. L. Khemka and K. N. Gutgutia, represented the Marwari Chamber, Messrs. J. K. Mitter, B. C. Ghosh and S. R. Biswas, the Bengal National Chamber, Messrs. D. P. Kaithan, G. L. Mehta and R. L. Nopany, the Indian Chamber, and Mr. A. R. Siddiqi, the Muslim Chamber.

Mr. Nopany's Evidence

The Commission also examined Mr. Nopany, one of the Chief Purchasing Agents for Government under the *Aman* Procurement Scheme, on methods of procurement, the extent to which local trade agencies were utilized and the quantities purchased through the mills.

Mr. Siddiqi explained his views on the reform of the land tenure, improvement of agricultural methods and long-term measures for future improvement of rural conditions.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Pinnell, Special Officer, Civil Supplies Department, gave further evidence on the course of events during the early months of last year.

The Chairman of the District Boards of Mymensingh, Midnapore and 24-Parganas, on behalf of the Bengal District Boards' Association, gave evidence before the Commission on September 6.

The memorandum from the Association explained the present organisation for the medical and health services in the districts under the District Boards and the improvements necessary in the light of the experience of last year.

The Commission examined the present system of recruitment of District Health Officers and their conditions of service and elicited the views of the Association on whether these Officers should be placed on a provincial cadre.

Bihar Government's Memorandum

How Bihar faced the food crisis last year was described by the representatives of the Bihar Government, headed by Mr. R. E. Russell, Adviser to the Governor of Bihar, in their evidence before the Commission on September 7.

Other representatives were Mr. R. A. E. Williams, Revenue Commissioner, Orissa, formerly Secretary of the Government of Bihar, and Mr. J. S. Wilcock, the present Secretary, Supply and Price Control Department.

A memorandum furnished by the Bihar Government traced the history of the control measures introduced in the province since the war and the steps taken after Japan entered the war to deal with the question of rice supplies.

Provincial Embargo

The memorandum recalled that the Bihar Government initiated a discussion of these problems at a conference between representatives of Bengal, Bihar, Central Provinces and Orissa in February, 1942, in order, if possible, to settle a co-ordinated policy for the Eastern Region. It described the circumstances in which Bihar felt compelled to introduce first a provincial embargo in July 1942 and inter-district embargoes later in November, prohibiting the export of rice except under permit.

The Commission discussed with the representatives the detailed account given in the memorandum of the price control and procurement organisation developed in Bihar.

The Commission also discussed, later in the afternoon, with Mr. A. P. Cliff, Deputy Director of Agriculture, Bihar, the "Grow More Food" campaign in Bihar, and its results.

The Bengal Government furnished two memoranda to the Commission on September 8, one dealing with the measures which were taken in

the Revenue Department for relief and rehabilitation and another on the economic condition of Bengal prior to the famine.

The Commission also examined Rai Sahib N. C. Chakrabarty, at present Additional Assistant Secretary, Agriculture Department, who was connected with cyclone and famine relief since the beginning as Special Officer, and later, as Assistant Secretary, Revenue Department.

The Memorandum on the measures taken dealt first with the history of the cyclone relief in Midnapore, which began with the sending of two launches and three barges, when other communications were interrupted, carrying foodstuffs, water and medicines from Calcutta to Midnapore and the various stages in the development of relief kitchens, distribution of grain doles and gratuitous relief and the first test relief works which were started in April, 1943.

The Commission also heard the evidence of Mr. B. K. Guha, Additional District and Sessions Judge, 24-Parganas, and formerly Relief Coordination Officer, Calcutta, on relief measures in Calcutta.

Earlier, the Commission heard the representatives of the Orissa Government, Mr. C. S. Jha, Secretary, Supply and Transport, Mr. H. Lal, Director of Development, and Lt.-Col. Chopra, Director of Public Health and Inspector-General of Hospitals, Orissa.

Revenue Minister Examined

On September 9, the Commission heard the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukherjee, Revenue Minister, Bengal, on the organisation of relief measures during the famine last year. Mr. S. Bannerjee, Secretary, Revenue Department, was also examined on the same subject.

In the afternoon, the Commission heard Rai Bahadur N. C. Sen, Additional Controller of Rationing and formerly Director of Land Records and Secretary, Agriculture Department, Rai Bahadur U. N. Ghose, Special Officer, Finance Department and formerly Adviser to the Court of Wards, and Mr. D. N. Dutta, Special Officer for Rent Drive. The system of village revenue records and organisation in Bengal and the possibilities of improvement were discussed.

On September 11, a number of non-official organisations which were engaged on relief of distress last year, gave evidence.

The representative of the Friends Ambulance Unit, Mr. T. G. Davies, submitted to the Commission a number of reports on the conditions which prevailed in different areas where the unit was functioning.

Prof. K. B. Chattopadhyay, who gave evidence on behalf of the People's Relief Committee, was also examined on the survey conducted by the Anthropological Institute of the Calcutta University on famine mortality last year.

Other organisations which gave evidence were the Marwari Relief Society, the Bose-Pukur Relief Committee and the Muslim Relief Committee.

The experiences of these organisations during the famine were discussed and the Commission also heard their views on problems of rehabilitation.

The Commission also heard the Bengal Public Health Association.

Dr. S. P. Mookerjee's Evidence

The Commission heard Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee the following day.

Explaining the views held by the Fazlul Huq Ministry, of which he was then a member, with regard to the Denial Policy when it was put into force, he described the events of 1942 leading to his resignation from the Ministry.

Giving his views on the Food Drive launched by the present Ministry in 1943, he described the conditions necessary for the success of the food administrations in the province. He also described the difficulties experienced by non-official relief organisations last year.

In the afternoon, the Commission heard representatives of the Bengal Rice Mills Association. The Rice Control Order, the present system of procurement and the views of the Association on the employment of trade channels for procurement were discussed.

Mr. Kripalani, Secretary, Commerce Department, was later examined on the removal of surplus rice in the coastal areas during 1942.

Calcutta Corporation's Memorandum

On September 13, the Commission recorded the evidence of representatives of the Calcutta Corporation, Mr. Barman, Chairman of the Special Committee of the Corporation, Dr. Ahmad, Health Officer, and Messrs. K. C. Ghose and S. Lahiri.

The large increase in the population of Calcutta, the effect of the air-raids, the disturbances in the trade, the large-scale purchases by industrial employers and the rise in prices were mentioned in the memorandum furnished to the Commission.

After describing the deaths in Calcutta at the height of the famine, the memorandum

referred to the proposals made by the Corporation to Government in 1942 for the introduction of rationing.

The Commission discussed with the representatives the possibilities of the 'Grow More Food' effort, with special reference to the use of dry sludge extracted from sewage and the utilisation of available space in Calcutta for growing vegetables.

The Commission also heard the evidence of Major-General Stuart on the measures taken by the Army for famine relief and food distribution. The amount of stocks removed and distributed by the Army totalled nearly 2 million maunds and Army lorries covered over 836,000 miles.

The Commission also examined Prof. Mahalanobis, Honorary Secretary of the Indian Statistical Institute, who is engaged in a number of Statistical surveys on crop estimates, damage caused by the famine, economic conditions etc., in the province.

Non-official Relief Societies

What relief organisations were able to achieve and the nature of the problems which are still present, engaged the attention of the Commission the following day when they heard the evidence of non-official relief societies.

Mrs. Ela Reid and Mrs. Chakravarti representing the All Bengal Mahila Atma Raksha Samiti described the general effects of the famine on various classes of people, particularly women. Dealing with the problems of rehabilitation among destitute women, they advocated the opening of non-residential industrial centres in every village.

Dr. (Mrs.) Bose, Mrs. Mehta, Mrs. S. C. Roy and Mrs. Aysha Ahmad of the All India Women's Conference, Calcutta Branch, described the results of their survey in the outskirts of Calcutta and the percentages of afflicted and destitute people in these areas.

Problem of Milk Supply

The Commission examined the problem of milk supply particularly for growing children, ailing and nursing mothers and sick people.

They also heard the evidence of Mr. J. K. Biswas, Chairman of the Rotary Relief Committee.

A further detailed examination of procurement organisation in Bengal was made by the Commission on September 15. They examined Mr. V. N. Rajan, Deputy Controller of Distribution, formerly Collector of Dinajpur, Mr. W.A.S. Lewis, Controller of Procurement and Mr. S. K. Chatterjee, Deputy Director, Civil Supplies.

The quantities procured, the machinery employed, arrangements for storage, grading and inspection were examined. The Commission also discussed with Mr. Chatterjee the working of the system of purchase by official agency introduced in one sub-division of Bakarganj District.

Later, the Commission examined Khan Bahadur Moulvi Chaudhury Afsar Ali, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, on the utilisation of co-operative societies for procurement.

SIR HENRY FRENCH MEETS FAMINE INQUIRY COMMISSION

Sir Henry French, Secretary, British Ministry of Food, who is now touring India, met the Famine Inquiry Commission on September 4. In an informal discussion on food problems, the Commission invited his views on the question of import of cereals into India.

Sir Henry French also described the system of food control in the United Kingdom and in particular the method of enforcement of food control measures.

SPARE PARTS FOR RICE MILLS

To assist rice millers in India in securing spare parts for their mills, the Central Food Department have formed a Committee consisting of Messrs. Marshall and Son (India) Ltd.; Kirloskar Bros. Ltd., and G. Dandekar Machine Works Ltd., which are amongst the largest importers and manufacturers of rice mills machinery, to advise them on the best method of securing and distributing spare parts for rice mills. The first meeting of the Committee was held on September 16.

A REPORT DENIED

There is no foundation in the report that any minimum price for rice has been fixed in the Punjab. The Government of India have not yet decided whether the fixation of any minimum price is necessary, but they are in consultation with Provincial Governments on this question, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on September 13.

MORE WHEAT IMPORTS

About 35,000 tons of wheat arrived in India from overseas during the week ending September 5.

Control of Advertisements for Technical Personnel

A scheme for the control of advertisements for technical personnel and for controlling offers of employment to technical personnel who respond to advertisements is being put into operation by the National Service Labour Tribunals with a view to checking the tendency of technical personnel, employed on war work, to apply for advertised vacancies promising higher emoluments.

The rules made under the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance empower the tribunals to control the issue of such advertisements, but the tribunals have not exercised this power so far. Technical personnel were only required to seek permission of the Tribunal before leaving their employment. Experience has shown that if the Tribunal, in the interest of the war effort, refuses permission to technical personnel to leave their employment they become discontented and either malinger in the hope of being discharged or abscond.

Scope of Control

The tribunals will now exercise the powers vested in them to control the issue of advertisements. The control will apply not only to advertisements published by private industrial undertakings but also to those issued by Departments of the Central and the Provincial Governments. No advertisements for technical personnel will be inserted in the Press without the previous permission of the National Service Labour Tribunal, in the case of industrial undertakings and Provincial Governments, and of the Central Labour Department in the case of Departments of the Government of India situated in Delhi and Simla.

Offers of Employment

The employer will be required to send draft advertisements to the Tribunal or the Labour Department who will communicate their approval or disapproval after considering whether the personnel can be secured without the proposed advertisement, for example, from men registered at an Employment Exchange, and whether the technical personnel required are needed by other undertakings for work of greater national importance.

The employer will consider applications received in response to an advertisement and will select suitable candidates. If the selected candidates are employed in any industrial undertaking, training establishments, or offices or departments under the Crown, the employers



Technical trainees at work in the smithy of the Orissa School of Engineering, Cuttack.

will forward applications of the selected candidates to the Tribunal and secure its approval before offering employment to them.

The control will not apply to advertisements issued by the Federal Public Service Commission, the Public Service Commissions in the Provinces and to advertisements calling for applications from persons for training.

INDIA'S TRADE DURING WAR

The 14th and 15th series of the publication "Statutory and other Notices issued by the Government of India and the Reserve Bank of India regarding matters relating to the trade and commerce of British India in connection with the war," covering the period December 1, 1942, to February 28, 1943, and March 1, 1943 to May 31, 1943, respectively, have recently been issued by the Economic Resources Board.

The publication, which is intended to facilitate reference, reproduces statutory and other notices concerning imports and exports, finance, trading with the enemy and the control of enemy property, control of newsprint, iron and steel, petrol, machinery, tools, tea, rubber, etc., control of prices, house rents, wages and freights, production, supplies, labour, insurance, transport, etc.

INDIAN RAILWAYS' CONTRIBUTION TO VICTORY



Sir Leonard Wilson's Radio Talk

"MANY difficulties have been encountered by railways during the war, but each of these difficulties has been overcome by the determination and tenacity of purpose of all railwaymen, no matter what their position, caste or creed, inspiring such faith in the ability and loyalty of every member of the staff that we may look forward with confidence to the future of the great system which links up the length and breadth of the continent of India." Thus said Sir Leonard Wilson, Chief Commissioner of Railways (since retired) in a broadcast talk on "Railways During the War" from the Delhi Station of All India Radio.

This is the first of a series of radio talks which the War Transport Department of the Government of India have arranged, from the Delhi Station of A.I.R. during the next few weeks on wartime transport problems.

Here is the full text of Sir Leonard Wilson's talk:

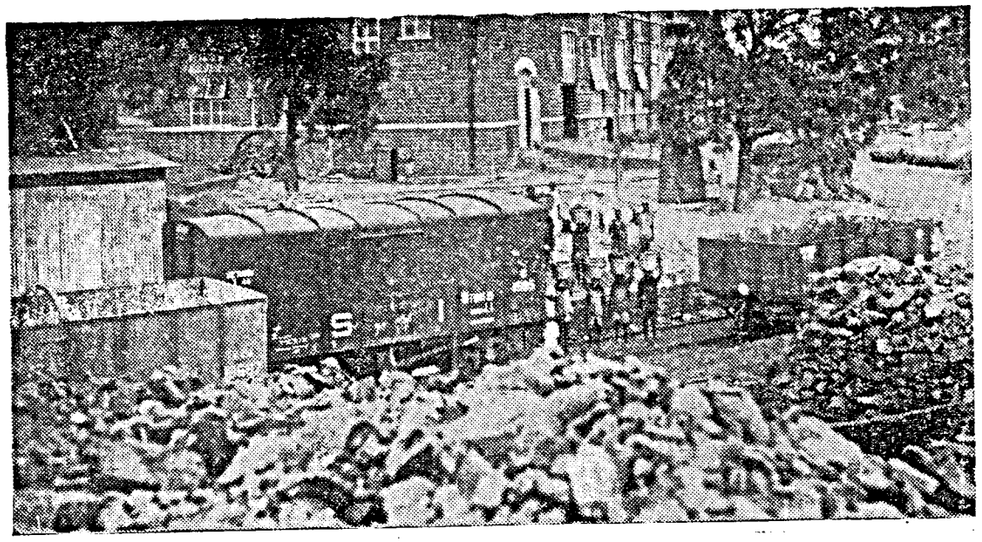
In a previous broadcast, I referred to the intimate part played by railways in the life of the Indian community. It is regrettable that during the five years of this war, railways in India have been unable to fulfil all their obligations to the civil population because of the heavy burden thrust upon them by the war. Those interested in railways would like to know more about their performance in countries at war, but they must wait until after the war to hear the tale in full. Meanwhile, we learn of attempts to destroy the enemies' rail communications which are vital for the transport of munitions and supplies. For, it is still a fact that the railways are the only means of land transport capable of delivering, with the minimum of human effort, the immense tonnages involved in modern warfare.

There is, moreover, no form of land transport so durable as railways, so difficult to put out of action or so quickly restored. It is but natural, therefore, that an army relies on rail transport, wherever rail transport can be provided, in preference to road or air. Final delivery to the frontline may be made by road or by air, as we have recently seen in the magnificent defence of India's eastern frontier, but there is not a single item of equipment, stores, food, medical supplies, ammunition or any of the other many thousands of items making up the means by which an army fights, which does not, at some stage of its journey, travel by rail —and probably a long way by rail.

It seems that the civil population of this vast country, determined that the war should be won, have borne with much patience the inability of the railways fully to meet their needs because they have appreciated the necessity to give preference to military traffic flowing to and on the lines of communication within India and overseas.

Planning, Training, Production

The news from all the fighting fronts is most encouraging. Behind the victories of the Allies, made possible by the gallantry, courage and determination of the armed forces on land, sea and in the air, lie months of planning, training and production. We, of the railways in India have also planned, have trained and have produced, but in the wide strategy of a world war, in which no single allied country is entirely self-sufficient, the needs of each country must be assessed in relation to the part that that country is called upon to play from time to time in securing the ultimate victory. Thus, we in India have had to wait for much badly needed equipment, whilst countries more closely pressed by



Railway wagons being loaded outside an Indian cotton mill.

war have been supplied. Our turn, however, is now coming, and we are receiving in ever increasing quantities additional engines and wagons that will enable us more effectively and punctually to meet military requirements and, at the same time, to restore to the extent necessary transport for the much reduced civil traffic.

Development Work

Adding to the number of locomotives and wagons will not alone, of course, meet the situation. We must be in a position to utilise them fully and efficiently, and, to enable this to be done, works of development have to be undertaken on the main line routes throughout India. Some are in progress and some have been completed and they will enable a greater number of trains to be run at a higher overall speed. Lines are being doubled and quadrupled, yards improved, new watering stations opened and better coaling arrangements for engines brought into force. All these new works are being rapidly pressed on with so that when the time comes we may be ready to perform the task that the country requires of railways, with the least possible curtailment of civil traffic.

No railway can be worked efficiently without an adequate system of tele-communications, which include telephones, telegraph lines and train control systems. This important side of railway operation is receiving the most careful attention, and there is now in progress a very substantial extension to the pre-war tele-communication system throughout the main lines in India. We shall not, in the near future, be entirely dependent upon land lines, which are so liable to interruption by the forces of nature, for there is in process of construction a network of radio communication between important centres on railways. Indeed, in some areas radio communication has already been installed and is giving valuable service.

The increasing demands placed on railways have necessitated the recall from military service of many officers and men who, in the earlier stages of the war, offered themselves for military service. The Army has been loath to lose them and the staff themselves are naturally reluctant to return to civil life before the war is over, but with the increasing pressure on the railways there is no alternative.

The railway staff who have worked so well and loyally is steadily being increased in numbers to enable full use to be made of the additional engines and wagons that are now coming into service. Training is progressing satisfactorily, and I feel certain that these new recruits will not fail to follow the magnificent example set by the railway staff as a whole throughout these five, long and arduous years of war. The strain which railwaymen in every branch of the service have been undergoing is not perhaps fully realised, but it is great and continuous.

In the Engine Shops, no effort is being spared to speed up repairs in order that engines, so vitally required, are out of service for the shortest possible time, and the additional work of erecting new engines is also being undertaken. In all workshops war work of an extremely diverse nature is being carried out in addition to the normal work of these shops. This ranges from the fabrication of pontoons to the manufacture of delicate precision instruments, and the fullest use is being made of all available machinery.

One railway workshop manufactured completely a battery of milling machines urgently required for the production of essential war supplies. Two workshops, undertaking repairs to aero engines, have been complimented upon the accuracy and general excellence of the work done. To meet the heavy demand for essential war supplies, in some cases we have placed our own work out to contract to free capacity in our well-equipped shops for work that could not be done anywhere else. There are, in fact, hundreds of examples of railway mechanical engineers and their highly trained and expert staff meeting urgent demands of an unusual nature, and yet the work of repairs to engines and stock has continued without delay.

Construction of Military Depots

On the civil engineering side, I have already referred to the construction that is in progress throughout our main lines of communication, but there are many works which have been undertaken about which the public can know but little at the present time. We have constructed rail-served military depots requiring, in one instance, as much as 75 miles of track. These depots require their own marshalling yards, sorting lines and service lines to storage sheds widely dispersed against possible attack from the air. In one instance, a depot was constructed in waterlogged country within three months, and at the same time as this work was in progress, practically throughout the main line other works were being undertaken to increase line capacity; and yet the maintenance of the running lines continued at the high standard necessary for the public safety.

There are many other examples of this nature on all the main line systems. Also on the engineering side are the signal and interlocking staff on whose careful maintenance of complicated interlocking systems the safe passage of trains so largely depends. Not only has this day to day maintenance been carried out with a high degree of efficiency, but much new signalling has also been and is being installed. Our engineering officers and staff have gladly undertaken all the extra work that has fallen to their lot and have every right to feel that they are making a major contribution to the war effort.

Arduous Time for Running Staff

It is, however, the Traffic and the Running Staff who are most in the public eye, for it is they who come into immediate contact with the public and it is from this contact that the efficiency of a railway is frequently judged. They have had a particularly arduous time, for all day and night the wheels must be kept turning and it is the Traffic and the Running Staff upon whom this responsibility falls. The work of passing trains safely from station to station, especially on a single line is an anxious work, for nowhere in the world can the human element be eliminated from this work. It is upon the vigilance of this staff, station masters, cabinmen, guards, firemen and drivers that the safety of the travelling public depends and it is their unremitting toil that has enabled the Indian railways to shoulder successfully the vast burden thrust upon them.

Many difficulties have been encountered by railways during the war, but each of these difficulties has been overcome by the determination and tenacity of purpose of all railwaymen, no matter what their position, caste or creed, inspiring such faith in the ability and loyalty of every member of the staff that we may look forward with confidence to the future of the great system which links up the length and breadth of the continent of India.

STANDARD CLOTH FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

It is generally known that the war has forced Governmental departments to launch out into new fields of activity and among the numerous new services rendered by Indian Railways to their employees through the Grainshop Organisation is the supply of standard cloth. This cloth is on sale at 400 railway shops throughout the length and breadth of India. Over three quarters of a million yards is now being sold to railway employees every month. Shirtings, *sarees* and *dhoties* are stock items and a variety of qualities and borders is available.

Equitable distribution is ensured through strict rationing which permits a quota of 40 yards per employee per annum. The outstanding feature of this organisation is that supplies are often made at centres where cloth is not generally available.

GARRATT LOCOMOTIVES FOR INDIAN RAILWAYS

TO the east of the Brahmaputra there is a section of railway line that is packed with interest not only to engineers and railwaymen, but also to historians and military strategists. This section of railway line passes through country that is extraordinarily difficult, being of a mountainous character, covered with dense jungle and intersected by mountain torrents and rivers which erode their banks and cause numerous slips and washaways, unless very heavy and expensive protective works are maintained.

Even to this day, it is by no means an uncommon occurrence to meet various varieties of wild animals, particularly wild elephants and tigers, and there have been occasions in the recent past when wild elephants have pitted their strength against that of a locomotive in motion. The tribes that inhabit this picturesque area—Kacharis and Sema Nagas—clothed in their scanty garments, are still a source of interest to travellers.

Special Types of Locomotives

On this section, the line rises to a height of 1,850 feet above sea level and is characterised by its steep gradients and sharp curves.

Up till recently this section was served by special types of locomotives, commonly known in the locomotive engineers' vocabulary as "Mastodons" and "Garratts" of which the latter were imported to this country in recent years.

The advent of War necessitated the working, even of this section, to its capacity, which action in turn called for special types of locomotives. In spite of endeavours made to utilise suitable classes of engines available on Indian Railways by modifications and adaptations, it was not possible to meet the ever increasing demand of the transport authorities. Consequently, locomotives had to be imported from the United Kingdom on highest priority. These locomotives have now arrived and are being put into service; they are of the Beyer Garratt variety and consist of two different classes, viz., those having a wheel arrangement of 2-8-0 plus 0-8-2 and 2-8-2 plus 2-8-2. They both have Tractive Efforts of 41,890 lbs. at 85 per cent boiler pressure, which make them the most powerful M.G. Locomotives in India today. In working order they weigh 103 and 120 tons and are 70 feet 8 inches and 78 feet in length respectively.

In spite of having the most powerful locomotives in use on this section, it is only possible to haul limited loads and even then the assistance of Banking Engines is required.

Over the remainder of the section where ruling gradients of 1 in 60 are common these Garratt locomotives operate without assistance.

The design, building, transporting and final erection of all these locomotives, within a year, is a natural source of justifiable pride to all concerned, and it is hoped these locomotives will be yet another contribution to the early and successful termination of the war in the East, apart from subsequent contribution after the restoration of peace, happiness and prosperity.

RAILWAY DEPRECIATION FUND

Second Inquiry Committee

A Press Communique issued by the Railway Department (Railway Board) on September 8 stated:

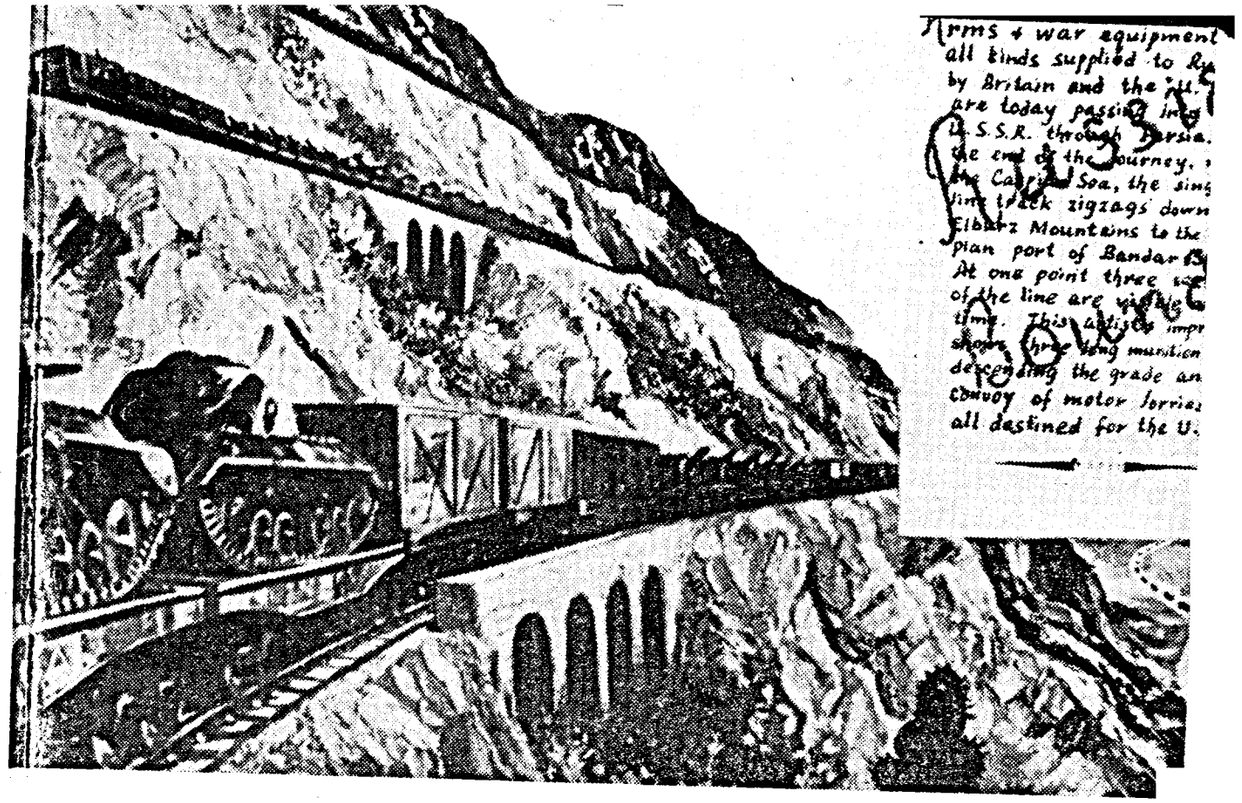
The Railway Convention Committee appointed by the Indian Legislative Assembly in pursuance of the resolution adopted by it on March 23, 1943, in their interim report dated August 2, 1943, recommended two inquiries in connection with the Railway Depreciation Fund; an immediate one as to what additional appropriation, if any, should be made to the Depreciation Fund during the war as an emergency provision and a comprehensive inquiry, as early as possible, into the lives of the assets, including obsolescence, and the consequent normal rate of contribution to the Depreciation Fund, and any other matters such as the level of prices affecting the Fund. The former inquiry was undertaken last year and a memorandum containing the result was placed before the Committee at its meeting of January 25, 1944, and approved by them. The recommendation of the Committee was implemented in the Railway Budget for the year 1944-45.

Second Inquiry

For the second inquiry recommended by the Railway Convention Committee the Government of India have decided to set up the following committee:

Chairman: Mr. T. S. Sankara Aiyar, C.I.E., retired Financial Commissioner, Railways.

Members: Mr. W. G. W. Reid, Chief Mechanical Engineer, M. and S. M. Railway and Rai Bahadur D. Dutt, retired Deputy Chief Engineer, N.W. Railway.



The Committee will assemble as soon as possible and will visit all State-managed Railways (including the B. N. Railway which will pass under State-management from 1-10-1944), examine the records relating to the replacement of assets on each Railway and, after such personal discussion with local officers and physical inspection of assets as they may consider necessary, will report what alterations, if any, are called for in the normal lives of assets assumed in the existing Railway Depreciation Fund rules.

Report on Quantum and Assets

They will also report on the quantum and condition of those of the assets which according to normal lives so far assumed should have been renewed before now but which it has not been possible to renew because of the war, as well as on the quantum or assets which are likely to need renewal in or before 1949-50.

The Government have further decided that in view of the uncertainty of conditions, the Committee need not inquire into the question of prices at which assets shall have to be replaced at the cost of the Depreciation Fund.

The Committee is expected to complete its work in six months.

INDIAN WAR SUPPLIES FOR RUSSIA

Over 5,000 tons of vital war materials per month have been sent from India to Russia during the past six months along the East Persia route, which follows the age-old caravan track now converted into a modern motor highway. Russia has received quantities of gunny bags, tossa canvas, jute ropes, tea, pepper, tin, wolfram and silk. Two special consignments were 1,000 tons of nickel and 1,000 tons of harvest yarn, both of which reached Russia in record time. The harvest yarn was made to a very exacting specification by the Calcutta jute mills. It had to be there before the Russian harvest and the average timing from Calcutta to the handing-over point was 28 days.

An interesting feature of the tin, mercury, wolfram and silk commodities is that they are flown from China to Assam in American aircraft, and railed to Zahidan for transport by truck. Hundreds of lorries have been used to get the consignments to our Allies in the north, and the road surface from Zahidan right up to the Russian border has been kept in excellent repair.

COUNTRY CRAFT TRAFFIC ON WEST COAST OF INDIA

New Scheme for Sailing Season of 1944-45

AN account of the contribution being made by country craft to the solution of India's transport problems was published in the issue of *Indian Information*, dated August 15, 1944. Since that article went to Press, the Government of India, in consultation with Provincial Governments and with official and non-official interests concerned, have put into force a new scheme for the fullest and most economic employment of all craft on the West Coast for the 1944-45 sailing season.

The scheme is commonly known as the "Route Scheme," the essentials of which are the division of the coast from Karachi to Tuticorin into a number of defined routes, each of which is in the responsibility of a selected agent, and along with this the fixation of freight rates for all cargoes carried on these routes. The scheme is under the supervision of the Controller of Indian Shipping and is being enforced through the Defence of India Rules. Much of the detailed work will devolve upon the Country Craft Organisation Officer and his Assistants.

Duties of Agents

The duties of the agents will be much the same as those already described, but in addition they will have to comply with any priority directions issued by a competent authority in respect of the cargo to be carried. Six reputable agents with experience of the country craft trade have been appointed for the 13 routes into which the coastline has been divided, and all craft must be hired through these agents. Lighters in harbour, fishing boats, craft carrying sand in Bombay harbour, craft carrying cargo to Africa or the Middle East and craft used by owners for the transport of their own property are exempted from the scheme.

While every wartime control automatically involves some restriction, it is hoped that country craft owners will, in fact, be scarcely affected by the restrictions of the "Route Scheme," which merely mean that while they are plying their craft on a selected route, they must operate under the directions of the agent appointed for that route. On the other hand, it is expected that the rationalisation of traffic will mean greater and more efficiently run business and, therefore, a better livelihood for the owners and crews.

These arrangements do not apply to the comparatively limited country craft traffic on the East Coast.

Picture on Opposite Page

Vallom (country craft) a familiar sight on Travancore's waterways, carry a large part of the State's passenger and goods traffic.

RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS RELAXED

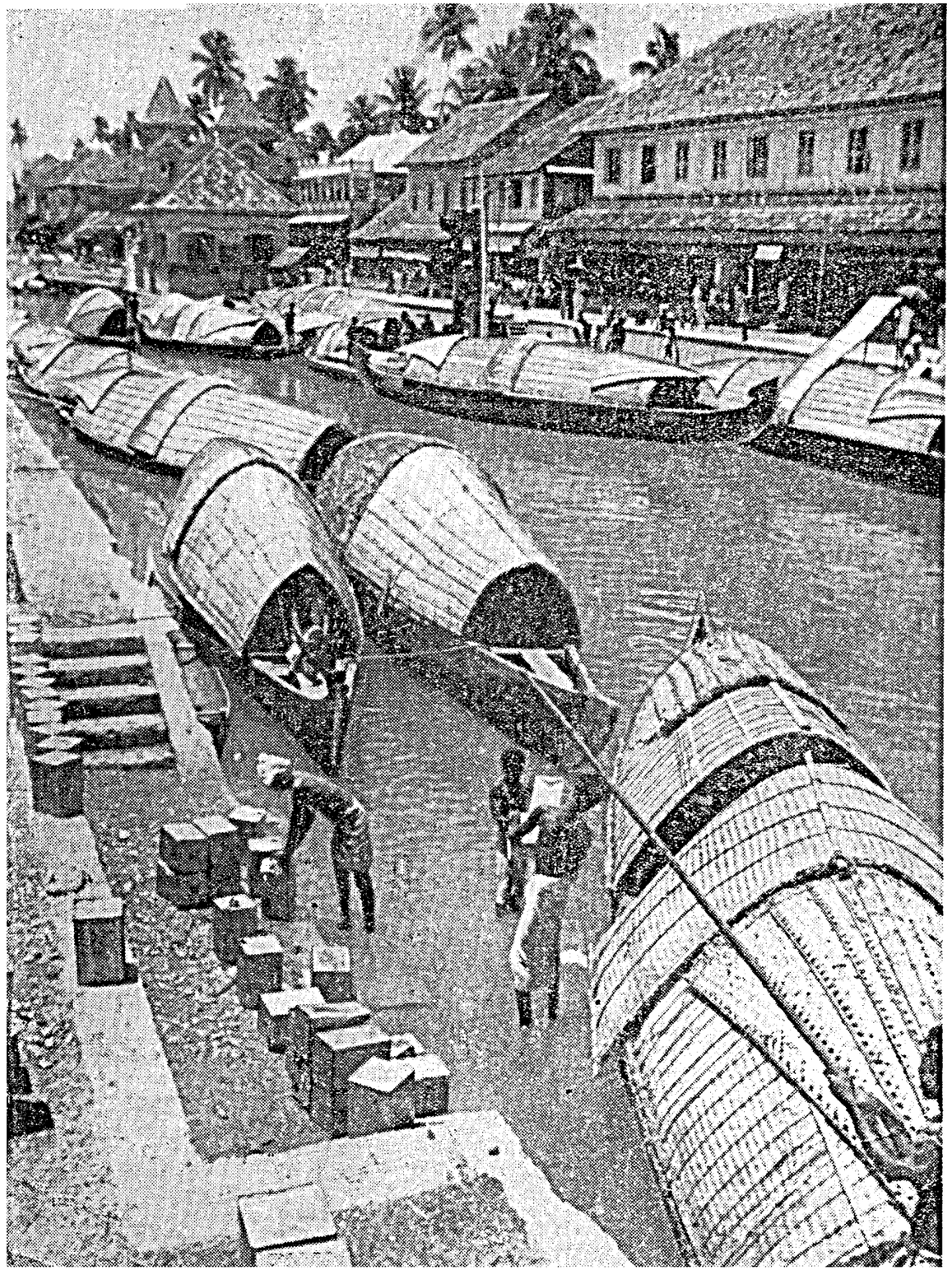
The Government of India have, in response to numerous representations made from time to time that their Import Control Regulations have unnecessarily hampered the free movement of goods by country craft from countries in the Persian Gulf, Middle East and East African shipping areas, decided to relax these restrictions in respect of such imports from sterling countries in those areas, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 9.

It added: An open General Licence is, therefore, being issued giving general permission for the importation of goods by country craft from such countries with certain exceptions, the most important of these exceptions being iron and steel goods licensed by the Steel Import Controller, goods made of aluminium, raw hemp and sisal fibre, raw cotton, dates, pyrethrum flowers, diamonds in all forms and gum copal.

Licences will now, therefore, be required only in respect of such imports that have been excluded from the scope of the Open General Licence.

MAILS FOR ITALY

Mail communication is now available to nine more Provinces of Italy, *viz.*, Rome, Campobasso, Littoria, Frosinone, Aquila, Chieti, Pescara, Teramo and Foggia, in addition to those already notified. Only unregistered letters and postcards of a personal nature not weighing more than two ounces will be accepted, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on September 7.



CAUSES OF THE BOMBAY DOCKS EXPLOSIONS

Inquiry Commission's Findings

"THE existence of a state of war, resulting in the practice of bringing into docks ships laden with explosives and ammunition; the stowage of the S.S. *Fort Stikine* at Karachi in such a way that cotton was stowed above and below explosives and ammunition; accidental ignition of the cotton in No. 2 lower hold; failure at the outset of the fire by those present in authority to appreciate the gravity of the situation and during the course of the fire failure by those then present in authority to take energetic steps either to extinguish the fire or to take alternative action to avert the disaster; and the absence at the fire of a centralised executive control with power to issue paramount orders and co-ordinate the various authorities and services concerned."

These were, according to the first report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Bombay Docks explosions of April 14, 1944, the primary causes of the disaster that befell that city on that date. "Many errors and mistakes, both of omission and of commission," says the report, "go to the building up of the final tragedy. But we are conscious and desire to record that, with our powers of summoning evidence before us and experts to advise us and with time to deliberate in the security of our Court Room, we are in a favourable position to judge what ought to have been done, whereas the actions it has been our duty to submit to searching scrutiny were taken either under the stresses of everyday affairs or in the heat and turmoil of a desperate situation."

The Commission

The Commission was set up by the Government of India (War Transport Department) on May 2, 1944, by a Resolution which stated that "the Governor-General in Council has been pleased to appoint a Commission of Inquiry to inquire into and report on the causes of the fire and explosions in the Bombay Docks on April 14, 1944, and into the adequacy of the action taken before, during and after the disaster." It consisted of the Hon'ble Sir Leonard Stone, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, President, and Mr. S. B. Dhavle, formerly a Judge of the Patna High Court, and Rear-Admiral C. S. Holland, R.N., on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet, Members.

This, the first report, has not dealt with the adequacy of the action taken *after* the disaster, which will form the subject matter of another report. Its narration stops with the first explosion, which will be the starting point of the second report. The Commission examined 133 witnesses and a large number of documents.

The report states that, among the personnel of various Services and employments, 231 were killed and missing and 476 injured. Including these casualties, 2,408 cases were treated for injuries in hospitals, of which 961 were detained. "However, the figure 2,408 is too high as indicating the number of injured, as it includes persons who were treated at more than one hospital." From a compilation of the various sources of information available to them, the Commissioners estimate that about 510 civilians were killed and missing, which they regard "is not an overstatement."

Events Leading to the Tragedy

Narrating the events leading to the tragedy, the report says that S.S. *Fort Stikine*—the ill-fated ship which caught fire and exploded in Bombay—was a single screw coal-burning vessel of 7,142 gross and 4,261 net registered tons of the British Ministry of War Transport. She left Birkenhead on February 24, 1944, with a cargo consigned partly for Karachi and partly for Bombay. The cargo for Karachi consisted of aeroplanes, R.A.F. and general stores, explosives and ammunition while that for Bombay comprised about 1,395 tons of explosives and ammunition and some service stores.

The ship arrived alongside at Karachi on March 30. The unloading of the cargo consigned for that port was completed on the morning of April 3; this was done practically with no disturbance of the cargo consigned to Bombay. The shipping space released thereby amounted to about 286,000 cubic feet. This space was utilised by taking on new cargo, comprising upwards of 8,700 bales of cotton, a large amount of lubricating oil, some timber, scrap iron, sulphur, fish manure, rice, resin and a large number of other commodities. The loading of the new cargo was completed on April 7, and the ship sailed for Bombay two days later.

Bombay was reached in the early morning of April 12. The red flag—the International Code Signal indicating that a ship coming into the harbour has a dangerous cargo on board—was not hoisted and never flown at Bombay. The ship came alongside of No. 1 Berth, Victoria Dock, at 11-30 a.m.; this was the berth which had been previously allotted to her. Under the bye-laws of the Bombay Port Trust a ship



H.E. the Viceroy surveying the damage caused by the Bombay docks explosions.

carrying explosives is not allowed into the Docks; but under Rule 88 of the Defence of India Rules this bye-law is suspended in cases in which the Military Officer authorised for that purpose has given a certificate of grave urgency; such a certificate was, in fact, given in respect of the *Fort Stikine*.

Unloading began in the afternoon of April 12, general cargo being dealt with in the first instance. Because of the anxiety to get rid of the dry fish and the delay in the arrival of the lighters and the wagons—into which explosives and ammunition were to be offloaded—no explosives or ammunition were offloaded until the ship had been alongside for over 24 hours. "This seems remarkable," observes the report, "as a certificate of 'grave urgency' had been issued enabling S.S. *Fort Stikine* to come into the docks."

"During the afternoon of April 13 and the night of April 13-14 unloading of explosives and ammunition from No. 2 'tween decks and dynamos and scrap iron and wireless sets from No. 2 lower hold—where the fire broke out—continued at the same time. The unloading of scrap iron was finished on the morning of April 14 except for one large piece weighing over three tons which required a double lift. Some of the timber had also been taken out before the cessation of work for the refreshment hour from 12-30 p.m. to 1-30 p.m. on that day.

When was the Fire First Seen?

The fire alarm was raised aboard the *Fort Stikine* about 1-50 p.m., being the time when the Stevedores saw smoke in No. 2 lower hold in which they had returned to work. "In spite of this," the report states, "there is no doubt that there existed in Bombay on the days subsequent to the disaster persistent rumours to the effect that the ship at No. 1 Berth was on fire in the forenoon of April 14, and even that she was on fire before she came into the dock."

After noting the evidence of six witnesses who averred that they saw smoke issuing from the ship between 12-30 p.m. and 1 p.m., the Commissioners say: "We accept the evidence of these six witnesses, with the consequence that other persons in the dock area probably saw what was, or what appeared to be, a column

of wisps of smoke coming from No. 2 hold at some time or times between 12-30 p.m. and 1-30 p.m. This fact may well, after the disaster, have given rise to the rumours that the ship was on fire before 2 o'clock and although we understand that the rumours put the fire at even earlier in the morning than midday, we consider that this may be accounted for, either by exaggeration as no witness has come forward to give any evidence of seeing smoke before 12-30 p.m., or by the mistaking of the Bombay time for Standard time, both of which are kept in Bombay, the former being 1 hour 39 minutes behind the latter.

"In spite of the fact that no trace of any early manifestation of the fire was felt in the hold when the Stevedores returned to work, the possibility that the lower hold was on fire at 12-40 p.m. remains; and although it is established to our satisfaction that the ship cannot have been on fire when she came into the docks, there remains sufficient ground for the starting of the rumours."

The work of discharging cargo was resumed at 1-30 p.m. after the refreshment interval. About four slings of cargo had been worked from each hook when smoke was noticed coming from the cargo in No. 2 lower hold. The general fire alarm was raised and within a few minutes water from three of the ship's hoses was being directed into the hold. "No one at this stage paused to consider the alternative plan of closing the partially open lower hatchway and turning on the steam injectors. Thus the first step along what proved to be a fatal road was taken, by applying the instinctive sense that water is in all circumstances the antidote to fire and applying it in this case without ascertaining the heart of the fire. The steam injectors would not have extinguished the fire, but by excluding the oxygen they would have held it in check, thus enabling the ship to be moved.

"The time when the fire alarm sounded at the Fire Station in Alexandra Dock was 2-16 p.m., it being then relayed to the Control Room, so that nearly half an hour from the discovery of the fire had elapsed before any message was sent through to the Fire Brigade Services, and the message sent indicated an ordinary fire and not one of a serious character." The Commissioners state that "at the outset nobody present regarded the fire as anything but a small affair. There is no doubt that the ship's company and the trailer pump party thought they would soon have the fire under control."

As no No. 2 message—signifying that a ship carrying explosives was on fire—was despatched to the Control Room in the first instance, only two fire engines belonging to the Bombay Fire Brigade Service arrived by 2-24 p.m. The No. 2 message was received at 2-30 p.m.—i.e. approximately 40 minutes after the fire alarm had been raised on board the ship. On receipt of this message, eight more pumps were ordered. "This delay," the report says, "set the principal officers of the Fire Brigade Services, when they did ultimately arrive, a far more difficult situation to cope with than ever ought to have been allowed to develop."

Captain Oberst of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps arrived on board the ship about 2-25 p.m. He saw the Second Officer of the ship, pointed out the extreme danger and suggested that the ship should be scuttled. He would appear to have stated that the explosives on board were equivalent to 150 "blockbusters" and that the docks would be blown up. Commander Longmire (Chief Salvage Officer, R.I.N.) too urged the Master to scuttle the ship. The Master said he could not take any responsibility.

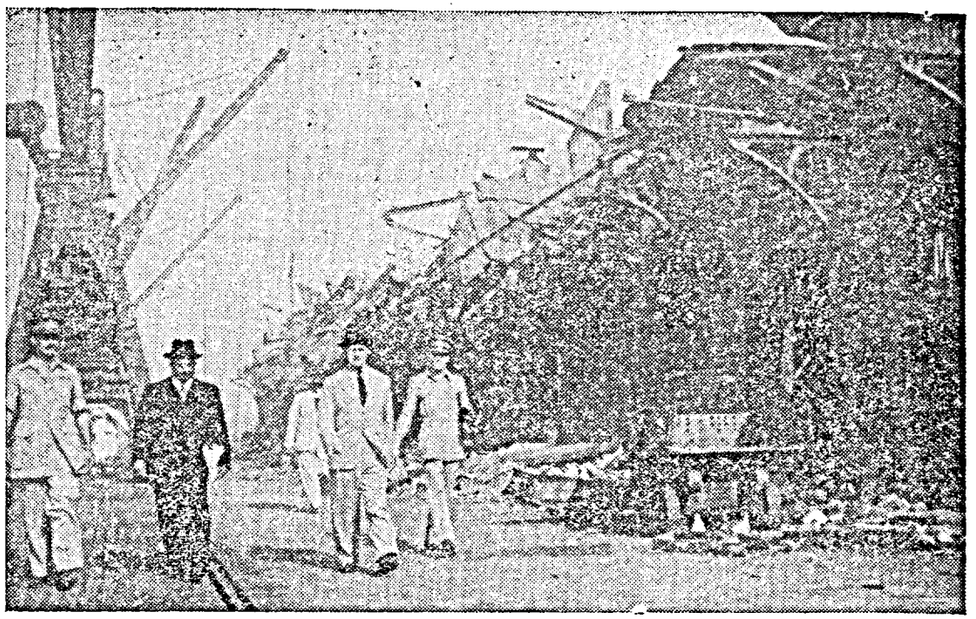
Failure to Get at Heart of Fire

"From the very outset," the report states, "there was a failure to get at the heart of the fire. . . .No more efficacious steps were taken by Mr. Coombs (Officer Commanding the Bombay Fire Brigade Services) and his principal officers when they arrived to get firemen down on to the 'tween decks than had been previously taken."

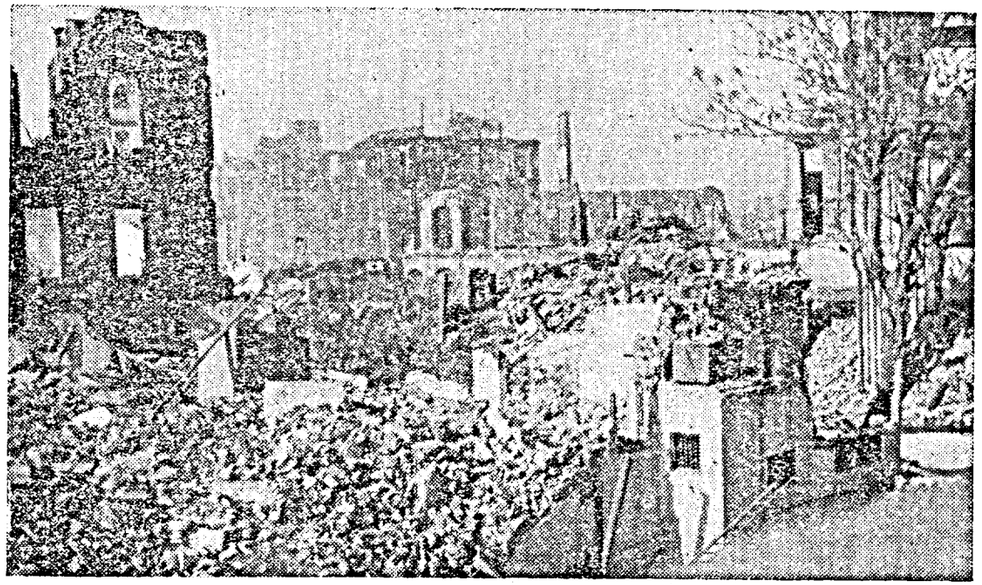
Between 2-45 and 3 p.m. a heat patch was noticed on the portside of the ship at the aft end of No. 2 hold and at a level which was below the 'tween deck. This tell-tale indication of the approximate heart of the fire did not escape either observation or action being taken upon it. The emergency tender of the Fire Brigade Services contained a gas cutting appliance and Mr. Coombs gave orders for a hole to be cut alongside the heat patch in order that water might thereby be directed on to the heart of the fire. The attempt did not, however, succeed. Desperate attempts were now made to get further apparatus; but the appliances and the apparatus came too late.

About 2-50 p.m. Col. Sadler, General Manager, Docks and Railways, Bombay Port Trust, arrived on the scene and suggested to the Master of the ship that an attempt should be made to take the ship out. The Master, however, was unable to make up his mind. "He was receiving conflicting advice from a number of different people, most of whom were experts in their respective spheres."

About 3-15 p.m. the position was that, except for the unsuccessful attempt to cut a hole in the side of the ship with a view to getting



H.E. the Viceroy visits the Bombay dock area. To the right are wrecked warehouses. (Below) A view of the devastation caused by the explosions.



at the heart of the fire, no plan of action had been devised other than the continuance of the course automatically pursued at the outset of projecting water into the lower hold from the main hatchway. As time advanced, the possibility of interfering with the course of action being pursued became increasingly impracticable. "There can be very little doubt that before 3-30 p.m. some of the tiers or layers of cotton in the lower hold covered with timber had become buoyant and, with water projected into the lower hold, without reaching the heart of the fire, floated gradually upwards, thereby bringing the burning cotton towards the underside of the magazines 'tween decks and increasing the heat in the magazines until ignition finally took place."

About 3-45 p.m. some of the explosives must have ignited, causing black smoke suddenly to billow up through the upper hatchway. Very shortly afterwards fierce flames appeared. The flames rose and fell, but each rise roared with increasing vigour, reaching the top of the masts and even higher. The heat became intense and the order for the firemen to withdraw was given about 3-50 p.m.

The Disaster

In the words of the report: "So—was the scene set for the sacrifice of the firemen and the destruction of their equipment, which factors were to be such a heavy handicap in fighting the flames so soon to be spread by the subsequent explosions about the docks, adjacent godowns and storehouses and into the residential area itself."

Right up to the first explosion, the police at the various Gates were checking the passes of people leaving, which impeded the exit of persons. No effective warning of any kind was given to any other ship in the docks by any one. "So it came about that at 4-6 p.m. (when the first explosion occurred) all the firemen were still in the immediate vicinity of S.S. *Fort Stikine*, most of the ship's company were somewhere near the Red Gate, Prince's Dock, life was proceeding almost normally on board the other ships, and there was a large number of Indian workmen working in these ships and generally in the docks.

"The explosion was a terrific detonation spreading destruction over a wide area. There was extensive fragmentation of red hot metal from the ship which destroyed all who stood in its path. Vast quantities of debris and blazing cotton were cast upwards to fall and spread a sea of fire over sheds and ships. S.S. *Fort Stikine* glowed red through a cloak of black fog, so that none of the few who miraculously escaped the blast have been able to give any description of the shattered ship.

"The repercussions of the explosion shook Bombay. The Government House, the Bombay Municipality, the Headquarters of the Commissioner of Police, the Chairman of the Port Trust, Naval Headquarters and many other centres of authority, received their first intimation that something unusual had occurred. Those who glanced from a window in the direction of the docks saw a darkening column of blackish smoke billowing from the scene of devastation."

At 4-33 p.m. the second explosion occurred, more powerful in its effect and devastation than the first.

Primary Causes

Discussing the five primary causes of the disaster, to which a reference has already been made, the report says regarding the first cause, *viz.* "the existence of a state of war resulting in the practice of bringing into docks ships laden with explosives and ammunition," that "it is not our opinion that there is available any practical alternative. The real need is the setting up and enforcing of proper and adequate safety precautions. Explosives and ammunition in bulk are not actually dangerous in themselves, provided they are properly handled and not subject to fire or friction . . . . . What is dangerous in the existing circumstances is not, in our opinion, so much the bringing of explosives and ammunition alongside, as the failure to treat them properly."

The second cause was the stowage of S.S. *Fort Stikine* at Karachi in such a way that cotton was stowed above and below explosives and ammunition. The result of this stowage was, the report observes, "to produce a situation in which, if a fire should break out in the cotton stowed as it was in No. 2 and in No. 4 holds above and below explosives and ammunition, there would be imminent danger of a grave disaster." The manner in which cotton was stowed in the ship was, therefore, in the opinion of the Commission, "wrong and dangerous and a primary cause of the disaster."

Sabotage or Accidental Ignition?

According to the report accidental ignition of the cotton in No. 2 lower hold was the third major cause of the disaster. Deliberate sabotage is ruled out as being highly improbable. Elaborate inquiries were made both at Karachi and at Bombay. Previous reports on cotton fires in Karachi were carefully gone into. As a result of these and other investigations the Commissioners have come to the conclusion that the possibility of deliberately planned sabotage "could not be seriously entertained."

By far the most probable cause of the ignition in the cotton was, according to the report, "the careless discarding of a cigarette or other smoking material by some one smoking in No. 2 lower hold."

The Fourth Cause

The fourth major cause was the failure, at the outset, of the fire by those present in authority to appreciate the gravity of the situation; and during the course of the fire failure by those then present in authority to take energetic steps either to extinguish the fire or to take alternative action to avert the disaster. Regarding this the report observes:

> "No action was taken to discover the heart of the fire. Water from the ship's hoses and from the trailer pump was merely projected into the hold . . . . . Thus the proper point of attack, namely, the heart of the fire, remained undiscovered. The delay in summoning the Fire Brigade Services points to the optimistic view that the fire would soon be got under control . . . . . The fire was in fact in the upper layers of the cotton on the portside aft of No. 2 lower hold and inaccessible to a jet of water projected over the hatchway from the main deck. Even the approximate location of the heart of the fire was not discovered until much later when the heat patch gave some indication of it. The urgency of dealing with a cotton fire in a ship still partially laden with explosives did not find any place in the course of action pursued, resulting in the difficulty of its extinguishment increasing as the fire consolidated in the cotton."

The Conclusion

> Again: "If fire-fighting, as opposed to taking S.S. *Fort Stikine* out of the docks, was the course to be pursued, then in our opinion the only certain method of extinguishing the fire was to get directly at the heart of the fire with water at all costs; but if this failed, then, to flood the hold with maximum speed, using open-ended hoses and bringing into operation every available pump. That neither of these courses was pursued compels us to come to the conclusion that the most effective means were never employed and that by attempting to flood the hold without using open-ended hoses the firemen could not fill the hold quickly enough."

The fifth and the last major cause of the disaster mentioned by the report is "the absence at the fire of a centralised executive control with power to issue paramount orders and co-ordinate the various authorities and services concerned."

The Commission then discuss in detail a series of 14 "inadequacies of action" which, in their opinion, contributed to the disaster. These were:

1. At Karachi there was not exercised by the Ministry of War Transport's Representative any control or supervision from the point of view of safety when commercial cargo was to be stowed in S.S. *Fort Stikine* already partially laden with explosives.
2. At Bombay there was a failure to inform, either by the regulation red flag or by any other means, the other ships in the Victoria Dock that S.S. *Fort Stikine* was laden with explosives.
3. No adequate steps were taken in Bombay to ensure that matches, lighters or smoking materials were not taken on board ships carrying explosives as is done in magazine areas on shore.
4. There was a lack of co-ordination in Bombay between the ship's anti-sabotage guard (D.E.M.S. and Maritime Regiment) and the civilian watchmen in the ship, resulting in a haphazard and insufficient watch being kept when the hatches were open.
5. By dismantling at Bombay the main engines for repairs, it was impossible for S.S. *Fort Stikine* to move under her own steam, although at all material times she had sufficient steam up to be able to move herself.
6. There was lack of co-ordination at Bombay between the civil police and the military Field Security personnel.
7. On the discovery of the outbreak of the fire at approximately 1-50 p.m., there was a failure to appreciate the gravity of the situation or even summon the Fire Brigade Services till 2-16 p.m.
8. No No. 2 message, signifying a serious fire, was immediately despatched to the Control Room of the Fire Brigade Services.
9. There was a failure to take energetic steps either to get water at the heart of the fire or to batten down No. 2 hold, turn on the steam injectors and take S.S. *Fort Stikine* out of the docks.

10. The Bombay Fire Brigade Services' gas cutting apparatus or its manipulation was defective and failed to cut any hole in the side of the ship when the attempt was made.

11. There was no method or alarm signal in Bombay by which a dock or docks could be cleared of non-essential personnel. It did not also occur to the civil police or to anybody to give any general warning to other ships in the dock of the impending disaster.

12. The failure to cover the hatchways of No. 4 and No. 5 holds after the outbreak of fire in No. 2 hold left a direct means of access to the spread of the fire to the explosives in No. 4 hold.

13. Neither the Commodore, Royal Indian Navy, nor the Naval Officer-in-Charge, Bombay, to whom authority was given under the Defence of India Rules to order a ship on fire in the docks to be scuttled or beached, was even informed of the fire.

14. The Law, Bye-laws, Regulations and Rules concerning docks, fires and explosives were unco-ordinated, resulting in the failure in personnel concerned either to know or appreciate or to act upon them.

REVISED FARES FOR HAJ

On the basis of the latest information received the cost of a first class return ticket for the ensuing Haj is Rs. 878-10, and that of deck return ticket Rs. 339-10, inclusive of food charges on voyage and Jedda and Kamaran dues, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 15.

It added: At the time of the previous announcement the exact amount to be paid to the Saudi Arabian Government on account of the Jedda sanitation dues and boat hire was not known. The total amount for these items is Rials 53 or Rs. 90-10 per head which has been included in the return fares.

Pilgrims who have already paid the amounts fixed provisionally will be required to pay the balance at the time of buying their tickets at the port of embarkation. Those who apply for passages hereafter should remit the fares at the revised rates along with their applications.

Government's Resolution on Bombay Explosions Report

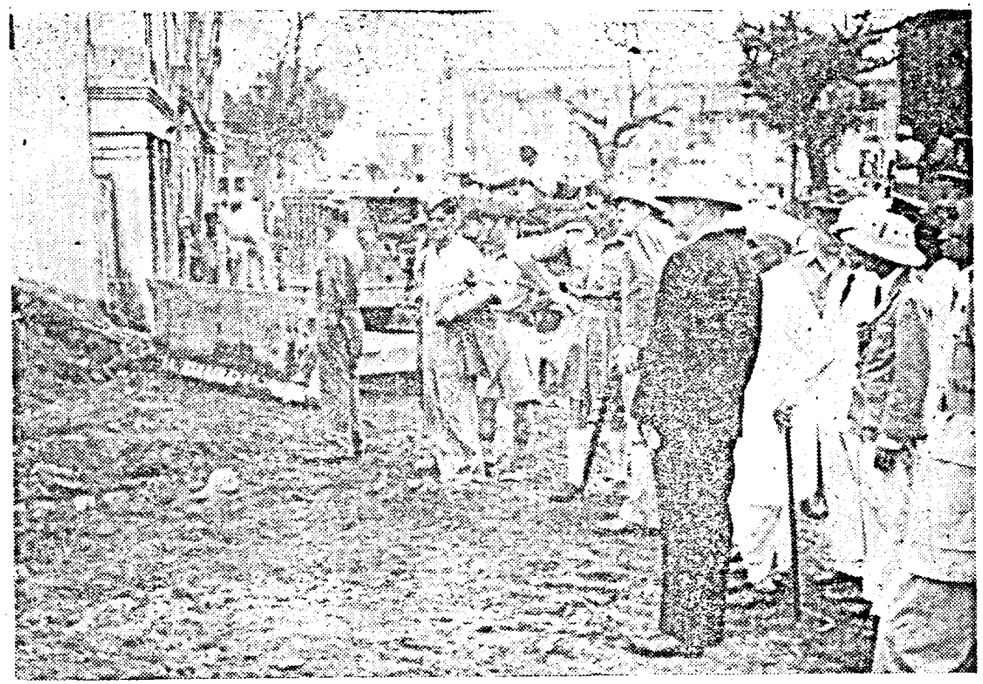
HERE is the resolution of the War Transport Department, Government of India, on the Inquiry Commission report on the Bombay Docks explosions.

In Resolution No. 8-P(29)|44, dated May 2, 1944, the Governor-General in Council appointed a Commission of Inquiry, with the Hon'ble the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court as President, to inquire into and report on the causes of the fire and explosions in the Bombay docks on April 14, 1944, and into the adequacy of the action taken before, during and after the disaster. The proceedings took place *in camera* and in the interests of expedition and security the witnesses were sworn to secrecy and no legal representative of any interested parties was permitted.

Need for Safety Precautions

The Commission commenced taking evidence on May 8, 1944, and their first report, which covers the events and action taken up to the first explosion at 4-6 p.m. on the day of the disaster, is now published. The Government of India have carefully considered the suggestions and criticisms contained in the report. In the observations that follow they have dealt with the precautions and remedial action considered by the Commission to be necessary and the measures to be taken to ensure that they are adequate and are strictly enforced.

2. The Commission have pointed out that war necessitates considerable movement of explosives and ammunition in bulk and that the discharge of such dangerous cargo in docks or alongside wharves is, in many cases, unavoidable, and is the practice in other countries of the British Empire. Although they consider that the bringing of explosives into docks in wartime is a primary cause of the disaster, it is not their opinion that there is any practical alternative to it. They observe that "the real need is the setting up and enforcing of proper and adequate safety precautions." The Government of India agree. They also accept the other findings viz., that the method of stowage, at Karachi, of cotton above and below explosives and ammunition on S.S. *Fort Stikine* was one of the primary causes of the disaster; that the possibility of deliberately planned sabotage cannot be seriously entertained and by far the most probable cause of the ignition in the cotton was the careless discarding of a cigarette or other smoking material; and that there was failure to appreciate the gravity of the situation at the outset.



H. E. Sir John Colville, Governor of Bombay, and members of the Provincial War Committee at the Bombay dock area damaged by the explosions. In the background, Indian Engineers are at work with a bulldozer.

3. The Commission have also come to the conclusion that the absence of an officer with power to issue paramount orders and co-ordinate the various authorities and services concerned was one of the primary causes of the disaster. Under the orders issued by the Central Government the Naval Officer-in-Charge and the Commodore, R.I.N., had been given concurrent powers to give directions, when a ship was on fire, or had suffered damage and constituted a danger to other vessels in the port, to the owner or Master requiring him to scuttle or beach the vessel.

These orders were known to officers concerned and to the Deputy Conservator of the Port, but neither the Commodore nor the Naval Officer-in-Charge received information of the fire, and the Deputy Conservator only came to know that the fire was a serious one at a very late stage, when he promptly hastened to the spot. He omitted, however, to inform the Naval Officer-in-Charge with whom he normally maintains close liaison.

It is open to doubt whether, having regard to the delays that occurred in giving information of the serious nature of the fire to the Deputy Conservator and the uncertainty as to the time it would take for the ammunition to explode, the notification of the danger to the Naval Officers and their presence could have entirely averted the tragedy which took place. They could not have been of much assistance in fire fighting which was the responsibility of the Chief Officer of the Fire Brigade, but it is reasonable to suppose that they might, by issue of warnings to other ships and to the personnel in the docks, have mitigated the effects of the explosions. The Government of India agree that there was a lacuna which needed to be filled up by orders as to when, how and by whom the Naval Officer-in-Charge and other authorities concerned should be informed of a fire, and necessary action in the matter has already been taken.

"Most Praiseworthy Heroism"

4. In Chapter IV, the Commission have drawn attention to a number of points on which action taken was inadequate, or in respect of which regulations ought to be laid down or revised. These include the need for warning other ships by the hoisting of a red flag by day and a red light by night on a ship carrying

explosives when in harbour; the necessity for precautions to ensure that matches and other smoking materials are not allowed on or near a ship carrying explosives or dangerous cargo; the importance of ensuring that there is adequate co-ordination between the ship's anti-sabotage guard and civilian watchmen when the hatches are open; the importance of ensuring that a ship carrying dangerous cargo can be moved at any time during discharge without undue delay; and the importance of setting up a mechanical alarm system by which ships and dock personnel can be warned.

Certain omissions on the part of the Master of the ship and the Fire Services have also been referred to, and the failure of the gas cutting appliance condemned. The cause of the failure of the appliance is still not known. As regards acts of omission by the Fire Services, the Government of India are inclined to agree with the view taken in paragraph 115 of the report that the situation which had been allowed to develop was beyond their knowledge and training. It is gratifying to know that, whatever omissions may have occurred, the officers of all services concerned displayed most praiseworthy heroism in the discharge of their duties.

Dangerous Cargoes Committee

5. As regards the other matters referred to in the preceding paragraph, very soon after the Bombay explosions, the Government of India in the War Department set up a technical committee known as the Dangerous Cargoes (Ports) Committee, to examine the adequacy of the existing regulations on the subject of handling dangerous cargoes at major ports, and to inquire into local dispositions and the machinery for the enforcement of the regulations. This committee has completed its investigations at all the major ports and after considering the points referred to in the report has drawn up regulations to be observed by all concerned while ships carrying petroleum or explosives are in port.

These regulations which have been issued, as well as the port fire regulations, which have been revised at each port in consultation with the Naval and Military authorities, cover all the important matters referred to in the report, except methods of stowage, which are dealt with in paragraph 6 below. All port authorities have been directed to maintain in working order a mechanical alarm system. Immediately after the explosions, the Naval Officer-in-Charge issued a notice on Masters of ships directing them to communicate immediately with him, in the event of any emergency likely to endanger a ship. A similar direction in cases of fire has been included in the revised fire fighting regulations.

6. A standing sub-committee on Transport by Sea of the Explosives Storage and Transport Committee in the United Kingdom has since the beginning of the war regularly reviewed the general question of the loading of types of cargo which are normally regarded as safe but which when loaded with explosives might give rise to danger. A sub-committee of the Dangerous Cargoes Committee in India has this question under consideration as also the supervision over stowage of cargo at Indian ports on ships carrying explosives and ammunition. The Ministry of War Transport had, soon after the explosion and without waiting for the Commission's report, issued provisional instructions as to precautions to be taken when cotton is loaded in ships carrying explosives. The Commerce Department has taken similar action in respect of Indian tonnage.

7. The Commission have commented on the mistakes made and on the inadequacy of the action taken by individual officers. In assessing blame, the Commission observe in paragraph 59 of their report: "We are in a favourable position to judge what ought to have been done, whereas the actions which it has been our duty to submit to searching scrutiny, were taken either under the stresses of everyday affairs or in the heat and turmoil of a desperate situation." Some of the officers referred to have perished in the disaster, while those living have not had an opportunity of being informed of the comments that have been made by the Commission or of being heard in their defence. In the circumstances the Government of India refrain from making any observations and they are confident that any action which may on inquiry be found to be justified will be taken.

British Ministry of War Transport

8. The Commission have made a number of statements regarding the British Ministry of War Transport and its representative in India. As regards these the Government of India have been in consultation with His Majesty's Government, who point out that, as a result of the procedure, which was adopted for reasons set out in the opening paragraph, there was no means of knowing what evidence was being given to the Commission or of testing its accuracy by cross-examination. Since as a consequence the report contains misconceptions about the activities and responsibilities of the Ministry of War Transport, His Majesty's Government have asked that a clear statement of the facts so far as they relate to that Ministry should be made public.

The *Fort Stikine* was a ship registered in the name of His Majesty represented by the Minister of War Transport. In accordance with settled practice she was assigned for the voyage in question to the Bibby Line as operators under the Ministry's Liner requisition scheme notified to Parliament in 1940. One of the bases of the scheme is utilisation of the skilled experience and facilities of existing organisations of Liner Companies. Accordingly, booking of cargo at Karachi was arranged by the British India Steam Navigation Company since the Bibby Line had no berth on the Indian coast.

In paragraph 97 of the report the Commission have stated that they have "shown how it comes about that the vested interests of peacetime come to influence, even if they do not govern the wartime control of Ministry ships in Indian waters carrying explosives on their way to a theatre of war." It is not correct that vested interests of peacetime have influenced or governed wartime control of Ministry ships in India. Throughout the war, the British Ministry of War Transport has been under constant pressure from the Government of India to supply shipping assistance towards maintenance of Indian economy, and programmes of shipment of Indian coastal cargoes have been under constant review between the Indian Shipping Controller and the British Ministry of War Transport representative in India.

Shipment of Coastal Cargo

The Ministry have authorised their representative in India to make the fullest practicable use for local service of any available space in overseas ships which may pass between Indian ports, especially as the maintenance of the economic life of India is an essential part of the war effort. When, therefore, it was found that the *Fort Stikine* would have available space on the voyage from Karachi to Bombay, the Ministry representative readily made this space available for shipment of coastal cargo. Though normal peacetime machinery was utilised for actual booking and loading of cargo and though these services were paid for by way of a commission on freights, the operators had no financial interest in the results of the voyage nor any financial incentive in the choice of individual parcels.

Of the cargo shipped at Karachi, cotton had admittedly very high priority, the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, having recommended "that any available space in any ship should be utilised for movement of this priority commodity from Karachi to Bombay subject only to naval and military operational considerations." Timber is also a high priority cargo and the particular parcel shipped was intended for a specific purpose of high strategic importance. The lubricating oil was oil discharged at Karachi from an American Army Transport with Bombay as its final destination. The sulphur was shipped to the Shipping Officer, Bombay, on behalf of the Supply Department of the Government of India. Fish manure was also an essential commodity for Indian agriculture. Whatever answers may have been elicited from the witnesses, the position, in fact, is that the priorities of cotton and timber were so well established that no question arose as to whether they should be carried from that point of view.

"Incorrect" Statements

9. In paragraph 75 of the report the Commission find the crux of the whole situation in the statements of two master mariners that rules and regulations "have been absolutely scrapped" or "gone by the board." These statements, however, are incorrect. Loading of explosives and other dangerous goods in the United Kingdom is done in accordance with the advice of a body of eminent experts. Their advice is incorporated in departmental documents which are issued by the British Ministry of War Transport and which are also used as guides by Indian authorities.

Though in the interests of the war effort the rules have in certain respects—mainly in regard to quantity of explosives that may be carried in one ship—been modified where modification could with safety be permitted, in other respects rules have been tightened up as war experience has shown this to be necessary. Statutory responsibility for safe loading in Indian ports does not rest upon the Ministry of War Transport, and while it is no doubt true that the Ministry's representatives in overseas ports would not tolerate an admixture of cargoes which was obviously dangerous, reliance must in the main be placed upon local shipping authorities and upon Masters of ships upon whom, apart from statute, rests primary responsibility for seeing to safety of ships.

In the particular case of the *Fort Stikine* no protest was made by the Master or the Chief Officer as to the cargo actually loaded though they did exercise their rights in rejecting a parcel of turpentine which was tendered for shipment but which they considered dangerous.

10. His Majesty's Government cannot accept the implications contained in the following passage: "Even so questions of policy are involved which would necessitate the consideration of whether the Ministry of War Transport and its representatives are entitled to exclude

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 371)

SALE OF REFRIGERATOR SPARE PARTS, SEWING MACHINES, BEER AND RAZOR BLADES

HERE are the latest notifications issued by the Government of India under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance relating to the sale of sewing machines, spare parts of refrigerators, beer, vegetable ghee and other articles.

Refrigerators

The Controller General of Civil Supplies has authorised accredited distributors of and authorised dealers in refrigerators of a particular make to refuse to sell any spare parts of that make if the spare parts are required otherwise than for servicing a refrigerator of that make; or if the intending purchaser does not, on a request being made in that behalf, furnish correct information as to the model and serial number of the refrigerator for servicing which the spare parts are required and the name of the owner of the refrigerator.

Accredited distributors of refrigerators of a particular make may also refuse to sell spare parts of that make to a person other than an authorised dealer in these articles or a dealer approved in this behalf by the Controller General of Civil Supplies. A retail dealer may refuse to sell spare parts of a refrigerator unless the intending purchaser returns the spare part in replacement of which he wishes to purchase the new part.

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Beer

All manufacturers, accredited distributing agents or dealers in beer have been authorised to refuse to sell beer to any person who is not one of their old and genuine customers; or to refuse to sell to any person so long as they have not met the rationed demand of their old and regular customers; and for the purpose of meeting such rationed demand they shall divide the stocks in their possession at any given time into 12 equal weekly lots, and any surplus remaining in any week after meeting the rationed demand of the old and regular customers shall be made available to other genuine customers in quantities not exceeding a bottle at a time.

Sales may also be refused to any person who does not offer in exchange an equivalent number of empty bottles of a type similar to those in which the beer to be sold is bottled.

Sewing Machines

All dealers in "imported sewing machines" in the Province of Baluchistan have been authorised to refuse to sell "imported sewing machines" to any person who has not taken a permit from the Provincial (Baluchistan) Civil Supplies Department in the case of Quetta-Pishin district and the Political Agent concerned in the case of other districts.

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Vegetable Ghee

The Central Government have made the prices fixed for vegetable ghee applicable to the preparations known as 'Tawda' or 'Tawra' and also revised the prices for small packs as follows: Maximum prices for "Dalda" have now been fixed at Rs. 8-1 for 10 lb. tins, Rs. 4-3 for 5 lb. tins, Rs. 1-12 for 2 lb. tins and |14| as. for 1 lb. tins. The price of 'Kotogem,' 'Binaula,' 'Sitar' and 'Cotex' in 5 lb. tins has been fixed at Rs. 4-3.

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Synthetic Camphor

The maximum selling prices chargeable by a dealer in respect of synthetic camphor powder have been fixed at Rs. 385 per cwt. (wholesale) and Rs. 4 per lb. (retail). Dealers at specified hill stations are permitted to charge 3 per cent more than the above maximum prices.

All dealers in synthetic camphor powder have been directed to exhibit these prices prominently in their shops.

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Razor Blades

The Central Government have fixed the maximum selling prices, both wholesale and retail, which may be charged by a dealer in respect of the Rolls razor blades at Rs. 77 per dozen for the former and Rs. 8 per blade for the latter..

The importers issue price and wholesale and retail prices of Swiss razor blades have been fixed at As. 7, As. 8 and As. 9 respectively per packet of ten. Dealers in these blades are directed to exhibit these selling prices prominently in their shops in English or the local language of the district.

CEILING PRICES FIXED FOR IMPORTED PAPER

THE Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have fixed under the Paper (Prices of Imported Paper) Control Order, 1944, issued as Gazette of India Extraordinary dated September 8, 1944, ceiling prices for principal varieties of imported paper. After October 15, 1944, no varieties of imported paper other than those covered by this Order are allowed to be sold unless the seller gets the ceiling prices previously fixed by the Central Government. The wholesale ceiling prices now fixed for some of the varieties of imported paper and applicable at the ports of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Karachi and at any place within a radius of 50 miles from each are shown below:

	Rs. as. ps.
	(per lb.)
Antique laid and wove	0 11 11
Art paper	0 13 4
Account book paper	0 11 11
Bond paper (white)	0 14 0
Chromo paper	0 15 5
Match paper in reels (blue)	0 13 5
Vegetable parchment paper	1 9 2
Printing paper (white)	0 11 11
	(per ream)
Flint paper	15 6 0
Litho paper	0 11 11

At places beyond a radius of 50 miles from the ports of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, and Karachi, dealers are permitted to charge an extra 6 pies per lb. to cover transport and other incidental charges in securing paper from the ports.

Apart from this difference in price, uniform wholesale and retail prices have been fixed at 15 per cent above wholesale prices. Transactions in ream lots or in the case of board in gross lots or lots of 100 sheets are considered wholesale transactions while transactions in smaller quantities are considered retail transactions.

Dealers have been asked to display conspicuously in their shops a list of permitted prices and to show it on demand to purchasers.

SALE OF WASTE NEWSPRINT

In a previous Department of Industries and Civil Supplies Notification, general permission was given to all persons using newsprint in reels or in reams to sell to any person or to use for any purpose a certain quantity of waste newsprint in the form of reel ends and clippings obtained in the process of printing newspapers subject to compliance with certain conditions. It has now been decided that waste which can be disposed of in this manner shall not exceed 5 per cent of the monthly ration of newsprint. It should be clearly understood that this waste does not entitle any quota-holder to an additional ration, but merely authorises him to put the waste to some useful purpose or other.

The limit for the use or disposal of waste produced in the employment of machines using newsprint in flat reams has not been altered.

NEWSPRINT FOR TEXT BOOKS

It may be possible to allot some newsprint for the printing of books approved or recommended for use in educational institutions by appropriate authorities constituted by law for this purpose, said a Press Note dated September 14. It added:

In order to enable the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, to consider this question those publishers of such books who have submitted returns in Form IV of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, of their consumption of paper in 1939 and 1943 to the Paper Controller, in accordance with the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, should intimate to the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, New Delhi, not later than September 25, 1944, if they are willing to use newsprint and if so, up to what percentage of their consumption of paper in 1939. It should be noted that requests from persons who are not publishers of text books as defined above or who have not submitted returns in Form IV in accordance with the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, will not be considered.

PRICES OF STRAWBOARD AND MILLBOARD

The Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, said a Press Note dated September 3, have decided that the provisions of Clause 5 of the Paper Control (Prices of Board) Order, 1944, which require every manufacturer to indicate conspicuously on the outer packing of each bale and of each bundle of strawboard or millboard the price and other particulars, shall take effect only from October 1, 1944. Till then manufacturers are allowed to pack strawboard and millboard as hithertofore.

DRUGS CONTROL: CHANGES IN LICENSING SYSTEM

The Government of India have introduced changes in the licensing system under the Drugs Control Order, providing for (i) the grant of licences free of charge to branches and sub-depots of importer or manufacturer licensees, (ii) a reduction in the licence fees for importers, manufacturers and wholesalers dealing in five or less controlled drugs only for which a "restricted licence" will be issued, (iii) the grant of a rebate if licences are taken out during the course of the licensing year and are made valid for a period of nine months or less.

Provisions under the Drugs Control Order relating to refusal to sell and issue of cash memo have now been made applicable to unscheduled drugs also.

CONCESSIONS TO MANUFACTURERS OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES

The Government of India have decided to allow the following further concessions to manufacturers of drugs and medicines under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944:

In the case of household medicines which are commonly used without a doctor's prescription and with the packing of which it is necessary to enclose a leaflet giving information relating to dosage etc., the size of such leaflet should not exceed a single sheet of 7 inches by 5 inches.

In cases where cartons are not used for packing glass containers, the containers may be packed in butter paper or cellophane paper.

Carbolic soaps may be packed in an inner lining consisting of a single sheet of waxed paper or other paper and a cardboard carton.

ZINC FOR CIVIL CONSUMPTION

The Government of India in the Industries and Civil Supplies Department are in a position to release a small quantity of zinc each month. Manufacturers of consumer goods requiring zinc should apply not later than October 15, 1944, stating (1) the quantity required, (2) purpose for which it is required, (3) what their normal consumption is, and (4) how they have been obtaining their supplies during the past twelve months.

NATIONAL SAVINGS CERTIFICATES

An Ordinance was issued on September 9, 1944, by the Government of India to make certain provisions in respect of Post Office 12-year National Savings Certificates and other classes of savings certificates. This Ordinance enables the Government of India to simplify the existing rules regarding National Saving Certificates by removing certain restrictions and complications which stand in the way of the popularity of these certificates.

One of the main objects that will be achieved by the promulgation of the Ordinance will be relaxation regarding minors' holdings. At present minors are not allowed to purchase these Savings Certificates themselves although they are allowed to open a Savings Bank Account independently. The Ordinance will now enable minors to invest in these Certificates independently.

The Ordinance will also enable the removal of certain restrictions regarding encashment of these Certificates purchased on behalf of minors. A purchaser of these Certificates on behalf of a minor will in future be allowed to nominate at the time of purchase the person who would be entitled to encash the Certificates, option being exerciseable in this respect between either parent, and the legal guardian. The existing National Savings Certificates Rules will shortly be redrafted in a simplified form and made public.

R.A.F. PARADE IN NEW DELHI

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 352)

and when the Allied Air Commander-in-Chief arrived, the pennant of an Air Chief Marshal was "broken."

Trumpeters sounded the General Salute and the Guard of Honour presented arms as the Royal Air Force Ensign was hoisted. Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse then inspected the parade.

A short service of thanksgiving was conducted by the H.Q. Chaplain, S/Ldr. the Rev. L. V. Peacock and afterwards the Allied Air Commander-in-Chief addressed the parade on the significance of the Battle of Britain. The ceremony ended with the Guard of Honour presenting arms while the trumpeters again sounded the General Salute.

On Sunday, September 17, commemoration services were conducted at the Church of the Redemption, New Delhi, in the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart and at the Free Church, Parliament Street.

REGISTRATION OF EXEMPTED ENEMY PROPERTY IN INDIA

ON occupation by the enemy of the territories specified in the list below (last paragraph) the Government of India issued orders exempting from the provisions of general vesting orders, the balances and other assets in India of persons and concerns resident in those territories (other than those of subjects of a State at war with His Majesty and concerns owned or controlled by such subjects). Hitherto the properties in question were not, therefore, required to be reported to the Custodian of Enemy Property, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 8.

It added: Properties such as cash balances, gold and securities held by banks in India (other than properties of residents in Burma and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands) were, however, made subject to the freezing orders issued by Government from time to time and transactions in respect of such properties were possible only with the permission of the Reserve Bank of India.

Subsequently, and without prejudice to the freezing orders mentioned above, all persons and concerns in British India were authorised to have any commercial, financial or other intercourse or dealings with agents and branches in India of persons and concerns resident in the said territories.

Submission of Returns

The existing arrangement, however, does not fully safeguard the interests of the owners of the Enemy properties in question and the Government of India have accordingly issued an order (published in the *Gazette of India* dated September 9, 1944) requiring submission to the Custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay, within two months from the date of that order, of returns in respect of property in India of persons and concerns resident in the said enemy-occupied territories in accordance with the provisions of the Enemy Property (Custody and Registration) Order, 1939. The disposal of such properties will require the sanction of the Reserve Bank of India, as a change in the ownership of the properties will involve a payment to or from the credit of a resident in a country covered by freezing order which is prohibited under such an order. All transactions in respect of properties held by banks will also as heretofore require the sanction of the Reserve Bank of India, as the freezing orders in respect of such properties are still in force.

Japanese-occupied China, including the International Settlement and French Concessions at Shanghai and British Concessions in China; Hongkong; Straits Settlements, Malaya, British Dependencies in Borneo; Netherlands East Indies; Channel Islands; that portion of Burma under Japanese occupation and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

GOVERNMENT'S RESOLUTION ON BOMBAY EXPLOSIONS REPORT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 367)

from consideration the fact that the loyalty, patriotism and high courage of the Masters of merchant ships may overcome their discretion as experts, and induce them to take and to stow with explosives cargoes potentially dangerous, but which they believe to be necessary in the furtherance of the war effort and which the Ministry of War Transport impliedly allows them so to believe.

"It may be a debatable point whether if, as Mr. Leman suggests, the Master is in effect the arbiter of safe stowage, he should be told when the cargo which he is expected to stow in a Ministry ship with explosives is not being shipped as part of the war effort but in order to maintain the normal commercial life of the community, particularly in cases in which it is known in advance that the ship must ultimately discharge in Docks and not in midstream."

It is wholly incorrect that Masters are deceived with the connivance of the Ministry into carrying unessential and potentially dangerous cargo by being led to believe that such cargo is being shipped as part of the war effort. Furthermore it is common ground with His Majesty's Government and the Government of India that the maintenance of the Civil economy of India is an essential part of the war effort.

11. In conclusion, the Governor-General in Council desires to take this opportunity of expressing his appreciation of the services rendered by the President and Members of the Inquiry Commission in conducting the inquiry. Their report has been of great assistance to him in assessing the position and deciding upon the action required.

Army Helps Quell Cholera Outbreak in Jhansi

PROMPT action by the Army Area Commander and his medical staff checked an outbreak of cholera in Jhansi (United Provinces) which threatened to swamp the resources of the civil administration.

A special cholera camp hospital established by Brigadier Crick, and staffed by the British General and Indian Military Hospitals took in cases immediately and this isolation prevented the epidemic from running rife through the bazaar and the city.

Equipment, medical officers and nursing orderlies from the Army hospitals helped by a civilian team fought the outbreak under the direction of Lt.-Col. Kingston, Officer Commanding the Indian Military Hospital, and his wife, and Lt.-Col. E. J. J. Glass of the British General Hospital.

The epidemic is now reported to be on the wane though there have been 203 cases and 106 deaths.

Indian citizens of Jhansi have made offers of money to assist the camp hospital and the Army's helping hand to the civil population has been deeply appreciated.

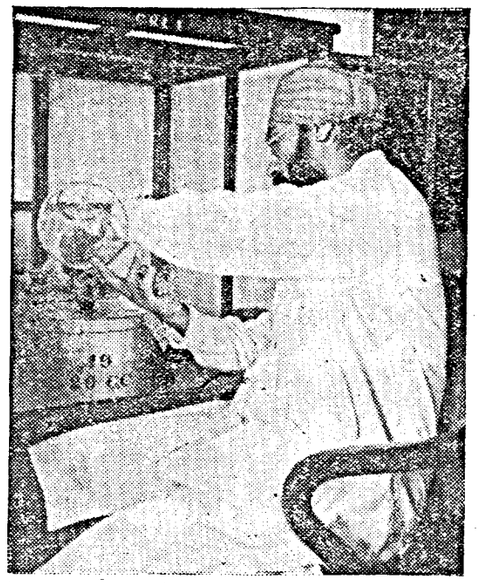
IN BIHAR

Ten military medical officers have been deputed to Bihar to assist the Provincial Government in controlling cholera and malaria. The possibility of providing further military assistance is under consideration of the Government of India. In this connection the Governor of Bihar, H. E. Sir Thomas Rutherford, has visited the affected areas.

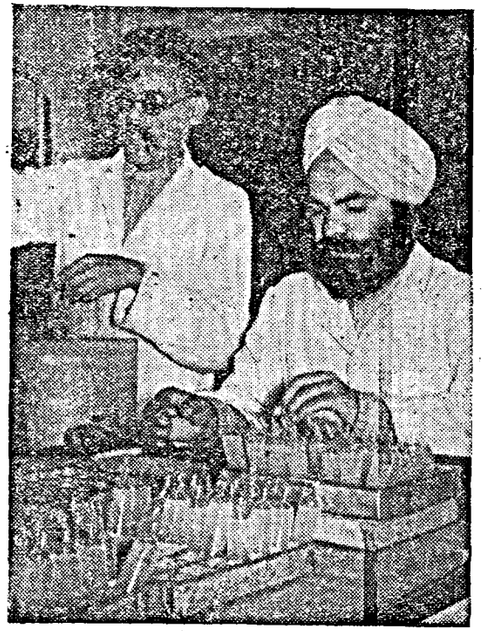
Sixteen million tablets of mepacrine have been sent for the treatment of malaria. Arrangements have also been made to supply bleaching powder for disinfecting wells. The Central Research Institute, Kasauli, has provided cholera vaccine for inoculation.

The number of deaths due to cholera from the beginning of this year till the end of July is reported to be 42,000. The number of deaths in three weeks ending August 19, was 1,443, 2,384 and 2,364.

It is learnt that cholera is on the decline in Patna, Muzaffarpur and Champaran districts. An increase in the incidence of the disease has been noticed in Gaya, Shahbad, Saran and Darbhanga Districts.



Cholera vaccine is poured into a container for filling into ampoules at the Central Research Institute, Kasauli.



Sealing the vaccine ampoules with a blow-pipe.

C.-IN-C., EASTERN FLEET

Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser

ADMIRAL SIR BRUCE FRASER, who has been appointed C.-in-C. of the Eastern Fleet, has the reputation of being the greatest gunnery expert in Britain's Royal Navy, writes Sidney Horniblow.

As Third Sea Lord and Controller of the Navy at the outbreak of the war, he was responsible for the building plans which have been coming to full and powerful fruition in the launching of ship after ship of all classes from the mightiest battleship to the sleekest, swiftest motor-torpedo boat.

Let us go back to a bleak December day in 1940. The scene is a great shipyard in the North of Britain. A great warship is on the stocks ready for launching. On the flimsy little platform erected against the giant steel prow of this ship stands a little woman of 84. In the biting cold wind this frail, white-haired old lady performs the launching ceremony. With head erect she gives the great ship a friendly wave as it glides slowly away from her down the slip-way and into the sea.

It was the first ship she had launched. It was one of many planned by Sir Bruce Fraser, and the old lady who launched it was his mother.

Sir Bruce's father was a General in the Royal Engineers. Bruce himself was educated at Bradfield College, before entering the famous training ship *Britannia* as a cadet of 14 in 1902.

Mathematical Mind

Throughout his whole naval career, Bruce Fraser has displayed the brilliance of his mathematical mind. He took "Firsts" in all subjects when passing for Lieutenant. "Before World War I began, he specialised in gunnery, and during that war he was, first as Lieutenant and then as Lieutenant-Commander, Gunnery Officer in the cruiser *Minerva*, in the Dardanelles and East Indies; and in the battleship *Resolution* in the Grand Fleet.

After his promotion to the rank of Commander in June 1919, he was attached to the base at Constantinople for service with the Enzeli Expedition. He was Fleet Gunnery Officer on the staff of Admiral Sir Roger Keyes in the Mediterranean when promoted to Captain in 1926.

For the following three years he was head of the Tactical Section of the Naval Staff.

Bruce Fraser's next move was to be put in command of the *Effingham*, and made Flag



Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser.

Captain and Chief of Staff on the East Indies Station. He served there for three years and was then brought back to be appointed Director of Naval Ordnance.

After that he went as Chief of Staff in the Mediterranean, and from there in 1939 he was brought to England once again to further promotion—this time to be Third Sea Lord and Controller of the Navy. In that post he was specially charged with the building of ships and the provision of materials.

He Sank the "Scharnhorst"

This man whose orderly mathematical mind has been of such infinite value to Britain and in the planning departments of the Admiralty, was destined for still more active service, and in 1942 he was made Second-in-Command of the Home Fleet. In the year following, he became Commander-in-Chief of the Home Fleet. It was during this period that without the loss of a ship he caught and sank the elusive *Scharnhorst;* without the loss of a surface warship he twice attacked and crippled the still more elusive *Tirpitz.*

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 377)

ARMY NEEDS COTTON REELS

Cotton reels are being called to the colours. Fifty thousand of them are wanted by Army Signals in Bombay. The reels will not be used in the city but will be sent to forward areas, where even this lowly article of household equipment has its part to play in the war. For cotton reels are helping to drive the Japs from Burma and the Germans from Italy. Across the battle zones, starting from base and through army headquarters, corps, divisions and brigades and right forward to the headquarters of battalions and companies, there stretches a complicated mass of telegraph and telephone lines.

In the forward areas these lines may be buried for protection against enemy shell fire. But further back, tied high to trees and visible to all, run scores of thin black lines—all-important links perhaps between a corps headquarters and its divisions and other formations.

Wear and tear on cable carried on trees is unceasing and costly, in money and also in lives, for cable is subjected to constant friction by "riding" up the trunk as the tree sways and pulls it, eventually to breaking point. A means had to be devised to obviate this wear on lines.

Permanent and Safe Link

The homely cotton reel was brought into service. It is pinned to a tree trunk by means of a long nail passing through the hole, the cable is given a couple of turns over the reel and so, when the tree sways, "rides" easily on the reel and merely pulls up the "slack" from the next tree.

Cable treed in this manner forms a permanent and safe link and need never be disturbed except for repairs. Unreliable lines are thus eliminated and great saving made in time and perhaps lives.

Hundreds of reels are used with each mile of cable laid and the quantity required to supply the wants of an army in the field is astronomical. Hence cotton reels are of great value to the service and form an important item of salvage. Every single reel that can be spared is needed to maintain vital communications.

PAPER FOR PACKING CANDLES

The Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have decided that candles may be packed in packets with one sheet of kraft or other wrapping paper of the minimum size necessary and that the packets may be sealed by two strips of paper one on either end of the packet. These strips of paper should not exceed 1½" in width and 3½" in length.

Employment of Demobilised Medical Personnel

A special organisation is being created to assist medical personnel of the Defence Services to obtain employment in civil life after demobilisation, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on September 8.

It added: The scheme will apply not only to medical officers but to auxiliary medical personnel such as nurses, laboratory assistants, dispensers and personnel trained in anti-malaria work.

Particulars of all medical and auxiliary medical personnel who wish to have assistance in obtaining civil employment after the war are being compiled in the office of the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, and the lists will be supplied to Provincial Governments.

Medical Employment Bureaux

Provincial Governments have been asked to set up medical employment bureaux under the Surgeon General or Inspector General of Civil Hospitals to assist medical and auxiliary medical personnel in obtaining employment in the medical and public health services and in private employment. Governments have also been asked to set up small committees to consider and advise on problems connected with the resettlement of medical and auxiliary medical personnel.

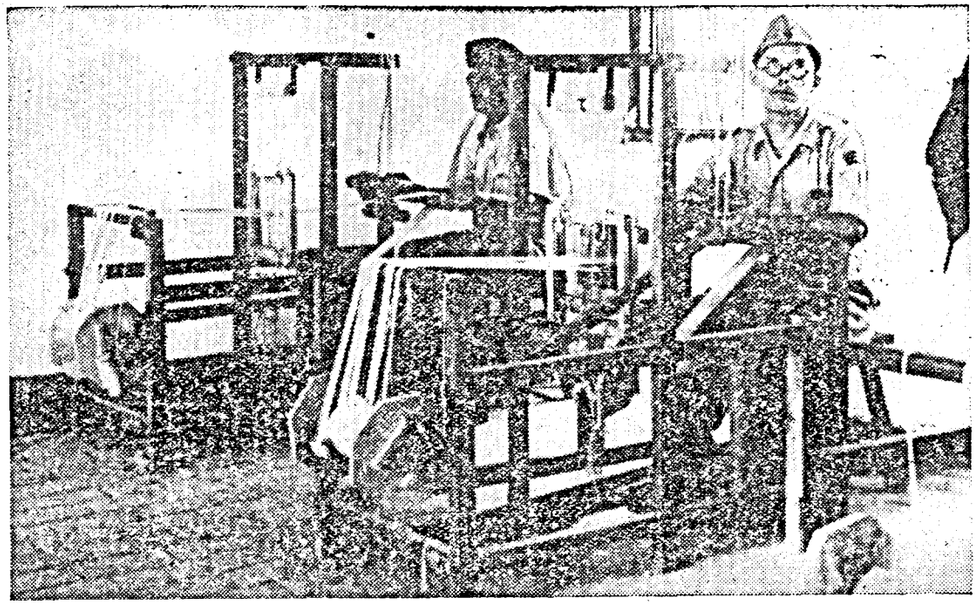
VICEROY'S GIFT TO INDIAN ARMY

"The Might of the Tiger," an article by H. E. the Viceroy on the Indian Army, has produced nearly Rs. 2,000 for Indian Army funds.

Lord Wavell wrote the article for an American journal before he was appointed Viceroy. It was published in both the U.S.A. and the United Kingdom.

He received Rs. 1,300 in publication fees, which he passed on to the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, "to be placed in some account for the benefit of the Indian Army as a token of gratitude for the fighting effort of the Indian Army formations when under his command."

Lord Wavell has now received a further Rs. 515 for the article, which he has passed on to the C.-in-C., and an Indian newspaper has paid Rs. 100 as publication fee, bringing the total to Rs. 1,915.



Two blind Gurkha soldiers learning to weave "newar" (a form of webbing) in the Weaving Shop at the St. Dunstan's training centre, Dehra Dun.

HOW ST. DUNSTAN'S IS HELPING INDIA'S WAR-BLINDED TO BE USEFUL CITIZENS

THE marvellous way in which St. Dunstan's in England takes the shattered, depressed, sightless soldiers, sailors and airmen from the hospitals and in a few months turns them back again into cheerful, confident, and useful citizens has long been deeply admired throughout the Empire. Hitherto, the Indian blinded soldier has been very chary of undertaking training. He has had a deep-rooted belief that blind people cannot be useful—that they are capable only of sitting about, idle and helpless through the long, monotonous years—all they can do is to beg.

In the middle of last year it was found possible to get sufficient Indian blinded soldiers together to start the first St. Dunstan's in India. In the first year 52 men have entered for training and they have quickly shown that they are just as good at learning and gaining their independence and renewed cheerfulness as the blinded men elsewhere in the Empire. Pathans, Punjabis, Jats, Garhwalis, Gurkhas, Bengalis, Mahrattas, Madrassis, Dogras and a Burma Karen are all doing equally well.

British troops come, too—usually only for two or three weeks until an air passage to England is available, for they are now flown home. During their short stay, however, they learn to move about alone, to do things for themselves, to typewrite and to master the beginnings of Braille.

Not a few of the new arrivals murmur again and again in a weak voice one of two things, "I want to die," or "All I want is to go home." But the older hands soon shake them out of this frame of mind; and in a day or two they have forgotten they had ever said such things. They feel the joy of independence again, the pleasure of being able to walk about by themselves without having to hang on someone else all the time; they experience the delight of having something to do to fill those unending



The old Assistant Weaving Master with two Mahratta pupils at the Centre.

dark hours, which now lose their terror. Their voices grow manly: their physique improves; and soon they have mastered blindness.

St. Dunstan's buildings sit pleasantly among beautiful trees and flower beds in an eight-acre compound in the lovely valley of Dehra Dun. Gravel paths with a guide rail lead from one building to another. Here is a Gurkha barrack, there a weaving shop and beyond a row of married quarters, for some of the men bring their wives and children with them. From a couple of buildings float the strains of harmonium, *sitar* and *tabla*, for almost all the men are learning some form of music from the two blind music masters.

Learning Braille

In another building the men, who have had the advantage of a literary education, are busy learning Braille and to use the ordinary typewriter. Recently a havildar, who had lost his left arm as well as his sight, wrote his first letter home ten days after he started lessons, —quite a long letter with almost no mistakes.

When the training course ends, the man returns to his village to carry on the trade he has learnt, and is quite determined that he is going to hold his own and not lapse into the helpless blind man of the old type. St. Dunstan's helps him with his housing, equips him with the tools of his trade—sometimes it arranges his marriage—in fact, does all in its power to smooth his path for the future—but a future of usefulness and happiness, not one of idleness and misery.

Lt.-Col. Sir Clutha MacKenzie

Presiding over this happy community is Lt.-Col. Sir Clutha MacKenzie, himself totally blinded in Gallipoli 29 years ago.

St. Dunstan's itself was founded by a blind man, the late Sir Arthur Pearson, Bart., in 1915; and Sir Clutha, then a young trooper in the New Zealand Expeditionary Force, was one of Sir Arthur's first trainees. Heading the Empire-wide St. Dunstan's today is Lt.-Col. Sir Ian Fraser, M.P., another of Sir Arthur's early pupils. It is, in fact, one of the secrets of St. Dunstan's success that the newly blinded soldier is shown the way by men who have themselves trodden the same path.

NAWAB OF TONK'S GIFT

H.H. the Nawab of Tonk has contributed Rs. 1,500 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, earmarked for the benefit of the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association. The gift has been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.

HYDERABAD DEFENCE COUNCIL'S MESSAGE

Mr. Churchill's Reply

THE following messages, says a Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House on September 5, have been exchanged between the Hyderabad Defence Council and Mr. Winston Churchill, British Prime Minister, through H. E. the Viceroy:

From the Hyderabad Defence Council: "At the latest meeting held here members of Hyderabad Defence Council have unanimously passed a resolution asking me respectfully to tender their warmest congratulations to Mr. Churchill through Your Excellency on the brilliant success of the operations of the Allied armies in the North and South of France and on the Italian Front. The planning and progress of these operations on land, sea and in the air have won the admiration of the whole world and now that the tide of aggression is rolling backwards on all fronts under the pressure exerted by the Allies, and India too has been relieved of all danger on its Eastern front there is every reason to hope that the final victory is close at hand.

"Members of Hyderabad Defence Council would be most grateful if their humble message could kindly be conveyed to the Prime Minister whose genius had been the constant inspiration of the war effort of the Allies against the enemies of humanity."

Tribute to Hyderabad Troops

Mr. Churchill's reply: "Please convey my thanks to Hyderabad Defence Council. Though our successes are great and growing there is still hard fighting to be done especially against our Japanese foe who has now been driven from India and with whom we are determined to settle our account.

"His Majesty's Government gratefully remember that His Exalted Highness has supported the Allied cause throughout the fluctuations of this arduous struggle with generous help in men, money and materials. His troops have done sterling service in Malaya and the Middle East and the squadron which bears Hyderabad's name has shared in the high achievements of the Royal Air Force."

HOME NEWS FOR INDIAN WAR PRISONERS

Governor-General Sends Cables

"Members of your family are well and happy. They have reaped a good crop and have constructed a new well." . . . . . "The rainfall has been sufficient. Rabi crops are good and kharif crops are being sown" . . . . . "Allotment is being received regularly. Sabhadra's marriage negotiations are going on. We are all well."

These simple items of human interest, concerning the domestic affairs of Indian soldiers, form the basis of many a telegram read by lonely Indian prisoners of war in Europe. They are telegraphed regularly by the "Governor-General, India," to the "Secretary of State for India, London," and forwarded through official channels to Germany.

At a time when the war is at its zenith, the concern shown by the highest authorities in the land for the peace of mind of sepoy prisoners of war and the welfare of their families in India indicates that these men, languishing in camps in Germany, are constantly in cur thoughts.

The system brings to the prisoner of war. brief but up-to-the-minute news of his home and family. The resultant value in happiness and morale both to the man and his family cannot be exaggerated.

Thus a havildar learns that a dispute about a plot of land has been settled satisfactorily. A sepoy hears that his house, which had been mortgaged, has now been freed and that his mother is living happily in the house. Other messages give tit-bits about the crops, rainfall and village gossip, but the main thing is the speed with which they reach the lonely exile in his prison camp, so that he can say to himself "well, this is the way things are at home," and can rest satisfied.

ADMIRAL SIR BRUCE FRASER

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 373)

What about the man himself, the man off duty? He has not got the keen, piercing features popularly associated with the typical naval officer. His face is full, the eyes look thoughtful, the mouth sensitive. He is a cheerful, kindly soul who makes a bright but very forthright after-dinner speech.

Admiral Fraser is acknowledged to be one of the Royal Navy's greatest experts in air-sea fighting. A man of unexampled brilliance, his motto is: "Pack your punches with all you've got!"



H. E. the Viceroy showed keen interest in "Rajputana," the mascot of the 4th Bn., 6th Rajputana Rifles, during his recent visit to the Battalion.

"RAJPUTANA," RAJRIF BATTALION'S MASCOT

KEREN, Hellfire Pass and Mersa Matruh—these famous battlefields were the familiar grazing grounds of two goats, mascots of the 4th Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles, India's most decorated unit.

"Rajputana" and "Rifles", as the goats were naturally christened, came up with the rations at Keren in February, 1941. Only a few weeks old, they moved among the soldiers so freely and were so friendly that they were eventually taken on the ration strength of the Battalion and a rifleman was detailed to look after them.

One evil day near Mersa Matruh, "Rajputana" and "Rifles" came under heavy fire. A shell burst near the truck in which they were travelling and "Rifles" was killed. "Rajputana" was considerably shaken and his nerves shattered. Regretfully, the Battalion evacuated him to Cairo, where under expert supervision he soon recovered.

It was decided, however, that he should not be exposed to further danger, hence "Rajputana" took no part in the Battalion's advance across North Africa and, later, into Italy. He was picked up in Cairo when the Battalion was on its way back to India.

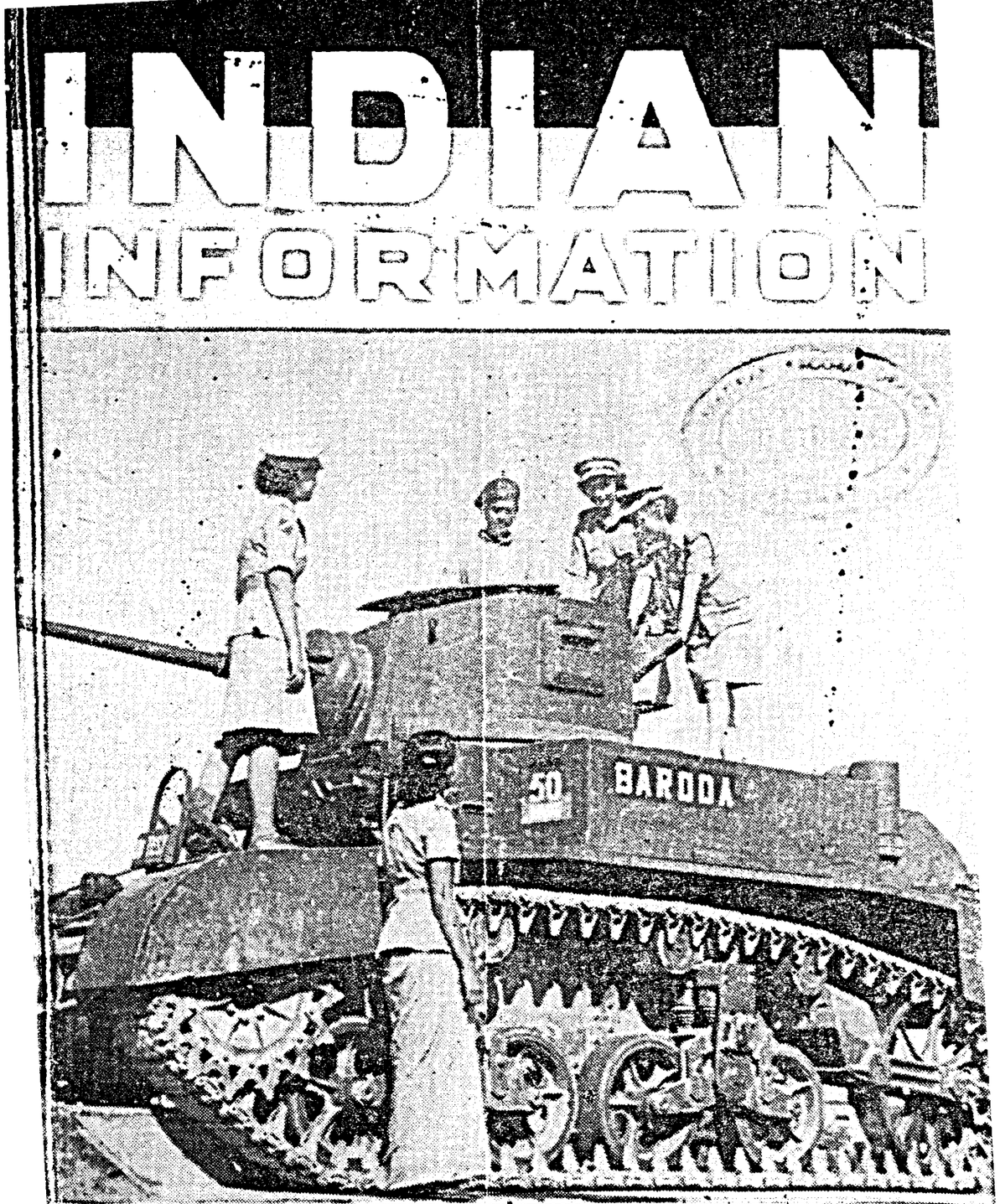
Recently when H.E. the Viceroy, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, inspected the 4th Bn., 6th Rajputana Rifles in Delhi, he showed a keen interest in this frontline goat.

SIR GEORGE CUNNINGHAM

H. M. the King has been pleased to approve the extension of the term of office of H. E. Sir George Cunningham, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., as Governor of the North-West Frontier Province, for a further period of 12 months expiring in March, 1946, said a Communique issued from the Viceroy's House on September 15.

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INDIAN INFORMATION



15, No. 147: Oct. 15, 1944
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cipal Information Officer,
Government of India

SIR SULTAN AHMED'S ADDRESS TO STATES PUBLICITY OFFICERS CONFERENCE



For the first time in any theatre of war, Helicopters flown by U.S. pilots, are in use against the Japs in Burma. Their ability to hover in the air and land on space covered by an average-size room, make them ideal for work over the impenetrable Burma jungles.

Vol. 15, No. 147. INDIAN INFORMATION OCT. 15, 1944

AIMS :—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC :—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT :—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading, but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

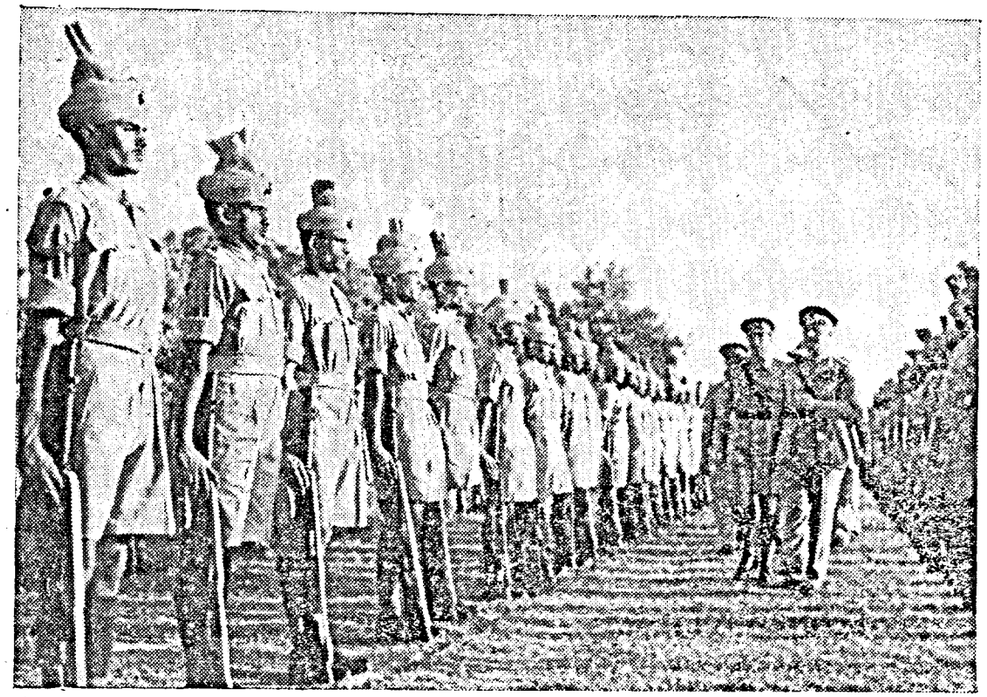
CONTRIBUTIONS :—Many MSS are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source, it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Issued Fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.
Associate Editor : P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: W.A.C. (I)s attached to an M.T. Reinforcement Centre learn about tanks.



H. E. the Viceroy inspecting men of the 1st Bn., 6th Rajputana Rifles, at Delhi.

ANOTHER RAJRIF BATTALION RETURNS HOME

"THE world takes pride in the record of your five years of fighting and in the battles which you have enshrined in that record. It includes names which will always be remembered, not only in India, but wherever and whenever gallant deeds are told."

This tribute was paid to the First Battalion (Wellesley's) of the 6th Rajputana Rifles by H.E. the Viceroy, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, when he took the salute at the parade at the regimental centre on September 29.

"India is Proud of You"

A similar expression of pride in the Battalion's achievements came from the Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, at a parade the previous morning.

"In this war, as all the world knows," the C.-in-C. said, "you have fought and proved yourselves against the Italians at Sidi Barrani, Keren and Agordat, and against the Germans at Halfaya, in Cyrenaica and at Cassino. I say to you that India is proud of you and the whole army is proud of you. I know that you will be ready, if needed, to take part in the fight against the Japanese whose armies have now been driven back from our frontier. The work is not yet finished, but it must be finished and finished quickly so that peace may come to the world."

Five Years Overseas

The Battalion recently returned to India after more than five years' service overseas, during which it fought on many historic fields of battle—in the Western Desert, Eritrea and Italy. It left India in August, 1939, and has served overseas in this war longer than any other battalion in the Indian Army.

At both the parades the Battalion was conscious of the honour which was being accorded by the visits of the two leaders under whom it had served in North Africa. The parades, watched by thousands of people, including many distinguished visitors, showed that, after years of hard campaigning, the men had lost none of their parade ground smartness.



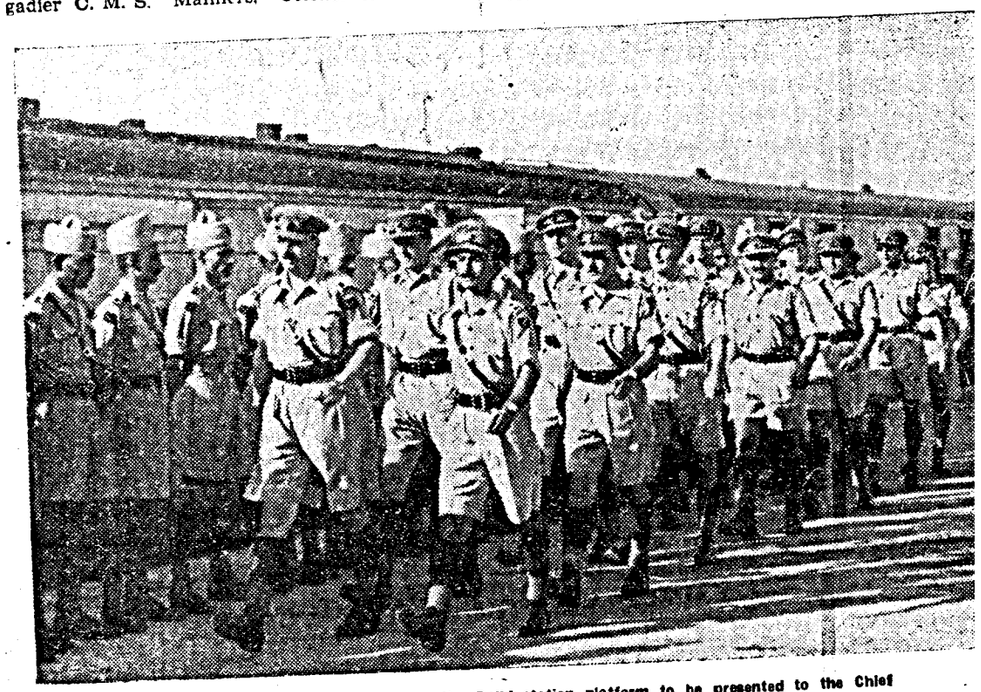
Lord Wavell pins the Military Cross on the chest of Maj. P. A. Scaife.



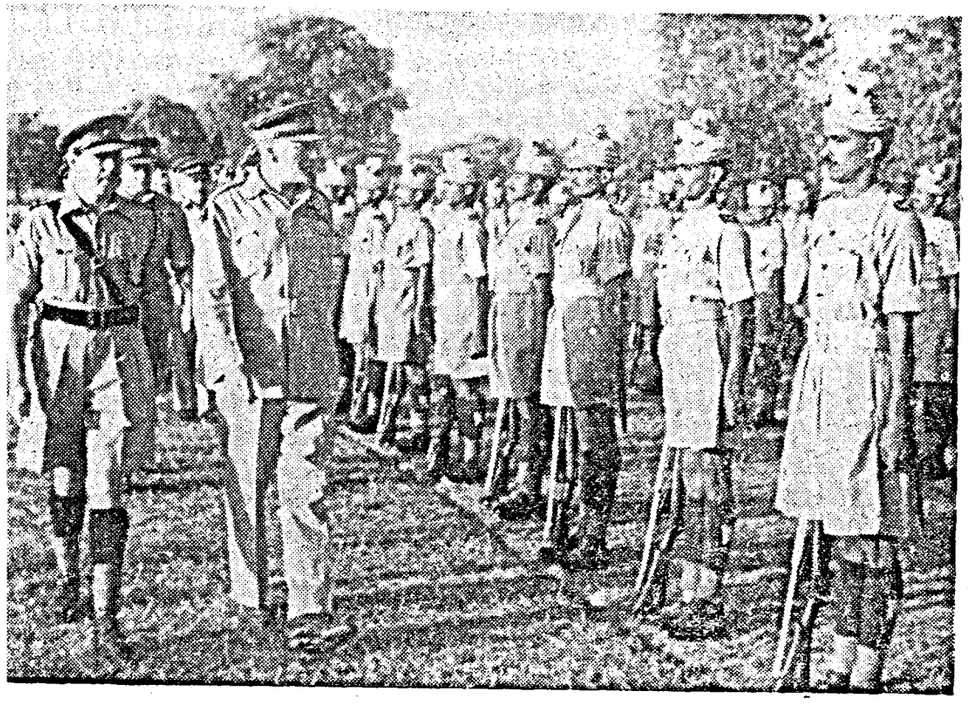
They are happy to be back in India.

Both the Viceroy and the Commander-in-Chief departed from the pre-arranged programme in order to chat with wounded men of the Battalion who were unable to take part in the parade.

With them at the saluting base were Brigadier C. M. S. Manners, Colonel of the First Battalion; Col. F. R. Ridley, Commandant of the 6th Rajputana Rifles' regimental training centre and Brigadier H. U. Richards, Commander, Delhi Area. The Battalion paraded under Lieut.-Col. L. C. Forbes, who went out with it in 1939, and returned to it a few months ago to take over command.



Officers of the Battalion marching up the Delhi station platform to be presented to the Chief of the General Staff, Lt.-Gen. Sir John C. dee R. Swayne.



The Commander-in-Chief inspecting Rajrif veterans on parade at Delhi.

The Rajrif Battalion comprising over 900 men landed at Bombay recently. Under the command of Lieut.-Col. L. C. Forbes, weathered by long months of desert and mountain campaigns, many of them proudly displaying battle honour ribbons, they paraded before Major-General C. E. R. G. Alban, C.B.E., D.S.O., commanding Bombay Area.

C.-in-C.'s Message of Welcome

As he inspected them on board the ship, General Alban read a message of welcome from the Commander-in-Chief in which he said: "I am glad to welcome you back to India after an absence of over five years during which time you have enhanced the reputation not only of your regiment but of the Indian Army. This service will always be remembered. I wish you and all ranks the best of luck."

Of special interest was the presence of Major-General R. A. Savory, Director of Infantry, India Command, who had come down to meet the gallant men who served under him when he commanded the 11th Indian Brigade in Eritrea and the Western Desert.

Memories of the early fighting in which the Fourth Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles, from belonged) took part were also recalled by the arrival at the same time of Major-General F. S. Tuker, C.B.E., D.S.O., O.B.E. General Tuker commanded the famous Fourth from January, 1942, to just before the Battle of Cassino in the middle of February, 1944.

Praising the magnificent work of the Battalion in the battle, General Tuker told an Indian Army Observer that the battle showed that after close on four years of constant fighting, the Fourth Indian Division was as stubborn and aggressive as ever. Their achievement was a historic one fought under the most adverse conditions.

Aboard the same ship, another arrival was Lieut.-Col. R. Scott, D.S.O., who commanded the Fourth Battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles from before Alamein to the Battle of Cassino.

After being provided with refreshments and cigarettes, the veterans of the First Battalion later left by train for Delhi.

8TH PUNJAB REGIMENT'S PART IN ITALIAN FIGHTING



Major Girdhari Singh.

Major Girdhari Singh's Broadcast

"WE took part in the crossing of the River Gari on May 11-12, 1944. The river was flowing fast and as soon as we entered the water the enemy greeted us with a hail of bullets and grenades. However, we managed to get across," said Major Girdhari Singh, M.C., 8th Punjab Regiment, broadcasting from the Delhi station of All India Radio on September 17.

Here is the full text of the broadcast:

My battalion reached Iraq in August, 1941, and next went to Syria, and finally arrived in Italy with the 8th Indian Division. We took part in skirmishes up to Monte Falconi and in the crossing of the River Trigno.

When we came to the River Sangro, a New Zealand division joined us and on September 18 1943, my company and a New Zealand tank squadron were ordered to attack the village of Parano

Mines and Booby Traps

The New Zealanders and ourselves enjoyed close co-operation and understanding during this assault and Lt.-General Freyberg himself sent us a congratulatory message on this occasion.

My company was the first to cross the River Sangro, landing on the further bank at 3 a.m. on November 24, but mines and booby traps burst under the feet of our men and the enemy, getting wind of our arrival, opened up with machine-guns.

Although we managed to move ahead, German tanks showered shells on us and our commander halted us and ordered other companies to move on the flanks. Enemy tanks and infantry withdrew but furious exchanges of small arms and machine-gun fire occurred throughout the day and when our ammunition became low, we withdrew slightly and consolidated. Next day, I led a patrol to occupy a hill named Il Calvario, and in the meantime reinforcements arrived.

After a week's rest my unit and another battalion attacked and took the southern sector of the village of Villa Grande. My Punjabi company was then chosen to assault the rest of the village and we opened the attack with the aid of tanks on December 25. Fighting desperately we advanced to within 100 yards of the enemy but a strip of boggy ground prevented the tanks from moving any closer.

The enemy poured a storm of bullets upon us from every door and window in the village and to make matters worse we had no smoke bombs as the mules and men carrying them had either been killed or wounded.

Wondering how to continue the advance I decided to make use of the machine-guns and tracer ammunition which the Germans had left behind in their retreat, and three of the guns were soon in action. The grass plots round the village were quickly alight and clouds of thick smoke arose and then nature came to our aid, for the wind blew the smoke in the right direction and hid us from the village.

Sepoy Kamal Ram's Feat

Sheltered by the smoke screen, my company four times shouted the war cry of the Punjabis and then attacked. Just with our ammunition abandoned by the enemy and with these weapons we captured our objective, taking 97 prisoners, of whom three were officers. In addition, we killed 27 of the enemy. We also captured a store of German sweets specially prepared for Christmas by the Huns. We ate the sweets and celebrated a really fine Christmas ourselves.

Next, we went with the 8th Indian Division to Cassino and took part in the crossing of the River Gari on May 11-12, 1944. The river was flowing fast and as soon as we entered the water the enemy greeted us with a hail of bullets and grenades. However, we managed to get across.

Just after my company had taken an objective, Hill 63, I saw a man creep through some barbed wire and wriggle towards me. I could



Bren-gunner and rifleman of the 8th Punjab Regiment in a fox-hole on the Italian Front.

not recognise him and thinking he was a German covered him wih my tommy-gun but when he came into the open I knew from his steel helmet that he was a comrade of ours.

The soldier came to within 15 yards of me and then crawling behind a German machine-gun post he fired a shot into the post and then went in with his bayonet and fired again.

I shouted, *Shabash, jawan, shabash.* He glanced at me, smiled, and then went on with his dangerous job. Later I found that he was the famous Sepoy Kamal Ram.

On July 26, His Majesty the King came to a frontline airfield and pinned the ribbon of the Victoria Cross on Kamal Ram's breast.

RAJA OF BARIA'S CONTRIBUTION

The Raja of Baria has generously contributed Rs. 50,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The offer has been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.

SAN MARINO'S GREAT WELCOME TO INDIANS

NEAR Rimini in the zone of the Germans' Gothic Line in Italy is San Marino, the smallest republic in the world, and one of its oldest. For 1,644 years it has been independent and under republican government. While it has its own little army, war has always seemed remote, but with the advance of the Allies up the leg of Italy bitter fighting embraced it.

It is free again now, and with the partisan patrol which was the first to fight its way to the citadel of San Marino Town was an Indian Army Observer.

"We won through after a running fight with the Germans in the lower streets of the town," he writes. "At the gates we were met by the Colonel-Commandant of the republic's tiny army who escorted me through cheering crowds to the Captain Regent of the republic, Professor Francesco Balsimelli. The enthusiasm of the crowd was



Indian troops played an important role in the capture of Florence. Picture shows civilians of Florence happy with their Indian liberators.

embarrassing for it showed my position to the Germans who were still in the town.

"While I talked with the head of the little republic, guards from San Marino's army waited outside the door ready to give a warning of any Germans who might approach.

Captain Regent's Message

"The Captain Regent gave me this message to the world:

'We of San Marino are thankful that the war has soon ended for us. We hope that this is the last of war for the republic and that a life of peace will return. We are thankful that up to now the main citadel, crowded with refugees whom we have admitted and fed with traditional hospitality, has been spared bombardment by the Allies.'

"Before I left the citadel the Captain Regent led me to a window from which I could see Highlanders and Indians of a veteran Indian Division still fighting their way around the outskirts of the town.

"Escorted by soldiers of the republic's army, I regained our lines by a path down a wooded hillside to learn that the Highlanders were first troops to enter the republic's capital."

WELCOME FOR INDIAN TROOPS

San Marino has given the troops of a veteran Indian division a great welcome, writes an Indian Army Observer.

The local inhabitants had been told fantastic stories by the Germans of the ferocity and undisciplined nature of Indian soldiers and, in consequence, have been agreeably surprised by the exceptionally good behaviour of their liberators.

In the republic's capital, some Punjabi Mussalmans, watching a refugee woman rolling out *chappatis* with a rolling pin, could not resist the temptation to lend a hand. Edging forward and squatting beside her, they began flattening the dough in the time-honoured Indian way.

In a few minutes hungry refugees had formed a queue behind them and waited patiently for the results of the men's labour.

THE BURMA ARMY FIGHTS ON

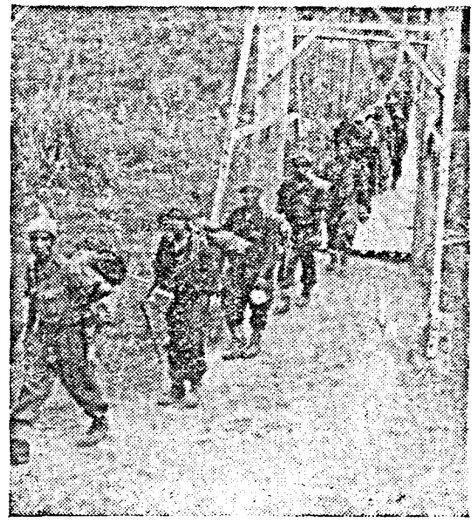
Kachin Levies Harass Japs

EVER since May, 1942, when the Japs overran their country, the Burma Army has been in action alongside Allied troops. Apart from "regular" service with organised fighting units they have fought the Japs in many audacious ways.

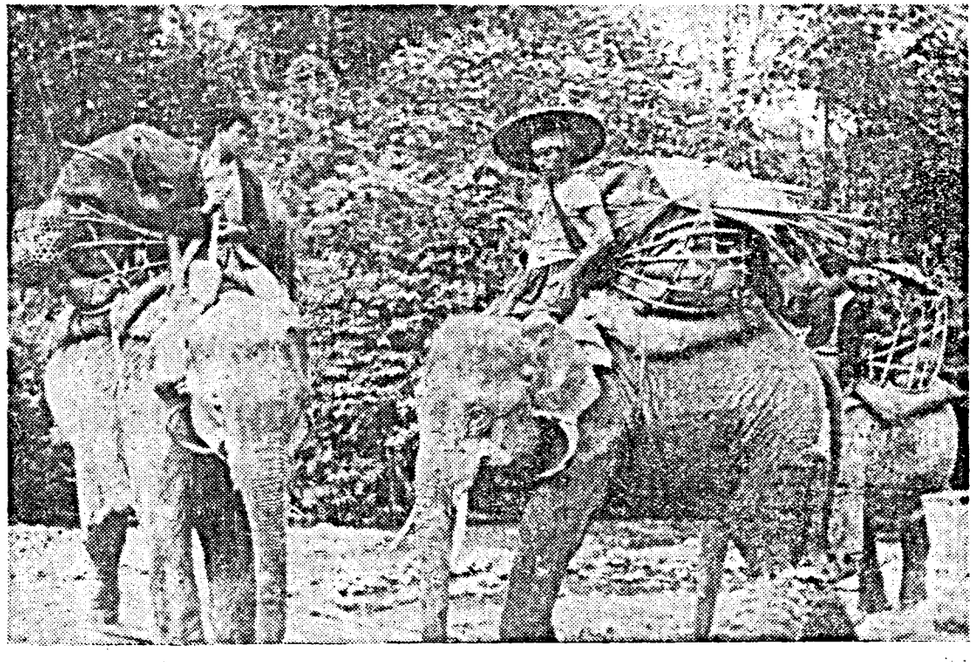
Kachin levies have laid ambushes and, grimly holding on to the hills from which they come, have destroyed many of the enemy. The same thing has happened in the Chin Hills. A battalion of the Burma Rifles accompanied the Wingate expedition into Burma in 1943, and they repeated the performance this year.

In these and many other ways the Burmese are assisting the Allies in freeing their homeland from the Japanese.

When Burma was separated from India in 1937, it formed its own defence force, composed of



Men of the Chin Hills Battalion crossing a suspension bridge.



These elephants manned by Kachin Levies carry vital supplies for troops in the Arakan jungles.

a few battalions of troops and two armed police forces known as the Burma Frontier Force and the Burma Military Police.

This limited force then represented Burma's capacity to resist the Japs, but its strength was soon implemented by the organisation by civil officers of village levies drawn from the sturdy Chin and Kachin hill tribes. Their harassing tactics and the important part they have played in intelligence work have been vital.

When the Japs overran the country only the Chin Hills Battalion of the Burma Frontier Force remained to oppose Japanese infiltration in those hills. Of the remainder of the Burma Defence Force, those recruited in Burma (Burmans, Karans, Chins and Kachins) were given the choice of returning with their arms and ammunition to protect their homes, or going to India to be reorganised and re-equipped.

Several thousands chose to join the Chin and Kachin levies. Under the command of British officers they have taken every opportunity to ambush and kill the Japanese in the countryside which is theirs.

The remainder of the Force came to India where they were reorganised, re-equipped and trained for modern warfare. Their units—infantry, gunners, signallers, intelligence, medical, supply and other services—have played their part in the campaign on the Indo-Burma border, and from senior officers to the ordinary "Tommy" they have earned high praise.

Of the Burmese accompanying his long-range penetration columns, the late Maj.-General Wingate said they were among the finest men he had had under his command.

Many of the men of the Burma Army have their homes in villages behind the Jap lines. They are happy to be fighting to free them.

STRANGLEHOLD ON TIDDIM TIGHTENS

With their forward patrols maintaining contact with the enemy through jungle clad hills and valleys, troops of the Fifth Indian Division are tightening their stranglehold on Tiddim.

A series of explosions heard on the night of September 30 and early next morning suggest that the Japs are blowing up their store dumps. Civilians and enemy sick and wounded have already been evacuated from Tiddim.

Despite landslides, lakes of mud and rivers in spate, our bulldozers are working night and day to keep the "worst road in Asia" open, as men, guns and supplies pour through from the rear to back up the jungle fighters of the Indian infantry who now form the spearhead of the attack.

GUERILLA FIGHTING IN KALADAN VALLEY

TRIPURA RIFLES' FINE WORK

RAISED from the Tripura State amongst the hills of north-east Bengal, the Tripura Rifles have two golden rules. One is the State motto: "Above all a soldier is brave," and the second is: "Never open fire above 25 yards' range."

There are several hundred dead Japs lying in the jungle in the Kaladan Valley to testify to the effectiveness with which these rules are obeyed.

I have today returned from a visit to this unique guerilla force, says an Indian Army Observer writing from the Arakan Front on September 15. They have just come back from six months' campaigning in the Kaladan Valley with the West African Force which pushed down to within 40 miles of Akyab. Prior to that, they had taken part in the first Arakan Campaign of 1942-43, also in the Kaladan Valley.

"Punjis"

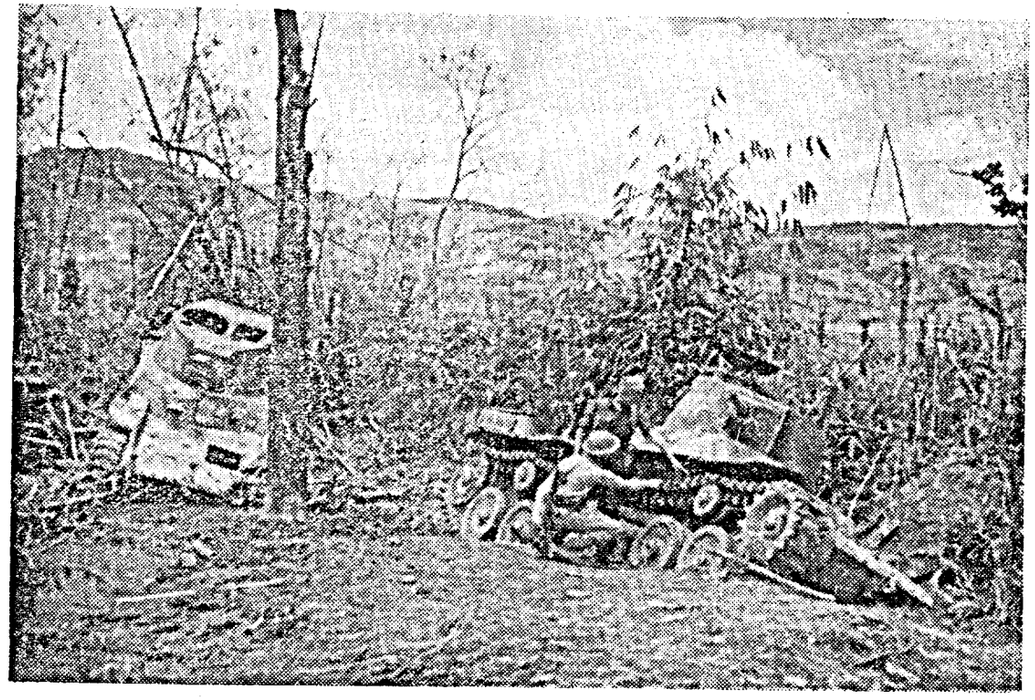
Their speciality is "punjis"—thin, deadly slivers of bamboo which, when concealed in the jungle undergrowth, form a hidden fence of pikes. Caught by close range fire from hidden guerillas, the enemy rush for cover only to fall on the "punjis" and be shot down.

One I.O.M., one M.C., six I.D.S.M.s and eight Burma Gallantry Medals stand to the battalion's credit—all won in the Kaladan Valley.

Reinforcements for the "Trips" now are largely Gurkhas and their strength is 40 per cent from Nepal, Darjeeling and Shillong. The balance of the regiment consists of Bengali Muslims, Bengali Hindus and Tripura State subjects.

Offered to the British Government at the outbreak of the war, by the Maharaja of Tripura, the Tripura Rifles have representatives of the Ruling House among their officers. Lt.-Col. K. Dev Burman, uncle of the State's Ruler, commanded the Force in its first expedition, while Captain A. D. Dev Burman, the Maharaja's brother, won the M.C. in the same operations. Both have since been killed.

Another brother, Captain C. K. Dev Burman, is Quartermaster while the Adjutant, Captain Rana P. Jung, is related by marriage to the Tripura House.



The two Japanese tanks knocked out by Rifleman Ganju Lama, V.C.

A GURKHA "TANK KILLER" WINS V.C.

ELEVENTH Indian Army winner of the Victoria Cross in this war is Rifleman Ganju Lama, M.M., 7th Gurkha Rifles, of Sangmo Busty, Sikkim District, who, when his company came under heavy tank gun and machine-gun fire at Ningthoukhong, on the Imphal plain, crawled forward, and though seriously wounded, knocked out two tanks with his P.I.A.T. (Projectile Infantry Anti-Tank) gun, killing the crews with grenades. Ganju Lama, who is now recovering from his wounds, is the third Gurkha recipient of the V.C. in this war.

The citation reads: On the morning of June 12, 1944, the enemy put down an intense barrage lasting an hour on the battalion positions in the north of the village of Ningthoukhong. This very heavy artillery fire knocked out several bunkers and caused very heavy casualties. It was immediately followed by a strong enemy attack supported by five medium tanks.

After fierce hand-to-hand fighting which lasted for 30 minutes the perimeter was breached at one point and enemy infantry, supported by three medium tanks, broke through pinning our troops to the ground with intense fire.

"B" Company was ordered to counter-attack and restore the situation. Shortly after passing their starting line, they came under intense enemy tank gun fire at point blank range, and M.M.G. and tank machine-gun fire which covered all lines of approach and pinned them to the ground.

Engaged Tank Crews with Grenades

No. 78,763 Rfn. Ganju Lama, the Number One of the P.I.A.T. gun, on his own initiative, with great coolness and complete disregard for his own safety, crawled forward and engaged the tanks single-handed. Despite withering cross fire which caused him a broken left wrist and two other wounds—one in his right hand, the other in his leg—Rfn. Ganju Lama succeeded in bringing his gun into action within 30 yards of the enemy tanks.

Notwithstanding the very heavy fire which was now concentrated on him, he first knocked out one and then another, the third being destroyed by an anti-tank gun. Not satisfied with this, and in spite of his serious wounds, he then moved forward and engaged the tank crews with grenades. Not until he had killed or wounded them all, and his company was able to push forward, did he allow himself to be taken to the regimental aid post to have his wounds dressed.

"A Tank Killer"

Throughout this action, Rfn. Ganju Lama, although seriously wounded, showed a complete disregard for his personal safety, a devotion to duty and a determination to destroy the enemy which was an example and an inspiration to all ranks. It was solely due to his immediate and singularly brave action, that a most critical situation was averted and all positions regained and heavy casualties inflicted on the enemy.

"The fellow is a tank killer" said the Brigade Commander, to a 14th Army Observer. "I saw the results. One tank had its turret blown off and the 37mm. gun on the other was broken off at the breech.

"When the tanks broke through the perimeter, I wirelessed the battalion commander for a situation report. He said that things were getting 'sticky'. The anti-tank rifles had been overrun and the anti-tank guns were bogged down in the mud and were unable to fire.

"Splendid Little Chap"

"I went straightaway to the battalion area and by that time the splendid little chap had done the trick. I saw him later in the regimental aid post and he was full of beans."

Destroying tanks is Ganju Lama's speciality, writes the Observer. On May 17, he won the M.M. for deadly work with his P.I.A.T. gun when he hit and set on fire, a Jap tank which was covering a road block at milestone 33 on the Tiddim road. Under withering fire he covered the withdrawal of a platoon.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO GOVERNMENT LOANS

During the seven weeks ending September 23, 1944, Rs. 25¼ crores were invested in Central Government Loans of which Rs. 11¼ crores represent subscriptions to the 3 per cent Victory Loan, 1957, and Rs. 14 crores other loans on sale through the Reserve Bank.

POSTHUMOUS V.C. FOR MAJOR BLAKER

Indian Army's 12th Award

Charging forward alone to attack a Japanese machine-gun post, Major Frank Gerald Blaker, M.C., of the 9th Gurkha Rifles was wounded in the arm by a grenade and hit three times by bullets from the machine-gun. He fell to the ground mortally wounded but, struggling to a sitting posture, he exhorted the men of his company to advance and saw them overrun the Jap position before he died. His valour has been recognised by the posthumous award of the Victoria Cross—the twelfth to be won by the Indian Army in this war.

On July 9, Major Blaker led his company in a wide encircling movement, over unknown and most precipitous country and dense jungle, against a Japanese strongpoint on the summit of a hill overlooking Taungni. This movement in itself was a feat of considerable military skill, but on arrival at their prearranged position, the company found that though the forward edge of the enemy stronghold had been taken, the attack had failed to clear the main crest.

Critical Situation

The situation was critical. The Japanese opened fire on Major Blaker and his men from a range of only 20 yards and the advance was completely held up. It was at this moment that Major Blaker, dashing forward alone to engage the Jap machine-guns with his carbine, sustained the wounds that caused his death. Spurred on by his cheers, the men of his company took the crest and then heard Major Blaker congratulate them saying: "Well done 'C' Company. I am going to die, but you will go on, I know."

Major Blaker died as he was being evacuated and the official citation says of him: "He commanded his company throughout the campaign with exemplary energy, skill and bravery and his high standard and aggressive spirit showed no falling off whatever under most trying conditions."

In this and every previous attack which Major Blaker led, he went right in front of his company and always, by his bravery, he gave his men strength to capture the position.

COL. SIR SHER MOHAMMAD KHAN

H. E. the Viceroy has nominated Colonel Sardar Sir Sher Mohammad Khan, C.I.E., M.B.E., to be a Member of the National Defence Council.

14th ARMY COMMANDERS HONOURED

K.C.B. for Lt.-Gen. W. J. Slim

HIS Majesty the King has approved the awards of K.C.B. to Lieut.-General W. J. Slim, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C., and K.B.E. to Lieut.-General G. A. P. Scoones, C.S.I., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C.; Lieut.-General A. F. B. Christison, C.B., M.C. and Lieut.-General M. G. N. Stopford, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

Lt.-Gen. Slim was appointed to command the 14th Army on its formation in October, 1943. Operations against the Japanese began in November and December. About the middle of March, 1944, the Japanese made an advance with more than three divisions against Imphal and its communications and much heavy fighting resulted.

Lt.-Gen. Slim was faced with a series of situations, many of great gravity, but acted with calm courage and determination. As the situation developed, he saw that the Japanese forces had reached a position which would give him an opportunity to defeat them. He made plans to this end and allowed nothing to divert him from his purpose. He has in consequence inflicted a major defeat upon the Japanese forces which are now retiring in complete disorder.

Confidence in Crisis

Since August, 1942, Lt.-Gen. Scoones, Commander of the 4th Corps, has led the troops defending the 400-mile Assam-Burma frontier with energy and skill. He has by his leadership, example and teaching played a great part in raising the morale and battle fitness of his divisions to the high pitch they have reached. Lt.-Gen. Scoones commanded the Corps which met and hurled back the major Japanese offensive against Imphal.

It was due largely to his calm confidence in crisis, his sound judgment, constant aggressiveness and personal example that his troops, overcoming all difficulties, wrested the initiative from the enemy.

Throughout the prolonged and bitterly contested battle of the Ngakyedauk Pass in the Arakan, the 15th Corps Commander, Lt.-Gen. Christison's imperturbable courage, his calm judgment in every crisis, his cheerfulness and offensive spirit, inspired his whole force.

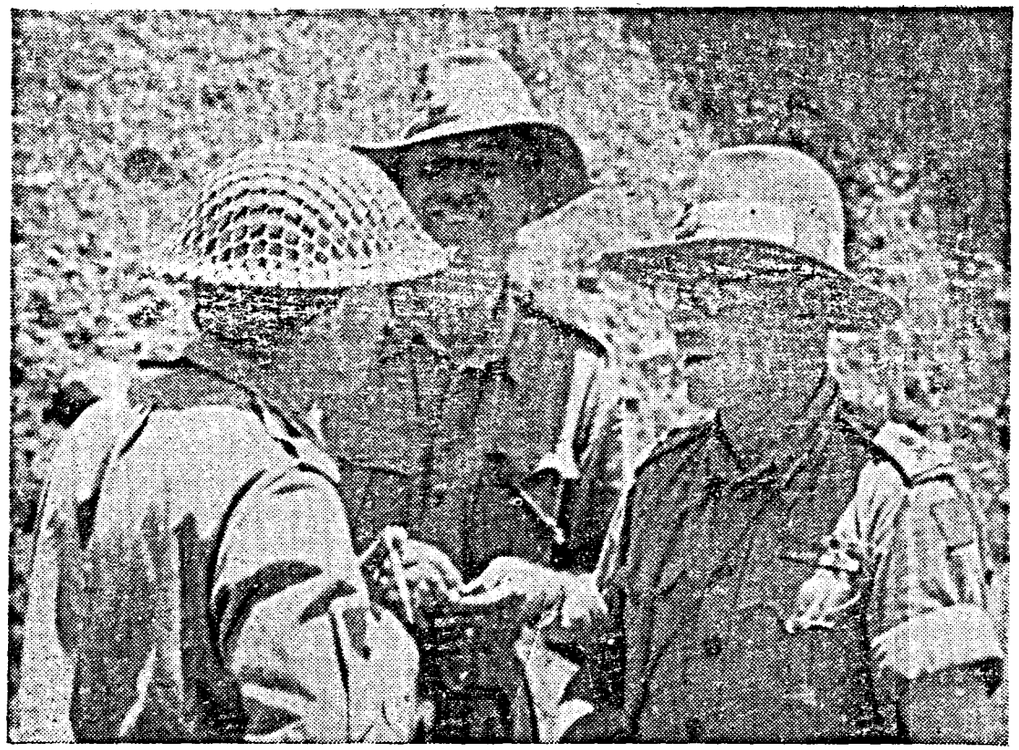
His leadership and skilful direction played the major part in gaining a striking success against the stubborn, numerous and advantageously placed enemy.



Lt.-Gen. W. J. Slim.



Lt.-Gen. G. A. P. Scoones.



Lt.-Gen. M. G. N. Stopford (right) with senior officers in charge of the operations which led to the reopening of the Kohima-Imphal Road.

Lt.-Gen. Stopford, Commander, 33 Corps, conducted with conspicuous skill, energy and determination the operations in the Kohima area which resulted in the decisive defeat and almost complete destruction of the considerable Japanese forces which, with every advantage of terrain, opposed him.

This notable success could not have been achieved without Lt.-Gen. Stopford's personal example, tactical ability and the confidence he inspired in his troops.

HYDERABAD'S CONTRIBUTION TO WAR PURPOSES FUND

The Working Committee of the Hyderabad War Purposes Fund have generously contributed Rs. 5.000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, earmarked for the benefit of the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association. The gift has been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.

DASARA CELEBRATIONS ON BURMA FRONT

Where possible Dasara has been observed with its usual celebration in the forward areas and although units in the frontline fighting against the Japanese on the Central Burma Front have been able to do little, those further back have made a good show.

A battalion of the Assam Rifles in the Imphal area held the traditional ceremony of *Durga Puja*. In bright sunlight, with an audience of men of the Regiment and Manipuris in their variegated colours, goats and two bullocks were led to the Puja pole. Painted red on their heads were the emblems of the Regiment. The sacrifice to *Kali*, the goddess of war, was made while the regimental band played and rifle volleys were fired.

Men of this battalion played an important part in the fighting around Kohima where the Japs were beaten in their attempts to invade India. Some of those men were present at the ceremony and gave the sacrifice an added significance.

INDIANS MALTREATED BY JAPS

Escaped Havildar's Account

FREED from Japanese prisoner of war camps in the Admiralty and other islands in the South-West Pacific which have been captured or reoccupied by Allied forces, many Indian soldiers are now recuperating in Australia.

Life has been a grim affair for them since their capture by the Japs but they have quickly recovered and now their high spirits, keen interest in all sporting events and splendid discipline are impressing everyone with whom they come into contact.

Some idea of the hardships which these men had to endure while in Japanese hands can be gathered from a letter to his brother written by Havildar Shankar Singh, 14th Punjab Regiment, whose home is in village Mawasindian, district Hoshiarpur, Punjab, and who is now recovering in an Australian hospital. He tells how they suffered as prisoners for two years and four months until they escaped.

Paucity of Food

The Havildar in his letter tells of the paucity of the food which the Japs provided for their prisoners—eight ounces of rice a day was all they got except for a weekly issue of salt and decomposed fish which was unfit to eat. On these rations they were made to work and work hard for long hours and, in addition, they were beaten mercilessly.

Pride of country is strongly evident in the concluding passage of this illuminating letter, where Havildar Shankar Singh urges his brothers to give the Government all possible help to prevent "these mean Japanese setting foot on the sacred soil of India. They are brutes and do not hesitate to insult anyone. Innocent people, old and young, are indiscriminately slaughtered and everything on which they can lay their foul hands is removed and sent to Japan. I am unable to describe how greedy, covetous and low these people are."



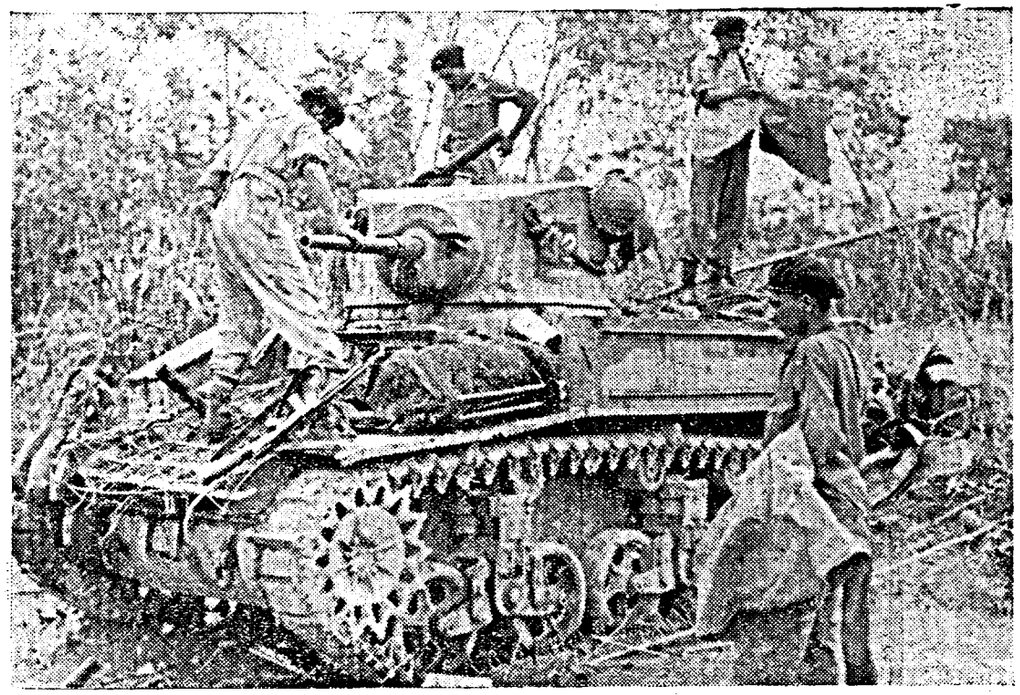
Three Indian soldiers rescued from the Japanese in New Guinea receive Red Cross comforts from an Australian officer.

MR. K. V. THOMAS'S GIFT

Mr. K. V. Thomas, of the Travancore Wood Works, Mundakayam, has generously contributed Rs. 10.000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund which has been earmarked for the purchase of a Mobile Canteen. His Excellency has gratefully accepted the gift. Mr. Thomas has also made an offer of a monthly contribution of 500 lbs. of tea to the Red Cross for the duration of the war.



An Australian private bandaging the leg of a freed Sikh prisoner of war.



Tank men of the 7th Light Cavalry in Burma clamber on their tank after the "action stations" warning.

INDIAN ARMOURED CORPS' PART IN WAR AGAINST AXIS

SEPTEMBER 20 was celebrated by the War Services Exhibition as Indian Armoured Corps Day in Poona. Speaking on the occasion Major-General C. H. Gairdner said:

"After five years of war, our enemies, who were the most formidable fighting combination this world has ever seen, are being beaten into unconditional surrender. In this happy consummation no more glorious part has been taken by any of the Armies of the United Nations than has fallen to the lot of the Indian Army. It has proved its valour in the sands of Egypt, in the mountains of Abyssinia and Italy, in Syria and amidst the jungles of Burma; and with it always, and always an essential part of it, rides the Indian Armoured Corps.

"Born of illustrious parentage, as the offspring of the world famous Indian Cavalry, it has fully lived up to the great traditions to which it has become heir, and has proved itself on many a foreign field. There were those who thought that the decision to change from horses to machines was a risky one in the then state of industrialisation in India. This fear, I am happy to say, has proved groundless; and the Indian tradesman of the Armoured Corps compares favourably with the tradesman of any other country. And it is a pleasant thought that the time which has thus been spent will in no way be wasted in times of peace.

"The industrialisation of India is progressing apace and there will be an increasing demand for men who can drive motor cars, who can understand and look after machinery, and who, in addition, will have the initiative and energy which, developed in the Indian Armoured Corps, will be so necessary a factor in the post-war world.

"The Indian Armoured Corps helps men to become not only good soldiers but also good citizens when their soldiering days are over. From the date of enlistment, general education is compulsory and by the time a man joins his regiment he will have at least a III class certificate of education. This educational aspect of training is being more and more developed and will almost amount in the future to a free university education for intelligent men."

INDIAN PILOT WITH R.A.F. IN FRANCE



Squadron-Leader K. K. Majumdar

SQUADRON-LEADER KARUN KRISHNA MAJUMDAR, D.F.C., who has been an I.A.F. pilot for 12 years, is now operating with a reconnaissance wing of the R.A.F. Second Tactical Air Force in France.

Squadron-Leader Majumdar is a native of Darjeeling and descendant of a fighting Brahmin family. His father was in the Bengal Light Force in the last war, while his only brother, a regular army officer was killed in the present war.

Before going to France, Squadron-Leader Majumdar fought against the Japanese in Burma, where he won his D.F.C., while earlier in his flying career he served four years on the North-West Frontier. He was Wing-Commander, holding a staff post, but relinquished both the rank and position at his own request in order to "have a crack at the Germans" as Squadron-Leader.

Since going to France, he has carried out important reconnaissance and photographic flights, providing our forces with information necessary to the success of air and ground operations. The outstanding contribution was when his wing took pictures which were used in the Falaise gap victory.

Squadron-Leader Majumdar, when the present campaign in the west ends, hopes to return to the Far East to resume the fight against his old foes, the Japs.

SWORD OF HONOUR FOR I.A.F.

Air Commodores Their Highnesses the Maharaja of Jodhpur and the Nawab of Bhopal, who are touring Indian Air Force Units, recently visited Ambala where the Maharaja presented a Sword of Honour as a "token of the love and esteem in which he holds the country's youth."

The sword which is of solid gold, bears the Jodhpur Coat of Arms, and is of Jodhpur design and craftsmanship. It is to be awarded to the best pupil officer passing out in each course at the flying training school. Winners of the Sword will receive silver replicas.

While making the presentation, His Highness said that it was to Ambala that the finest of India's manhood came for air force training. "This Sword is an emblem of India's honour, her bravery and her chivalry," he added.

Before they left, Their Highnesses were shown round the various training units by Group Captain P. C. Hilton, the Station Commander.

INDIAN GIRL WANTS TO FLY

An eighteen-year-old Indian girl student living in Nagpur has written to the War Department to know if she can join the Indian Air Force for training as a pilot.

"I am much interested in flying," she says, "I am strong and in good health and have a keen desire to do war service as a pilot. I would deem it a great favour to know from you whether ladies can join the commissioned ranks of the I.A.F."

Neither the commissioned nor the non-commissioned ranks of the Indian Air Force are open to women, but the Air Wing of the W.A.C. (I) affords opportunities for enthusiastic women to take their part in the fight against the Japs.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

The 21st session of the Indian Historical Records Commission will be held at Udaipur on December 7, 8 and 9, 1944.

PUBLICITY, PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL WARFARE

Sir Sultan Ahmed's Speech at New Delhi Conference

ADDRESSING the States' Publicity Officers Conference held in New Delhi on September 26, the Hon'ble Sir Syed Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, said:

I am glad to be able to come to you this morning and say a few words in response to the request of His Highness the Chancellor. I find that within the last 12 days you have received what is called the publicity training course from experts and technicians and I have absolutely no doubt that you have been greatly benefited by this intensive study of a very technical problem at the hands of experts. I am sure there is nothing new which I can tell you nor anything useful which you do not already know. Yet, as the Head of a Department which deals with this matter, I should like to say just a few words.

There are three words in common use which are not clearly understood—propaganda, publicity and political warfare. Propaganda is the method of presenting one's own case by all means, true, untrue, fair or foul. Publicity lives only on truth, and political warfare is propaganda designed to destroy the morale of an enemy in wartime. For "propaganda" you have only to switch on the enemy's radio when you will find it radiating absolute lies about their own victories when really they were defeats. The duty of the counter-propagandist is to put the hand of the clock in the right place and to show that the defeat was defeat and give reasons for the same. Political warfare is a most effective weapon if skilfully used and particularly when it is conducted by forces on the offensive. Political warfare may even succeed in sowing discord in the ranks of a victorious enemy. There have been many examples of this in the past and in the present war. Successful political warfare was conducted by Tallegrand during the Vienna Congress: Goebbels' attempt to split the Allies last year on the Polish question and my own broadcast before Tojo's resignation after the Japanese defeat in Saipan are recent examples of such warfare.

Propaganda is a low form of publicity. Political warfare, on the other hand, is not underhand and no more objectionable than the submarine attack or the air raid or the landmines. I suggest that you are not concerned with propaganda or political warfare, but I wanted to correct an impression that every publicity is propaganda.

'Publicity' must operate both in peace and war. Good government can never dispense with publicity, though clever publicity cannot be a substitute for good government. No country or State can sustain its position in the world without publicity. It is not enough that the Government of a certain State is good, but it is necessary that the people of the State and outsiders should also know that it is good. One can give a number of cases where Governments with no organisation of internal publicity have found themselves exceedingly in embarrassing position. But as I have said mere skilful publicity cannot be a substitute for good government, and publicity organised by bad governments will unavoidably be offensive and aggressive though publicity organised by a modern state must be defensive and precautionary.



Sir Sultan Ahmed

States Publicity

The object of State publicity should also be clearly understood and it is that which will determine the method and the media which will have to be adopted. I will take internal publicity first. If the objective is that the State subjects should be informed about a certain policy of the Government, for instance, controls of different kinds, hygiene, locust menace and so on, the media must be in the language of the people. The machinery of publicity may be local speakers who are given the fullest information on the subjects concerned, singers, small radios, visits to different centres by Ministers of the States and if possible by the Rulers themselves. Whatever may be said to the contrary, I am convinced that the subjects of most of the States are devoted to their Rulers. Useful publicity can be made with respect to ordinary things which are thrown aside as waste and so on.

External publicity with respect to a State may be of a different kind altogether. It may be external in the sense of reaching the public outside the State; it may be external as reaching countries other than India. I am making no invidious distinction but I mention two States which in my opinion have secured a very high place in publicity in countries outside India. They are Travancore and Mysore. Their percentage of literacy is very high. In Travancore it is about 80 per cent for males and 45 per cent for females and jointly about 65 per cent. Such publicity as they have attained has resulted not only in their being known but that publicity has more than paid itself. Their industries are known outside. The tourists from foreign countries come to visit those places. Even if there be States where there may be 100 per cent. literacy but with no arrangement for publicity, they will not be known outside at all.

His Highness the Chancellor in his inaugural address told you that there are many States which have given the lead in many matters to British India. I confess that that is so, but as States publicity has been weak, many excellent things which are being done in the States are not fully known. The machinery for the dissemination of knowledge of these States outside will have, to be through regularly fed press pamphlets and samples of things that may be made there.

Value of Publicity

The value of publicity is now realised not only by private agencies but also by Government Departments. The day has passed when Government Departments considered it a hall-mark of efficiency to keep the public in the dark about their activities. The present tendency of both democratic and totalitarian Governments is to secure the co-operation of the public by means of publicity. In U.S.A. the President holds a weekly Press conference. At these conferences he explains the Government point of view on the burning topics of the day. The slight embarrassment that may sometimes be caused by awkward questions put by correspondents is more than counterbalanced by the satisfaction which a government spokesman feels in being able to explain the various implications of a government measure. More often than not, public criticism of government action is based on inaccurate information or wrong interpretation. Such ill-informed criticisms can be counteracted through proper publicity.

Almost every Government in the world has now a Ministry of Information. The publicity organisations of various countries have expanded considerably during the last few years. The present war has no doubt given a fillip to these organisations. It would, however, be wrong to suppose that these would be scrapped up when hostilities cease. The devastation caused by the present war in various parts of the world has been most appalling. To repair this colossal damage would require the intimate collaboration and sustained effort of many countries and nations for a number of years. In this task of rehabilitation, publicity will play no mean a part.

The Press and Broadcasting

Until a few years back, the Press was the only medium of contact between the Government and the public in this country. This is, however, no longer the case. Broadcasting has become a powerful rival of the Press in the domain of publicity. All India Radio is now as important to Government for publicity purposes as the Bureau of Public Information. In a country like India with its vast distances, imperfect means of communication and terribly low percentage of literacy the utility of radio as an instrument of publicity cannot be overemphasised.

There is nothing static about the functions of a Government. The administrative machinery has to be adjusted to the changing needs of the time. New ideas and methods have sometimes to be introduced in the working of a Government department in order to maintain its efficiency and enhance its usefulness.

To enable the public to appreciate the change and counter wrong impressions, it may become necessary for the Department concerned to seek the aid of publicity in order to popularise and justify its measures. To achieve the object in view, resort may be had to new forms of publicity. You must have seen in newspapers advertisements in connection with the 'Travel Less Campaign' and 'Grow More Food' campaign. These advertisements have appeared in hundreds of newspapers all over the country. The forms in which these advertisements have been issued are clear indications of the Government's anxiety to enlist public support in the most effective and gentle manner.

Film Publicity

Films were originally meant to provide amusement. Their value as a means of publicity is a comparatively recent development. The Government of India has not been slow in recognising their potentialities in this direction. We have now a Film Section in the Department of Information and Broadcasting. Under its auspices instructional films are prepared and shown on the screen. These films cover various aspects of India's social, educational and economic life. Millions of people in this country are either totally ignorant of, or

possess only slight knowledge of, what the Government has done and is doing to promote the moral and material well-being of the people. To enlighten the public in India about what may be called the nation-building activities of the Government is by no means an easy task. But I think this difficulty can be surmounted with the help of instructional films which are now being released by my Department in an ever increasing number. The growing popularity of Indian films furnishes us new opportunity for widening the scope of our activities.

Foreign Publicity

In the post-war period India is likely to occupy a high place in international politics. The splendid victories won by Indian troops in North Africa and Italy have aroused the interest of Europeans, Americans, Chinese and the people of the Middle East towards us. They are now very keen to know as much as possible about India, its people, its art, its culture and its trade and industries. To meet this demand we will have to give greater attention to foreign publicity.

To publicise India in foreign countries is an important responsibility of the Government of India which can neither be shirked nor evaded. A beginning has already been made in this direction by opening a Public Relations Section in the Office of the Agent-General for India in Washington. In due course we may perhaps have Publicity Officers in all those foreign centres where the interests of India might require their presence. The ignorance about India in many countries is simply colossal. The only hope of removing this is through publicity. Apart from the moral gain material benefits are likely to follow in the wake of our publicity in other countries. We will be able to attract more tourists and also to find markets for Indian products.

A Great Handicap

Though the Commerce Department of the Government of India have their Trade Commissioners in many countries, the absence of Publicity Officers to help them in their activities has sometimes proved to be a great handicap. The present tendency in many progressive countries is to rely on publicity to pave the way for establishing commercial relations abroad and I see no reason why we should act differently.

Publicity can help public administration only if it is handled by competent people. The day has gone by when one could be transformed overnight into a publicity expert. In good old days any one who could write or speak "words of learned length and thundering sound" was considered an ideal propagandist. Things are different now. Like other learned professions, persons must be specially trained for publicity work. Besides a good academic record, a publicist should have other qualifications not the least of which are the virtues of tact and tolerance. To convert others to a point of view or to persuade them to do a certain thing is by no means a simple task. We should therefore attract the best people for publicity work. To do so we must pay them good salaries. Those engaged in publicity should be enabled to maintain a decent standard of living. The very nature of their work requires intimate contact with the public. This contact will not achieve the desired result with a low-paid and discontented publicity staff.

Gentlemen, shortly stated, your aim should be firstly, to enlighten the subjects of the States about the activities of their Rulers, and secondly, to acquaint the public in British India and in foreign countries about the progress of their States in different spheres. Do not mind criticisms. It is the criticisms which have to be met by you. Tact, patience and perseverance are essential qualities if you want to make your publicity effective, but above all, you must fight ignorance by truth and truth alone.

HYDERABAD'S GIFTS TO R.A.F. AND INDIAN AIR FORCE

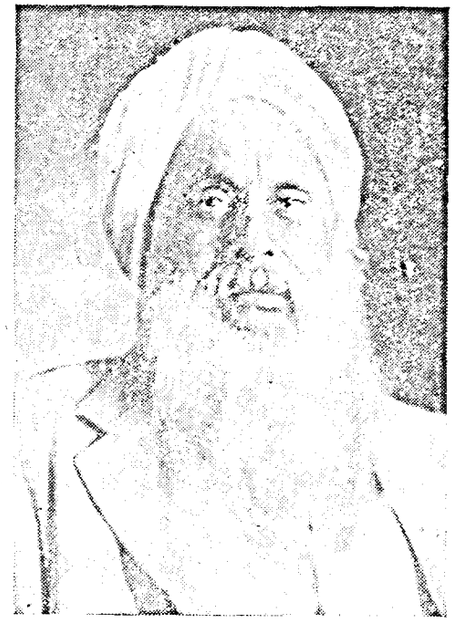
Donations of Rs. 25,000 by H.E.H. the Nizam's Government and Rs. 17,000 by the Resident, Sir Arthur Lothian, have been made for the improvement of amenities for R.A.F. and I.A.F. officers and men in the Hyderabad area. This brings the total donations by the Nizam's Government to approximately Rs. 60,000. In addition, three trophies and a cup have been donated by members of the ruling family of the State and prominent residents and will be presented at the end of September.

The monetary gifts make it possible to furnish fully and equip a new Air Force station cinema, now nearing completion, and extensions to the airmen's club which will include a stage and a dance hall. The success of the club owes much to the practical interest taken by the women of Hyderabad City and Secunderabad, led by Her Highness the Princess of Berar, in the welfare of the men.

The local War Purposes Committee have promised to assist in the construction of a swimming pool should an adequate water supply be guaranteed.

SIR JOGENDRA SINGH ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA

Speech at Simla Meeting



Sir Jogendra Singh.

"INDIA will not be able to keep herself abreast of the other enlightened nations in post-war world unless she is able to give her people, and to the rising generation in particular, a training for life and for livelihood comparable with that which other nations are providing for theirs," said the Hon'ble Sirdar Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, opening a meeting of the Teachers' Committee on Higher Education held at Simla on October 2. The Committee has been appointed by the Central Advisory Board of Education.

The following members attended the meeting: Sir Maurice Gwyer, Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University; Mr. W. H. F. Armstrong, Director of Public Instruction, Punjab; Col. S. L. Bhatia, Deputy Director-General, Indian Medical Service; Khan Bahadur Dr. M. Hasan, Vice-Chancellor, Dacca University; Dr. Panna Lall, Adviser to the Governor, United Provinces; Mr. S. Lall, Joint Secretary, Labour Department; Mr. W. R. Puranik, Vice-Chancellor, Nagpur University; Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-Chancellor, Benares Hindu University; Mr. S. C. Sen, Vice-Principal, Delhi Polytechnic; Mr. S. C. Tripathi, Director of Public Instruction, Orissa; and Mr. W. G. P. Wall, Director of Public Instruction, U.P.

Here is the full text of Sir Jogendra Singh's speech:

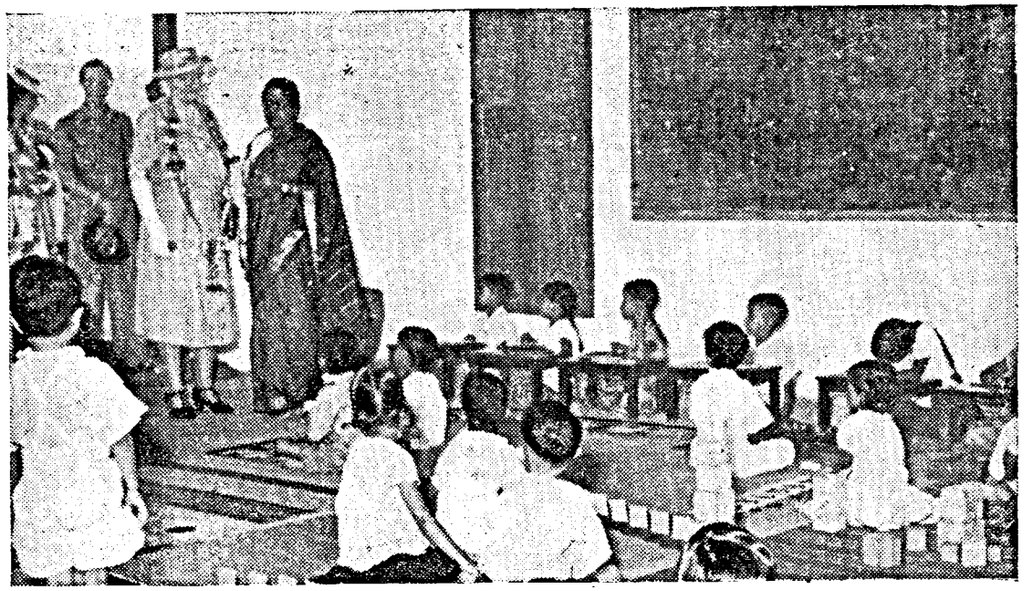
I have much pleasure in welcoming you on this occasion, when you have met here to discuss one of the important questions relating to higher education. During the last six years, the Central Advisory Board of Education has produced much valuable material for the reorganisation of the country's education. Most of its deliberations have been carried out through expert committees to whom special problems connected with education had been referred from time to time. It is needless to mention that the Report on Post-War Educational Development in India was itself based on the preliminary work done by several committees of the Board. The proposals contained in this Report have received a great deal of support both in India and abroad.

There is a large measure of agreement among modern nations and others that aspire to become civilised democracies as to what the minimum content of an efficient system of public instruction should be. It may be asserted that India will not be able to keep herself abreast of the other enlightened nations in the post-war world, unless she is able to give her people, and to the rising generation in particular, a training for life and for livelihood comparable with that which other nations are providing for theirs. The programme of educational development must aim at irrigating all the layers of social strata, and in the transitional period, endeavour to bring the so-called backward classes to a level with those who have been more fortunate. This, indeed, has been the objective of the Central Advisory Board of Education.

All-India Plan

Planning for all India there must be—to co-ordinate all the current resources of the country and to stimulate fresh growth in spheres that are lying dormant to serve our national life as a whole.

The plan prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education covers all the branches of education set out above. It prescribes universal compulsory and free education for all boys and girls from 6 to 14. It contemplates the provision of 10 lakhs of places in nursery schools and classes for children below the age of six. It sets out the basis upon which an efficient school medical service should be provided. It aims at



Lady Wavell at a children's school in Madras which Her Excellency visited some time ago with the Viceroy.

the provision of varied types of high schools suited to the aptitudes of the pupils which will cater for at least a fifth of the boys and girls in each age-group. It also emphasises the necessity of providing liberal financial assistance in the form of free places, scholarships and stipends, so that no boy or girl of outstanding ability may be debarred by poverty from further education.

In consequence of the large number of boys and girls of outstanding ability which a national system based on equality of opportunity is sure to throw up, it aims at a very large increase in the provision of education at its higher stages, whether in Universities or in technical institutions of University level. It also foresees the necessity for enlarging and making more practical the present provision for technical, commercial and art instruction at all levels in order to provide India with the research workers, executives and skilled craftsmen which the expansion of industrial, economic and agricultural resources will inevitably demand.

Women's Education

It also does not neglect the purely cultural and recreational side of education as it attaches particular importance to the provision of the widest facilities for encouraging boys and girls, men and women, to fulfil themselves as individuals and to make a profitable use of their leisure.

I wish also to stress the importance of accelerating the provision of education facilities for girls and women in view of the extent to which their claims have been ignored in the past, in fact the Board have stated their conviction that whatever may be provided for boys and men, not less should be provided for girls and women. The principle of equal opportunities for all children has been admitted and to derive the full benefit of it we must ask ourselves, 'Do the majority of girls need a different rate of movement and content of education from boys?' This is a question which the progressive minded people in the West have shunned for fear of seeming illiberal or seeming to wish to delegate women to some inferior sphere by offering courses of training different from the boys. I am definitely of the opinion that in higher stages, women's training should be distinctive.

Universities constitute separate faculties for administering education in Arts, Science, Medicine, etc. Personally I am of the opinion that Universities should attach no less importance to the education of women and set up a special faculty with a view to ensuring the fullest possible scope of the development of what is best in Indian women and to keep alive the traditions which are our precious heritage. In general, educational development in our country presents special difficulties of its own as there is an enormous leeway to make up. The present provision is in some cases either non-existent or is in such an embryonic stage that it could hardly be said to touch the fringe of the problem.

A modern system of education to achieve full success or, indeed, to be successful at all, requires that its various branches should be closely linked up with one another. Educational development does not lend itself to short-term planning. Our country needs a vast army of teachers, and expansion of education will inevitably depend upon the quality and availability of the teachers required.

In 1942, a special committee of the Central Advisory Board was appointed to consider the question of the training, recruitment and conditions of service of teachers under the chairmanship of Mr. John Sargent. The committee found themselves unable to deal with the vast subject remitted to them and so decided to confine themselves to the consideration of teachers in the Primary, Middle and the High School stages, and deferred consideration of teachers in Universities and institutions of University rank including the higher stages of technical, commercial and art education. This committee is, therefore, complementary to the earlier committee and your deliberations will naturally complete the task partially accomplished by the earlier committee.

You will all agree that teachers are, by virtue of their vocation, one great community and though there must be differences in their attainments, scholarship and in the methods of training and recruitment, it should be understood that there cannot be any difference in the status and the respect to which the teacher is entitled, whether he teaches in a Primary School or in a University Department.

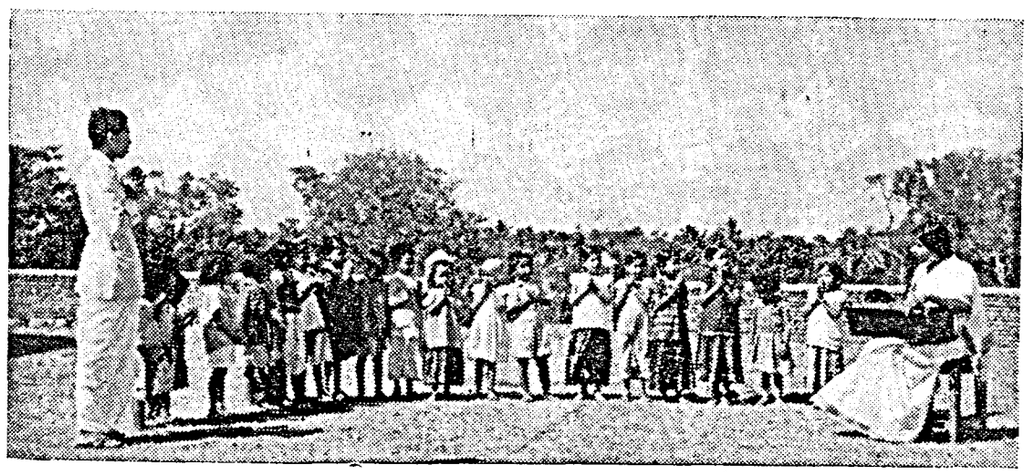
It used to be argued that teachers should practise the virtues of contentment and plain living and take their vocation in a missionary spirit of service to the community and that they ought not to look for worldly reward. Teaching is indeed a form of social service, but in the words of the McNair Committee Report, like other professions 'it is also a bread and butter affair. The missionary spirit cannot be relied upon to maintain the supply and the morale of millions of teachers.'

Plea for Higher Salaries

There are in British India 16 Universities and 12 Higher Institutions for research of University rank, besides 430 colleges of different types affiliated to Universities. It is not unknown to the members of this committee that grave harm has been done to education by recruiting teachers on cheap salaries irrespective of their attainments, and some of the best minds have been lost to the profession owing to this fact. What was said in the earlier committee's report is also true of University teachers. If the teaching service is to secure an adequate supply of the right type of people it must offer practical attractions comparable with those which other branches of public services offer to their members.

Gentlemen, I must now leave you to your deliberations. Before doing so I should like to take this opportunity of thanking all of you for having come to this meeting from long distances to give your expert guidance and advice. I am particularly thankful to Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Mr. Puranik, Mr. Lall, Col. Bhatia and Mr. Sen who agreed to serve on this committee at

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 425)



A modern nursery school. Work begins with prayer in the open.

DRIVE AGAINST ESPIONAGE

Government's Warning

GOVERNMENT are aware that many persons in Japanese-occupied territories have offered to co-operate with the enemy in the hope of being able to escape and return to India, said a Communique issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on October 2.

It added: In particular, many Indian prisoners of war have succeeded in escaping in this way. The majority of these men have reported to the military or civil authorities on arrival in India, and have given the authorities much information about conditions in Japanese-occupied territories. A case in point is the episode of the 12 Indian soldiers who landed on the coast of Baluchistan last March from a submarine, with orders to collect information and transmit it to the Japanese by means of wireless equipment which they had brought with them. The full facts were published at the time, and it will be remembered that these men reported to the authorities immediately on arrival, and handed over their equipment. They have now rejoined their regiments after a period of leave.

Government wish it to be realised that those who voluntarily give themselves up, and show by making a full statement to the authorities that disloyalty has not entered into their conduct have nothing to fear. Those, on the other hand, who attempt to carry out promises made to the enemy and engage in espionage or subversive activities, will be tracked down and punished with the utmost severity.

It sometimes happens that those whose intentions are innocent visit their homes to take the advice of their elders about what they should do. Government wish to emphasise that the only good advice which can be given them is that they should report at once to the nearest District Magistrate or Superintendent of Police, and lay the full and true facts before the officials who deal with them. Indeed, it is the duty of the public at large to report to the authorities anyone suspected of being an enemy agent and to help in effecting the arrest of such persons.

MR. JUSTICE THAKURDAS VASANMAL THADANI

H. M. the King has been graciously pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Thakurdas Vasanmal Thadani to be a Judge of the Chief Court of Sind upon the retirement of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Charles Manuel Lobo.

PREVENTING SECRET GATHERINGS

Government's New Powers

A Press Note issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on September 22 stated:

In August, 1940, Government issued notifications banning the performance of military drill and the wearing in public of dress resembling a military uniform. As explained in a Press Note issued at the time, this action was designed to prevent the growth of 'private armies' and to stop militaristic activities on the part of non-official volunteer organisations that could only result in disturbing the public peace and interfere with the security of the country.

It has now become necessary to supplement these notifications by taking powers to prevent secret gatherings at which breaches of the orders may occur and to ensure that any proposal on the part of a political or communal organisation to hold a camp or parade is brought to the notice of the authority locally responsible for the maintenance of law and order—that is to say the District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police in Presidency Towns.

The new powers take the form of an addition to Rule 58 of the Defence of India Rules and a General Order made thereunder, which are published to-day. There is nothing in this order which interferes with any legitimate activity; it merely reinforces Government's determination to suppress with complete impartiality the dangerous tendencies which are inseparable from any concerted attempt by non-official political or communal organisations to usurp the functions that are proper to the State, and to the State alone.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S MONTHLY ACCOUNTS

The Central Government's monthly accounts for May, 1944, show that, excluding periodical adjustments and the transactions of Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, expenditure in the first two months of the financial year, 1944-45, exceeded revenue by Rs. 29½ crores against Rs. 23½ crores in the corresponding period of the previous year. Revenue was actually better by about Rs. 9¾ crores but Defence expenditure increased by Rs. 16 crores to Rs. 47 2|3 crores.

There has been an increase of Rs. 13 crores under Permanent Debt during this period.

BENGAL'S PROGRESS TOWARDS RECOVERY

Governor's Broadcast

BROADCASTING from the Calcutta station of All India Radio on September 21, H. E. the Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, Governor of Bengal, said:

In July I said that I proposed to talk to you from time to time over the wireless on matters that I believe to be of consequence to us in Bengal. Hence my talk to you this evening.

First in importance comes food. The prospect continues to be good. As you know, September, October and November were the worst months last year. There is every reason to say that we will get through these months this year without any real difficulty.

There are two criteria by which to judge our present position—the extent of distress in the Province and the market price of rice.

As regards distress in Bengal; in the first place we must remember that there is generally some distress among the poorer cultivating classes at this time of the year between the harvesting of the *Aus* and the *Aman* paddy.

Government Help

This being so, it is encouraging that the detailed reports from the districts show a slight decline recently in the total number of persons requiring relief in one form or another. The number in the first half of August was a little more than 3 lakhs. The total number of persons —including children—receiving help from the Government of Bengal through work houses, poor houses, free kitchens, milk kitchens, cheap grain shops and by way of test relief amounted in the first half of September to 2¾ lakhs. This is a lot of people—but only a very small percentage of the 60 odd millions of Bengal. I do not, of course, say that many more are not having a hard time of it, but what I do say is that the extent of distress approaching destitution is not sufficient to cause serious concern—nor is it likely to overstrain the Government organisation which is now fully equipped to deal with it on a much larger scale.

The Bengal Government is keeping a careful watch on the position; and the organisation which, with added improvements, has been kept running from last year is there to meet anything that may arise.

When considering distress we should also consider the state of public health; here the epidemic situation has generally improved.



The Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey.

Cholera is now below the normal and smallpox is no longer a serious problem. This is due to the fact that between November, 1943, and the end of August 1944, 17 million persons were inoculated against cholera and 31 millions vaccinated against smallpox. These figures are very large indeed—and I doubt if anything approaching this great effort of preventive medicine has been achieved in any other part of the world.

As was expected, however, malaria has unfortunately reappeared in an epidemic form in certain parts of the province particularly in the eastern side of Midnapore and in Eastern Bengal. Anti-malarial drugs are available in much larger quantities than last year. The amount of anti-malarial drugs available for Bengal in 1944 is considerably more than the total consumption for all India annually before the war. The distribution arrangements have recently been overhauled and the Government has laid special stress on appointing a sufficiently large number of distributing agents—both for free supply and for sale of these drugs—and on the publishing of the names and addresses of these agents as widely as possible.



The Viceroy and the Governor of Bengal watching milk being distributed to children at a canteen.

If any locality finds itself without anti-malarial drugs or too far from any distributing agent, a report should be sent at once to the Civil Surgeon or other authority of the district. I would like to take this opportunity of impressing on the agents and on the district authorities concerned the vital importance of effective organisation and supervision in this regard, for the lives of poor people depend on them.

Although smallpox has subsided to a large extent, my definite and unhesitating advice to you is—get vaccinated, particularly if you live in Calcutta where the number of persons offering themselves for vaccination is disappointingly low in comparison with the results achieved in the villages.

As regards the price of rice; it is now steady practically throughout the province—with a slight downward trend. I realise that the price is relatively high—largely for reasons that are outside the control of the Government of Bengal—and that this bears particularly hard on those with fixed incomes. But its comparative steadiness at its substantially reduced level is solid cause for both satisfaction and confidence in the progress Bengal is making towards recovery—although no one is complacent about it.

There are two factors of great influence on our position. These are the ability of my Government to procure—that is to say to buy—large quantities of rice and paddy as food for the towns and deficit districts, and the ability to transport these stocks to wherever they may be needed in Bengal.

Every one knows that the Government now holds large and growing stocks. This has had two good results—firstly, it enables us to face the period between now and the end of the year with complete confidence and secondly, it has had the effect of finally convincing the holders of rice that the game is up and that they can no longer hope for any rise in price—and so they are selling their rice more freely. The tendency is for the price of rice to fall in practically all the districts of Bengal. In some, for example in Chittagong, the fall has been remarkable. It looks as if we should come to the end of this rice year—before the new *Aman* crop begins to be harvested in November—with a restoration of the customary small family reserves in the hands of the many millions of Bengal's cultivators, and with a certain amount of rice in the hands of the Government.

Since I last spoke to you on this matter, a Committee of Inquiry presided over by Mr. Justice Braund was appointed by the Government of Bengal and has been sitting continuously in an effort to discover what improvements should be made in our system of rice procurement in Bengal so that we may be able to ensure that the province is fed in 1945 and after. This Committee has just completed its examination of the position—and I believe that we will benefit substantially by its work.

The Aman Crop

The most important factor influencing our position for the future is one over which the Government of Bengal has no control. I refer to the monsoon and the consequent state of the crops. When we read in the papers of floods here and drought there, it is difficult to gauge the general position throughout the province. I think, therefore, that it may be of interest to you if I describe the state of the crops looking at the province as a whole.

Last year, both the *Aus* and the *Aman* crops were exceptionally good. This year we have had the pre-war equivalent of a good average *Aus* crop—because increased acreage under *Aus* has more than offset a not-so-very-good harvest.

It is as yet too early to make any definite prediction regarding the *Aman* crop which is really the decisive factor in considering our prospects for 1945. All I think I need say now is that on the basis of the various reports that I have received (and these come from many sources) I believe that we can reasonably hope for an average crop if we have no bad luck in October and November. It would be against all past experience to expect another bumper crop like last year's; but up to the present there is no reason to apprehend less than a normal *Aman* paddy harvest.

Press Statements

It is only too easy to make false deductions by looking to one area or set of circumstances only—and I believe, therefore, that there is advantage in my having endeavoured to give you an over-all account of the condition of the province as I see it. I would wish that persons of public standing and influence—particularly those from outside Bengal—would look at the province as a whole rather than to the limited areas or circumstances of their personal experience. I hope very much that individuals from outside Bengal will not add to the difficulties of the province by making statements to the Press after a short visit—particularly statements that are of most doubtful factual validity and which do more harm than good to the situation that the Government of Bengal is endeavouring—with no little success up till now—to deal with. I believe such statements to be against the public interest, however satisfying they may be to those who make them from a political point of view.

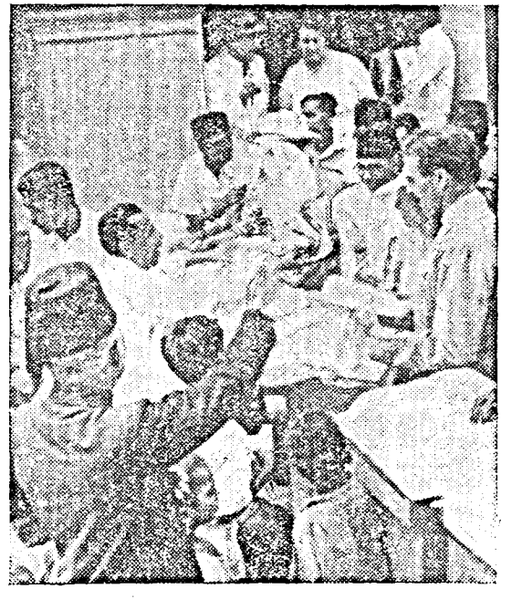
Still on the subject of food I would like to say a word or two to the companies and organisations that own or occupy large areas of land in Bengal. I mean the Tea Gardens, Zemindari Companies, Railways, Collieries, District Boards, Local Bodies and so forth. The Government is in the course of approaching these organisations asking that they should exert themselves to the utmost in respect of the full 100 per cent use of the land under their control for the growing of food crops. I believe that, if a special effort is made, a lot more can be done in increasing our food resources. The gap between bare sufficiency and plenty is not very big if all put their hands to bringing it.

Governors' Conference

I attended a Conference of Governors at New Delhi lately, called by the Viceroy. I notice that some references have appeared in the Press, wondering what it was all about. There was nothing sinister in it. It was the normal occasional meeting between a group of people engaged in the same sort of problems.



Mrs. R. G. Casey, wife of the Bengal Governor, fondling a baby at an orphanage.



The Bengal Governor distributes cloth to the poor at a relief centre.

It was not an executive gathering. It was solely for consultation purposes.

Amongst other matters we discussed was the big question of post-war development. I was able to say that the Government of Bengal is anticipating events by carrying out now what would normally be a post-war task—that of reorganising, strengthening and expanding the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The difficulty which is holding us up is in getting adequately trained and experienced men for the top jobs that the Government want to create—if the Department of Agriculture is to be made into what it should be in this essentially agricultural province.

Agricultural Services

Preliminary steps are being taken substantially to increase the Higher and Lower Agricultural Services to the extent of some 300 extra officers, from demonstrators upwards. To train these extra men involves a considerable expansion of the educational facilities at the Dacca University and the Dacca Agricultural Institute. I believe that the Agriculture Department will offer a good and useful career to the best of our young men. In the meantime, while these foundations are being laid, we must make do with our small and hardworked staff with such additions as we can secure from outside. We have recently been fortunate in getting for one year the services of three experts in dairy and poultry farming fom the New Zealand Government.

I have now been here for eight months. Amongst other things, I have noticed that Bengal is faced with many problems that are not peculiar to Bengal. They are world-wide problems. Many other countries have tackled them and have gone some way to solving them. We in Bengal should take advantage of the experience of other countries in respect of these problems and the way they have been tackled elsewhere. Otherwise we are likely to repeat unnecessarily a lot of the grief that other countries have been through in the hard school of getting their experience.

We have been fortunate enough to get a certain number of experts in various lines of activity to come to Bengal temporarily to give us a hand and to give us the benefit of their experience. If they are the men that we hope and believe they are, Bengal will be the richer for their time here. There are a great many more experts that we could use to advantage—if we could get them. Experts are hard to get these days. Still I am not without hope that we shall be able to get some more men who have accumulated experience in various lines of activity that we need in Bengal.

Almost every day we get spectacular news of the war in Europe. We are now reaping the harvest of years of steady building up and training and equipping of our Allied Forces. But do not let us think that the end of the fighting in Europe—or elsewhere for that matter—will put an end to our troubles and difficulties in Bengal.

Hard Work Ahead

We must not think that shortly we will be able to relax and sit back in satisfied contemplation of the province. There is an immense amount of hard work to be done by all of us in the years ahead if Bengal is to enjoy a better future.

Moreover, so far as possible we must lay the foundation of this future now by planning wisely and by building up an adequate organisation which will later be capable of putting these plans into effect. Otherwise we will be left behind when we should be giving a lead. There was a time when Bengal led the rest of India—I would like to think that this time will come again.

I have not spoken to-night of the increased cost of living, or of the shortage of some essential commodities, particularly of fish, milk and vegetables, or of the many other difficulties and hardships which in greater or less degree now beset poor people—not because we are unconscious of or indifferent to these matters. Both I and my Ministry are well aware of them and we are giving them close attention. My silence about them is because the matters about which I have spoken are of even more importance—or so I believe; and one can't cover everything in a short broadcast.

Before I finish I would like to take this opportunity of extending to my Muslim and Hindu friends my best wishes of the season—a season which combines their greatest festivals in happy augury of friendship.

FALL IN RICE PRICES

According to the latest reports, favourable war news and the nervousness of stockists, combined in some areas with good crop prospects are having a cumulatively bearish effect on the grain prices, especially on the rice market which is particularly weak.

In the Punjab, the futures' price of rice has registered a fall of about Rs. 2 a maund in the course of a fortnight. In Bihar, there has been a considerable drop throughout the producing areas in North Bihar, and in the Chittagong district of Bengal, one of the most heavily deficit areas, price levels in most centres are below the statutory maximum of Rs. 14-12 a maund. About a month ago wholesale prices in Chittagong ranged from Rs. 16 to Rs. 32 a maund.

THE FAMINE INQUIRY COMMISSION

Further Evidence Recorded

THE Famine Inquiry Commission who arrived in Calcutta on August 11 and had been continuously at work recording evidence, left for Bombay towards the end of September.

So far, a former Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council, four ex-Ministers, three Ministers in Office, Government officials connected with Civil Supplies, Public Health, Relief, Agriculture, and a large number of non-officials including representatives of the different political parties, Chambers of Commerce, labour and women's organisations and relief societies have given evidence. The Commission also heard representatives of the Assam, Bihar and Orissa Governments.

A week was spent visiting different areas to study local conditions and the Commission also inspected Calcutta rationing and reception and storage arrangements.

Commission's Fourfold Task

Besides investigating the causes of the food shortage in India last year, particularly of the famine in Bengal, the Commission's task is fourfold—to make recommendations on the possibilities of improving:

The system of administration for supply and distribution of food;

The yield and quality of food crops;

Emergent medical relief and the control of epidemics in famine conditions;

The diet of the people.

During their inquiry in Bengal the Commission has also directed its attention to questions relating to supply of subsidiary foods such as vegetables, milk, milk products, fish and poultry.

MINISTER'S EVIDENCE

How the famine situation developed in Bengal, the measures which the Government took and the widespread nature of the problems which faced the province were reviewed by the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazim-ud-Din before the Famine Inquiry Commission at its sitting in Calcutta on September 16.

Sir Nazim-ud-Din described the difficulties of the Ministry when it took office and the steps it took to obtain supplies of foodgrains from outside Bengal.

He described the differences of opinion that existed in the province itself as to the adequacy of available stocks and the circumstances under which the Food Drive was launched. He also explained the efforts made by the Ministry to secure the support of other Parties for a united food policy, and the limitations of Provincial Ministries under the existing Constitution.

Mr. N. R. Sarker's Memorandum

The Commission also heard Mr. N. R. Sarker, who gave an account of the policy pursued by the Government of India, of which he was a Member from August, 1941, until February, 1943. In a memorandum furnished to the Commission, Mr. Sarker gave his analysis of the causes of the famine, his estimate of the present improved position and his views on the future.

The Commission discussed the steps taken by the Government of India to secure distribution of available wheat supplies before and after the original Basic Plan.

Later they recorded the evidence of Mr. Ashutosh Bhattacharjee, who was a purchasing agent for the Bengal Government under the Rice Denial Scheme and the *Aus* Procurement Scheme of 1943, and Mr. Hamidul Huq Choudhury, representing the Bengal Provincial Muslim League.

The memorandum furnished by the Muslim League Party gave an account of the origin and causes of the famine and touched upon problems of rehabilitation and the improvement of agriculture.

The Commission also heard Mr. Choudhury on the organisation for relief set up by the Muslim Chamber of Commerce and the help given by the Muslim League.

The Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy, Minister for Civil Supplies, Bengal, was heard again by the Commission the following day. They also had a further discussion with Mr. H. S. E. Stevens, Food and Civil Supplies Commissioner, on the procurement organisation.

On September 18, Sir John Burder and Messrs. Guthrie, Campbell and Fairbairn gave evidence on behalf of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce.

In a memorandum furnished to the Commission, an account was given of the problems which faced employers of labour as a result of the progressive deterioration of the war position in the early days of 1942 and the measures taken

by organised industry in the Calcutta industrial area to deal with these. The working of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce Foodstuffs Scheme was described and full particulars furnished of the quantities purchased, the prices paid and the stocks held from month to month during 1943.

Later, the Commission also heard the evidence of Mr. Campbell and Mr. Chowdhury of Messrs. Shaw Wallace and Co., with reference to their experience as one of the Chief Purchasing Agents of the Bengal Government.

Director of Fisheries Examined

The Commission, on September 19, heard Rai Dr. Hora Bahadur, Director of Fisheries, and discussed his views on the possibilities of increasing fish supply in the province and the long-term prospects of the fishing industry.

Dr. Hora explained the present difficulties and the steps which his Department had already taken to remedy the position. He described proposals under consideration for development of fish culture in tanks as an immediate step to increase supply.

He also explained the steps which were being taken for securing motor launches for fishing in estuaries. An immediate expansion of staff of the Fishery Department had also been decided upon and questions relating to tank development were receiving the highest priority. In the Sunderban areas, Government had distributed fish fry free to the people.

Agriculture Department's Memorandum

The difficulties in regard to ice supplies were also mentioned in a memorandum submitted by the Agriculture Department and the action that was being taken for the release of diesel oil and chemicals for ice factories to enable them to produce to their maximum capacity.

The Commission also heard the representatives of the Calcutta Relief Committee, Mr. J. Niyogi and Mr. C. S. Rangaswami, and the representatives of the Muslim Chamber of Commerce Relief Committee, Khan Bahadur Dossani and Mr. M. A. H. Ispahani.

Mr. C. J. Minister, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, C.I.D., gave evidence the following day. The Commission also heard Mr. M. M. Stuart, District Magistrate of Chittagong, on conditions in his district.

About 24,000 tons of wheat arrived in India from overseas during the fortnight ending September 26.

UNIFORM SCALE OF RATION THROUGHOUT INDIA

Food Advisory Council's Resolution

AN important communication has been addressed by the Central Food Department to all provincial administrations on the question of implementing the resolution passed by the Central Food Advisory Council recommending that full rationing should be introduced in every province, and that there should be a uniform scale of ration throughout the country.

In the initial stages of rationing, the Central Government had allowed provinces considerable latitude in the organisation and working of the rationing schemes, but the present situation with regard to the country's over-all supplies and India's relations with His Majesty's Government in the matter of imports, demand the adoption of a more strict and uniform policy.

Basic Ration

While the Central Government prefer a basic ration of 1 lb. per adult per day, with a supplementary ration for the heavy manual worker, they are prepared to allow a basic ration of 8 lbs. per adult per week with no supplementary ration except in the form of cooked food through industrial canteens. But this 8 lbs. ration will apply only in those areas where the principal foodgrains normally in use in the area are rationed. Where one or more of the principal foodgrains in common use is not included in the ration, the Government of India have made it clear that the basic ration should in no case exceed 1 lb. per adult per day, since those who desire more can supplement their ration with other foodgrains.

GRAIN IMPORTS AND STORAGE

Arrangements are well in hand for the construction of accommodation for storage, at the Central Government's expense, for imported foodgrains. The present scheme contemplates a total storage capacity of 140,000 tons distributed as follows: Calcutta, 60,000, Bombay, 50,000, Madras 20,000, and Cochin, 10,000 tons.

In addition, accommodation at the Karachi depot is being extended up to a total capacity of 250,000 tons as against the original storage capacity of 200,000 tons.

CONFECTIONERY MANUFACTURE TO BE ENCOURAGED

Sugar Advisory Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Sugar Controller's Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of the cane-growing provinces and States, sugar industry, and the cane growers, was held in New Delhi on September 21 and 22, the Sugar Controller presiding.

Discussions centred round the price of sugarcane in the coming season and the problem of ensuring that factories charge proper prices for sugar and supply it in correct weights.

The working of the Sugar Control and the Gur Control Orders was reviewed and the forms in which they should be continued in the next season were discussed.

The supply of coal and sulphur to sugar factories in 1944-45 was considered.

Manufacture of Sugarcandy

The meeting also discussed problems relating to the manufacture of confectionery and sugarcandy. The present position is that sugar factories cannot utilise any sugar for this purpose without the Sugar Controller's permission. About 23 factories in India, the majority of which are located in the United Provinces, are at present allowed to manufacture confectionery for which about 10,000 tons of sugar are utilised.

It is recognised that the manufacture of these articles should be encouraged to a limited extent in order to enable the local industry to establish itself firmly during wartime. While individual factories have generally been allowed a maximum of 400 tons of sugar, larger quantities have been allotted to some of the larger factories on the basis of their past production. It is possible that permission will also be granted to a few new applicants to start the manufacture of confectionery.

Sulphur for Sugar Factories

The Government of India, it is learnt, are now in a position to meet only 50 per cent of the requirements of the sugar industry of refined American sulphur. A preliminary allotment is therefore being made of the available quantity of refined American sulphur, and the balance will be allotted when further supplies are received. The Baluchistan ore which is said to contain a 30 per cent content of sulphur is also used in the manufacture of sugar, and to effect a saving in transport, a scheme of movement of sulphur has been drawn up in accordance with which each sugar factory will be given a minimum quantity of refined American sulphur.

The factories situated in North-West Frontier Province, the Punjab, the Western U.P., Baroda and Gujarat States will be allotted a major portion of their sulphur requirements in the form of ore.

AUSTERITY MEALS IN ESTABLISHMENTS

In addition to the tightening of food control measures and the gradual extension of rationing to more urban areas, the Government of India are also considering further steps to conserve food supplies in the country.

One method suggested has been to tighten up existing regulations regarding austerity meals in establishments. Some of the ways by which this can be done are: to restrict preparation in establishments to three courses only with no choice; to restrict the number of vegetables to be served with the subsidiary dish; to reduce the number of guests invited at social or religious functions to not more than 25; to prohibit or restrict considerably the use of flour for making luxury articles of food like pastries; to restrict the use of rice in European hotels to three or four days a week, and to declare one or more meatless days a week in the large cities.

Supply Position of Foodgrains

It is pointed out that though some of these measures might look stringent, the supply position of foodgrains and the high prices of vegetables, meat, milk, etc., demand immediate action.

Another aspect of the problem which is likely to receive attention is the prices charged for meals. It is felt that if the choice is to be restricted to a three-course meal, prices charged by catering establishments should also be reduced to austerity levels.

TO PREVENT UNLAWFUL EXPORT OF FOODGRAINS

With a view to prevent unlawful export of foodgrains outside India, a new sub-rule has been added to Rule 84 of the D.I.R., which makes a contravention of the rule, punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years or with fine or with both, without prejudice to any confiscation of stocks or other penalty provided under the Sea Customs Act, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on October 5.

INDIAN RAILWAYS' WORK FOR THE FORCES

How They 'Deliver the Goods'

By Major-General G. N. Russell, Deputy Quartermaster General.

(A broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi, on Sept. 17).

TONIGHT I want to tell you something of what the railways are doing for the forces. This war has so far been one of long and heavy movements—the movement of vast forces by sea, rail, road and, to a lesser extent by air. We rely on sea and rail for a great majority of this movement; the sea to carry men and stores from countries of origin, and in due course to return the men to their native lands; the rail to take them to and from the ports at the various main bases and to transport them, in the first place, to their training grounds and depots, and secondly, to carry them forward to the various railheads.

India has two functions. In addition to being a main base, it is also a home country. We thus have to collect British and American soldiers and stores from the ports of entry, and carry them to railheads. We also have to collect recruits and indigenous products, and carry them to their various training areas and main depots, and then to send them to the various railheads or despatch them overseas.

In addition to the movement of troops and purely military stores, we must also consider the extra load placed on the railways, owing to the fact that industries have been asked to do more to help the war effort, thus increasing movement of raw materials and also movement of finished articles to military depots or ports for export.

Large Additional Load

We are thus faced with the position that the Indian railways are required to carry an enormous load of troops, stores and extra industrial products. The whole of this load is additional to the normal peacetime load. I cannot for security reasons tell you the size, I can only assure you that it is very large indeed.

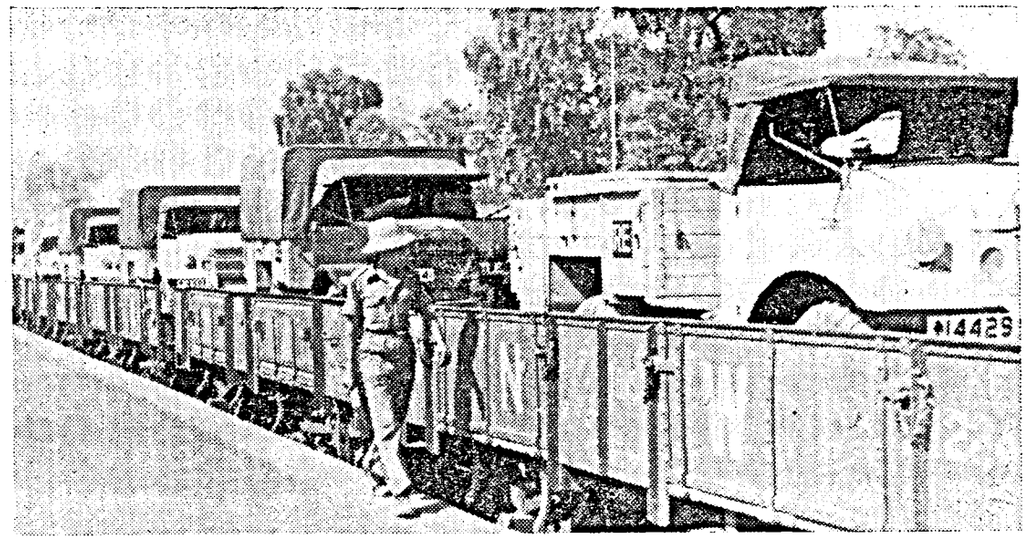
I was reading the other day a summary of a broadcast given recently on this same subject in the United Kingdom. In this broadcast, the speaker stressed the point that the United Kingdom was the springboard for our forces operating overseas, and that enormous quantities of troops and stores were concentrated in a very small and congested area. India is also a springboard for our troops operating overseas and across our frontiers. But there the analogy ends. Our main problem is our enormous distances. We unfortunately cannot concentrate our bases and depots in a small area.

In order to handle the import and export load put upon us we must use, for instance, certain ports to the maximum extent. This existed in the province itself as to be adequacy ment must take place. Again, to emphasise this point of distance, I would like to tell you that stores being taken to the troops operating on our north-eastern front travel on the average about 800 miles. They could not do this in the United Kingdom without running off the edge into the sea.

We are constantly endeavouring to cut out long hauls, but the siting of camps and depots is conditioned by the suitability of climate and terrain, and it is not always possible to put them exactly where movement necessity will best be served. Furthermore, owing to the changes in the fortunes of war, it must be realised that depots sited to meet the situation of 1942 do not entirely suit the situation in 1944. Thus, really the major problem facing us is to bring our troops and stores from overseas, and to place them in such places, that they can go to war with the minimum of railway movement, during their stay in this country.

Another, and most important, problem is to keep our ports clear. As I said previously, this war is a war of movement, and shipping has been the most important factor in this movement. Therefore, ships must be unloaded, reloaded and sent away from our ports as expeditiously as possible. Keeping our ports clear is, therefore, one of the railways' biggest tasks, and that is why difficulties are experienced, in moving other traffic near the ports. Import and export traffic must receive top priority.

So much for the underlying facts: the canvas on which Movement Control operates. What is the pattern to which we in Movement Control have to work? Let me try and tell you. I mentioned men and material; and the pattern will emerge if you think of the job as movement of personnel on the one hand, and movement of freight on the other—movement of freight means all movement of stores and equipment required by the three fighting services.



Army lorries ready for transport to forward areas.

Service individuals can get into a train—or try to—without any special arrangements, but a unit or a party of service personnel, or guns, or military supplies, must have their movement arranged for them, with the railway companies, by someone who knows where they are to go, where from, and when. This is our job in Movement Control; we are responsible for saying to the railways firmly but sympathetically what the Army wants in the way of movement. Everyday, therefore, Movement Control will be in conference with the railways, agreeing practical details—that is, arranging the routes and timings. During four years of war each has learnt to understand the other's point of view, so that arrangements are made in a true spirit of co-operation.

Now, what does all the movement consist of? First, troop movement—four kinds of it. Training, leave, movement to and from ports, movement to and from operational areas. If the Army is to be fit for battle it must train hard. This means a continuous movement of units to and from jungle training areas, artillery practice camps, combined operations training centres, and so on. It means exercises, sometimes large-scale manœuvres and, from time to time, a change over of whole divisions from one type of training area to another. All this involves movement by rail, and quite often motor vehicles have to move by rail owing to the lack of suitable roads. So much for troop movement due to training.

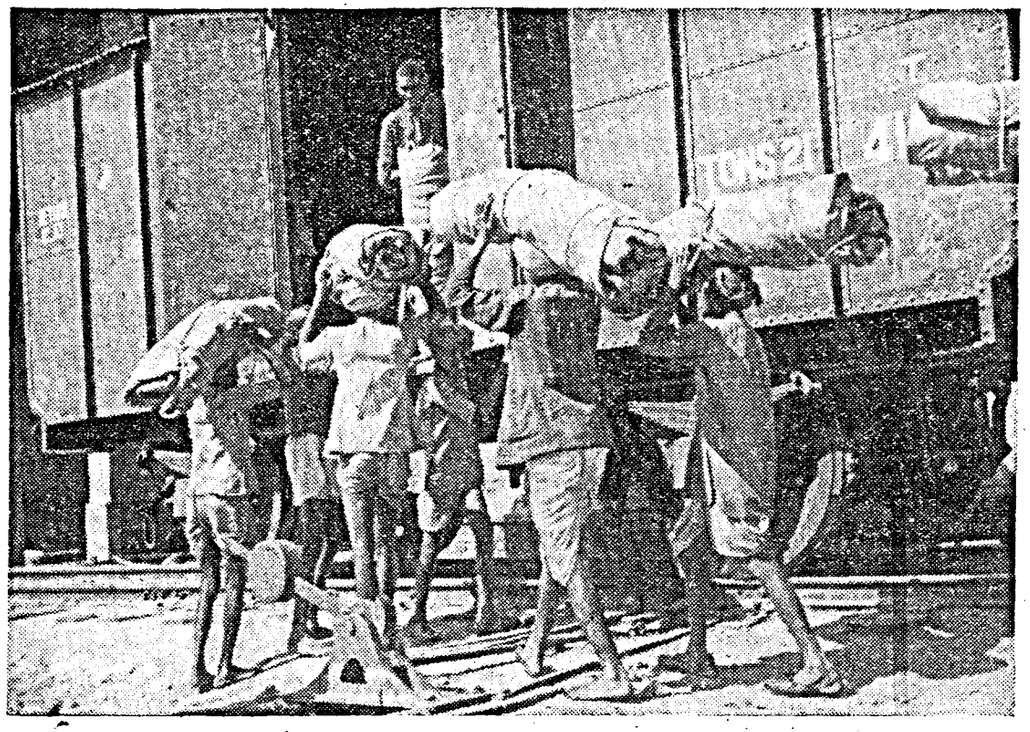
Next, leave. Soldiers need leave. After long periods of heavy fighting or strenuous work in more often than not unhealthy and remote places, they must be given a chance to relax and rest, and of course, if possible, visit their homes. Where possible special trains are organised; unfortunately this is not always possible, and so at times they take up space in the ordinary trains.

Then, movement to and from ports; whether inward from U.K. or Middle East, or outward to one of our many fronts, this is handled in the vast majority of cases by special trains and is a big job when large convoys arrive.

Lastly, movement to operational areas which is entirely handled by special trains and which is continuous and includes troops, guns, motor transport and animals. These last two types of movement take the highest priority of all traffic. The same priority holds good for freight movement in these categories.

Freight Movement

Now turn to freight movement: The inward and outward freight movement, which runs into hundreds of thousands of tons a month, gives the railways and Movements one of their biggest headaches. In times of peace, goods for export were sent to a port, stored in sheds on the quays, selected and loaded into ships. Today, owing to pressure of time the loading



Army tents being loaded into wagons at a factory siding.

of ships has to be carefully planned on paper, in conjunction with the Ministry of War Transport, before the arrival of the cargo at the quayside, and more often than not before the ship berths. So that nowadays the trains have to be run alongside the ship for direct loading and, consequently, it is essential that trains arrive with the right cargo in the right order and on time to ensure continuity of loading. The movement of stores to operational areas has to be carefully planned and scheduled. It must, as far as possible, travel in an even flow and arrive at its destination with a minimum of delay. There is, in addition, a vast internal flow of movement from the factory to the military depot and from the military depot to the unit.

Organising this freight movement is a big task. About 30 trains a day have to be carefully timed, and some even have to make the journey from Karachi to Ledo—a distance of 2,760 miles. You will, therefore, appreciate the railways' task is by no means easy.

In making these arrangements there are many difficulties peculiar to military traffic. Firstly, military operational traffic has priority over civilian traffic. Secondly, owing to constant unforeseeable changes in the progress of battles, military stores and units have continually to be sent forward under circumstances of extreme urgency. This means that arrangements have to be made, and even may have to be modified, at very short notice. For instance, a consignment of stores or the move of a formation may have to be switched from going to Chittagong to, shall we say, Manipur Road. This may occur after the move has actually started. All this means patience and making the best of a bad job, and it is remarkable to me how patient most railwaymen are.

The third difficulty is the changed direction of movement and density of traffic; changed, that is, from peacetime working. The new military depots, many of them built during the war, may be in God-forsaken spots, and so may be many training camps. New junctions, loops and sidings have had to be put in at many points to handle military traffic, as well as many miles of railways in various depots. All this work itself involves movement of much construction material, ballast, sleepers, track and many other things besides.

The fourth difficulty is our difference in gauge. Transhipment stations which in peacetime handled a small and fairly regular flow of traffic, have had to be converted into enormous railway yards, capable of handling more than ten times what they did before. The work involved in this connection has been very large indeed, and a cause for great anxiety.

Our fifth difficulty is the reception of stores at unloading points. I have told you that the Army always want their stores in a hurry, they always want, in addition to this, more than the railway can carry and more than they themselves are capable of handling with their limited facilities. We thus create the position of new construction competing with inward movement, and unless the position is watched very, very closely, by both the railways and Movements, congestion arises, which threatens to choke the whole system.

So much for the military difficulties. The railway themselves have their own difficulties. They have far fewer staff, some not so young as they used to be, far more traffic, and much more difficult working conditions, due to the black-out regulation, and the constant need to try and push traffic through against time.

Types of Military Movement

I have sketched in bare outline the various types of military movement. Let me try and link them together in a coherent pattern. Take, for example, one unit, say an Indian armoured unit going to Chittagong. The unit trains in India, changing location perhaps more than once for a variety of training experience. Its tanks and armament came from North America through a military depot near Bombay. Most of the men had their homes in the Punjab where they took the leave that came their way. The unit mobilised and prepared for overseas, entrained at, let's say, Secunderabad. Its tanks were taken round by rail across the Brahamaputra, the men themselves, together with many others, went by sea from Calcutta. The additional ammunition, petrol, spare parts and supplies that this unit will need, are still being despatched from our military depots to maintain them. This is the history of the despatch of only one unit.

It may be of interest for you to know the number of special trains it takes to move one division. To move the personnel only would require 20 trains, and to move the vehicles, guns and stores would take a further 48 trains. Quite frequently we have to make a move of this sort.

Military movement in terms of special trains arranged has increased two and a half times in the last two years, and the trend is still upwards. This is the natural outcome of the fighting services going over to the offensive from the defensive.

We have by no means reached our peak load as yet. More movement will be required, probably more inconveniences caused, but I think you will all agree with me when I say that no effort must be spared which will enable our fighting soldiers to put paid to the Japanese account.

ROLE OF "MOVEMENT CONTROL"

Playing a less spectacular but as vital a role as the men in the frontline are the Indian and British troops manning our lines of communication in Bengal and Assam. "Movement Control," on a small railway formerly used to carry tea from the estates, daily transports thousands of troops and thousands of tons of goods.

Quartermaster Havildar Khadim Hussain of village Angu, district Kohat, is movement control havildar aboard a steamer transhipping men and material across the Brahmaputra. One moonless night, when his vessel with 500 troops on board struck a rock in midstream, he took a country boat across the swollen river to the shore and travelled nearly 20 miles before he could get a relief steamer.

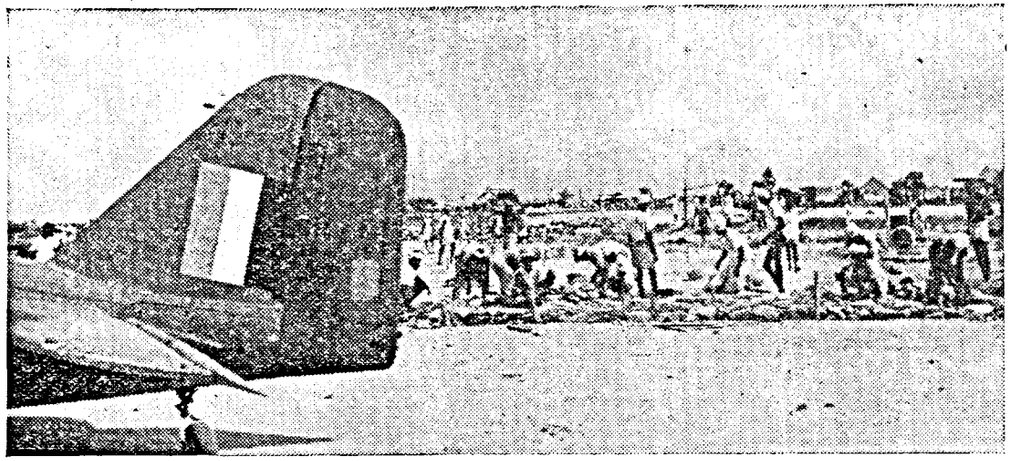
His vessel had sprung a leak and the engine room was flooded. This occurred at 9 p.m. and it was 7 o'clock the following morning before Hav. Khadim Hussain arrived with the relief vessel. The troops were then speedily transhipped and conveyed to their destination.

NEW "AIR LETTER" SERVICE

With effect from August 24, 1944, a new "air letter" service for civilians has been introduced from the U.K., at a flat postage rate of 6d. per air letter, said a Press Communique issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on September 16.

It added: These air letters are written on special forms which are extremely light in weight. It is, therefore, possible to give them air transmission throughout.

The question of introducing a similar service from India is under the active consideration of the Government of India, and necessary arrangements are being made to introduce the service at as early a date as possible. The public are, however, advised that the printing of air letter forms will take a little time, and a further announcement will be made when the service from India is to be introduced.



An airfield under construction. The provision of airfields has involved the movement over long distances of vast quantities of building materials by railways.

RAILWAYS HELP IN AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION

INDIAN railways have been called upon to play an important part in the construction of airfields, vital both for the defence of India and for the mounting of the offensive against Japan.

For the construction of present-day airfields large quantities of materials such as stone, bricks, cement and machinery require to be moved, frequently over long distances, and deliveries have to take place either at the site of an airfield or at the nearest railway station if the airfield is not rail-served.

Vast Quantities of Material

Several hundreds of airfields have been constructed all over India and many of these either have been, or are being, provided with permanent rail service. Construction sidings to deal with the materials required to build these vast airfields have been provided at a great number of stations and the laying of these sidings has involved much engineering and transportation effort in the carrying out of surveys and in the building and laying of nearly 300 miles of permanent way, together with large numbers of turnouts or points.

The provision of airfields necessary for operations has involved the movement of vast quantities of material, by far the greater portion of which had to be transported by rail. Since the start of war, Indian railways have delivered over 10,000,000 tons of material and at the peak of airfield construction they were delivering at rail-served airfield sites over 1,600 wagons per day. Although many airfields have now been completed, the burden on the railways still remains heavy, amounting as it does in present circumstances to delivering approximately 650 wagons a day.

To move 10,000,000 tons of materials over railways already burdened with heavy military traffic called for the most careful planning to ensure that not a single wagon was wasted. Construction authorities were urged to plan in such a manner as to ensure that adequate provision was made for the loading and unloading of wagons and for the rapid clearance of unloaded material from a site so that more wagons could be handled. They were asked to call forward only such stores, machinery or material as they could handle, otherwise wagons would have been wasted.

Despite careful planning, constant changes have had to be made, particularly in the specification of airfield runways. Although the railways have many other commitments, the great amount of material required for the building of airfields continues to be delivered.

DHOLPUR RULER'S GIFT

H. H. the Maharaja Rana of Dholpur has contributed a further sum of Rs. 1,340|5|- to the St. Dunstan's Section of H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The gift has been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.

RAILWAYS' WELCOME TO 14TH ARMY

INDIA has accorded to troops of the victorious 14th Army coming on leave the welcome they deserved, and her railways, capturing the atmosphere, have well played their part.

Railwaymen "pulled" a little extra weight to make the passage of the returning victors as pleasant and comfortable as possible. They made a special effort to see that the trains ran on time; they "did up" trains and stations to greet the troops; they co-operated closely with Area Staffs and welfare representatives in arranging for their comforts.

Decorated Locomotives

The Bengal and Assam Railway decorated their locomotives with the 14th Army Shield and helped the Eastern Command Amenity Officer in providing voluntary workers and entertainments. The troop specials had a great reception at all stations of the Bengal Nagpur Railway, particularly at Khurda Road and Adra. At Khurda Road, the troops were treated to musical entertainments. At Shahjahanpur, on the East Indian Railway, bathing places were improvised along the platform.

The General Manager of the Oudh and Tirhut Railway was present at Gorakhpur station to welcome Gurkha troops, and the Police Band played them in. The troops were garlanded. Most of the trains reached their destinations well on time.

C.-in-C.'s Message

The Railways decorated their stations with palms, buntings and flags, and messages of welcome were displayed. Wherever there were railway colonies, the staff and their families entertained the troops.

The Commander-in-Chief, H.E. General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has sent the following message of appreciation to the Chief Commissioner of Railways:

"I have heard of the magnificent work of the railways in connection with the recent heavy movement of troops coming on leave to India from 14th Army, and General Giffard has asked me to express his thanks and appreciation for the excellent arrangements made. I know that General Managers took a personal interest in the matter and inspired all those under them to do everything in their power to make the journeys as comfortable and speedy as possible.

"I will be most grateful if you will thank in my name the General Managers and, through them, all railway officials for the spontaneous way in which they welcomed the fighting troops, who, needless, to say, were delighted at the reception they received."

Chief Commissioner's Reply

The Chief Commissioner has replied as follows:

"It will give me the greatest pleasure to pass on to General Managers and through them to all railway officials both Your Excellency's and General Giffard's generous recognition of the arrangements made by railways for the returning 14th Army. Railwaymen were proud to be able to make some contribution to the deservedly great welcome which India gave to the 14th Army and will much appreciate the message you have sent to them."

"A MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE"

When men of the 14th Army left the Burma Front for their well-earned leave in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, C.-in-C., appealed to civil and military authorities throughout the country to help the troops to have a comfortable journey to their leave stations as a mark of appreciation of their splendid victory.

Wherever the fighting troops travelled, railway officials and local citizens did whatever they could to make conditions as pleasant as possible. Trains were received at main stations by welcoming parties who provided food and little luxuries for them.

Army Group and the 14th Army have expressed their thanks and appreciation to the C.-in-C. for the excellent arrangements made for the reception of their troops.

The C.-in-C., through his Army Commanders, has passed on this appreciation to the many authorities and individuals concerned remarking: "I am deeply touched by the magnificent response made by everyone to my request."

To the railways, the C.-in-C. said that General Giffard had asked him to express thanks for the personal interest which General Managers and their staffs took in the matter and for doing everything in their power to make the journeys speedy and comfortable.

WORKING OF THE RAILWAY PRIORITIES SYSTEM

How First Things Are Put First

THE working of the railway priority system was explained by Mr. A. A. Brown, Chief Controller of Railway Priorities, answering questions over All India Radio, Delhi, on October 6, 1944. Here are the questions and the answers.

Question: Could you explain why the priorities system has been introduced?

Answer: The railway priorities organisation, which came into being in April, 1942, and has subsequently been expanded and remodelled, was introduced in consequence of greatly increasing demands on rail transport. Whereas in the year 1938-39 the total volume of traffic offered to and carried by railways was approximately 113,000,000 tons, in the year 1941-42, the total amount carried had increased to over 127,000,000 tons and this by no means represented the total demand.

Three Main Functions

The priorities organisation has three main functions, the most important of which is expeditious movement, in order of their importance, of commodities essential to the war effort and civil need. The intensified war effort of the country involves a progressively higher demand for military movements of personnel, stores and equipment, both from and to ports and within the country, and for movements of raw materials to and finished products from the numerous factories engaged on work directly or indirectly connected with the war. In addition, essential foodstuffs are being moved by rail in considerably greater quantities than in pre-war days. All these and numerous other demands necessarily require that priority should be given to the movement of commodities classed as essential and that this priority should be regulated by the priorities organisation.

Railways have been divided into convenient groups each under a Regional Controller with authority to regulate movements within and into his region. Regional Controllers are assisted by the advice and help of priority panels consisting of the local representatives of the Central Government and representatives of the Provincial Governments. A uniform skeleton priority list embodying the main items for which priority is given has been adopted and all Regional Controllers have prepared priority lists for railways in their respective areas fitting into the skeleton headings particular commodities requiring special treatment owing to regional needs.

The second function of the priorities organisation is to see that movements which involve wasteful transport are eliminated. Advance programming of the principal commodities by other Departments of Government in consultation with the priorities organisation at the Centre does a great deal to eliminate cross movements, but where necessary a ban is placed on the movement of particular commodities from one area to another.

A good illustration of a programmed movement is the programme for the movement of essential foodgrains from surplus to deficit areas prepared by the Food Department in consultation with the priorities organisation. The fixing of zones from which factories can draw their raw materials and within which their finished articles may be distributed has further rationalised movement, and this system is being consistently developed.

The third function of the priorities organisation is the co-ordination of rail traffic with other forms of transport. Considerable progress has been made in diverting traffic from the railways to coastal craft, both steamers and country boats. In some areas traffic by rail between certain points is prohibited and is forced to use the sea route in order to relieve the strain on rail transport. Wherever there are suitable roads and transport facilities, traffic is also diverted to them. This has been accomplished by closing a number of small stations for the booking of goods and by prohibiting the carriage of goods for short distances by rail. Every effort is also made to ensure that convoys of road vehicles moving either for civil or military purposes carry useful loads.

Moving Essential Commodities

Q.—How has it helped in moving essential commodities to places where they were most needed? Has it, for instance, helped much in the transport of food, clothing and coal?

A.—The priorities system has helped the movement of essential commodities by ensuring that they are given priority over non-essential traffic, in other words, by placing first things first, and by the elimination of wasteful or avoidable rail movements, it has reduced the very considerable gap between wagon availability and total requirements.

The three essential commodities you have specified have been amongst those to which the greatest benefit has accrued. Coal, so essential to the maintenance of production and the working of railways and steamers, is given such high priority as ensures the movement of every available ton. The greatest importance is attached by the priorities organisation to the maintenance of essential foodstuffs movement as programmed and such movements are given priority immediately below coal. As is almost inevitable under war conditions, difficulties are encountered from time to time but on the whole this movement is well maintained.

Transport of Piecegoods

Although placed in a lower category of priority, piecegoods also enjoy relative freedom of movement under general or special permits. The former permits movement within zones and from surplus to deficit areas. Special permits are issued by the Textile Directorate, Bombay, who maintain very close contact with the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities for the area. At the two principal Goods Depots in Bombay and at the Ahmedabad station, the Textile Directorate have posted their own representatives to supervise the despatch of piecegoods.

Q.—You have, I think, a priorities list for essential commodities. What about the small merchant who wishes to move commodities of a miscellaneous character for trading purposes?

A.—I have previously referred to the skeleton priority list on which the priority lists of individual railways are based. The small merchant who wishes to move commodities of a miscellaneous character for trading purposes may perhaps feel that his goods are not given the consideration he could desire. The plain fact is that it is not possible to maintain ordinary trade movements as such, at a pre-war level, as they must make room for the numerous highly essential movements, already discussed. There are, however, many small traders who play an important part in the war effort, as they deal in commodities directly or indirectly essential to it. Movement of such commodities receives the same consideration and priority assistance as movements on behalf of large industrial undertakings engaged on war work.



Railways carry food for the people. Here, bags of rice are being unloaded at a river siding in Bengal for distribution in the interior of the Province.

In order to obtain priority assistance, the consumer and not the producer at the despatching end, must make application to the Regional Controller of Railway Priorities at the receiving end. The approach can be made either through a member of the Priority Panel or direct to the Regional Controller. Movement of non-essential traffic can and does take place to a limited extent when it does not impede more essential movement.

Help to Bengal

Q.—Has any special effort been made on particular occasions to move urgently specified goods, for instance, rice and clothing in Bengal during the critical days of last year?

A.—Whenever an emergency arises action is taken to meet the situation. For example, considerable stocks of foodgrains were destroyed in April last as a result of the Bombay fire and explosions. A special effort was made and the lost foodgrains were replaced by fresh stocks rushed to Bombay by rail from surplus areas. More recently special arrangements were undertaken to provide foodstuffs for those unfortunate people in Gujerat who suffered so severely as a result of floods.

During the critical days of last year Bengal received, on an average, 1,275 tons of rice a day between July and December. Essential foodgrains moved into Bengal during this period totalled approximately 7000,000 tons. It may be of interest that during the corresponding period of 1942 only slightly more than half this quantity was moved into Bengal. During the same period of 1942, daily arrivals of rice averaged 930 tons approximately. The 1943 performance was an achievement of which the railways may well feel proud as for four months of that critical period the East Indian Railway main line was seriously breached and in addition, there were a number of less serious breaches on the Bengal Nagpur Railway. You have also mentioned clothing. A regular flow of piecegoods into Bengal was maintained, Calcutta alone receiving over 11,000 tons between July and December 1942. Special arrangements were also made to move into Bengal the warm clothing and blankets donated by sympathisers who realised the urgent need.

Movement of Race Horses

Q.—You have explained that the priorities system is intended to move essential goods quickly and effectively. What do you say to the movement of race horses? Do you consider it essential? Cannot the wagons carrying horses be utilised for more essential purposes?

A.—It will be convenient to deal first with the second part of your question. The movement of race horses is not regarded as essential. Although it is realised that non-movement of race horses by rail would probably bring racing to a standstill at most centres, resulting in a certain amount of unemployment and possibly in a serious setback to horse-breeding which has developed considerably in this country in recent years; these considerations did not influence the recent decision to permit the return of race horses from their summer headquarters.

Conversion of Horse Boxes

The decision was taken and movement by rail is being permitted solely because it does not impede the movement of more essential traffic at the moment. Horse boxes are not suitable for the carriage of other traffic until they have been converted. Railways are carrying out a programme of conversion as and when more urgent demands on railway workshops permit. This programme is not being interrupted. At the moment sufficient horse boxes remain available for the movement of race horses but the Turf Clubs have been informed that this may not be the position at the end of the racing season and they have been warned that the transport situation must be the dominant consideration and that they should not count on horses being permitted to return by rail to summer headquarters.

No Immediate Relaxation

Q.—Do you see any prospect of relaxation of the limitations which the system places on the free movement of goods now that the war is drawing to a close so far as the European theatre is concerned?

A.—It is no secret that with the cessation of hostilities in Europe, the war against Japan is to be vigorously pursued by all the forces at the disposal of the Allied nations. There can, therefore, be no immediate prospect of a relaxation of rail priority control. On the contrary, it is inevitable that railways will be called upon to meet greatly expanded military demands and demands for movement of supplies essential to the war effort. If essential civilian needs are not to suffer—and this cannot be contemplated—priority control will have to be even more rigorously exercised in the prevention of unnecessary or wasteful movements. The months which lie ahead may prove extremely difficult for all of us, but the reward is final victory and the restoration of peacetime facilities.

A.I.R.'S ROUND-THE-CLOCK BROADCASTS FROM DELHI

Talks in 17 Foreign Languages

CAPABLE of radiating right round the earth and representing the highest power in use anywhere in short wave transmissions, two 100-K.W. stations are now engaged in All India Radio's round-the-clock broadcasting from Delhi.

As a result of this expansion of transmitting facilities it is now possible to put out from Delhi as many as nine programmes using different wavelengths at one time. In actual practice a much smaller number of programmes are on the air simultaneously, for some programmes are broadcast on a number of wavelengths depending upon the directions of the destination zones. For directional transmissions both the giant transmitters are fitted with special aerial systems which project the energy in the form of beams pointed to different parts of the world.

Five Main Regions

These transmissions are divided into five main regions which cover the earth's surface—north-east transmission for Japan; south-east transmission for the area from Malaya eastwards; east-west transmission for the nearer countries to the east and west of India; north-west transmission for the British Isles and Europe; and south-west transmission for South Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius. Programmes intended for home listeners are radiated not from a beam aerial but from a diapole aerial which radiates the energy all around and not in a particular direction.

With the exception of short intervals necessary for wave or beam changes, the two transmitters are in operation from 7.00 a.m. to 5.00 a.m. the following day, using for the most part of the period different beams. Some of the programmes are radiated from both the transmitters, while others from either of the two. In most cases the transmissions are radiated by a number of other Delhi transmitters also. In this way a broadcast penetrates a number of countries, simultaneously reaching far-flung listeners in climates that range from arctic to tropic and in lands enjoying summer sunshine or experiencing the rigors of winter.

India's participation in international broadcasting began with a daily news service in Persian which was started from All India Radio, Delhi, in December, 1939. This was followed by a gradual expansion of external services, which to-day include daily programmes in European, Mid-Eastern and Far-Eastern languages totalling 17; programmes in six Indian languages for Indians overseas; messages to prisoners of war, etc. All these external programmes consist of specially arranged items of music, talks and news, and the foreign languages used are English, French, German, Italian, Arabic, Persian, Afghan-Persian, Burmese, Malay, Siamesei Tonkenise, Cochin-Chinese, Kuoyu, Shanghai, Amoy, Cantonese and Japanese. These programmes are radiated from either or both of the giant transmitters.

CHEAP FOOD AND CLOTH FOR RAILWAY WORKERS

Indian railways distribute food through 625 grain shops to 828,000 ration card holders and their families. The prices charged are those which prevailed in August, 1942, a period in which the inflationary spiral had not assumed dangerous proportions.

The shops deal in 20 principal commodities; some of these, such as *dals*, spices and cooking oils, consist of several varieties. Last year 10,255,413 maunds of weighted goods were sold; this year the figure has reached 1,247,000 maunds per month. This includes 1,200 maunds of milk and 4,000 maunds of vegetables, which items have been recently included in the supply scheme. In addition, 16,000 gallons of kerosene, 492,000 cases of soap, 1,704,000 boxes of matches and 795,000 yards of cloth are issued every month.

Cost of Distribution

The cost of distribution, including freight at public rates and other overhead charges, is Rs. 1-2-0 per head or 7.6 per cent of the turnover. Railways are spending Rs. 1,50,00,000 a month in securing the necessary supplies. This scheme gives an employee monetary relief to the extent of Rs. 8-13-0 per month on purchases for his essential needs. In August, 1943, this figure rose to Rs. 14-1-0 per employee.

The total cost of this vast organisation to the Railway Department was approximately Rs. 10,00,00,000 in 1943-44; this sum included the loss incurred on the concessional rates. In the current year, in spite of expanded activities, the total cost is not expected to exceed Rs. 7,50,00,000; this is because, as a result of measures adopted by Government, civil supplies have increased and prices have declined.

ADMINISTRATION OF COALMINES WELFARE ORDINANCE

Advisory Committee Formed

AS provided in the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance, promulgated in January 1944, to constitute a Fund to finance welfare schemes for labour in coalmines, the Central Government have framed rules for the composition of the Advisory Committee, the collection of excise duty levied under the Ordinance and the administration of the Ordinance, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on September 22.

It added: The Rules, as published in to-day's Gazette of India, provide that the Advisory Committee will consist of the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Labour as Chairman and 21 other members of whom six will be representatives of employers and six of workers.

The Advisory Committee will have a Secretariat with the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and the Secretary as the executive authorities and with headquarters in Bengal and Bihar coalfields. It will be assisted by technical staff and will elect a number of sub-committees:

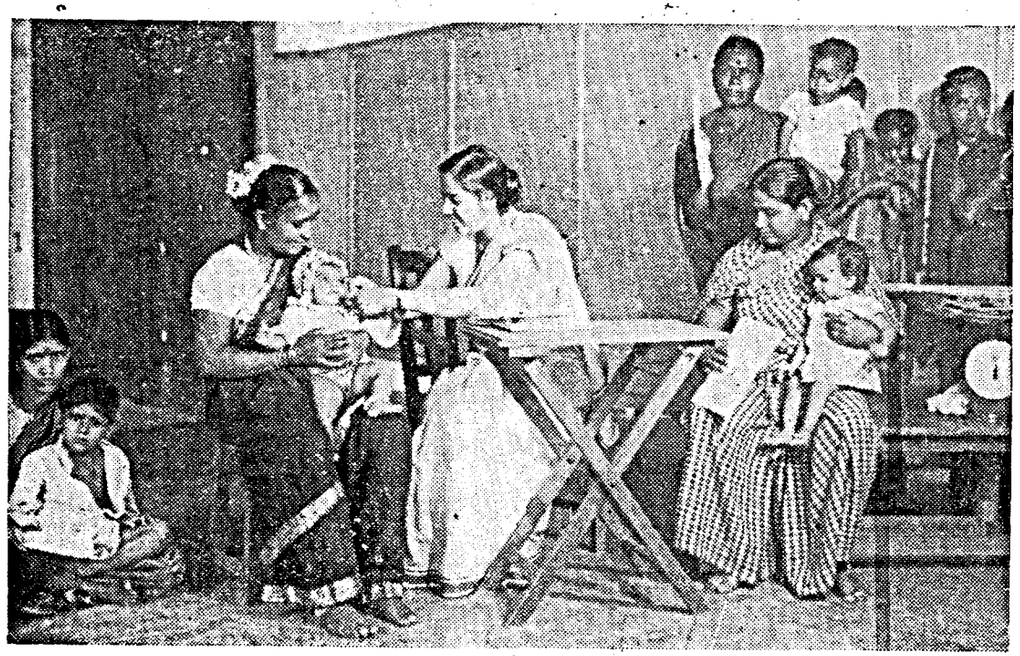
(1) A Finance Sub-Committee, composed of five members, to frame schemes of expenditure and to advise generally on the budget and on all expenditure debitable to the Fund;

(2) A Works Sub-Committee, composed of five members to consider all major projects, the cost of which is to be met from the Fund;

(3) Separate coalfields sub-committees, composed of five members each, for each of the main coalfields in Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar and Assam to consider and advise on all matters relating to expenditure from the Fund in their respective coalfields.

The Rules provide that all members of the coalfields sub-committees except one and all members of the Finance and Works Sub-Committees except the Vice-Chairman, shall be non-official. In constituting the sub-committees equal representation will be given to colliery owners and workmen employed in the coal mining Industry. The Advisory Committee will be informed of expenditure incurred from the Fund at each meeting.

The Rules further empower the Central Government to impose certain conditions on a Provincial Government, the local authority or the owner, agent or manager of a coalmine to whom grant is made from the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund in aid of any schemes approved by the Central Government. These conditions may be imposed to ensure that the work for which the grant is made is duly and promptly executed, that all the necessary facilities are given for any inspection that may be made for checking and that proper accounts are maintained for the money granted. Before making a grant from the Fund, the Central Government will require the party concerned to execute a bond for the fulfilment of these conditions.



Workers' children being examined by a nurse at a clinic run by a South Indian cotton mill.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Two miners, a man and a woman, have been included by the Central Government among the six representatives of labour who have been nominated to the Advisory Committee constituted under the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance.

They are Ram Dhar Singh, a 25-year-old miner from the Central Provinces, and Kulada Bibi, a woman leader, about 45 years old. Ram Dhar Singh has been employed as a miner for about 12 years at Barari Jalgera colliery in the Central Provinces and can read and write Hindi. Kulada Bibi has been for the last 30 years employed on coal cutting and similar occupations.

With the Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Labour, as Chairman and Mr V. K. B. Pillai, Coalmines Labour Welfare Commissioner, as Vice-Chairman, the Advisory Committee consists of: Mr. P. C. Young, Coal Commissioner; Mr. W. H. Kirby, Chief Inspector of Mines; Mr. R. S. Nimbkar, Labour Welfare Adviser to the Government of India; Mr. A. Hughes, Labour Commissioner with the Government of Bengal; Mr. A. G. Bunn, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad; Sardar Bahadur Ishar Singh, Labour Commissioner with the Government of C.P. and Berar; Messrs. J. Latimer and S. F. Tarlton, nominees of the Indian Mining Association; Mr. M. N. Mukerjee, nominee of the Indian Mining Federation; Mr. R. D. Rathore, President, Indian Colliery Owners Association; Mr. Boothroyd, nominee of the C.P. and Berar Mining Association; Mr. Mono Gopal Sen Gupta, representing other colliery owners; Mr. S. N. Mallick, representing the Indian Mine Managers' Association and Mr. W. M. Burch, nominee of the National Association of Colliery Managers.

Besides the two workers, the Central Government have also nominated to the Committee Messrs. H. Ghosal and P. Bhattasali of the Indian Federation of Labour, and Messrs. Nirpada Mukherjee and Chapal Bhattacharya of the Trade Union Congress.

TO ENCOURAGE COAL PRODUCTION

Relief Measures to Collieries

THE grant of a special depreciation allowance at the rate of 50 per cent per annum on the written-down value of coalmining machinery and the concession of a Production Bonus, liable to income-tax but free of Excess Profits Tax, are among the relief measures which Government have decided to give to the collieries to encourage coal production.

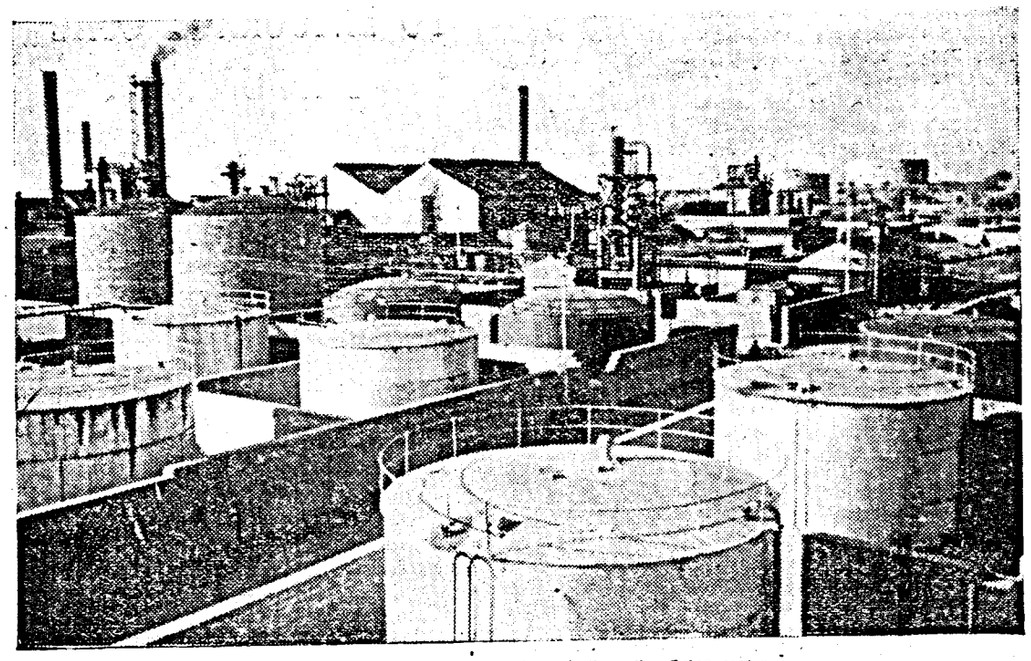
The depreciation allowance is admissible on all items of machinery necessary for the maintenance of coal production but is not applicable to items of stores required for replacement. It will be allowed in cases certified by the Coal Commissioner, with the concurrence of his Financial Adviser, as entitled to the concession, and is admissible for a period of two years from the date of bringing the machinery concerned into use.

As regards bonuses on increased coal raisings production targets for individual collieries were fixed some time ago for the period, April 1 to September 30, 1944, and collieries were informed that a bonus, free of Excess Profits Tax but liable to income-tax, would be granted on production in excess of these targets. It has now been decided that these targets, although they are subject to revision in some cases, will remain in force for three further half-yearly periods ending March 31, 1946, and will form the basis for determining the bonuses to be paid during those three half-years. The bonus will be paid six-monthly to each colliery undertaking on the excess of the tonnage despatched for sale or stacked during the period under the orders of Government over the target tonnage for that colliery undertaking.

The bonus will be paid from the Coal Production Fund, constituted under an Ordinance promulgated on August 26, 1944. It will be calculated on a sliding scale according to which the rate of bonus will increase with excess over the targets fixed for colliery undertakings.

SECOND MEETING OF U.N.R.R.A. COUNCIL

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, Agent-General to the Government of India in U.S.A., is representing India in the second session of the U.N.R.R.A. Council which began at Montreal on September 16. He represented India in the first session of the Council also.



Refinery process tanks at an Indian oil refining centre.

SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH IN INDIA

Mysore has World's Biggest Sandalwood Oil Plant

A COMPREHENSIVE survey of the Indian glass industry from its early beginnings down to the present day, is contained in an interesting article appearing in the August issue of the Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research. In view of the fact that the raw materials required for the industry are available in abundance and that there is a big home market for glass articles, the scope for its expansion in the post-war period is very bright indeed. The recent decision of the Governing Body of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to establish a Central Glass and Silicate Research Institute at Calcutta, supplies a very vital requirement of the industry. The Editorial article deals with the scope and objects of the Research Institute envisaged by the Governing Body.

An interesting account of the petroleum industry in India is included in the same issue of the Journal. The highly complicated technical operations involved in processing the crude oil into the familiar motor spirit and kerosene, are described in simple language. The crude product began its existence millions of years ago in the slime of some primaeval lagoon; it lay undisturbed far beneath the sun-scorched soil of India for ages, while mankind evolved from the primitive form of life, until it was rudely awakened and subjected to a terrific battering of scorching flames and freezing cold and corrosive chemicals, being converted under this treatment into an invaluable item of our modern life.

Sandalwood Oil

Another article of interest deals with the manufacture of sandalwood oil. India holds the monopoly for the world-renowned sandalwood. The oil distillation industry in India is comparatively recent and the scented wood which was being exported to Europe and America is now being distilled in the country of its origin. A modern distillation unit, the biggest in the world, is now operating in Mysore. The technique of distillation, the chemical composition of the oil, and the uses to which the oil is put, are described in the article.

Among the other articles appearing in the Journal, mention may be made of those relating to the manufacture of strontium carbonate from celestite which occurs in Trichinopoly and the influence of certain factors on the magnetic properties of electric steel sheets. In an article on the Indian Patent System, a strong plea is made for a Patents Planning Commission to review the adequacy of the prevailing patents system to meet the requirements of the rapidly expanding scientific and industrial activities.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS' VISIT TO U. K.

A Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on September 21 stated:

As announced some time ago, following on the visit to India last cold weather of Prof. A. V. Hill, Secretary, Royal Society of London, invitations to visit the United Kingdom, as guests of His Majesty's Government, were extended to certain well-known Indian scientists. The following are the scientists who have been able to accept the invitation:

(1) Dr. Nazir Ahmad, Director, Technological Laboratory, Matunga, Bombay;

(2) Col. S. L. Bhatia, Deputy Director General, Indian Medical Service;

(3) Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, F.R.S., Director, Scientific and Industrial Research Directorate;

(4) Sir Jnan Chandra Ghosh, Director, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore and President of the National Institute of Sciences of India;

(5) Prof. S. K. Mitra, University College of Science, Calcutta;

(6) Prof. Meghnad Saha, F.R.S., University College of Science, Calcutta; and

(7) Prof. J. N. Mukherji, C.B.E., Professor of Chemistry, University College of Science and Technology, Calcutta.

The principal object of the mission will be to establish contact with British, Dominion and American scientists in the United Kingdom. They are expected to leave shortly. They will also be visiting the United States of America before their return to India.

SHELLAC AND ITS USES

Ranchi Institute's Experiments

A NUMBER of new and improved uses for Shellac have been devised by the Indian Lac Research Institute, Ranchi. Shellac, it is claimed, can be used to coat aluminium discs and cylinders, glass or other material and for the manufacture of water-proof abrasive papers.

The sound recording discs are generally made of aluminium and sometimes of glass or paper which are coated with cellulosic materials or synthetic resins and are used for the electrical recording of sound. The discs can be played to reproduce the sound after a short treatment. The discs are extensively used in broadcasting stations or privately for keeping a record of one's voice. These discs or recording blanks, as they are called, have so far been imported.

The Ranchi Institute has experimented on the use of shellac mixed with some other indigenous materials for the preparation of these discs at a comparatively low cost. Expert opinion shows that the recording and reproduction of sound on shellac discs manufactured at the Institute is as true and accurate as on imported discs.

Water-Proof Abrasive Papers

Shellac is used as binding material in the manufacture of abrasive wheels, but owing to its low softening point these wheels cannot be used at high speed. Nor shellac can be used for making water-proof emery paper as it is badly affected by prolonged contact with water.

The Institute has now discovered a method by which the properties of shellac can be protected by treatment with certain chemicals. The composition thus obtained is free from the defects of natural shellac and can serve as a very efficient binding material in the manufacture of water-proof abrasive papers, abrasive cloths, abrasive tapes, continuous abrasive belts and emery wheels, grinding stones, etc.

Plastic Moulding

Shellac has so far been considered unsuitable for plastic moulding owing to its low softening point and thermo-plastic properties. The treatment given to shellac at the Institute has made it possible to use shellac for commercial plastic moulding. Articles prepared from this shellac possess good mechanical strength and high gloss and can be ejected from the mould while hot as in the case of resins like bakelite. Already shellac moulding powder is being used on a commercial scale for the moulding of electrical switches,

ceiling-roses, fan-regulator plates and utility articles.

A shellac varnish composition has also been discovered which is suitable for coating electrical apparatus and resistances. Plain shellac varnish gives a coating which possesses very good insulating power under normal conditions. In a humid atmosphere it not only loses its insulating property but is also liable to crack or peel off. The shellac after the treatment devised by the Institute yields an insulating varnish which maintains its properties under all conditions of humidity.

EXPORT OF LAC: PRICES CONTROLLED

The Lac Export Control Order published in the *Gazette of India* dated September 30, 1944, prescribes maximum prices which may be charged by exporters for various grades of lac. These prices have been fixed with due regard to controlled maximum prices applicable to similar goods in the internal market and allow a margin for exporters' expenses and profits, overseas agents' commission and customary disbursements made by the shippers to the buyers.

Apart from enabling consuming countries to obtain their supplies at reasonable rates, the ceiling prices, it is hoped, will help in ensuring a continuous market for Indian lac, checking any possible tendencies towards the development of substitutes such as synthetic resins.

The Order also provides that exports must be free from orpiment.

TWENTY BEVIN TRAINEES RETURN TO INDIA

Seventeen technicians trained in aero-engine maintenance and repair are among the party of 20 Bevin Boys of the ninth batch who returned to India about the middle of September after completing their training in the United Kingdom under the Bevin Training Scheme.

Of the remaining three, one is trained in centre lathe turning and two in aircraft assembly and repair.

This group of Bevin Boys consists of 4 trainees from Bengal, 2 from the Punjab, 2 from the Central Provinces, 6 from Bombay, and 1 each from Sind and Madras. The group also includes 4 trainees from the Mysore State.

The Central Government have fixed the ceiling prices of various categories of E.I. tinned Kips.

PRICES OF CAMPHOR TABLETS FIXED

THE maximum selling prices to be charged by importers, manufacturers and retailers for camphor tablets of various sizes, have been fixed. The retail selling prices of ¼ oz., ½ oz. and 1 oz. loose tablets have been fixed at 2, 4 and 7 as. per tablet respectively. The retail selling price of a 1 lb. slab is Rs. 6-1.

All dealers in camphor tablets have been directed to exhibit these prices prominently in their shops, in English or the local language of the district.

Brass Utensils

In August, the Government had fixed the maximum price of Rs. 2-9 per lb. at which all varieties of brass utensils not covered by the Brass Utensils (Control) Order, 1944, may be sold. On September 30, it was announced that such utensils as are manufactured at Moradabad with Moradabad *Kalai* both inside and outside may be sold at a premium of annas seven per lb. over the maximum price, i.e. at a price not exceeding Rs. 3 per lb. This concession is liable to revision after three months.

Vegetable Ghee

All dealers in vegetable ghee, wholesalers and retailers, have been directed to exhibit prominently in their shops price lists, in English or the local language of the district, showing clearly the retail selling prices of vegetable ghee as already fixed by the Central Government.

The Controller General of Civil Supplies has cancelled an earlier Notification directing dealers to exhibit the price lists of bolts, nuts and rivets.

TOBACCO DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

A comprehensive scheme for the improvement and development of tobacco in India has been sanctioned by the Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research at a cost of Rs. 16 lakhs.

The direction of this work will be taken over by the Indian Central Tobacco Committee which is likely to be set up next winter. This Committee will be responsible for research, development and marketing of all kinds of tobacco grown in India and for its finances the Government is already allotting Rs. 10 lakhs annually from the Tobacco Excise Fund.

INDIAN TRADE COMMISSIONER FOR PERSIA

Major Hassan Appointed

THE present arrangement under which Persia is included in the jurisdiction of the Indian Trade Commissioner, Alexandria, has proved to be wholly unsuited to the changed conditions brought about by the war, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on September 23.

It added: India is now one of Persia's largest suppliers, especially of cotton piece-goods; and in order to consolidate and develop India's position in the Persian market, it has been decided to create a separate post of Indian Trade Commissioner for Persia.

Major Hassan, an officer of the Indian Army, who is at present employed at the British Embassy in Teheran and who has considerable experience and knowledge of local conditions, has been chosen to fill the post. His jurisdiction will cover the whole of Persia, and his headquarters will be at Teheran.

Major Hassan will be attached to the Commerce Department for a short period on his arrival in India and is expected to visit all the major sea-ports and important business centres before proceeding to Persia to take charge of his new duties.

PROCEDURE FOR TRADE INQUIRIES

Firms and individuals in India sometimes address Indian Trade Commissioners overseas for information relating to foreign markets for Indian goods. In order to avoid delays which such a course invariably involves, they are advised to approach the Director of Commercial Intelligence, No. 1, Council House Street, Calcutta, who is fully equipped to furnish such information from his records.

Firms in India are also advised to address their requests for trade introductions to firms in foreign countries to the Director of Commercial Intelligence who will forward them to the Indian Trade Commissioners concerned with his recommendation and such particulars regarding the firms as may be required for the consideration of these requests. Direct references to the Indian Trade Commissioners in such matters by the firms concerned serve no useful purpose as these invariably are to be referred back to the Director of Commercial Intelligence for the required particulars.

Income-Tax Services to be Reorganised

In recent years income-tax has become the most important source of revenue; and its administration has become increasingly difficult. With a view to improving the efficiency of administration and the morale of the personnel, the Government of India have decided to reorganise the Income-tax Services, said a Press Communique issued by the Central Board of Revenue on September 29.

It added: Till now, the backbone of the Service, namely, the Income-tax Officer, was borne on the Class II Service of the Central Government and recruitment to this grade was almost entirely by promotion from subordinate executive grades. Hereafter, nearly 50 per cent of the Income-tax Officers will be borne on the Class I Services of the Government of India. These Class I Officers, who will be divided into 2 grades and who will be transferable all over British India, will be recruited on the results of an annual competitive examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission on the same lines as for the Indian Audit and Accounts Service.

Recruitment to Class I Service

Recruitment to the Class I Service except for 20 per cent reserved for promotion from the lower grades, will initially be into grade II from which promotions will be made by selection to grade I, strictly on the basis of merit in consultation with the Federal Public Service Commission. The remaining posts of Income-tax Officers will be classified as grade III and will as heretofore be borne on the Class II Service of the Central Government. Promotions to posts of Assistant Commissioner and Commissioner, except where they are reserved for officers in the "Pool cadre," will again be made by selection from grade I Income-tax Officers.

The Federal Public Service Commission have agreed to select the first ten candidates for the reorganised Income-tax Service on the results of the examination they will be holding in October 1944.

MR. JUSTICE ALLSOP

The Governor-General has been pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Allsop, I.C.S., a Judge of the Allahabad High Court, to perform the duties of Chief Justice of that Court during the absence on leave of the Hon'ble Sir Iqbal Ahmad from September 29 to October 14, 1944, both days inclusive.

GOVERNMENT'S PAPER REQUIREMENTS

BEFORE the war, the normal annual requirements of paper for Government purposes was approximately 20,000 tons. During the war there has been considerable expansion in all Departments of Government, particularly in the Defence Services, with the result that the requirements of paper (including kraft and boards) of all Governments in India (*i.e.* Central, Provincial and Indian States Governments) in 1943-44 were estimated at 70,000 tons, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on September 25.

It added: In 1943-44, the total production of paper, kraft and board in India was 1,00,000 tons, 70 per cent of which was taken over for Government purposes and the remaining 30 per cent was released for public consumption.

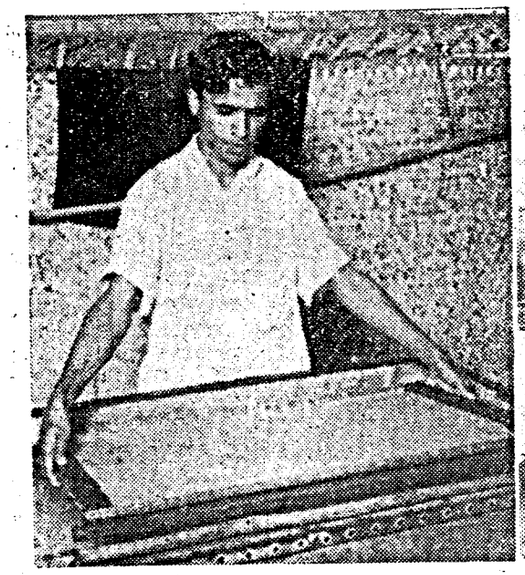
In view of the gradually deteriorating paper position in India, various measures to secure economy in the consumption of paper in Government Departments and Offices have been adopted from the very beginning of the war. As a result of these measures, it was possible for Government in 1943 to limit their demand of writing paper to their quota of 70 per cent, even though meanwhile there had been considerable expansion of Government Departments.

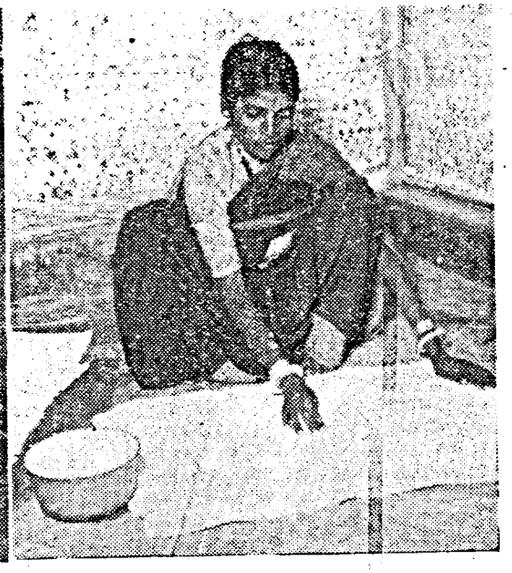


Making paper by hand—the pulp made from bamboo chips or grass is put on a sheet of cloth and washed of its impurities by rolling it on the floor. Here, the woman is pouring water on the pulp.

Due to cessation of imports, Government requirements have had to be met predominantly from indigenous production. It is now feared that on account of transport difficulties and shortage of coal and some raw materials, total Indian production of printing and writing paper may fall by about 10 per cent.

The demand for printing and writing paper for Government purposes during the current year aggregated well over 60,000 tons. The total production of printing and writing paper in India during 1944-45 will approximately be 75,000 tons as compared with 82,000 tons during 1943-44. Government share thereof would have been much less than their requirements. To meet the situation, Government have cut down their requirements very considerably (20 per cent) and thus reduced their demands to 49,500 tons.





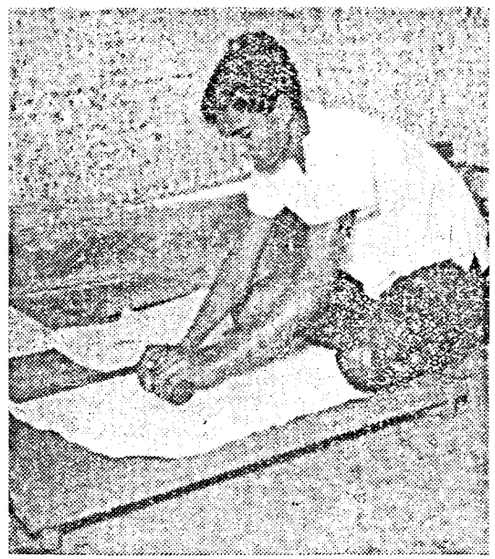
The pulp is then dumped into a vat containing a dilute solution of copper sulphate. A mat held high in a frame is used to take out wet sheets of paper from the solution. (Right) The sheets are then smeared with glue made of rice powder to size them.

CONCESSIONS TO INSURANCE COMPANIES

The Government of India have decided to grant the following concessions under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, to Insurance Companies transacting any kind of insurance business:—

(i) Insurance Companies may use paper for their forms, registers, stationery etc., up to 100 per cent by weight of the paper consumed by them in 1943, provided orders are not placed for more than one year's requirements and provided further that that year is July 1945 to June 1946.

(ii) The printing presses and the manufacturers of stationery, account books etc., who executed the orders of Insurance Companies in 1943 will be entitled to execute their orders to the extent of 100 per cent by weight of the paper used in the execution of the orders of the Insurance Companies in 1943.



The sheets are glazed with a smooth stone.



The wet sheets are placed on one another and water is squeezed out.

(iii) The printing presses and the manufacturers of stationery and account books concerned, should, however, in submitting monthly returns of consumption to the Paper Controller state separately the quantity included in the return and covered by this concession.

(iv) Insurance Companies may distribute free of charge tariff rates and other information essential for customers provided the distribution is made in such a manner that no waste of paper is involved.

SIR JOGENDRA SINGH'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 399)

a very short notice and their valuable experience of higher education and administration would be of great help in framing the recommendations of this committee.

Lastly, I must convey my sincere thanks to my old friend, Sir Maurice Gwyer, who has so readily accepted the chairmanship of this committee. This is not the first occasion when Sir Maurice has taken upon himself such a duty, and the Central Advisory Board has had many occasions to express its gratitude to him for the zeal with which he has taken upon himself such tasks imposed upon him.

Gentlemen, I take your leave now in the fullest confidence that the Report that you will submit to the Central Advisory Board will lay yet another foundation stone of the future educational structure of India.

TEN-YEAR PLAN TO INCREASE COCONUT PRODUCTION

Government's Suggestions

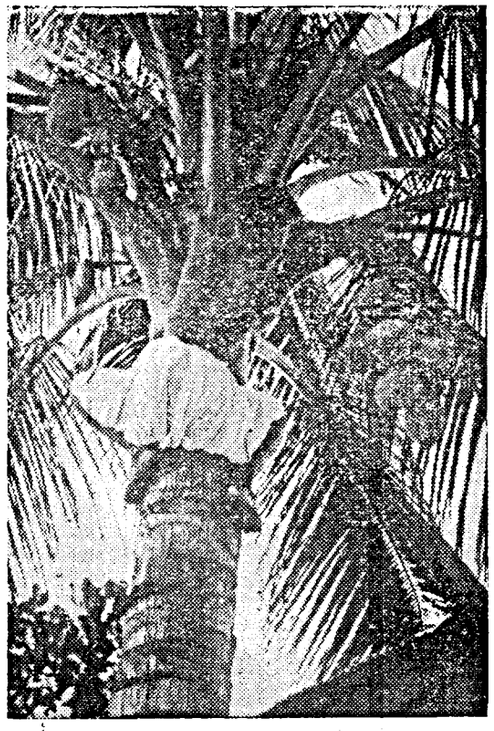
A ten-year plan to increase coconut production (and thus stimulate the production of copra and coconut oil) by better treatment and manuring of plantations, is suggested in a report on the marketing of coconuts and coconut products by the Central Agricultural Marketing Department, Government of India.

The administration of the plan, it is recommended, should be entrusted to an all-India Central Coconut Committee which may give loans at cheap rates for manures, provide facilities for inter-cultivation and encourage underplanting or removal of trees where necessary.

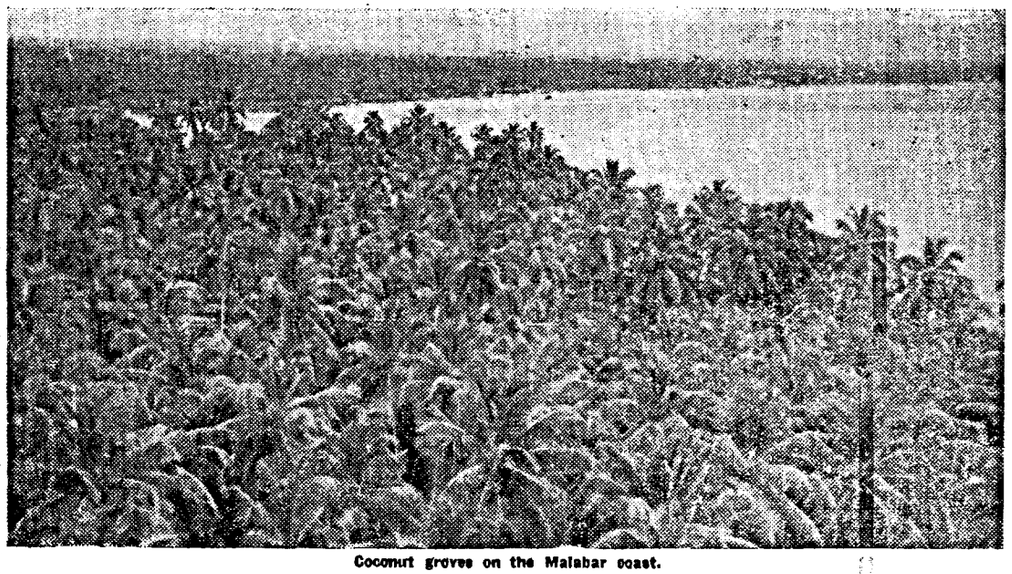
The area under coconut in India is about 1.5 million acres, producing annually about 3,000 million coconuts. This, according to the Report, can be increased by inter-cultivation and manuring on a wide scale. Before the War of 1914-18, India was a net exporter of both copra and coconut oil. Since then, exports have almost ceased while imports have steadily increased. During the present War, imports registered a further increase and amounted to an average of about 100,000 tons of copra and 54,000 tons of coconut oil during the two years, 1940-41 and 1941-42.

Coconut husks are retted in India by indigenous methods. The Report suggests that the possibilities of chemical and mechanical

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 427)



A coconut palm.



Coconut groves on the Malabar coast.

HAJ PILGRIMAGE

HAJ pilgrims whose passage has been reserved this year will have to pay in advance the Saudi dues and transport charges for their journeys in the Hedjaz, said a Press Communique issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 2.

It added: This new arrangement is in force in other countries and has been introduced this year in India so as to avoid confusion in the Hedjaz where there is shortage of Rial currency. The Port Haj Committee at the port of embarkation will make advance recoveries as follows and attach duplicate receipt to the pilgrim pass:—

Saudi dues and taxes commonly known as Muallim's fee and transport charges for journeys from Jedda to Mecca, Muna, Arafat and return to Mecca and Jedda and return visit to Medina:—

(a) By lorry .. Rs. 1,040-12-0 per head.

(b) By camel .. Rs. 714-12-0 per head.

If any pilgrim has decided not to pay a visit to Medina this year, he should intimate his decision to the Committee. In that case the following recovery will be made:—

Saudi dues and taxes and transport charges for journeys from Jedda to Mecca, Muna, Arafat and return to Mecca and Jedda:—

(a) By lorry .. Rs. 444-4-0 per head.

(b) By camel .. Rs. 323-6-0 per head.

Food Supplies

Sufficient supplies of food will be available for Haj pilgrims in Saudi Arabia. In view of the greater consumption of foodstuffs during the Haj pilgrimage, His Majesty's Government may supplement supplies to that country, should it be considered necessary. Pilgrims, therefore, will not be allowed to take any foodstuffs with them from India.

The pilgrims have been permitted as a special case to take with them ghee up to four seers per head.

Pilgrims May Take Sovereigns

The pilgrims have been permitted as a special case to take with them 12 or 15 gold sovereigns per pilgrim, according as they travel by camel or by bus, to meet their expenses in the Hedjaz. In addition, First Class pilgrims can take currency notes for charity up to the value of Rs. 2,000 per pilgrim and other pilgrims up to Rs. 1,000 per pilgrim.

SOUTH AFRICAN INDIANS STRANDED IN INDIA

Extension of Permits

South African Indians stranded in India are advised to apply for the extension of their permits to the Provincial or State Governments concerned before the expiry of the validity of the identity certificates. The applications should give reasons supported by documentary evidence of the inability of the persons on temporary visit to India to return to South Africa, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on September 22.

It added: In August, 1942, the Government of the Union of South Africa agreed to extend the validity of travel documents of South African Indians who, owing to shipping difficulty, could not return to South Africa within the period of validity of their identity certificates. On the request of the Government of India, the Union Government in August, 1942, agreed to accept any reasons arising out of war conditions as the justification for an extension beyond the three-year period of validity of an identity certificate. Accordingly, extensions have been granted in individual cases on application.

Since shipping position has not improved during recent months and the early return of South African Indians to Africa is uncertain, they are advised to apply for further extension of their permits stating that their inability to return was due to circumstances beyond their control.

As the Government of the Union of South Africa are not prepared to grant an extension beyond three years in cases of persons leaving the Union after May 1, 1942, such persons are particularly advised to try their utmost to return to South Africa before May 1, 1945.

COCONUT PRODUCTION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 426)

methods to obtain a higher yield, greater uniformity in the quality of products and larger quantities of husks for the coir industry should be examined.

The marketing of coconuts on a co-operative basis, especially in areas where nuts are stored for long periods, is recommended. The Report further suggests elimination of wasteful handling and transport, fixation of market charges and standardisation of weights and counts to secure a better share for the producer in the prices paid by consumers.

Other recommendations include the grading of copra, coconut oil and coir yarn and technological research on coconut products.



Lady Carlisle talking to Sub. O. K. Sahi, the first Indian girl to join W.A.C.(I).

"SOLDIER MISS-SAHIBS" ON NORTH-WEST FRONTIER

HISTORY is being made round India's age-old Khyber Pass, famed in innumerable tales of adventure and romance. "Soldier miss-sahibs" are on the Frontier. W.A.C. (I) girls are serving in Bannu, Kohat, Peshawar. Nowshera and other outlying districts of the Frontier Province where they are quietly doing a splendid job.

Chief-Commander, the Countess of Carlisle, Director, W.A.C. (I), recently visited most of these units in the course of a week's tour, inquiring about their work, health, happiness and living conditions.

Expeditiously checking stores as they are off-loaded from camels is just one of the duties of Junr. Comdr. Dorothy Rowe from Horbury, Leamington Spa, Quartermaster at the Combined Military Hospital.

In charge of the dispensary for the 100-bed British Medical Hospital at Nowshera is an Indian girl, S/Sgt. Rahmat Ditta, from Sialkot. With six years' experience as a dispensing chemist, she enlisted in the W.A.C. (I) a year ago.

Serving in Peshawar is Pte. Lila Malhotra—the first recruit from Kashmir. She was teaching away at Akhnoor beyond Jammu, when somebody put up a W.A.C. (I) poster. Interested, she made the long journey by precipitous mountain trails down to Srinagar to the recruiting officer.

In a deep bomb-proof shelter, the Chief Commander watched an Indian girl, L/Cpl. R. Ragunath, at work in a signals section. Capable of operating the fastest circuit in India, she can receive and send messages at 35 words a minute.

Among W.A.C. (I)s serving in Quetta is Sgt. Gulbano Shah Khan, a Hazara girl. Extremely efficient at her work, she controls a staff of clerks in the arsenal.

So useful are these and hundreds of other Frontier girls working with the North-Western Army, that the District and the Area Commanders' one complaint is that they have not more of them. "There is no possibility of a nation progressing unless the women are prepared to go forward with the men," said the Countess of Carlisle when she addressed the Rawalpindi Company of the Corps at an inspection parade on September 6.

Discussing the value of the Corps to India she described it as a "stepping stone" for Indian women to the fuller life that is coming for India. Now was their opportunity to fit themselves for that life.

LEGAL PROBLEMS KEEP HER BUSY

Murders, desertions and affrays are all in the day's work to Subaltern Kathleen Sanderson, legal adviser to a large military unit and the only W.A.C. (I) law officer in India. In the last six months she has dealt with two murder cases, 85 courts martial, 40 civil cases and over 200 minor cases which were disposed of summarily.

Small and pretty, she is the daughter of a surgeon in the I.M.D. and widow of an N.C.O. of the K.O.Y.L.I. who was killed in action in Burma. A trained teacher, with ten years' experience, she was evacuated by plane just before Burma fell, and she enlisted in the Corps soon after its formation.

Previously she had cursorily studied law, and so took a Military Law Course for staff officers, and having qualified was for nine months in charge of the law section under a legal staff captain at District H.Q., Rawalpindi, where she gained valuable experience.

Then she was posted to her present appointment, with the rank of Subaltern (Lieut.), and is legal adviser to the Commandant and Battalion Commanders, as Officer Incharge, Law Section, dealing with all offences.

SIKH GIRL'S UNIQUE RECORD

Unique in India's Women Auxiliary Corps is a 21-year-old Subaltern O. K. Sahi, from Daska, Sialkot district, who commands a platoon in North-Western Army. Not only was she the first Sikh and the first Indian girl to join the Corps, but she was also the first Indian girl to go through the Officer Cadet Training Unit.

Daughter of Sardar Bahadur Sardar Allam Singh Sahi, Garrison Chief Engineer, she is a sister of Col. K. Sahi, I.E., M.E.S., who is serving with the Forces. Her father, who served in the last war, was recalled at the outbreak of this and posted to Tashir in Burma as for duty on the Burma Road. He has been missing since the fall of Burma.

Subaltern Sahi was at that time studying for her B.A., but military blood was in her veins and when the W.A.C. (I) was formed she decided to join the Corps and continue her studies after the war. Slim, tall and good-looking, she now commands a General Service platoon, whose transportation problems she has solved by keeping her own tonga and horse.

C.-IN-C. SEES W.A.C.(I) INSTRUCTORS AT WORK

SPECIALLY selected members of the W.A.C. (I) intended to form the nucleus of the Corps' new comprehensive training scheme were seen at work on September 19, when the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, visited their hostel in New Delhi.

The girls—from all over India—are undergoing special training to fit them for the responsible role they will have as instructors of W.A.C. (I) recruits. After their course is completed they will be posted to the new training centres which are being opened in each of the Army Commands in India.

To each of the centres, 10 officers and 30 other ranks instructors will be posted, and it was to the latter during their own instruction that the Commander-in-Chief talked, and in whose training he showed a keen interest.

Visit to Clerical Training School

In addition, he visited a small clerical training school at the hostel where, until the new training centres are opened, recruits were being instructed in shorthand, typing and general clerical duties.

Accompanying General Auchinleck were the Chief Commander, the Countess of Carlisle, Director of the W.A.C. (I); Mrs. E. M. Dennys, Regional Commander; and Lieut.-Col. H. M. Smith, Chief Instructor. They were conducted around the buildings by Senior Commander Woodhouse, O.C., No. 1 Delhi (Army) Company.

A.T.S. INSTRUCTORS FOR W.A.C.(I)

Twelve Junior Commanders of the Auxiliary Territorial Service, with many years experience in recruit training centres in the United Kingdom, will soon be flying to India to lend a helping hand in the training of W.A.C. (I) recruits.

These A.T.S. instructors will stay for some time in Delhi where they will be attached to W.A.C. (I) headquarters in order to make a first-hand study of the Corps and of the Indian conditions. They will then be posted as instructors to the recruit training centres which will soon be established in each of the five Army Commands.

These recruit training centres will provide a preliminary training which will ensure smartness and discipline in the Corps, and also serve as an introduction to Service life.



Two "sailor lassies" serving in Madras. Third Officer Sri Hari and (right) Petty Officer Adams.

SOUTH INDIA'S SAILOR GIRLS IN W.A.C. (I) NAVAL WING



Lady Carlisle talking to an officer of W.A.C.(I) Naval Wing in H.I.M.S. Feroze, where future officers of the wing undergo training.

SAILOR girls from South India are now to be found in ever growing numbers in Naval Establishments up and down the country. They do not go to sea, but by doing a shore job they release officers and ratings of the Royal Indian Navy for service afloat.

These girls in their smart naval uniform—blouse and skirt (with tricorne hat or Sari)—belong to the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing which now plays an indispensable role in R.I.N.'s daily life.

Most of their work consists in handling Naval messages, or "signals" as they are called. Consequently the girls are a vital link between Naval Headquarters in New Delhi and the ships and shore establishments of R.I.N. and they also control a section of the wider communications network that connects the Admiralty with ships wearing the White Ensign on all the seven seas.

In addition, Naval W.A.C. (I)s fill a number of secretarial posts; in H.M.I. Gunnery School, they assist in the training of Naval Officers and ratings; and they play their part in the Navy's intelligence organisation. The scope of their work is constantly expanding.

Comfortable hostels have been provided for the Wing whose members form a happy family devoted to their many and interesting duties.



Tea time for the naval W.A.C.(I)s. Left to right are Chief Petty Officer Roberts, Chief Petty Officer Bull, Third Officer Sri Hari and Auxiliary Baker.

NAVAL WACS TO HELP IN THE WAR AGAINST U-BOATS

LESSONS learned in the "Battle of the Atlantic" will shortly be put to practical use in the Indian Ocean—and girls of the Naval Wing of the W.A.C. (I) will help the Royal Indian Navy to apply them.

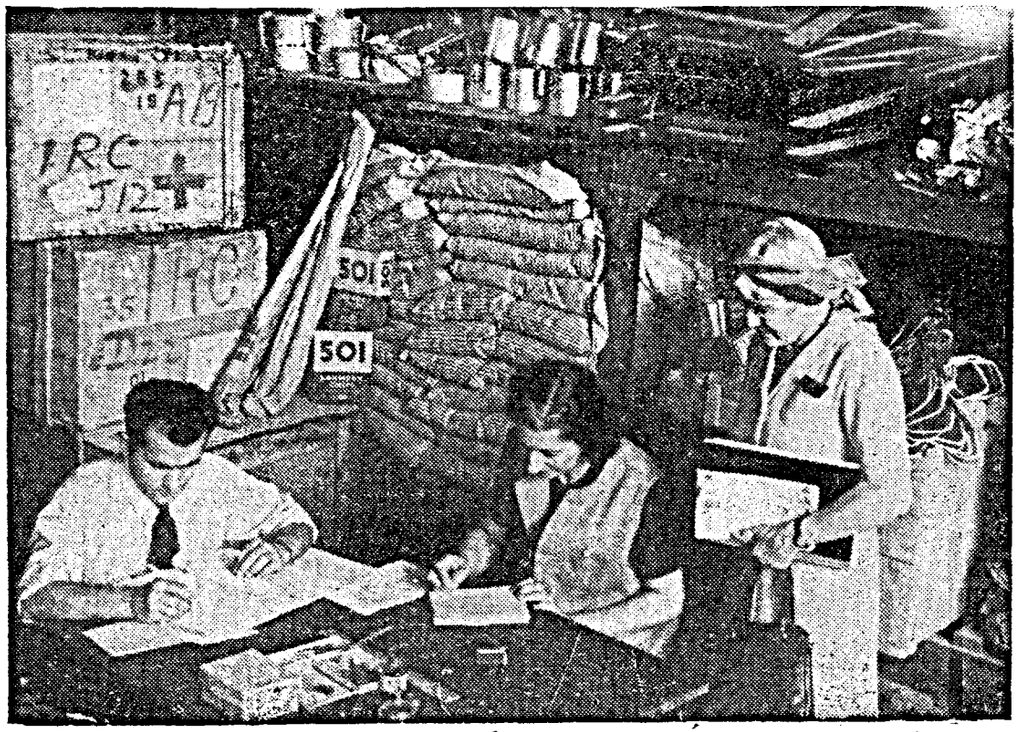
Several officers of the Naval Wing have recently been flown to the United Kingdom where they will undergo specialised training in latest methods of anti-submarine warfare. Such training, given at tactical schools on shore, has been instrumental in enabling "killer" groups of the Royal Navy to assert supremacy over the U-boat in European waters.

When these girls return from the United Kingdom, they will assist specialist officers of the Royal Indian Navy in teaching sea-going officers of escort ships how to cope with the menace of underwater attack.

In addition, the Naval Wing is to profit by the experience of the WRENs. A limited number of instructors have arrived in India from England, and these WRENs, experts in cyphering and other duties, will assist the Naval Wing's instructional staff.



A Naval W.A.C.(I) overhauling a gun.



Indian Red Cross stores being checked before despatch.

AMENITIES FOR INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

PROGRESS has been made in the scheme to send study books and courses to Indian prisoners of war in Europe who wish to work for the Matriculation examination or its equivalent, says the latest quarterly report on the working of the Indian Comforts Fund, London.

Dr. Mitra of the Merchant Navy, who arrived in Britain recenly for repatriation, and who has had experience of at least three different prisoner of war camps, testifies to the safe arrival in the camps of food and clothing parcels and other amenities.

During the thirteen weeks ended July 29, 1944, a total of 1,17,000 food parcels were packed, of which 45,500 were dealt with by the British Red Cross owing to the lack of space at India House.

The number of seamen's bundles distributed during this period was 5,014. At the outset of the invasion of France, there was a drop in the number issued, but in July a ship arrived from Ind[illegible] with new crews, which stretched the accommodation ashore to the utmost, and 1,400 bundles were issued in one week. Mere Hall, Birkenhead, says the report, is setting a good example to other seamen's hostels and clubs by giving lessons in English to a small class of Indian seamen.

Despite the excellent work of 2,600 working parties, appeals have had to be made to other organisations for woollen garments to save the Fund buying ready-made ones. The Scottish Red Cross sent a particularly good consignment and the Navy League sent scarves, helmets and mittens. The Merchant Navy Comforts Service has promised a regular monthly supply, and the first instalment has been received.

On July 17, attending the opening of the new premises for Indian technical trainees at Letchworth, the High Commissioner for India, Sir Samuel Runganadhan, addressed the trainees on their opportunities, impressing on them ideas of progress and unity. He explained the purpose of the Indian Comforts Fund, and how it helped them.

Recent visitors to the Fund included Lady Louis Mountbatten, the Countess Reventlow (wife of the Danish Minister), Lady (Alan) Brooke, Mrs. Peter Fraser (wife of the New Zealand Prime Minister), Admiral Godfrey, R.I.N. Major-General Price (Canadian Red Cross), Colonel Myers. (New Zealand Red Cross), Sir Lancelot Graham, Sir Henry Craik and Major Yeatts Brown.

The balance in favour of the Fund on July 31 was £32,433. This includes £1,591-17-3 from H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the first quarter of 1944.

"PRISONERS OF WAR EXPRESS" MESSAGE SCHEME"

To expedite the exchange of messages between prisoners of war in Europe and their relatives in India, who have not received any message for sometime, the International Red Cross Committee, Geneva, has introduced the Prisoners of War Express Message Scheme.

The Indian Red Cross and St. John, Simla, has agreed to deal with incoming messages. The first two batches have been received (through the A.G.'s Branch); they have been disposed of in accordance with the instructions agreed upon by the Defence Department.

It is hoped that outgoing messages originating from next-of-kin in India, to prisoners of war in Europe, will be shortly put into operation. Full instructions regarding outgoing messages are still awaited by the Indian Red Cross and St. John.

"SALUTE THE SOLDIER" DRIVE

An average of Rs. 3 per head was contributed by the staff at the Rawalpindi Ordnance Depot in their recent "Salute the Soldier" drive and a total of Rs. 8,950 or over two and a half times the target figure, was raised.

The majority of the contributors were humble labourers and they revealed their deep appreciation of the Army by the personal sacrifices which they made in subscribing generous sums.

The action of Natha Singh of Rawalpindi is a typical illustration of their generosity, for he approached the officer accepting the contributions and proferred a five-rupee note from his pay of Rs. 16. When asked how much change he wanted he replied, "Nothing, I am an old soldier and I am very pleased to be able to help all I can."

Rawalpindi Ordnance Depot have now raised a grand total of Rs. 15,200, of which Rs. 6,250 have been invested in War Bonds. The balance of Rs. 8,950 collected in the "Salute the Soldier" drive has been donated as a cash gift for assisting war charities and hospitals.

War Prisoners' Religious Life in Germany

Evidence reaching the Indian Red Cross from Germany shows that efforts made to persuade the Nazi authorities to facilitate religious life among Indian prisoners of war are meeting with considerable success, says an Indian Army Observer.

The latest reports received at the Simla offices of the Red Cross Commissioner indicate that Indian prisoners have practically unlimited means of performing their religious rites in the different German camps.

A statement relating to Mohammedans says that a large number of *Korans* and other religious books have been distributed through the International Committee of the Red Cross.

"In the innumerable camps, seemingly all alike with their hutments, their barbed wire and their watch towers, nothing is more arresting than suddenly to hear the ringing voice of a *muezzin* calling the Faithful to prayer," says the statement.

Hindus are permitted to cremate their dead, and the Germans allow them to prepare their meals in accordance with religious custom.

Booklet of Hymns

Recently Sikhs detained in Germany received through the International Committee a gift of *kirpans*—tiny daggers about one inch long which are invaluable religious symbols to these soldiers.

In order to provide religious instruction in a compact form the International Committee has recently compiled a booklet of hymns divided into four sections corresponding to the different religious beliefs of the prisoners.

The booklet is printed in Urdu, Marathi, Hindi, Hindustani and Sanskrit and is receiving a big welcome from the prisoners.

LETTERS TO RELATIVES IN ENEMY TERRITORIES

A recent Press Note on the Thomas Cook and Sons Ltd. Postal Message Scheme gave details of the procedure to be adopted for corresponding with relatives or friends in enemy or enemy-occupied territories.

The scheme is intended for enemy or enemy-occupied countries in Europe only and does not apply to Japan or Japanese-occupied territories.

A Postal Notice giving full information on this scheme is available at all post offices.

RESETTLING INDIAN SOLDIERS

Brig. F. L. Brayne's Memorandum

SOME of the problems of resettling Indian soldiers when the armistice is signed and demobilisation begins are touched on in a memorandum which has been prepared by Brig. F. L. Brayne of the Directorate of Resettlement.

"At the end of the war we shall have to fit back about a million and a half sepoys into the villages and towns of India," he says: "Many of them come from humble and very simple surroundings.

"In the army they have been well fed, well clothed, well housed and taught a variety of trades. Many can now read and write and some know English. Indian troops have been taught to appreciate books, papers, radios, cinemas, the drama, indoor and outdoor games; they have travelled in many lands and rubbed shoulders with the soldiers of many countries.

"The village has stood still while the sepoy has been away—it may even have gone back owing to the pre-occupation of the civil governments with war work. It has no papers, no radio, no reading room, no organised games, no lighting and no sanitation.

"The women have been subjected to none of the modernising influences which have so changed the soldier. The returning soldier will speak a different language to the old folks at home."

Post-war rural development to enable the soldier to maintain standards comparable to those he has learned in the army must be taken in hand, Brig. Brayne suggests. Prevention of soil erosion, better methods of farming, consolidation of fragmented holdings, dairying, poultry farming, dehydration, compost, grading-up of livestock, improvement in health conditions and organised marketing and credit are some of the many improvements he advocates.

Rural Development

The soldier of today is being taught his role in post-war rural development to the fullest extent that time and man-power allow but any rural development programme can only succeed if men in civil life prepare the ground for work for the soldier who is to come.

"The sepoy of today is fighting superbly, better than he ever fought before," says Brig. Brayne. "His gallantry can only be rewarded if all of us put our heads together in making a leader out of him for the post-war world."



A mobile workshop on the Burma Front.

YOUNG SOLDIERS PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

India in the immediate post-war years will have the opportunity of developing into one of the foremost industrial nations of the world.

Whether the opportunity is grasped and turned to good account depends almost entirely upon the youth of the country fitting themselves to changing conditions by becoming skilled engineers and technicians.

Many are already looking ahead and undergoing technical training in readiness for the day when they will be called upon to guide Indian industry in its new channels, but many more will be needed when that day comes.

Indian Army Technical Training Scheme

Thousands are at present holding responsible positions as a result of the Indian Army Technical Training Scheme inaugurated by the Government in 1940, and the same opportunities are still open to any young man between the ages of 17 and 30, educated to Matriculation or an equivalent standard.

While under training, rations, accommodation, clothing and medical aid are provided free and the trainee is also entitled to leave on full pay, pension and gratuities. The pay ranges from Rs. 63 for an Improver to Rs. 123 p.m. for a 1st grade technician.

Skilled instructors are engaged to impart knowledge in surveying, electrical signalling, draughtmanship, radio and instrumental mechanism, and from every point of view there is a great chance for India's youth to obtain technical training with good pay and fit themselves to reap the benefit of the country's coming industrial prominence. A well-paid job to-day and a lucrative career tomorrow awaits them.

CIVNAVAL CENTRE FOR ARTIFICERS

This normally peaceful township in Rajputana today rings with the beat of hammers and the hum of electrically-driven machinery. Here, many hundreds of miles from the sea, science students from colleges all over India are learning their new jobs as artificers and shipwrights of the Royal Indian Navy, writes an R.I.N. Observer from Pilani (Jaipur State).

The Civnaval Centre at Pilani, run jointly by the Labour Department, Government of India and the Training Directorate of the R.I.N., is staffed by three Indian naval officers and 25 civilian instructors. The six months' course is based on a part of the syllabus of the Royal Navy's Mechanical Training Establishment at Chatham.

The buildings and some of the machinery have been loaned for the duration of the war by Mr. G. D. Birla and the quarters now occupied by the sailor-trainees will become a hostel for students of the Engineering Faculty at Birla College when the war is won.

Much of the electric wiring in the new buildings has been installed by Electrical Artificers under training and one of the "dog watch" occupations of the trainees is planting and rearing new trees in the barracks compound.

Vegetable Garden

Another pleasant way of spending the evenings is lending a hand in the vegetable garden which has been started by the Officer-in-Charge, Lieut. (E) C. L. Bhandari, R.I.N. The vegetables add variety to the ratings' menus.

Four-fifths of these engineering recruits—most of whom have already reached Intermediate Science standard—come from the Punjab and Bengal. Madras provides about eight per cent, and the remainder represent places as far apart as Trivandrum, Quetta and Naini Tal.

The majority of the course is devoted to practical work. Trainees learn to use their hands

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 436)

FREE LEGAL AID FOR BRITISH OTHER RANKS

TO meet the difficulties experienced by serving personnel in obtaining, under war conditions, advice and assistance in their civil legal problems, Legal Aid Sections under the control of the Director-General of Welfare, Education and Resettlement, Simla, have been established in India—at Simla, Lahore, Calcutta and Bangalore. This Legal Aid Organisation in India works closely and is in constant touch with the organisations in the United Kingdom.

The Free Legal Aid Scheme applies to all British Other Ranks (including Members of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India)) of the rank of Sergeant and below, and also Navy and Air Force personnel of equivalent rank provided that they have not sufficient private resources to employ their own legal advisers.

Matrimonial cases, war damage compensation, landlord and tenant problems, income-tax, wills, winding up of estates, business difficulties are among the numerous complicated matters dealt with on behalf of British Other Ranks by Legal Aid Sections. Whilst the assistance given by the Legal Aid Sections is entirely free, personnel entitled under the Legal Aid Scheme have the benefit of "The Poor Persons' Organisation" in the United Kingdom, in the event of Court proceedings being necessary.

WELFARE OF SOLDIERS' FAMILIES IN UNITED KINGDOM

To assist British officers and other ranks, who may be worried regarding the welfare of their families in the United Kingdom, an Indian Branch of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association has been established under the control of the Director-General of Welfare, Education and Resettlement, Simla. The Head Office of the India Branch is at G.H.Q. (I), Wel. 3 (a), Simla and there are Inquiry Bureaux in Lahore, Bangalore and Calcutta.

These Bureaux send inquiries direct to the Overseas Department of the Association in London, who arrange for the families to be visited and submit a report. The S.S.A.F.A. not only make inquiries but give practical assistance (both financial and otherwise) where necessary. The S.S.A.F.A. have been instrumental in assisting many wives to obtain war service grants which had not been claimed through lack of knowledge of the rules governing these grants. Inquiries should be addressed to the nearest Inquiry Bureau, preferably through the inquirer's unit.



Indian troops give a concert in a forward area.

CONCERTS FOR INDIAN SERVICEMEN

STARTING its herculean job of providing first class entertainment for Indian soldiers, sailors and airmen and men of the Mercantile Marine as recently as April last, Fauji Dilkhush Sabha now controls no fewer than 20 concert parties and eight all male miniature parties.

The activities of these parties are not confined to India, for they tour Ceylon, the 14th Army area and also travel as far afield as Iraq and Iran. Reports from all units they have visited testify to their great popularity, and reveal that the shows are greeted with cries of *Fauji Dilkhush Sabha Ki Jai.*

This is eloquent proof that F.D.S.—as it is familiarly known—is providing the kind of entertainment that the Services require.

However, the organisers are not content to rest on their laurels, and are scouring the country to engage artists capable of maintaining the high standard now reached. With this object in view representatives of F.D.S. are now to be found in Bombay, Bangalore and North India. Headquarters is still situated in Calcutta.

Working on the principle that only the best is good enough F.D.S. is making full use of the grant of Rs. 22 lakhs which was allotted for the current financial year and hope that by the end of 1944 they will have 40 concert and miniature parties on the road.

CIVNAVAL CENTRE

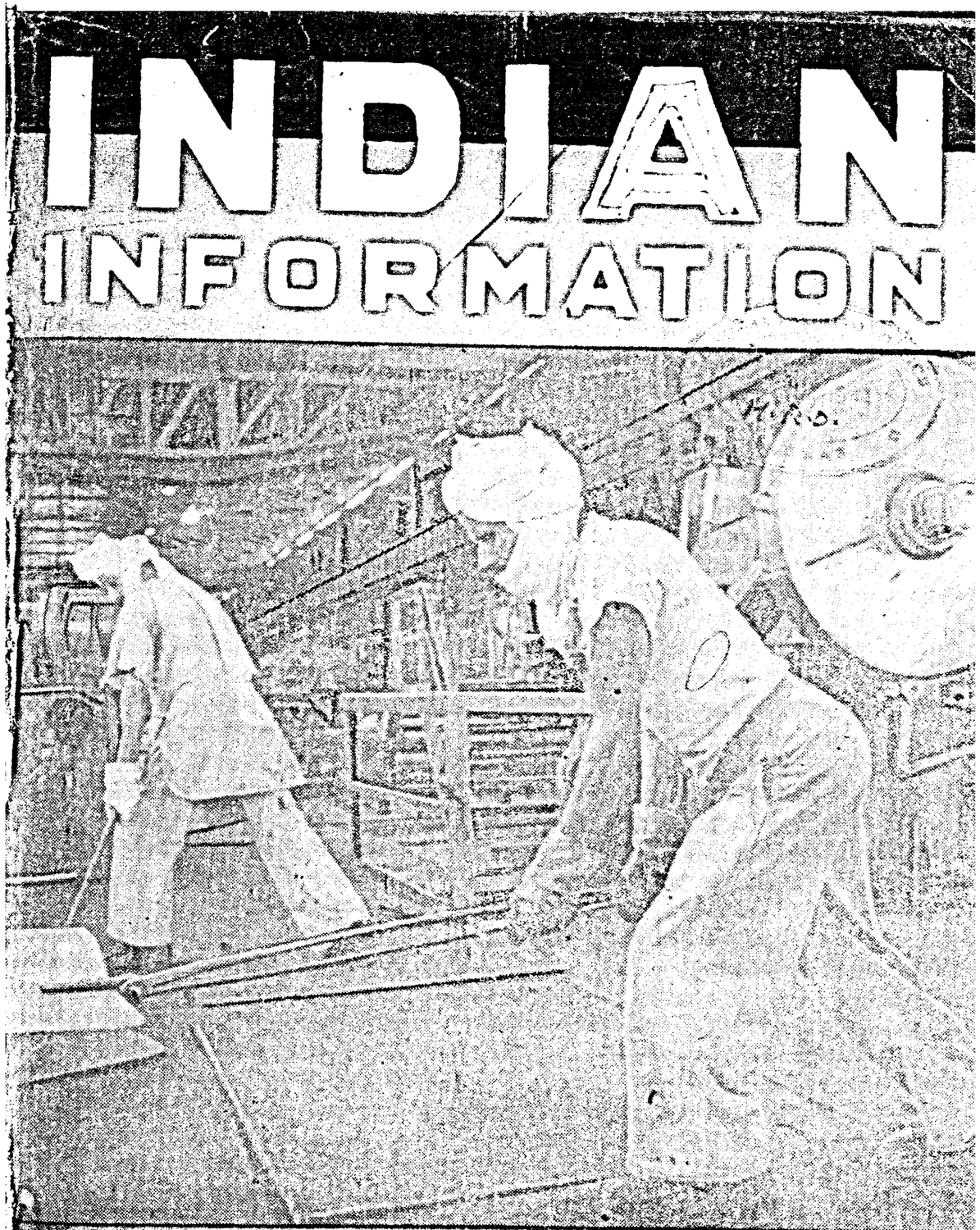
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 435)

and to operate machine tools with a precision that is measured in thousandth parts of an inch. They are introduced to the workings of boilers, turbines and internal combustion engines, and are taught how to make engine components.

On completing their training at Pilani, the artificers and shipwrights pass out to H.M.I.S. *Shivaji*, the new Mechanical Training Establishment near Poona. Here, they receive a year's advanced course before going to sea.

Never before has Indian youth been offered such an opportunity as these two R.I.N. establishments provide to acquire advanced training in marine, mechanical and electrical engineering.

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Government of India.

● FIFTH WAR EFFORT NUMBER



The Bikaner Camel Corps goes overseas. Here, camels arrive by train at an Indian port of embarkation on their way for service abroad.

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AIMS:—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

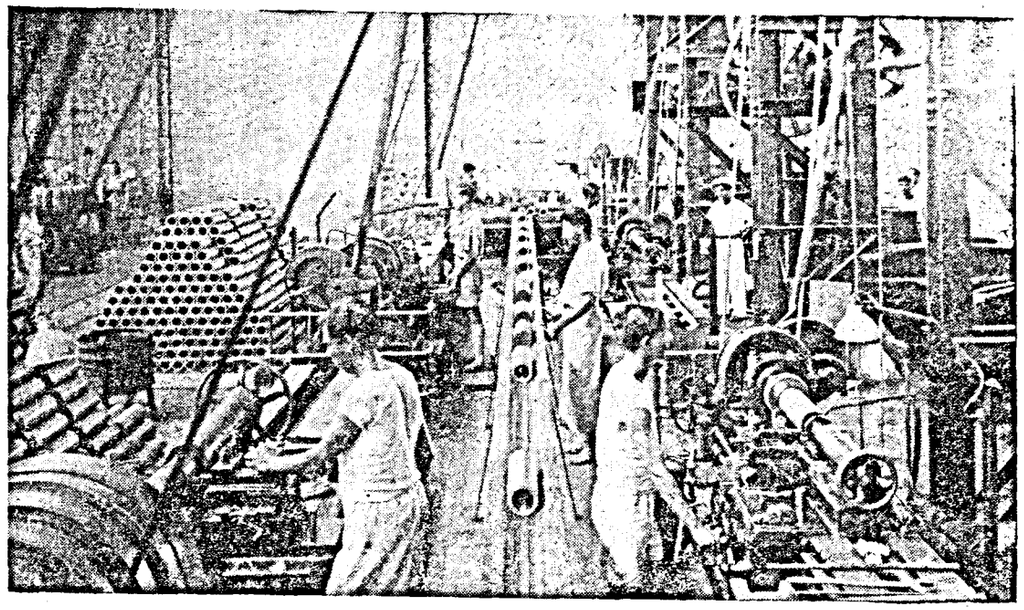
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS. are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

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Associate Editor: P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: Tongsmen at work in the sheet mill of Tata's Iron Works.



Shells in the making: this plant in an Indian railway workshop has been adapted for munitions production.

INDIA ARMED FOR VICTORY

THREE years ago and earlier there was an atmosphere of hectic and feverish activity in the rooms and corridors of hutted structures dotted along the Shah Jahan Road in New Delhi. Industrialists from far corners of India and experts from abroad gathered and met in conferences which seemed to be unending in sequence. India had only a few factories for the production of arms and armaments and many more were needed. Her civil industry had to be harnessed to the war effort. Channels of supply and demand had to be established. India had to arm for victory. This was the task before the organisation of Supply in the earlier stages of its existence.

There was an atmosphere of novelty about these activities. But to-day in the sixth year of war a casual visitor to the Supply Department is impressed with a tone of settled and stabilised activity. Schemes and plans launched early in the war have resulted in a steady flow of war materials. War production and war supplies are no longer strange and unaccustomed tasks. The overworked official of 1940 is still overworked; but he is busy with priority difficulties like coal, power and transport and not with the teething problems of a new organisation. To-day he has time to plan, simultaneously, for war production and for transition from war to peace. Already the organisation of Supply has started functioning in reverse for dealing with war surpluses. India is armed for final victory and she is now able to plan for peace.

This "switching over" has been possible because the fourth and the fifth years of war have proved years of fulfilment of India's expanding industrial war effort. These years have marked the completion of important projects, undertaken as a result of various expansion plans launched at an early stage, for the manufacture of arms and armaments.

In the middle of 1944, the number of Ordnance factories which were in operation in India was three times the number of such factories at the commencement of the war. In addition, the Ordnance Factories Division was controlling large installations for the production of Motor Bezel and Toluene. The production of ammunition and weapons has continued to expand and new high-levels of outturn have been attained. Various new types of small arms ammunition, gun ammunition and explosives have been produced, including screening and coloured smoke

shells, anti-tank mines, anti-personnel mines, smoke generators etc., etc.

A feature of particular importance in connection with small arms ammunition is repacking programme undertaken on behalf of the U.S.A. Forces, involving the repacking of some million rounds of small arms ammunition. Weapon production has increased and much new work has been undertaken in this direction, including the conversion of large numbers of American rifles for the use of the Chinese Forces.

In addition to armament work, the Ordnance Factories have been able to extend considerable assistance to other departments. Large orders have been carried out for the manufacture of maintenance toolkits and spares for the Directorate-General of Aircraft. Orders of considerable magnitude have also been carried out for the Director, Shipbuilding and Repairs, in connection with the repair of vessels of the R.I.N. and Merchant Services. This work included the manufacture of large connecting rods for Diesel engines, the production of crank shaft forging, intermediate shafts, propeller shafts, etc.

Factory Construction

In implementing the various expansion plans, many problems relating to the construction of factories and equipping them with plant and machinery had to be tackled. The construction of these factories has involved the fabrication of thousands of tons of steel work for the industrial buildings and the erection of the buildings at the various sites. Thousands of machine tools and plants items together with the ancillary electrical equipment, transformers, switch gear, etc., had to be imported to equip the factories.

The resources of India have also been used to the maximum in the fabrication and manufacture of such plant as could be produced in the country. To operate the newly constructed factories, major schemes have had to be carried out for water supply, electricity supply, sewage disposal, etc. New road and railway communications have had to be laid down and constructed. Arrangements have also been made for housing the personnel necessary to operate the factories. For example, at one of the larger projects the housing estate provides accommodation for 1,300 staff and 12,000 workmen and their families, the total strength of some 45,000 to 50,000 souls—equivalent of the population of a medium-size provincial town in India.

Some idea of the magnitude of the expansion undertaken can be gathered from the expansion of the staff and labour force in ordnance factories. From 15,000 in 1939, the figures rose to 100,000 in 1944, a six-fold expansion, excluding the large numbers of staff and workmen employed on the production of components for armament stores in railway and trade workshops. This expansion continued steadily in 1943-44, although the rate of input and outturn has not been so high as in previous years, owing to the approaching completion of the Ordnance Factory Expansion Plan.

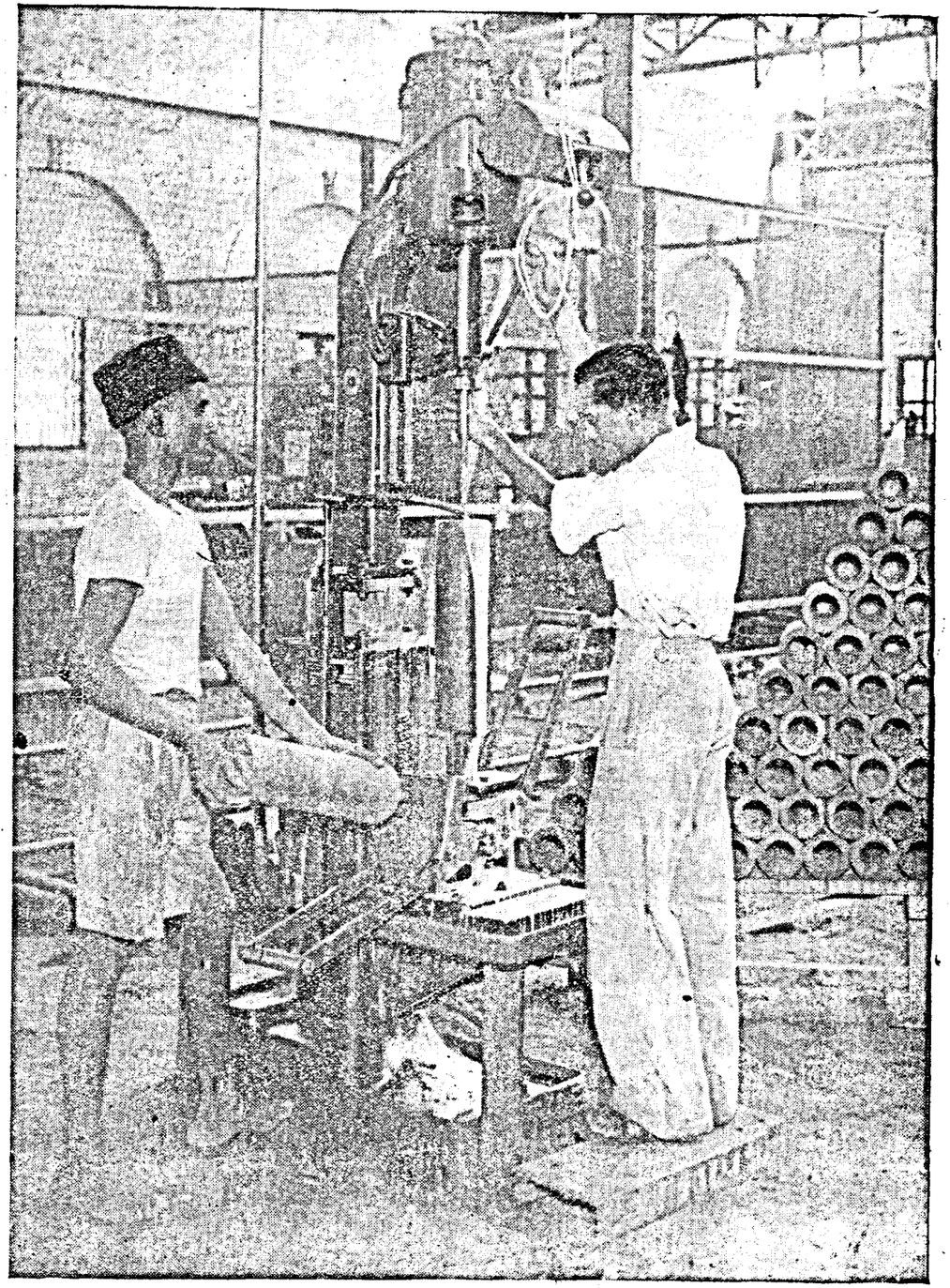
The factory training schemes launched in the earlier years to train workers for skilled jobs are still in operation. The total number of Assistant Works Managers, Supervisors and Tool Setters, highly skilled artisans and skilled and semi-skilled artisans rose to 48,460 in the fifth year of war. Besides this, there were 2,656 men still under training.

Railway Workshops

Along with the ordnance factories, hundreds of trade and railway workshops have been assisting in the production of components. As compared with the fourth year of war, however, there has been some reduction in the volume of armament orders placed. This has been due to the need for reverting railway workshops for railway work and reverting trade workshops to the production of consumer goods. But substantial quantities of empty shells, bomb bodies, mines, grenades, fuses, oil-cookers, etc., have been produced. The production of sheet metal items, iron casings and plastic components, has been of particular value.

In spite of difficulties arising out of the shortage of coal, steady progress has been made in the production of Special Steels including Stainless Steel and Steel for the Royal Air Force. Equipment for Heat Treatment is also being installed and efforts are being made to meet the demand for Special Steels which are needed in India. The Scheme for doubling the capacity of the Steel Corporation of Bengal has made good progress and production of Ferro Silicon continues successfully. India has also been manufacturing High Tensile Steel Wire which is now being used for a number of important urgent demands.

This issue of "Indian information"—the Fifth War Effort Number—presents a review of the war activities of the various departments of the Government of India during the fifth year of the war.



A modern all-electric drilling machine used for centering shells. The rough shells seen in the picture are for finishing to 4.5" H.E. shells.

The production of Alumina from indigenous Bauxite continues and is expected to reach a stage when there will be sufficient aluminium for India's defence demands with a surplus which will be used for essential civil consumer goods. Non-ferros semi-manufactures are being produced in ever increasing quantities and there has been a distinct improvement in the quality of outturn coupled with a reduction in the cost of production. This industry has made special progress in connection with the production of seamless copper tubes of the smaller diameters, which, although restricted in capacity at the moment, is a pioneer enterprise and is expected to develop in the post-war era. Progress has been maintained in connection with the electro deposition and crucible manufacture.

A small lead smelter is now producing lead from indigenous ores and the quality of their outturn is extremely good. Antimony smelting is also progressing in India in spite of difficulties in connection with the actual smelting process and in the transportation of the ore.

While all these developments in the spheres of ferros and non-ferros metals continue with an obvious bearing on war production they may have to play an important part in the post-war industrial reconstruction of India.

Largest Floating Dock

An outstanding achievement in the fifth year of war was the successful construction in India of an Admiralty Floating Dock which ranks amongst the largest in the world. The Directorate-General of Munitions Production is at present engaged on executing another order for a Dock of the same type. It is reported that work on this project is well in hand.

During the past year demands for structural steel work have been greater than in any previous year and fabricated output has now risen to about 10,000 tons a month. Steady progress is being made in the production of armoured vehicles utilising indigenous armour plate. The expansion of bolt, nut, and rivet production continues and it is expected that the level of production will shortly reach between 2½ to 3 times that of the pre-war level. An appreciable quantity of the new production has been achieved by the encouragement and education of small firms both directly through the medium of the Directorate-General of Munitions Production, and indirectly through Provincial Directors of Supply.

A survey has been made of Steel Castings production in India, and a rationalised plan of production has now been agreed upon. While difficulties in obtaining skilled labour in sufficient numbers prevent the expansion of the industry up to the furnace capacity available, the



Finished shells awaiting despatch.

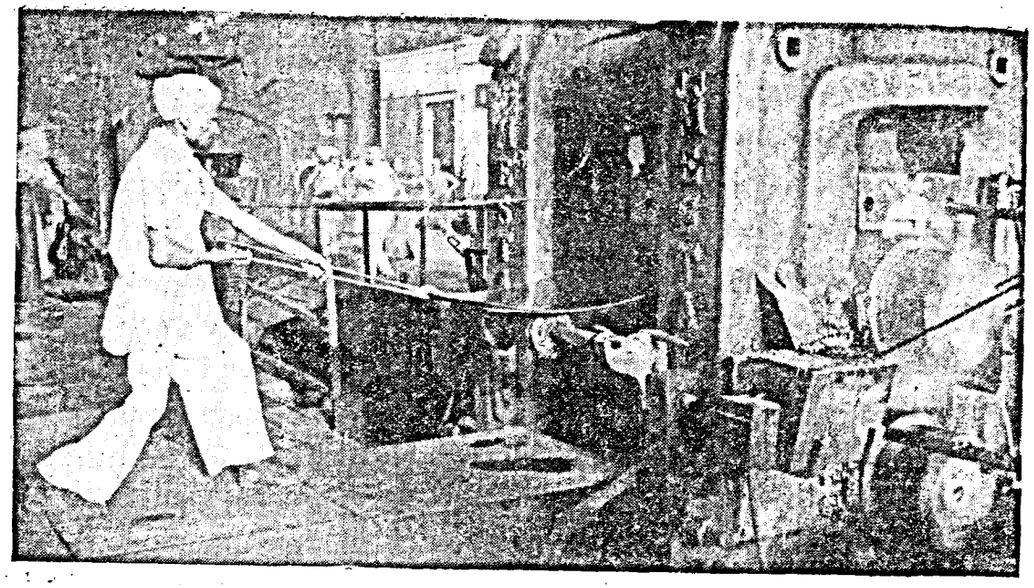
encouragement and education of the newer and smaller firms has already resulted in an appreciable increase in production, and is expected to show an output approximately double the pre-war output.

Indigenous production of hurricane lanterns is being exploited and there will, probably, be an appreciable outturn after the war, available for civil supplies. Electrodes for electric welding are also being manufactured in India.

Manufacture of Dry Cells and Batteries has been expanded considerably to take care of defence services demands. Manufacture of plates for Secondary Batteries has increased and a factory is being put up for the manufacture of Secondary Batteries designed to take care of all defence services requirements.

Tiding over Coal Crisis

But this picture of stabilised activity in the sphere of war production must be looked at against a background of difficulties which had to be overcome in the fifth year of war. Firstly, difficulties were experienced as regards transport. Secondly, a serious shortage of coal, which began towards the end of 1943 has been prevailing during the period under review. The shortage was mainly due to difficulties in labour supply and was coupled with greatly increased demands for coal due principally to industrial expansion. The shortage of labour was caused by the counter attractions of surface works in the neighbourhood of coalfields; some difficulties



Scene in a tinplate mill: the heated pieces are rolled between electrically-driven chilled cast iron rolls till the required length is secured.

in food supply in the collieries and an excellent harvest in some of the districts from which mining labour is normally recruited.

Energetic steps have been taken to maintain coal supplies. A Coal Commissioner has been brought out from the United Kingdom, and from June 1, he has set up an organisation, attached to the Supply Department, to control the production and distribution of coal. Regional Coal Controllers incharge of production and distribution have been appointed in the principal fields. Large orders have been placed abroad for stores and machinery. In particular, arrangements have been made with a firm of American Contractors for large scale development of coal mining principally in railway collieries. While the plant from America is expected to arrive shortly, the plant given by the army has permitted work to begin on extensive quarrying operations some of them containing seams up to 100 feet thick.

To counteract the shortage of labour, steps have been taken to see that no coal mining labour is employed on military and public works in the coalfields areas. In addition, large numbers of labourers from the U.P. have been imported to work particularly on quarrying coal. A food rationing scheme has been put into operation in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields.

As a result of these measures, raisings in the first six months of 1944 compared favourably with those in the corresponding months of last year.

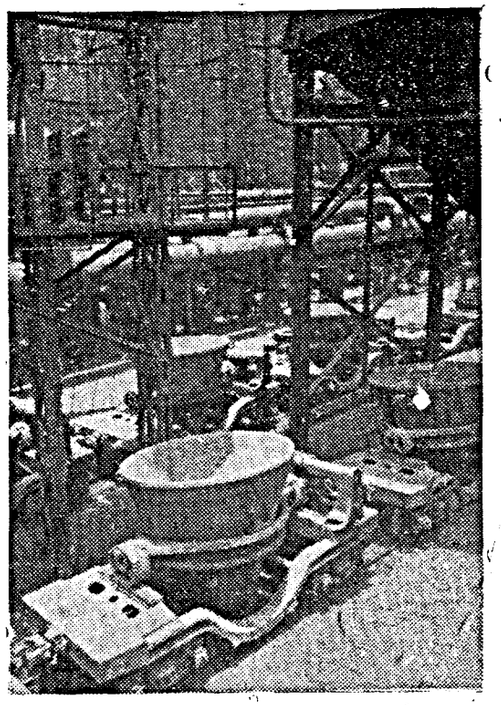
INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION TO MEET INCREASED WAR NEEDS

Concentration on the production of parachutes, changes and improvement in the patterns, designs and modifications of clothing required by Armed Forces, larger increases in timber production, further expansion of industries for miscellaneous stores and continued exploitation of indigenous sources for the manufacture of drugs—these were some of the main features of the activities of the Directorate-General of Supply in the fifth year of war.

The manufacture of parachutes generally and of Supply Dropping Parachutes particularly has increased seven-fold in the last year. Rapid strides have been made in the production of cotton parachutes. Between January and August 1944, production has stepped up to more than three times the figure for the number of parachutes manufactured from the commencement of production to December, 1943.

Parachute Equipment

The manufacture of a special type of parachute has again been taken in hand and there are indications that considerable increases in their production will shortly be established. India also continued to manufacture Equipment Dropping Parachutes for which Indian silk was used. Ancillary equipment for all types of



This double railway track in Tata's Iron Works is in constant use for removing molten products from the blast furnaces.

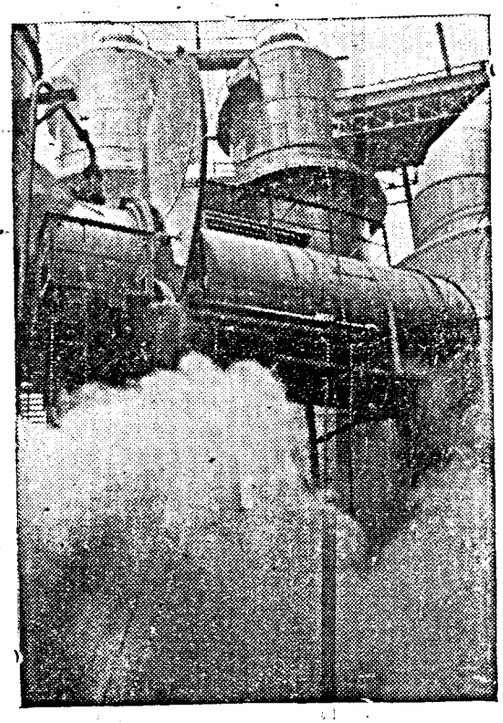
parachutes has also been manufactured in proportion to the production of parachutes. This important war job is being done at two Government factories solely employed in the manufacture of cotton parachutes and one factory in the manufacture of Man Dropping, and Equipment Dropping, Parachutes and ancillary equipment.

The year 1943 was the peak year with regard to the supply of tailored items of clothing. India was then the nearest supply base for armies operating in the Middle East and in March 1943, over 12 million items were fabricated.

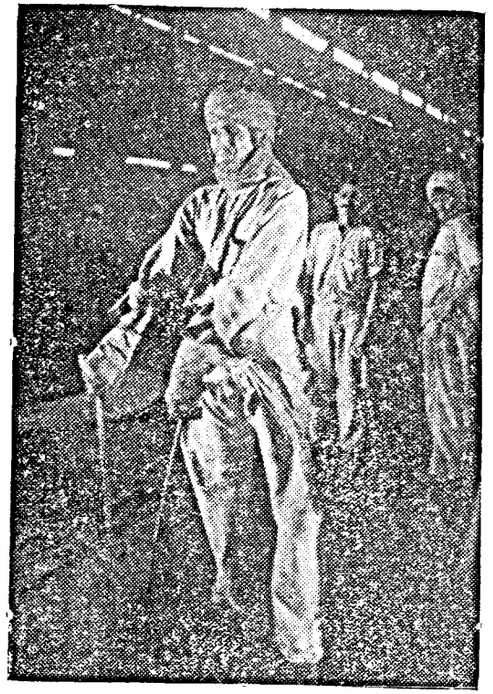
Seven Million Items a Month

In the fifth year of war the ordnance clothing factories were called upon to supply just under 7 million items a month. With reductions in demands for clothing and with increased demand for parachutes, it was possible to turn over one ordnance clothing factory completely to parachute work. Another factory has been split into two, one for clothing and the other for parachutes. There are thus now 8 ordnance clothing factories fully employed on fabrication of tailored items of clothing and necessaries, employing a labour force of 90,000 excluding the indirect labour employed by tailoring contractors throughout India. Some idea of the combined output of these factories during the period under review can be had from the fact that they accounted for and converted some 215 million yards of textiles, over 5,600 million yards of sewing threads and over 500 million buttons and numerous minor components into 78,941,597 tailored items of clothing and necessaries.

A striking feature of clothing supplies in the fifth year of war was the intensity of change and improvement in patterns, designs and modifications of clothing stores. There was a significant change in the character of the load. Demands for hospital clothing, prisoners of war clothing and clothing for Chinese troops were decreased, but the ordnance clothing factories met the requirements of the United States Forces in India. An increased quantity and variety of items were supplied to the Royal Air Force, Indian Air Force, Royal Indian Navy and the Uniformed Women's contingents. The Battle dress for the South East Asia and India Commands was produced in Olive Green and that for the Middle East in Khaki.



Blast furnace stoves and gas main.



A steel worker from the Punjab.

The woollen industry which at one time was being entirely used for war production is now meeting civilian demands as well. Thus the value of army blankets has fallen from Rs. 3 crores in the previous year to Rs. 1,38,56,256. Purchases of silk and jute for war purposes continued to be made during the year.

The combined total output of the Harness and Saddlery Factory, its branches and their contractors, stands at approximately Rs. 20 crores per annum and practically the whole of this is derived from indigenous sources. The Factory is now forging 6,300 pairs of scissors on an average every month.

Leather Production

During the year under review further control measures were introduced to meet the shortage of hides. Arrangements have been made to control the movement of hides and to see that the requirements of the controlled tanneries are being met as far as possible. To check inflation, ceiling prices have been fixed for different types of leather required for the Defence Services and exports have been severely restricted to make available all possible supplies of leather for the requirements of the country. These measures were responsible for the production of 29.36 million lbs. of Bark Tanned leather and 16.46 million square feet of Chrome Upper leather during 1943 as against the production of 25.38 million lbs. of Bark Tanned leather and 15.18 million square feet of Chrome Upper leather in 1942. There has been a reduction in the production of all types of footwear due chiefly to non-availability of sole leather.

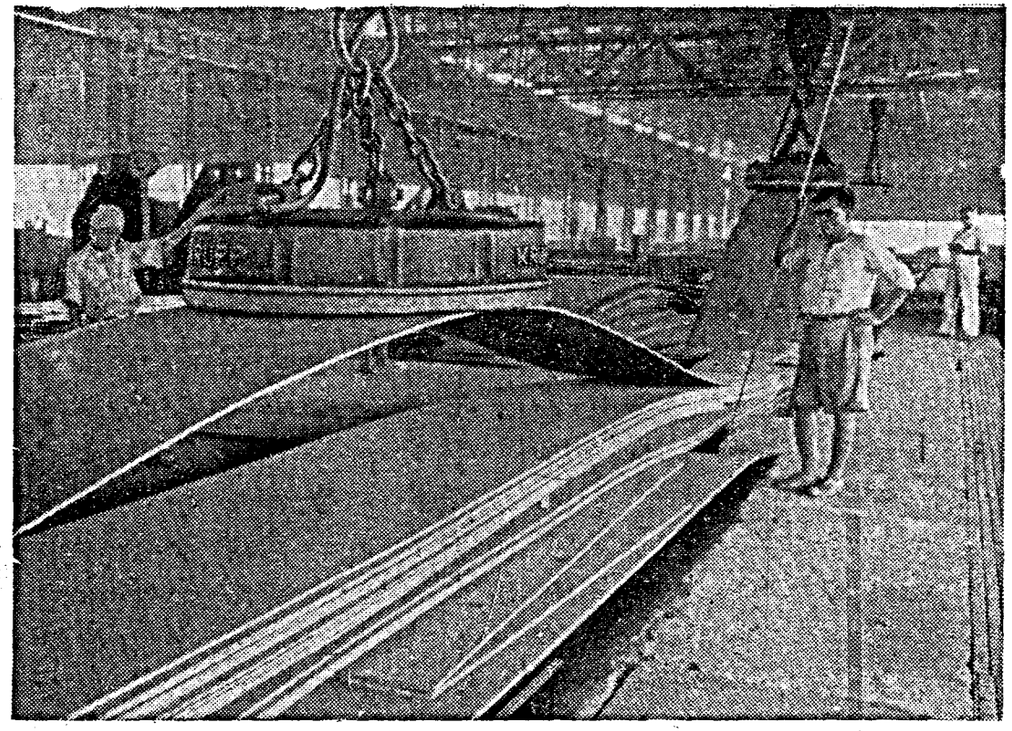
Assembly of Vehicles

Assembly of vehicles imported in knocked down conditions from Canada and the United States of America continued throughout the fifth year of war at a rate exceeding ten times the pre-war output and amounting to thousands monthly. Assembly arrangements were also undertaken for a large quantity of vehicles for the United States Army. Many thousands of composite wood and steel bodies including special armoured cars and carriers, field artillery tractors, etc., were completely produced in India. Actual deliveries to the Army and Air Force in the fifth year approximated to the total of four years' previous deliveries.

Despite transport difficulties, which still persist, Indian timber, apart from other purposes and being now extensively used for the load carrying bodies of Army vehicles and for shipbuilding and the construction of country craft, played a still greater part in the fifth year of war. From 242,000 tons in 1940-41, 753,000 tons in 1941-42 and 863,000 tons in 1942-43, it reached the figure of 1,274,000 tons in 1943-44. Further expansion and increases were also recorded in the production of woodware articles and plywood.

India now possesses her own factories for compressing hydrogen gas for the maintenance of Barrage Balloon Stations. Another development in the sphere of paints and gases is that a considerable expansion in Plant for the production of Breathing Oxygen is in hand. Steps have also been taken to further expand distillation capacity to meet the increasing Defence Services needs in methylated and rectified spirits and solidified fuel.

Early in the fifth year of war came the heartening news that the Attock Oil Company in consultations with and under the directions of the Department of Supply, had struck a new source of oil in addition to oil obtained from the Company's main producing field. Preparations are being made for handling this new oil as expeditiously as possible. There is likely to be some considerable time before the benefits of refined products can be obtained from this new



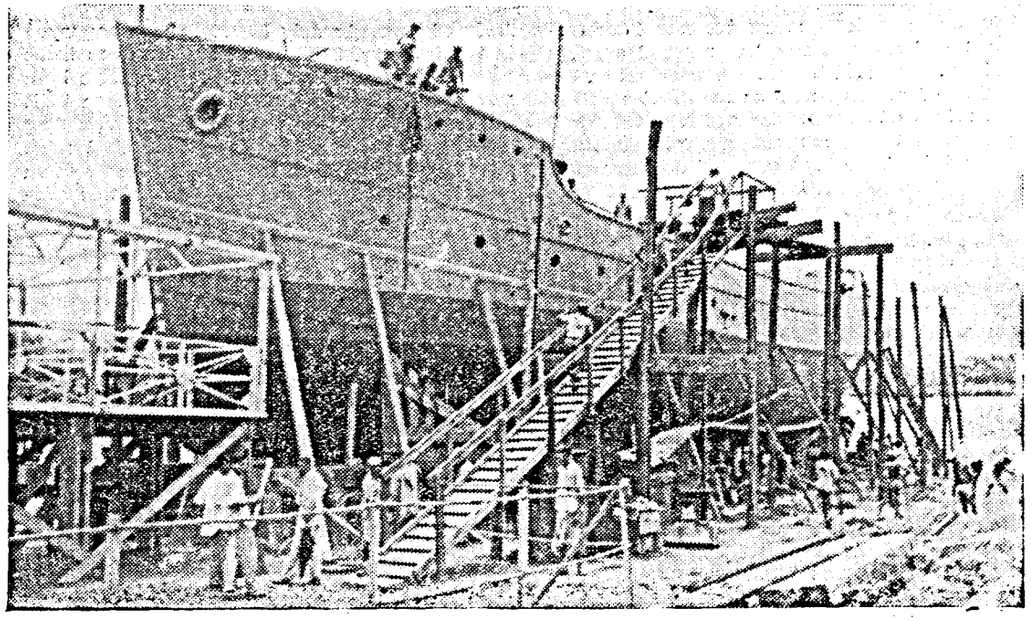
Steel plates for shipyards being transferred by electric magnets to trucks for dispatch.

find, but when it starts, it will be a valuable new source of oil for the war effort of India and the United Nations.

With an over 100 per cent increase in production since the beginning of the war, the Indian chemical industry has now come into its own. Soda ash, caustic soda, bleaching powder, chlorine, sodium and potassium bichromates, chromic acid, sodium thiosulphate and calcium chloride are some of the more important chemicals which were not produced or were produced only on a very small scale before the war. A very large number of pharmaceutical and other chemicals which used to be imported in the past are now being manufactured.

During the fifth year of war several new firms were developed to a satisfactory pitch for the production of high grade surgical instruments. Production continued to be supervised by a highly qualified staff and during the period under review 285,000 instruments of satisfactory standard were produced. Again, it has been a period of heavy demands for many indigenous drugs. In order to implement the expansion of the drug industry in India, a Central Chemical Advisory Committee has been formed under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Member for Supply. Government are taking steps to eliminate difficulties which industrialists are experiencing in expanding their production. Drug making equipments comprising 18 items, which had been ordered from U.S.A. under Lease-Lend, have now arrived in India and these will shortly be allocated to the firms thus enabling them to step up production or to take new items of manufacture. India is now producing the entire requirements of the Allies as regards Strychnine, Caffeine, Santonin, etc. The production figure for Strychnine has reached the high level of 15,000 lbs. per annum and most of this is being exported after meeting defence and civil requirements of India. Steps are also being taken to produce in India Penicillin—the world's "Wonder Drug."

The demand for many crude drugs such as Belladonna, Ephedra, Henbain, Calocynth, Gentain, Valerian, Kurchi Bark, Nux Vomica has been considerably increased as a result of war



A vessel built of Indian steel in an Indian shipyard ready for launching.

demands. Indian "Datura" has proved an important source of Hyoscine which had been in short supply in the Allied countries. The Indian Shark liver oil industry has also been established on a firm footing and malted Shark liver oil is also being marketed for civilian consumption. India's surgical dressings industry is now producing from indigenous sources nearly 90 per cent of items. Similar developments have taken place in the glassware industry and India can now meet her own demands for glass bottles and ampoules, and to a very large extent for scientific laboratory glassware.

By strictly conserving rubber and tyres, by stimulating the production of rubber plantations and by starting factories for the reclaiming of rubber, India has greatly helped to solve the problem of rubber shortage. Steps have now been taken to ensure that alongside with the conservation of rubber, India undertakes to supply rubber for the war effort. New plants for the manufacture of tyres, respirators, special types of hose, etc., have been established and several factories previously making footwear and similar items have been converted for the manufacture of war requirements, as a consequence of which India has been able to make herself virtually self-dependent in regard to rubber manufactures.

SHIPBUILDING AND AIRCRAFT INDUSTRIES

The fifth year of war was a year of further development and organisation of two new industries in India—the Aircraft Industry and the Shipbuilding and Ship Repairs Industry.

Beginning with the manufacture of one aeroplane by the Hindustan Aircraft Factory in 1941, India's aircraft industry has now grown into a network of civil maintenance units under a separate Directorate-General of Aircraft which was formed in October 1943, and is engaged on work that is being done by the Ministry of Aircraft Production in the United Kingdom.

This network consists of 18 units set up in different parts of India and working on the basis of estimates and forecasts furnished by the Air Command, South East Asia. They are engaged on repairing Barrage Balloons, signal equipment, aero-engines, propellers, turrets, wireless set instruments, empty vehicles and many other items of air force equipment. By the end of May 1944, these units had repaired a considerable number of aircraft and aero-engines besides a large amount of aircraft modification and inspection work. The average monthly outturn of a few stores, for example, aircraft dash-board

instruments, magnetos, aircraft accumulator (replating) and aircraft sets has reached a fairly high level. One unit is specially engaged on the assembly of aircraft and its average monthly outturn is 70 aircraft. In addition to Civil Maintenance Units, a number of civilian firms all over India have been engaged on this repair work and their output is increasing each month.

Salvage of worn-out parts and recovery by plating etc. has played a large part in increasing the output from repair. A new unit was recently formed to dismantle obsolete aircraft and recover any serviceable or repairable spares which are inter-changeable with later types of aircraft or which can be used in the repair and manufacture programme.

Tanks from Indigenous Material

Although planning on the manufacturing side has been considerably difficult, the production of a wide range of spares and equipment for air forces in India has been established. During 1943 alone, indents from the R.A.F. for some thousands of different items for manufacture were accepted. Quite recently the manufacture of aluminium and plywood hurricane tanks and spitfire tanks was completed. Three of the ordnance factories specifically set aside for the purpose have been of great help. Experimental tanks of new form of construction developed by Indian scientists and employing indigenous material have been successfully made. This achievement has been possible in spite of two major obstacles, *i.e.*, shortage of machine tools and lack of technical personnel. Steps are being taken to overcome these difficulties.

An officer on special duty has been deputed to England to recruit technical personnel who can be appointed to responsible posts. There is also a shortage of skilled labour, and a scheme to train up the locally available labour at a number of training centres has recently been introduced.

Expansion of Shipbuilding Industry

The shipbuilding industry in India dates back to two years before the war. It was, however, confined to the construction of small craft such as river steamers, steel flats, etc., and country craft. Ship repairs was also limited in scope being confined mainly to repair and maintenance of a small number of ships plying in Indian waters and to a small number inter-voyage repairs to ocean going tonnage which called at Indian ports.

As compared with this pre-war activity there are today about 56 firms whose capacity is devoted to shipbuilding and repairs, and a labour force of approximately 50,000 men is employed in the industry. Schemes of assistance to firms aggregating in value to Rs. 94 lakhs have been sanctioned. Hundreds of ships have been built during the last two years and the building activity covers a wide range from steel mine sweepers and anti-submarine patrol boats down to 16-feet dinghies. In addition to this programme wooden barges for carrying cargo in ports are being built in large numbers along with normal production of country craft.

The tonnage of ships repaired exceeds 26 million. Many of these ships were damaged by enemy action, bomb, mine, or torpedo: much of the tonnage repairs was never before undertaken in India. Ships of the Royal Indian Navy, the Royal Navy and Navies of Allied Nations which suffered damage, some to a considerable extent, have also been repaired.

The industry is also dealing with requirements of merchant ships calling at Indian ports in respect of defensive equipment including plastic armour, manufacture of which is a new development in India.

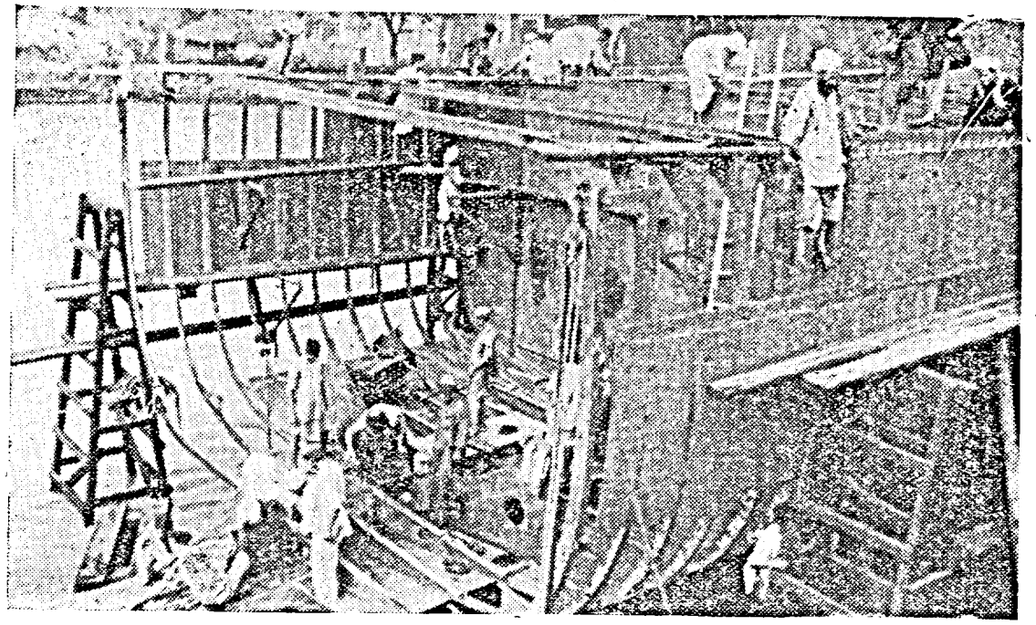
Machinery and Labour

The development of this industry to its present status dates back to June, 1942, when a Directorate-General of Shipbuilding and Repairs was formed to control and expand the industry to enable it to meet the heavy demands placed on it by war. To do this, existing workshops and shipyards had to be expanded, new capacity found and equipped and a sufficient supply of labour secured. Several new firms with no previous knowledge had to be incorporated in the industry and assistance of similar firms able to carry out subsidiary work, such as machining, had to be enlisted. Supplies of essential machinery and of much important material, chiefly, steel were obtained from U.K. and U.S.A. Supply of labour presented a serious problem. Dilution of existing labour has been practised to the limit, evacuee labour has been absorbed and training of likely men as mechanics and skilled tradesmen is proceeding.

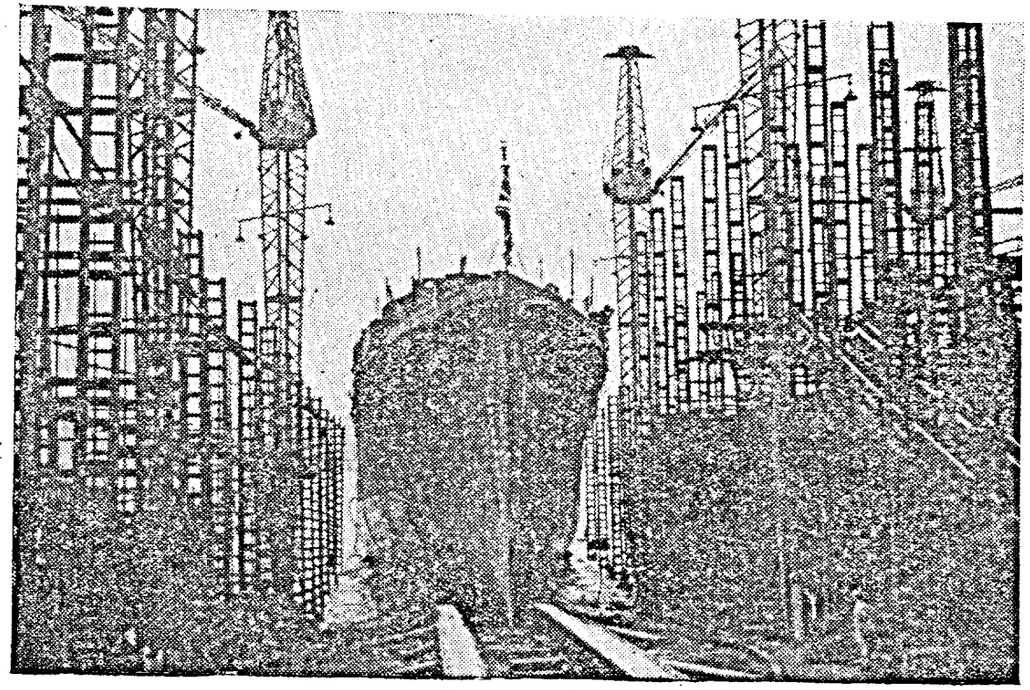
JAIPUR RULER'S CONTRIBUTION

H. H. the Maharaja of Jaipur has contributed Rs. 50,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, earmarked for the benefit of the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association.

The gift has been gratefully accepted by his Excellency.



A Basset trawler under construction in an Indian shipyard.



A new sloop of the Royal Indian Navy going down the slipway.

INDIAN RAILWAYS AND THE WAR

WITH more than 30,000 miles to its credit, more than Rs. 800 crores as capital at charge and an employment register of more than 800,000 men, the Indian State Railways system constitutes one of the biggest capitalistic undertakings in the world.

The Indian railways have played a paramount part in the effective prosecution of war. Railway workshops have turned out during the last five years various types of munitions and other war materials worth crores of rupees; at one time about 20,000 men were specially employed on this work. They have actively participated in the Technical Training Scheme, and at the height of the working of this scheme nearly 8,000 men were undergoing training in 30 different trades in railway workshops. Military specials have been run in thousands and military personnel have been carried over the railways in hundreds of thousands; in addition, essential commodities for civilian consumption, raw materials for war industries and military stores for the Defence Services, have been transported with an efficiency which must be considered most satisfactory under difficult war conditions.

The railways have made a total contribution of about Rs. 120 crores to the general revenues during the war period, and this has effectively helped the financing of the war. All the privately-owned railway systems have now been purchased; and the Indian Railway system at present is entirely State-owned and State-managed—a consummation advocated since a long time by Indian public opinion. Besides irrigation works, and certain commercial undertakings financed out of loans, the railway assets of Rs. 800 crores constitute a very substantial remunerative backing to the total public debt of India.



Armoured Carriers from railway workshops. Picture shows drilling of armour plate.



A view of the assembly line showing riveting etc., in progress. Steel for bullet-proof rivets was supplied by an Indian steel company.

The percentage of net traffic receipts to capital at charge has increased during the war period from 4.3 to 9.6—a performance equal to that of any other great railway system of the world.

The Railway Board have evolved a Basic Plan of development in the post-war period. This comprises, among other things, a capital expenditure of Rs. 319 crores in seven years and a new construction of 5,000 miles of railway in ten years. Details of the Plan are given elsewhere in this issue.

Most Momentous Year

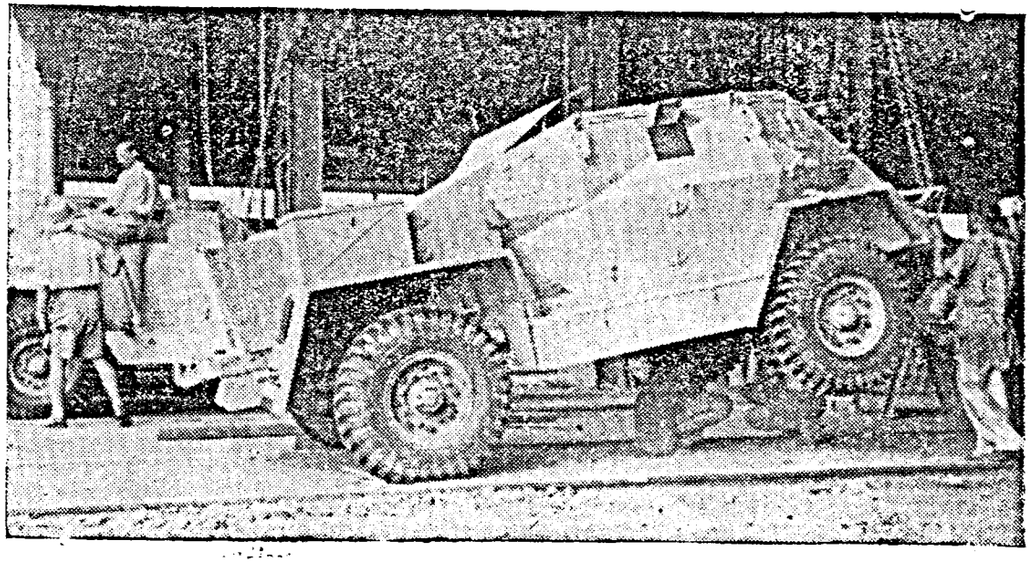
The year has been the most momentous since the war began from the point of view of engineering effort. A number of large schemes costing crores of rupees were taken in hand; at the same time several smaller works involving considerable amount of expenditure and materials were carried out.

Measures were undertaken for increasing the line capacity. It is proposed to double and quadruple 257 miles on the broad-gauge, of which 42 miles have been completed, in addition to 46 miles undertaken in the previous years. This makes a total programme of 303 miles. Similarly on the metre-gauge, it is intended to double 536 miles, in addition to 33 miles already on hand; work done during the year amounts to 34 miles. Remodelling of certain stations, provision of crossing halts, and of additional running loops and extension of loops—these were some of the other works undertaken. The totals of these to date are 12, 152, 129 and 98 miles respectively.

Military Constructions

Works connected with military sidings and depots proceeded apace. Extensions to existing depots and new sidings and depots, with an aggregate mileage of 402, was taken in hand. This brings the total mileage of such works to 1,393 since the commencement of the war. As regards airfield maintenance and construction siding, permanent sidings involving nine miles of track have been laid, bringing the cumulative total since the beginning of the war to 50 miles. Three miles of track in respect of construction sidings were constructed during the year, bringing the total figure to 153 miles.

The heavy works programme placed a great strain on the resources for the supply of requisite material. Track material arranged during the year amounted to 1,041 miles, of



Two armoured carriers undergoing completion inspection.

which 501 miles have been supplied. The cumulative total of track arranged for war requirements amounts to 4,000 miles. Bridging material for 25,000 l. ft. of waterway was arranged, bringing the total supply for war needs to 35,700 l. ft.

Grain Shops for Railwaymen

The railways have taken proper care to see that their employees do not suffer from the effects of inflation and of scarcity of essential commodities. Food is distributed through 625 grain shops to 828,000 ration card holders and their families. The prices charged are static, being those which prevailed in August, 1942,—*i.e.,* a period in which the inflationary spiral had not assumed dangerous proportions. The employees are thus protected from prevailing high prices and any rise over the basic period.

The shops deal in 20 principal commodities; some of these, such as *dals,* spices and cooking oils, consist of several varieties. Last year 10,255,413 maunds of weighted goods were sold. This year the figure has reached 1,247,000 maunds per month. This figure includes 1,200 maunds of milk and 4,000 maunds of vegetables, which items have been recently included in the supply scheme. In addition, 16,000 gallons of kerosene oil, 492,000 cases of soap, 1,704,000 boxes of matches and 795,000 yards of cloth are issued every month.

Military Specials

The cost of distribution, including freight at public rates and all other overhead charges, is Rs. 1-2 per head or 7.6 per cent of the turnover. Railways are spending Rs. 1¾ crores a month in securing the necessary supplies. This scheme gives an employee monetary relief to the extent of Rs. 8-13 per month on purchases for his essential needs only. In August, 1943, this figure rose to as high a level as Rs. 14-1 per employee. The total cost of this vast organisation to the Railway Department was approximately Rs. 10 crores in 1943-44; this sum included the loss incurred on the concessional rates. In the current year, in spite of expanded activities, the total cost is not expected to exceed Rs. 7¾ crores; this is because, as a result of measures adopted by Government, civil supplies have increased and prices have declined.

During 1943-44, the Indian railways have run approximately 8,000 military special trains. Day in and day out, trains conveying troops, ammunition, vehicles, stores, guns, etc., are running throughout the length and breadth of the country so that victory may be finally won. In the year, March 31, 1943 to April 1, 1944, some 8,000 military special trains covered a distance of over 5,400,000 miles.

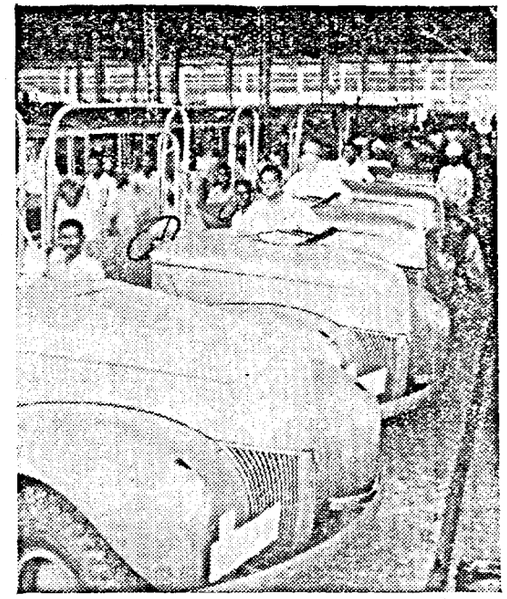
Since the end of last year these specials have run well over half a million train miles every month.

The year under review marked an important change in Railway workshop activities. Consequent on the increased war demands for locomotives and rolling stock and connected fittings, it was found necessary for the railways to readjust their capacity, to give first priority to their own requirements and to request that their workshops be relieved, when necessary and possible, of the Supply Department work. The Supply Department was able to arrange suitable relief by making over a workshop to railway work; considerable numbers of that Department's orders were, however, retained by the railway workshops where such work did not interfere with the railways' requirements, including orders for munitions, the manufacture of special gauges and tools and the reconditioning of service aircraft.

Locomotives Imported

Shops continued to pay increased attention to reducing the number of locomotives and rolling stock which were under repair. In order to meet increased demands for locomotives and rolling stock, invaluable help was received from the U.S.A., Canada and the U.K. Up to March 31, 1944, 219 M.G. locomotives were received from the U.S.A., 17 M.G. locomotives from Canada and 80 B.G. locomotives from the U.K. Out of these 176, 8 and 51 imported from these countries, respectively, were erected in railway workshops in India and placed in service. Orders have been placed with the U.S.A. for 14,080 M.G. wagons, out of which 3,070 have been received; 2,648 have been erected in local shops. A special M.G. Wagon Assembly Plant was laid down at Hyderabad (Sind), to provide additional capacity and to ensure that wagons were erected without delay on receipt and placed in use for traffic.

As a result of the increased demands for locomotive power and rolling stock, there was a corresponding increased demand for locomotive, carriage and wagon spare parts. Requirements were mainly met by manufacture in the railway workshops, particularly of steel, bronze and copper spare parts; but an important proportion of safety items was either imported or secured through indigenous trade sources.



Indian railway workshops also built thousands of lorry bodies for the Army.



Rounding the ends of tent poles in an Indian railway workshop.

Rationalisation in workshop manufacturing capacity was obtained through grouping Indian railways into six main areas on a geographical basis and thus ensuring the maximum utilisation of available plant and machinery.

Thus, at the end of five years of war, the railway workshops, through multiple shifts where necessary and working to maximum efficiency, have adjusted themselves to all demands placed on them both in connection with their own requirements and those of the Supply Department.

From the early stages of the war, munitions production work was undertaken in railway workshops on behalf of the Defence (now War) and the Supply Departments. A number of railway servants belonging to various categories, supervisory, skilled, semi-skilled and others, have from time to time been engaged on this work. The number of railwaymen so employed was approximately 20,000 throughout 1943; but during recent months there has been a gradual decrease, the number at present being about 14,000. This is due to the fact that there has been a reduction of Supply Department work in the railway workshops latterly; the railways are employing the men thus released from war work on railway work proper.

Much has been done by individual railways in encouraging the railway staff to subscribe to war funds and war loans—fetes, dances, variety entertainments, etc., have been organised by railway employees; considerable sums have been raised by such voluntary efforts. On many railways monthly contributions are made through pay sheet deductions. Special mention must be made in this connection of the substantial efforts of the Railway Institute Committees.

Railway employees have been encouraged to invest in savings schemes. In 1940, a savings group scheme was introduced, to which employees could subscribe in instalments. This has since been replaced by other schemes. A Defence Savings Provident Fund Scheme has also been started. Recently, railways have been asked to encourage their employees to participate in the Small Savings Scheme inaugurated by the Government of India.

Technical Training Scheme

In September, 1940, the Labour Department requested the Railway Board to co-operate in their Technical Training Scheme. This was agreed to; and in November, 1940, railways were asked to train technical men in their workshops, on behalf of the Labour Department. Almost all Class I and II railways have taken part in the scheme. At one time as many as 8,000 men were under training in railway shops.

The men were trained in more than 30 different trades. These were: draftsmen (mech., J and tool), tool makers, die sinkers, welders (elec. and oxy.), millwrights, boiler attendants, boiler makers, fitters, turners, blacksmiths, tin and copper smiths, grinders, machinists, carpenters, painters, textile refitters, electricians, moulders, engine drivers (steam and I.C.), motor mechanics, riveters, linemen, armature winders, electric fitters, millers, drillers and engine artificers.

From September, 1941, till April, 1943, the number of trainees undergoing training in the railway workshops steadily increased, the number being 8,000 in April, 1943—the highest number reached. From the latter month, however, the number gradually fell, the number under training in May, 1944, being only 2,792 men. This diminution is due to the fact that the Labour Department have totally closed down training centres in the workshops of several railways and reduced a certain number of seats from the allotment of certain other railway workshops.

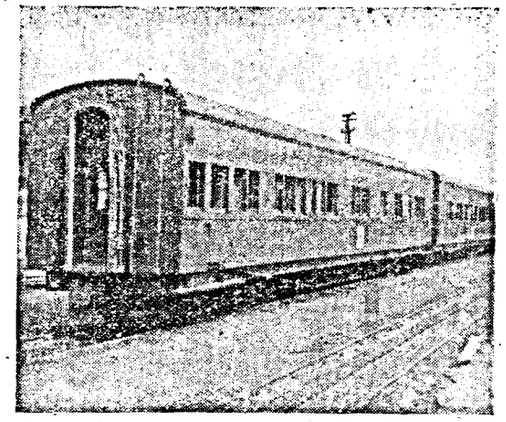
Railway Finances

The substantial contribution by railways to general revenues during the war period has greatly helped the financing of the war. The financial results of railway operation during the current and the previous two years are given below. (The figures are in crores of rupees).

	Accounts 1942-43	Revised Estimates 1943-44	1944-45
Gross traffic receipts	155.48	178.50	192.00
Working expenses	68.98	89.99	95.31
Depreciation Fund	12.57	16.88	17.12
Net revenue (after miscellaneous adjustments)	73.10	72.62	80.96
Interest charges	28.03	28.85	28.75
Surplus	45.07	43.77	52.21
Contribution to general revenues	20.13	32.27	31.37
Transferred to railway revenue	8.86	11.50	20.84
Repayments to Depreciation Reserve Fund	22.38*	—	—

(*Includes Rs. 6.30 crores transferred from Railway Reserve).

From 1939-40 to 1944-45, the general revenues has received a total contribution of Rs. 120.43 crores. The Railway Convention in respect of the relation of this contribution to capital at charge has been kept in abeyance since 1943-44; according to the new formula, 25 per cent of the surplus commercial lines is to be transferred to Railway Reserve and 75 per cent,



An ambulance train built in an Indian railway workshop.

after meeting the loss on strategic lines, credited to the general revenues.

The balance in the Railway Deperciation Fund at the end of 1942-43, which was the first year when the actual and nominal balances were the same, was Rs. 82.07 crores. On March 31, 1944 it amounted to Rs. 87.93 crores. As withdrawals will be heavier in the current year, the balance will fall to Rs. 82.05 crores at the end of 1944-45. At the end of this year, the Railway Reserve Fund will amount to Rs. 31.69 crores.

The Central Legislature set up in March, 1944, it amounted to Rs. 87.93 crores. As withamong other things, was to report on the question of railway depreciation. They submitted an interim report recommending an immediate inquiry as to what additional appropriation, if any, should be made to the Depreciation Fund during the war as an emergency provision for additional wear and tear on railway assets arising out of war traffic. They subsequently themselves made further proposals in this respect. Government accepted these recommendations and made an additional appropriation of Rs. 4 crores to the Depreciation Fund in 1943-44; a similar provision has been made for the current year.

The interim report made another recommendation regarding the long range policy to be followed in respect of allocations to the Depreciation Fund. It suggested a comprehensive inquiry, as early as possible, into the lives of the assets, including the rate of obsolescence, and the consequent normal rate of contribution to the Depreciation Fund. A Committee was set up for this purpose in September last and is expected to complete its work in six months.

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN RAILWAYS

THE Railway Board is going ahead with the preparation of plans for the post-war development of railways in India. One of its Members, Sir Lakshmipati Misra, has been especially entrusted with the task. Although the full picture of the railway plan cannot be drawn until other development plans mature and until the Board is in a position to estimate at least approximately the full extent of the improvements and general development which would be needed on railways to keep pace with other post-war schemes, efforts are being made at present to prepare a plan on a basis which is practical enough to be put into execution without any severe strain on the finances of Government and which would place railways in a position from which the basic plan could be enlarged or adjusted to keep pace with the other post-war schemes of development now being planned by Government.

The Basic Plan

The Basic Plan consists, in the first place, of providing for rehabilitation, repair and replacement of workshop machinery, locomotives, wagons, coaches, track and other equipment which have been subjected to abnormal wear, or whose replacement has fallen into arrears, as a result of the war.

It is proposed to establish workshops for the manufacture of locomotives in India. Suitable steps are being taken to commence manufacture, as soon as possible, at the Kanchrapara workshops, with a production capacity of 70 B.G. locomotives per year. The possibility of utilising, by necessary conversion, another workshop for this manufacture is being examined. The question of increasing the production capacity of the Ajmer workshops for manufacturing M.G. locomotives is under consideration.

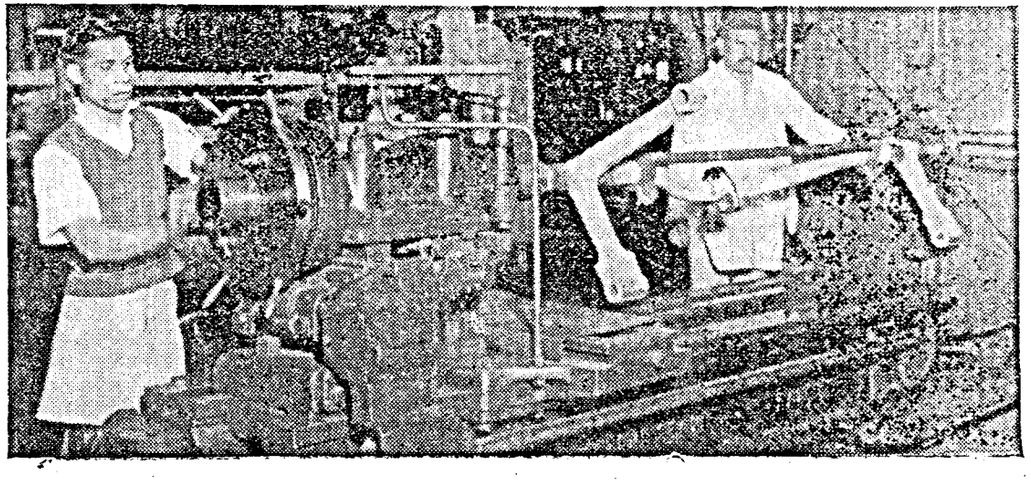
Negotiations are proceeding with a private firm for the manufacture of boilers in India. If a satisfactory arrangement can be reached, a boiler manufacturing industry is expected to be established even before the end of the war.

For annual replacements, the average requirements of goods wagons are estimated to be 4,000 B.G. and 700 M.G. The wagon building industry is considered to be adequately capable of stepping up its production to these figures.

Construction of New Lines

It has been estimated that relayings and replacements, including rehabilitation of the arrears caused by the war, will require approximately 1,25,000 tons of rails, for about 800 miles of primary relaying; with the rails thus released, a further secondary relaying of 600 to 700 miles is considered possible. The capacity of rolling mills in India is of the order of 1,40,000 tons a year. The balance of 15,000 tons per year should suffice for additional track mileages required for operative improvement works.

A programme of construction of new lines, and replacement of lines dismantled during the



Locomotive construction in an Indian railway workshop. Picture shows turning operation on a reversing shaft.

war, has been laid down. Out of a total mileage of about 14,000 surveyed or proposed, it is considered possible to undertake within the next few years the construction of 5,000 miles, which could be undertaken with immense benefit to the territory they are built in. The plan provides for an annual programme of 500 miles, spread over a period of 10 years, at a total cost of approximately Rs. 100 crores.

Annual replacements, spread uniformly over a number of years, are contemplated of workshop machinery, locomotives, wagons and coaches, etc. This will materially assist industrial development in India.

Certain kinds of operating improvements have been planned. These are doubling of track, additions and alterations to stations and yards, additions to and improvements in signalling and interlocking, expansion of control wires, road over bridges, water softening plant for improving engine outturn, strengthening of weak bridges, watering facilities for engines and coaches, and additions to engine sheds and "sick" sidings.

Amenities for 3rd Class Passengers

It is proposed to provide more conveniences and better amenities for third class passengers, both in trains and at stations. A reduction in the number of classes on railways is contemplated. The standardisation of all-steel coaches for third class passengers will shortly be studied. The design will incorporate more roomy seating accommodation and more spacious and suitable lavatories, etc. Other amenities proposed include raised platforms; provision of new platforms and lengthening and surfacing of existing platforms; provision of over-bridges, sanitary latrines, additional waiting sheds, improved water supply and watering place, waiting rooms for third-class lady passengers, plantation of shady trees, and improved booking arrangements; provision of overhead watering arrangements for carriages, vendors' shops and stalls, improved accommodation in waiting sheds; and provision of additional coaches.

Staff Welfare Measures

A number of staff welfare measures is contemplated to improve the efficiency and meet the social needs of railway employees. Such measures include supply of drinking water, extensions to railway hospitals, additional dispensaries, training schools for staff, railway institutes, improvement of staff quarters and additional staff quarters and disposal of sewage of railway colonies.

Other aspects of the basic plan are: absorption of demobilised army personnel in railway

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 516)

RAILWAYS IN POST-WAR INDIA

Sir Lakshmipati Misra's Radio Talk

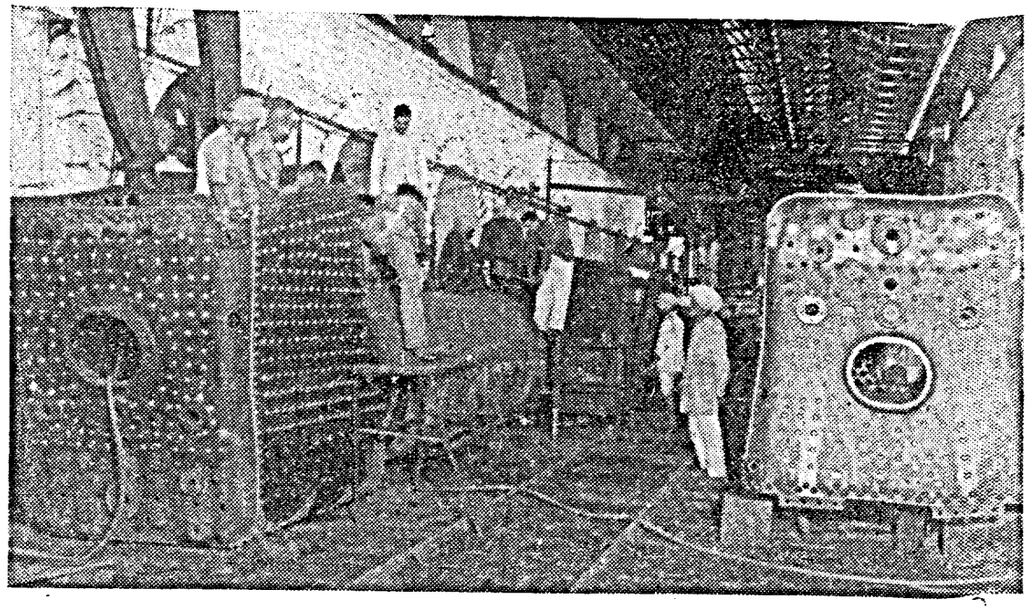
A PICTURE of Indian Railways' post-war plan was drawn by Sir Lakshmipati Misra, Member of the Railway Board, answering questions over All India Radio, Delhi. Here are the questions and the answers.

Question: Expert post-war plans have been prepared for agriculture, education, medical relief, industrial development, civil aviation, etc. The Bombay Plan has been before the public for more than six months. Have railways prepared any plan to meet post-war developments in the country?

Answer: Yes. Railways have also prepared a fairly comprehensive programme. If the ideal aimed at in the Bombay Plan is realised, the cost of the Railway Plan would come up to about Rs. 1,200,00,00,000 in the first 17 years of the post-war period—Rs. 320,00,00,000 in the first seven years, Rs. 400,00,00,000 between the seventh and twelfth year and Rs. 500,00,00,000 in the last five years; but it must be remembered that planning for railways is quite different to that adopted for medical relief, education, agriculture, etc., for in the case of the last three, the needs are fairly well known and can be programmed with some approximation, while in the case of railways, the needs will develop with the materialisation of the post-war reconstruction plan of the country and it would be difficult for railways to gauge its effect on their carrying capacity or to estimate even approximately the full extent of the improvements needed on this account in any particular year.

Reconstruction Programme

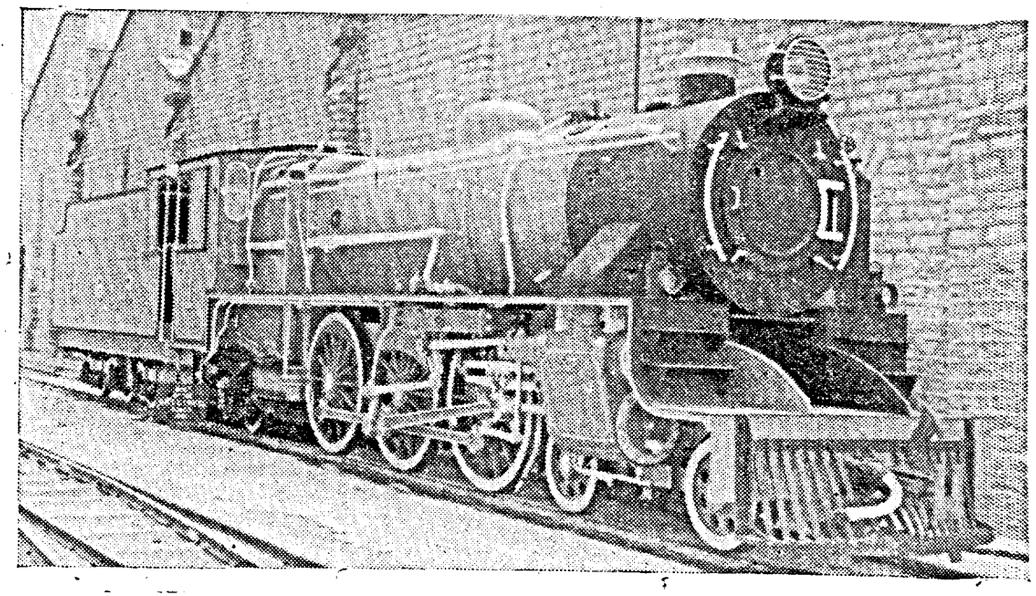
If money is not to be squandered, the Railway Plan has to be so prepared for post-war reconstruction as to enable railways to provide equipment and services a little in advance of what they may be required to carry from year to year. The railway reconstruction programme represents at this stage only the first phase of the basic plan but is capable of considerable expansion without any serious difficulties if other general developments materialise earlier than expected. It provides for rehabilitation, improvements in operation, efficiency and welfare of staff, amenities for third class passengers and new constructions. Under rehabilitation, workshop machinery, locomotives, coaching and goods stock, track ballast, rails, sleepers, bridges, signalling and other equipment are to be brought



Assembly work on a new locomotive boiler in progress.

up to a proper standard of efficiency. The operative improvements provide doubling of track in station yards, signalling and interlocking of control wires, road over bridges, water softening plants, strengthening of weak bridges and additions to engine sheds and "sick" sidings.

Plans have been made to house about three-fourths of the railway staff, supply good drinking water, provide new railway hospitals and dispensaries, training schools for staff, institutes, and Rs. 56,00,00,000 are to be spent on new lines to open up and develop backward areas in India.



This YB locomotive was constructed in an Indian railway workshop.

Q.—Yes. You are quite right. Railways have to anticipate their requirements and must, therefore, find more difficulties in planning. It would be wise to concentrate on the first seven years of the post-war period and expand the plan even during this period if required, but I notice that the Railway Plan provides only for 2,800 miles of new constructions while the Bombay Plan recommended 21,000 miles of new railways. Is there any special reason for planning such a small mileage in the first seven years?

A.—Yes, for over 80 years, railways provided in the areas served by them a form of transport quicker, more comfortable and cheaper in cost per mile. They were considered indispensable for opening up new territories; naturally the progress in a country used to be judged and was to some extent dependent upon the mileage of the railways built.

With the development of aeroplanes and road motors the position has completely changed, as these two forms of transport provide for certain requirements better facilities than railways, and it would no longer be prudent to judge the utility of a railway plan or its contribution to the economic development of the country merely by the mileage of new railways programmed for construction. Statistics in respect of the number of square miles of territory or population per mile of railway will not be a correct guide in considering this question, for when railways were built in Europe or America, aeroplanes and road motors had not been developed. If countries in Europe or America were to plan their railways and roads now, they would provide much less mileage of railways than what they built in the past.

Railway Mileage in Russia

It is not generally known that Russia with a much larger area than India had in 1918 almost the same railway mileage as that of India, but in spite of the serious deficit, Soviet Russia built between 1918-36 only 9,000 miles of new lines or an average of 500 miles per year over its huge Continent. In view of what Russians have achieved in this war, no one can accuse them of having failed to meet the economic requirements of their country. If an average of 500 miles a year was found by Russia to be sufficient to develop its backward areas, India cannot be said to have been starved for rail communications if an equal mileage is planned for the first quinquennium of post-war reconstruction.

It is expected that with 5,000 miles of new railways, no place of any importance will be more than 25 miles from a railway except in the deserts or hills. It is sincerely to be hoped that the lessons of this war in regard to transport deficiency in India will not be forgotten and that the transport in India will be regarded as a whole. Roads, railways, waterways and air services will play their full part in the development of the country by no means rich enough to afford the luxury of duplication of effort and consequent waste of its limited resources.

If it is essential that every rupee spent on national development must be used to the best advantage, expenditure on each form of transport will have to be restricted only to what is required for the development of the country. New railways should be built in such areas as cannot be developed through roads. In any case, about 15,000 miles of railways have already been surveyed, and it will be quite easy to increase the programme of new constructions, if necessary.

Q.—Thank you for this information, Sir Lakshmipati. It clears the ground but could you give me a general idea of the basis on which the Railway Department is planning its reconstruction?

Objects of Plan

A.—Yes, the post-war reconstruction of railways is being planned solely with a view to render genuine service to the country, to railway employees and to earn small profits for railways. The plan is intended:

(*a*) to increase the dignity and comforts of third class travel;

(*b*) to give quicker and more efficient service to railway clients; and

(*c*) to improve the health and efficiency of its employees and thus increase their usefulness both to the public and to their employers.

Q.—I agree that these are good ideals to base post-war reconstruction, but do you think, Sir Lakshmipati, that you would be able to achieve them with a comparatively small expenditure of Rs. 320,00,00,000.

A.—I mentioned earlier that Rs. 320,00,00,000 represented expenditure for only the first quinquennium and that if the general developments now being planned materialise in the country and its wealth increases; the expenditure planned in the next two quinquennia would be considerably more.

The difficulty as far as can be seen at present in materialising the Railway Plan may not be so much of finance as of lack of experience in the technical personnel. Till the staff in charge have acquired sufficient technical experience to get the best out of the expenditure incurred, it may not be wise to throw on them greater burden than what they can bear. Apart from this consideration, the expenditure proposed for the first seven years may appear small compared with what is required for other post-war plans in the country, but it is colossal compared with the amounts spent on rehabilitation, improvements and development in any period of railway history in India. If properly utilised the expenditure programmed will certainly bring railway equipment and service to a standard of efficiency of which any Indian may justly be proud.

Q.—I see your point, Sir Lakshmipati, but I would like to put you an entirely different question now. How are you going to provide finances even for the expenditure of Rs. 320,00,00,000 involved in your scheme in the first quinquennium?

A.—About Rs. 120,00,00,000 out of this expenditure will be from the Depreciation Fund which the railways have been building for utilisation in the post-war period, the rest, about Rs. 200,00,00,000, will have to be financed out of loans at the rate of about Rs. 35,00,00,000 a year. This demand cannot by any means be called excessive for developments and improvements on what is today not only the chief transport organisation but also the largest employer of industrial labour and a vital factor in the development of the country.

Q.—The third class passenger has so much suffered in the past that he expects that his interests will be prominently considered and provided for in the post-war scheme of things. Would you kindly explain what your proposals are for improving his conditions of travelling?

Amenities for 3rd Class Passengers

A.—I fully share your views that the third class passenger having contributed most to railway earnings in the past has a claim for special consideration in the post-war reconstruction of railways. Amenities for third class passengers are a very important plank in the post-war programme. They will cost a large sum of about Rs. 45,00,00,000 and provide a much higher standard of comfort in waiting rooms, quicker and more convenient issue of tickets from booking offices, better food, better washing and bathing arrangements, greater attention and courtesy being shown to him at stations and better and more comfortable travelling in third class coaches.

Q.—How will the Railway Plan assist basic industries like locomotives and boilers manufacture and wagon construction?

A.—Plans for the manufacture of locomotive boilers at Kanchrapara are nearly complete. The Government of India are already in negotiations with a private firm for the manufacture of locomotive boilers immediately as a war measure and of engines as soon as possible in the post-war period. Machinery required for the boilers has already been ordered and is expected in the near future. It is hoped that by the end of the third year of the post-war period one or possibly two shops may have commenced the manufacture of locomotives in the country.

In regard to wagons, the building capacity in India is being developed for about 800 wagons per month and will be sufficient to cover all the requirements in the earlier stages of the post-war period. The manufacture of passenger coaches has already become an indigenous industry. With the developments now taking place, India should become self-supporting in the near future in respect of her requirements of standard types of post-war engines, boilers, wagons and coaches.

Industrial Development

Q.—This is quite satisfactory, Sir Lakshmipati, but what about other industries? How will your plan react on and foster general industrial development of the country?

A.—I have already given the details in regard to the manufacture of engines, boilers, wagons and passenger coaches. The next important item is workshop machinery. Its replacement requirements have been worked out for the first 20 years of the post-war period and the machine tool manufacturers in the country are being advised through the Machine Tool Controller of the business available for them in the post-war period. It is up to them to take full advantage of the encouragement now being assured to them and manufacture all that Indian railways need.

Q.—What will be the future relationship between railways and other forms of transport—road, river and air?

A.—If India is to be developed on scientific lines, there must be co-ordination of effort between all forms of transport. Railways are out to serve the community to the best of their resources and equipment. They feel that their salvation and that of other forms of transport lies in a properly controlled and co-ordinated system and that it would offer ample scope for the utilisation to the fullest extent of railways, aeroplanes, steamers, country boats, road vehicles, lorries, bullock carts, etc.

If the country develops according to plan, there should be ample business and profits for all. If it does not, no form of transport will make any special headway. Co-ordination between transport agencies will be the most pressing need of the country in the post-war period. It is obvious that the lion's share of profits for any particular form of transport in an undeveloped India will be much less than regulated profits for all in a well developed India. Let transport organisations, therefore, assist this development and improve their services to the community. Adequate business and profits will follow automatically.

HOW WARTIME TRANSPORT HAS FUNCTIONED

Progress of Country Craft Organisation

ALTHOUGH there was nothing spectacular or exciting in its work, the War Transport Department was engaged during the past year in activities designed to consolidate and strengthen the several schemes which it had inaugurated in the previous years for the purpose of regulating wartime transport on an effective basis.

The rail priority organisation was expanded and the system of granting priorities strengthened to meet the evergrowing demand on rail transport for the movement of essential traffic. The principle of advance programming and rationalisation of movements was developed.

Conversion of motor vehicles to producer gas continued. Vehicles were obtained on Lease-Lend and otherwise and passed on to civil use under a scheme of controlled distribution. Motor spare parts were also made available through controlled distribution. As an anti-inflationary measure, the speculative boom that was going on in the sales of second-hand cars was checked by fixing prices and regulating sales.

The Country Craft Organisation, which was set up during the previous years, was successful in diverting a substantial volume of traffic to country craft; a new "Route Scheme" has been introduced for the 1944-45 season.

Coal distribution suffered a set-back temporarily owing to floods, and later to labour shortage, caused by competing demands, which resulted in a decline in the output of coal. A coal rationing scheme was, however, introduced and allotment made to each industry on the basis of the month's estimate of output.

The problem of post-war planning of roads, which subject has been transferred to the Department from July, 1944, is engaging its prominent attention.

Railway Priorities

The Bombay docks explosions occurred in April, 1944. A Commission of Inquiry was immediately appointed, which has submitted its report giving the causes and course of the incident.

The system of railway priority control introduced in April, 1942, has been expanded and remodelled in view of increasing demands on rail transport. The intensified war effort of the country involves a progressively higher demand for military movements of personnel, stores and equipment both from and to ports and within the country—and for movements of raw materials to and finished products from the numerous factories engaged on work directly or indirectly connected with the war. Apart from these, essential foodstuffs are being moved by rail in considerably greater quantities than in pre-war days. All these and numerous other demands necessarily require that priority should be given to the movement of commodities classed as essential.

Originally rail priority was regulated by the issue of priority certificates by a number of officers specifically authorised to do so, but this system was found unworkable when traffic justifying priority increased in volume. Accordingly, in August, 1943, the power of issuing priority certificates was withdrawn from all officers outside the railway priority organisation of the War Transport Department and the system was remodelled by the division of railways into convenient groups each under a Regional Controller with authority to regulate movement within and into his region.

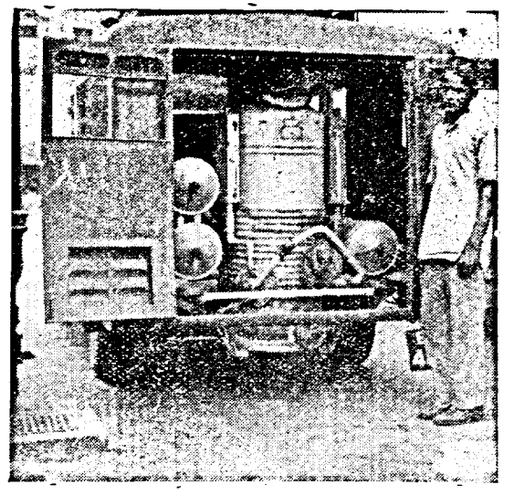
Priority Panels

Regional Controllers are assisted by the advice and help of priority panels consisting of the local representatives of the Central Government and representatives of the Provincial Governments. In December, 1943, the classification of movements in the regions of different Regional Controllers of Railway Priorities was further correlated by the adoption of a uniform skeleton priority list embodying the main items for which priority of movement is given. All Regional Controllers have prepared priority lists for railways in their respective areas fitting into the skeleton headings particular commodities requiring special treatment owing to regional needs. It is to be noted that available wagons are not allotted as a matter of course to traffic in the higher priority classes at the expense of the lower. Frequently, movements under different classes are complementary to each other and the priority of certain commodities is occasionally raised temporarily according to the urgency and essentiality of the movement, but not, if it can possibly be avoided, at the expense of programmed movements of essential foodgrains.

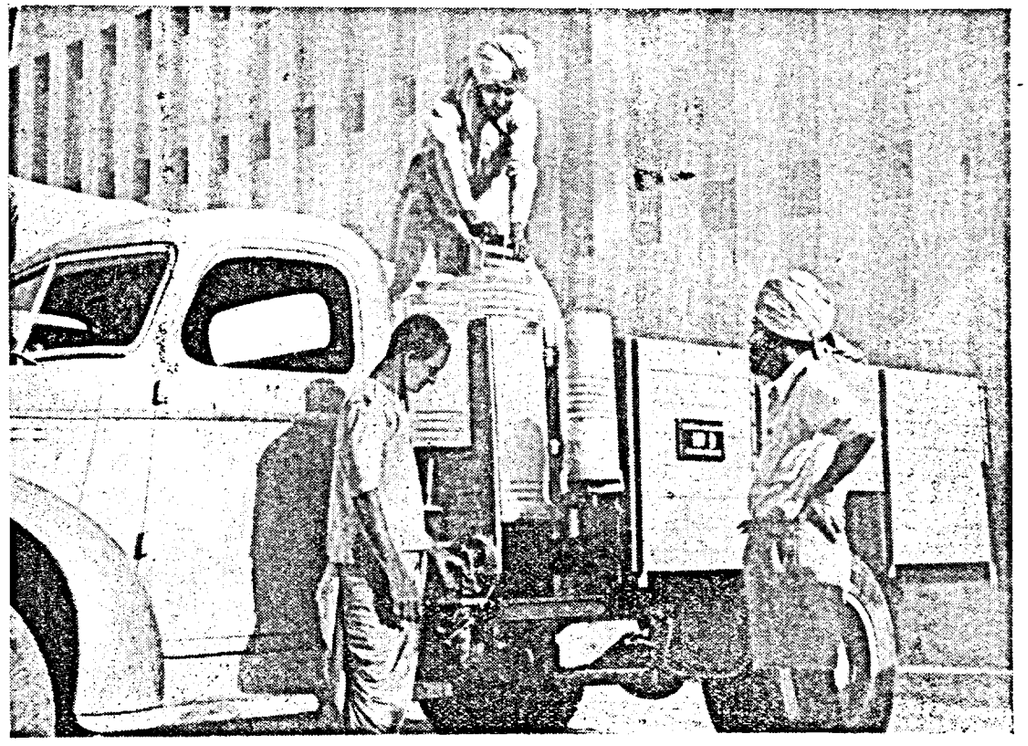
It is the duty of the priority organisation not only to ensure that essential commodities are moved in priority but to prevent cross movements wasteful of transport. Advance programming of the principal commodities by other Departments of Government in consultation with War Transport Department does a great deal to eliminate cross movements but where necessary a ban is placed on movements from one area to another. A good illustration of a programmed movement is the programme for the movement of essential foodgrains, from surplus to deficit areas, prepared by the Food Department in consultation with the priorities organisation at the Centre.

The movement of commodities most essential to the war and civilian needs within the available supply of wagons, which is far short of total requirements, is also facilitated by zoning. Certain commodities, notably raw cotton and piecegoods, are permitted free movement only within specified zones. This system of rationalising movement is being consistently developed by the War Transport Department with the aid of other Departments of Government and certain important industrial concerns.

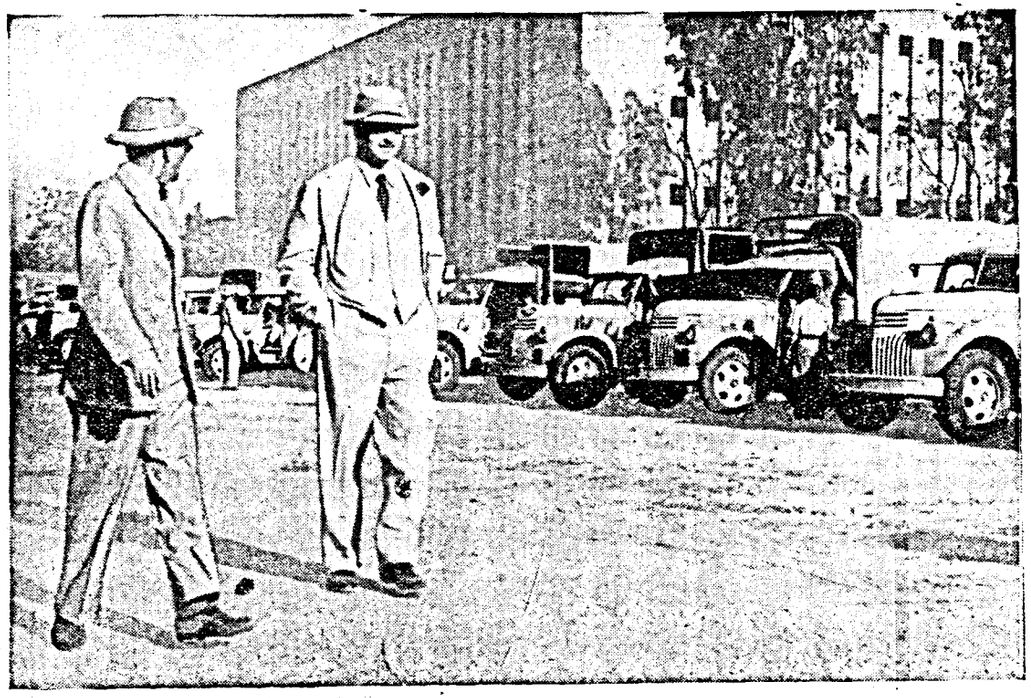
The work of converting motor vehicles to producer gas continued apace. Nearly 14,500 pas-



A producer gas plant. About 14,500 buses and lorries and over 1,500 other vehicles are now running on gas.



Twenty-five three-ton lorries fitted with gas plant of various makes left New Delhi on April 27, 1943, on a 1,000-mile 'reliability test' run. Here, last minute adjustments are being made to a gas plant.



Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, with Sir Kenneth Mitchell, Chief Controller of Road Transport and Development, inspecting lorries lined up ready to start.

senger buses and commercial lorries and over 1,500 other vehicles are at present running on gas. The maximum limit of conversion has not yet been reached in many Provinces and efforts are continuously being made to reach it, so that the maximum quantity of petrol can be saved for vital war needs.

Six hundred vehicles fitted with producer gas plant will save one million gallons of petrol every year. At present more than 25 million gallons are thus being saved. More conversion means more saving of petrol for the aircraft and the tanks that are bringing victory so near. The war in the Far East is still to be fought out to a successful finish. The need to save petrol is still paramount; and the vehicle-owner who uses charcoal gas renders a distinct national service by furthering the war effort. As was aptly pointed out by Sir Kenneth Mitchell, Chief Controller of Road Transport and Development, in a broadcast talk, "petrol that you and I use to-day in our private cars is petrol intercepted on its way to the war front. We can all of us help to save petrol and the little drops that we save individually will amount in the aggregate to large volumes." The War Transport Department is pressing, and will continue to press, for the greatest possible use of producer gas in transport vehicles.

There is also another aspect of the problem, which was indicated by Dr. H. B. Dunnicliff, Deputy Controller, "Technical," War Transport Department, in a speech before the Indian Science Congress in 1944. "If you do not conserve petrol by using producer gas," he pointed out, "it is likely that the petrol available for civil purposes will not be sufficient to satisfy all demands and essential transport will be kept off the roads. On the other hand, if all concerned co-operate in saving every gallon of petrol they can by using this alternative fuel, the road transport problem will be eased. India's big travelling public will be able to move from place to place and her merchandise and commercial products distributed to various destinations in India." With wartime petrol rationing, conversion to producer gas is the best method of maintaining and increasing road traffic.

A large number of commercial vehicles was made available during the year from America, and this has eased the road transport position to some extent. But this additional transport cannot be run without fuel; and, "if we were dependent

on petrol only," as was pointed out by Sir Kenneth, "we should have merely eased transport troubles in one way by aggravating them in another, *i.e.*, in the carriage of large additional quantities of petrol to India in tankers and in India by railway. Petrol, its transport and distribution are one of the key problems of war and we must not use one gallon more than is absolutely necessary."

Testing Stations for Gas Plants

In 1943, a series of exhaustive tests to ascertain in a practical way the reliability of producer gas plants were carried out. These tests showed that a fair standard of road performance has been reached and quality of manufacture is improving. Gas plants may now be tested for Efficiency Certificates at the Madras Engineering College or at the laboratories of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, Delhi, where research work is also in progress. Arrangements have also been made for similar testing stations in Bombay, Calcutta, Nagpur and Trivandrum.

The object of the examinations is, among other things, to see that the prescribed rules have been followed in the construction of plants and thus to protect purchasers from spoiling their engines by using plants of faulty design in which gas filtration is unsatisfactory.

Dr. Dunnicliff clearly explained in his Science Congress speech that "suction gas is an efficient and suitable fuel for the greater number of buses and trucks operating on the majority of roads of India. Except on steep gradients and on very muddy, loose or sandy soil, gas plant vehicles can operate with normal loads over any sort of roads that exist in this country at speeds up to over 30 miles per hour."

More Vehicles for Civil Use

During 1943, under Lease-Lend and otherwise, 7,663 motor vehicles were imported from America (including Canada) for civilian use and allotted to Provinces, States and Central Government Departments. Of this number, above 7,000 vehicles were 3-ton chassis, a major part of which was allocated to private users. During the first six months of 1944, 5,416 3-ton vehicles were imported and allotted.

Controlled distribution of Lease-Lend vehicles was arranged under a scheme devised in May, 1943. Under the scheme, all trucks which are not taken over for departmental operation will be sold to approved operators, on certain conditions. The owners are bound to use the vehicles for the purpose of Lease-Lend, as directed by the War Transport Department or the Provincial Transport Controllers. They should maintain them properly, failing which they will be taken back at Government valuation. Vehicles are also liable to be taken back whenever Government need them. Government may also require any Lease-Lend truck to be fitted with a producer gas plant, approved by the Provincial Transport Controller concerned. The owner of a Lease-Lend truck or chassis will have to make it available for war work, as directed, anywhere in India.

To conserve fast moving spare parts required for essential vehicles and to control the price at which they are sold, a "Motor Vehicle Spare Parts Control Order" was issued in September, 1943. The scope of the Order extended to fast moving parts for the vehicles of General Motors and Ford makes specified in it. The plan was to impose control on known regular imports, which was considered easy and practicable, through an established chain of distribution. At the same time arrangements were made with His Majesty's Government for import during 1943 and 1944 of spare parts, for essential civil vehicles, from U.K., U.S.A. and Canada, of the value of £200,000, $2,820,000 and $850,000 respectively. The bulk of the imports from U.S.A. was on Lease-Lend and the bulk of the Canadian imports was under the Canada-aid arrangement.

From January, 1944, sales of motor vehicles and spare parts came under the control of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance on the one hand and the Orders issued from time to time by the War Transport Department on the other. In order to eliminate this dual control, which led to certain practical difficulties in the working of the scheme, a new Spare Parts Control Order was promulgated in April, 1944. This Order, which is now in operation, controls the prices of all motor vehicle spare parts which can be sold by any person, whether their distribution is controlled or not. It continues to control the distribution of certain spare parts which are distributed through registered dealers and approved sub-dealers.

Country Craft Organisation

Speculation in the sale of used cars has been put down by an Order issued in April, 1944, which fixed the prices at which the chief makes of used cars could be sold. Every purchase and sale should be specifically approved by the appropriate authorities.

The Country Craft Organisation was set up early in 1943 as recommended by the Sorley Committee to enable the capacity of sea-going country craft on the West Coast to be used to the fullest extent in relieving the evergrowing strain on transport. The work of the organisation during the season, 1943-44, fully justified the measures taken to exploit this means of transport.



Travancore's waterways constitute an alternative means of transport in the State. Here is a load of coconut husk on its way to Alleppey, City of Coir.

It proved a valuable link between the broker and the tindal; delays were cut down to the minimum and turn round speeded up; customs procedure was modified where necessary to suit the special requirements of country craft. As a result of these and other measures, a considerable amount of traffic consisting principally of foodgrains, salt, cotton, timber, cement and tiles was diverted to the sea.

The season's working, however, showed that the maximum benefits from the operation of country craft cannot be derived without a great measure of control and rationalisation. A new scheme known as the "Route Scheme" has accordingly been brought into operation for the 1944-45 season in order to ensure greater and more efficient use of country craft. Under this scheme the coast has been divided into several routes. For the routes which originate from Karachi, a Syndicate of three agents has been appointed. The remaining routes covering the ports between Cutch and Tuticorin for which no Syndicate could be arranged have been divided between three other agents. A schedule of freight rates has been drawn up. The agents have been made responsible for securing craft and seeing that they are employed for the carriage of essential cargo at the rates fixed and in accordance with priority instructions.

Coal Supply Position: Ration Scheme

The year 1943-44 was a crucial one for coal distribution. While demands for coal had increased owing to the increased requirements of the railways, shipping, defence services and industries engaged in vital war production, supplies were affected by wagon shortage, interruptions to rail traffic by floods and by a severe fall in raisings. Rationing of coal became inevitable and a scheme to that end was devised based on the estimate that, with the assistance of sea transport round the coast rendered by His Majesty's Government it would be possible to distribute on



Jute boats on the Brahmaputra.

an average 2,137,000 tons of coal per month from the principal coalfields. On this basis quotas were fixed for all consumers, their requirements being based on supplies made during the preceding 12 months and estimated increases in consumption of essential services.

Unfortunately soon after the formulation of the plan the output of coal in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields declined seriously and the ration fixed for each industry had to be cut each month according to the quantity of coal actually available. The shortage of coal at the pitheads brought about surplus wagon capacity. This resulted for a time in coal being supplied to low priority consumers who were willing to pay high prices and at the expense of high priority consumers such as railways, and pointed to the need for a stricter control over production and distribution and the introduction of price control.

Coal Commissioner

A Coal Commissioner was appointed to coordinate all aspects of production and distribution in January, 1944. A comprehensive coal control scheme was formulated shortly after with the object of getting a reliable estimate of the output of each colliery, controlling their distribution at fixed prices to consumers according to the quotas fixed for them by Government and improving output. The entire subject of coal administration was transferred to the Supply Department on June 1, 1944.

The subject of roads has been transferred from the Posts and Air to the War Transport Department and the work of post-war planning of roads has been taken in hand. The tentative proposals submitted by the Chief Engineers of Provinces and States provide a well-balanced road system suitable for the needs of the country for the first 20 years after the war. They include a national highway system which will traverse several Provinces and States and be of national importance for strategic and administrative purposes. Provincial or State highways will be the other main roads of a Province or State. District roads will take traffic from the main roads to the interior of each district or similar unit; village roads will connect villages with one another and with the nearest district road, main highway or railway. No village will be two miles from a district road in thickly populated areas and five miles in other areas.

It is further proposed to get motor transport into the heart of the countryside, which will be of great benefit to the rural population economically and socially, as well as to the trade, industry and general prosperity of the country as a whole. Different forms of transport will be coordinated, each being complementary to the other and each serving the best interests of the country by handling the traffic for which it is best suited.

At the end of the planning period, it is hoped to have 400,000 miles of road, as against 242,000 miles at present, at a capital cost of Rs. 450 crores and annual maintenance charges amounting to Rs. 16 crores after the scheme is completed.

INDIAN TEA EXPORT ALLOTMENT

The estimates available in April, 1944, of the production of tea in India during 1944 indicated that the exportable surplus of tea was not likely to exceed 364 million lbs. On the basis of that estimate the Indian export allotment of tea for the financial year 1944-45 was declared by the Government of India at 364,080,770 lbs., being 95 per cent of India's standard export figure.

On a review of the latest crop position and at the request of the tea interests the Government of India have agreed to allow a further quantity of 15 million lbs. of tea to be exported during the current financial year. For this purpose it was decided that the Indian export allotment of tea should be increased to 379,410,487 lbs., being 99 per cent of India's standard export figure. The necessary notification has been issued in a Gazette Extraordinary on October 10, 1944.

USE OF PRODUCER GAS WITHOUT TEARS

Sir Edward Benthall's Address to New Delhi Conference

PEOPLE are inclined to feel that petrol will be readily available as soon as the war in the West is over. I am advised by those who know the petrol and tanker position that this is not so, and that quite the contrary is the case. The maximum demand for transport in India, whether on road or rail, is still to come and the necessity for economy is as great as ever. Our maxim on the roads is still "more transport and less petrol," said the Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India, opening the Conference of Producer Gas Technical and Testing Officers in New Delhi on October 12.

The conference lasted three days, and Sir Kenneth Mitchell, Chief Controller, Road Transport and Development, presided. Delegates from all over India attended the session.



Sir Edward Benthall.

Sir Edward Benthall said: "I am particularly glad to be able to attend this Conference of experts on the design and use of producer gas plants, because I feel that the extension of the use of producer gas plants has reached a crucial stage. There is unfortunately an idea going about that the war is nearing its end and that there is no longer any necessity to maintain an intense effort to economise petrol and make use of indigenous fuels for road traffic. People are inclined to feel that petrol will be readily available as soon as the war in the West is over. I am advised by those who know the petrol and tanker position that this is not so, and that quite the contrary is the case. The maximum demand for transport in India whether on road or rail has still to come and the necessity for economy is as great as ever. Our maxim on the roads is still "more transport and less petrol."

"It is hoped that the number of chassis to be released in 1945 will be considerably increased, but there is no guarantee that more petrol will be available. Apart altogether from the difficulties of supplying petrol to India for military movements which are still to come, there also exists an internal distribution problem of which the public is little aware but which will continue to present great difficulties.

"This position continues to justify the War Transport Department compelling recipients of new chassis to install producer gas plants and, apart altogether from that, it is a wise man who, by doing so, both helps the war effort and ensures the conveyance of himself or his goods. He will have the satisfaction of having done the right thing if later on, as is quite possible, it becomes necessary to cut petrol rations. The second factor, which of course affects the increased use of producer gas plants, is the undeniable fact that they are much more trouble to run than petrol engines. Any fool can pour petrol into his tank and keep his engine going, but it takes a good man to operate a producer gas plant efficiently. Good men are scarcer than fools and it is human nature to adopt the easiest course and to find all sorts of excuses for not making the effort to operate the plants efficiently.

16,000 Vehicles Using Fuel

"Nevertheless, according to a recent computation, the total number of vehicles using the fuel in India at the present time is over 16,000, of which 14,500 are public buses and lorries, the balance being motor cars, delivery vans and other types. This is approximately 30 per cent of all the Indian buses and civilian lorries and is a valuable achievement. The palm of success in this field goes to the Madras Presidency which has at the present time no less than 70 per cent of all its passenger buses and civilian lorries converted to gas; conversion in Pudukottah State is over 95 per cent.

"It is estimated that the saving effected throughout India by this conversion is of the order of 20,000,000 gallons per annum or 67,000 tons of petrol per annum—a very substantial saving of petrol and tanker space. I am glad to be able to convey the appreciation of the Government of India to those Governments and all those individuals, including the experts, who have effected what is in fact a notable achievement but which is still below the target, which is to raise the 30 per cent conversion to 50 per cent. We shall not be satisfied until this has been done.

Need for More Experts

"Just because the running of producer gas plants is more expert work than the running of petrol lorries, there is, therefore, more need for experts. Technical advice is indeed essential to the success of the movement and we are determined that neither the manufacturer nor the user of producer gas plants shall fail for lack of adequate technical advice and information. It is you who can ensure, in conjunction with the manufacturers, that the plants marketed are technically the best possible. It is you who can do much to see that those who handle the plants are advised properly and it is you who can help in ensuring that fuel supplies are properly prepared and graded.

"The principles which govern the production of successful producer gas units have been well understood for very many years and were well brought out by Mr. Watney in his detailed report of 1941. The arrangements to be made by Government to ensure gas cleanliness and robustness of design, the establishment of testing plants, the production of general specifications and model rules have all been based on these general principles.

"Some minor differences of opinion with regard to certain technical details and the form of testing reports have arisen from time to time and at this Conference you are being asked to try to evolve a common form of report and to organise a uniform system of road testing, the importance of which is regarded as secondary only to that of the bench test.

Co-operative Service Stations

"The opening of driving schools and the teaching of drivers by manufacturers will be encouraged and in suitable cases the release of chassis or trucks for teaching or demonstration purposes will be considered. In these matters we look to our technical advisers and are appreciative of the success which has so far attended their endeavours—but much more can still be done. For one thing, much can be done to persuade owners to form a group or transport company and so to facilitate the opening of really well-fitted and efficient service stations on a co-operative basis.

"Finally, as regards fuel, much valuable work has been done for this Department on the design of suitable kilns and the analysis of many varieties of Indian charcoal. The organisation of supplies of charcoal of good quality and grading has still to be seriously tackled in certain parts of India, and if the necessary will to progress exists, many of the obstacles which are facing Governments can undoubtedly be overcome. In all this work the technical officers and inspectors play a vital part and I am glad to express the appreciation of Government of your efforts in these directions.

"I believe that there can be much greater development in the use of producer gas plants during the coming months and your contribution will be invaluable. In all matters of scientific control and technical progress in particular you will have the approval and support of this Department and I am sure that your deliberations at this Conference will not fail to further the end which Government has in view."

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS

The Conference then discussed charcoal manufacture and distribution. Sir Edward Benthall took an active part in the discussions.

While the charcoal position is presenting difficulties of supply and transport on account of the very great war demands for timber and firewood and the increasing number of producer gas buses and lorries all over India, it was the opinion of the Conference that the position might be considerably improved by better organisation of manufacture both by Government Departments and independent producers. The possibility of using the Forest Research Institute's portable kiln was also considered, the main difficulty being the supply of steel.

The subject of an all-India standard for bench tests for model mobile producer gas plants was discussed, as also the desirability of periodical tests on plants in operation. The need for road tests on model plants was agreed upon, but the variations resulting from geographical considerations in different provinces preclude an absolutely uniform standard. The acceptance of road tests interprovincially was also formalised. Details of an all-India bench test were discussed at the producer gas testing and research laboratory in Delhi University. Dr. Verman's investigations on filtration problems were much appreciated and the question whether the security dust filter in gas plants be of felt or cotton cloth was discussed.

Guiding principles in the design of producer gas driven buses so as to accommodate as many passengers as possible in maximum safety and minimum discomfort with due regard to conservancy of steel, tyres and springs, were agreed upon

by the Conference. These principles will be circulated for the consideration of all Provinces and Indian States.

The Conference decided on the standardisation of bench tests and road tests for mobile producer gas plants and defined the criteria requisite for approval to be recommended to all administrations for mutual acceptance.

Dr. Aiyar, Chief Chemist, Central Revenues, who attended by invitation, gave valuable information on the production of charcoal by the retort process and promised to furnish a more detailed account of this method of charcoal production by which the distillation products are recovered.

Bengal and Travancore undertook to supply standard charcoals for testing stations and further discussions on charcoal supply emphasised the need to examine the possibility of dividing Provinces into zones for supplying specified areas with producer gas charcoal.

The Conference was of the view that, at present, the more expensive plants were being marketed at prices higher than justified by production costs, and that the evolution of a standard plant might be a useful factor in reducing costs. Dr. Salter (Travancore) undertook to investigate this proposition on an experimental basis.

Training of Drivers

Sir Edward Benthall attended the sitting on October 14, the last day of the session, and took part in the discussion on the training of drivers and inspectors. Summing up the debate he made helpful suggestions for the attainment of a higher standard.

The Conference adopted a number of constructive resolutions which will be circulated at once to all Provinces for early action. The need for research work, particularly into problems connected with plant design, filters and filtering materials, adequate engine lubrication and similar subjects, was accepted and a standing Technical Committee of the officers in charge of the six testing stations, with one member of the War Transport Department, was set up. This committee will assign problems to different stations and discuss results by correspondence and meetings.

The principle of inspection at factories, at the time of fitting the plant and periodically to ensure maintenance of design and performance, was accepted and strongly recommended to all Transport Controllers. It was generally agreed that the majority of owners are negligent of maintenance and ignorant of even minimum service garage requirements, and the War Transport Department was requested to issue a brochure on the subject for the guidance of fleet owners and drivers.

The Conference discussed the question of applications for exemption from gas operation of lorries and public service vehicles, and approved the War Transport Department's recommendation that, wherever possible, such claims for exemption on the plea of unsuitability of the work or roads on which the transport would travel, should be subjected to actual road trials. This has already been done in a number of cases and recusants have been convinced of the untenability of their arguments for exemption from fitting gas plants.

The general opinion of those attending the Conference was that a valuable interchange of views had taken place and that it would be a welcome decision if the Government of India would sometime later organise a similar Congress of Technical Producer Gas Officers for further discussion of their problems.

CHANGES IN WAR TRANSPORT ORGANISATION

For the better co-ordination of post-war plans for road and road transport development with those for railways and other forms of transport, the subjects of road and road transport planning were recently transferred from the Posts and Air Department to the War Transport Department under the Member of Council in charge of the Departments of War Transport and Railways.

This has necessitated certain changes in the organisation of War Transport as follows:

Sir Kenneth Mitchell, previously Controller of Road Transport and Ex-Officio Joint Secretary to Government, becomes Chief Controller, Road Transport and Development. Mr. H. G. Russell, I.P., becomes Controller of Road Transport. A separate Controller of Road Transport Supplies (procurement and controlled distribution of vehicles and spare parts) will be appointed shortly. Mr. D. R. Rutnam, I.C.S., becomes Joint Secretary; Mr. S. D. Gupta, Mr. R. Powell and Dr. H. B. Dunnicliff become Deputy Controllers "Supplies," "Organisation" and "Technical" respectively.

Road Plans

Under the supervision and direction of the Chief Controller, Road Transport and Development, the detailed work of planning on the roads side will be in the charge of Mr. G. M. McKelvie, I.S.E., Consulting Engineer to the Government of India (Roads), who will be assisted by a strong Engineering and other staff; and on the transport side in the charge of Mr. Russell, Controller of Road Transport, assisted by a Planning Officer.

It is expected that Sir Kenneth Mitchell and the other officers concerned will shortly be going on tour to visit Provincial Governments and to discuss their various road and transport plans with them.

ROAD TRANSPORT GOES TO WAR

Sir Kenneth Mitchell's Broadcast

QUESTIONS relating to road transport were answered by Sir Kenneth Mitchell, Chief Controller of Road Transport and Development, over All India Radio on October 13, 1944. Here are the questions and the answers.

Question: As a result of war railways have become congested. Last week, in this series of talks Mr. Brown explained the priorities organisation designed to ensure that the most essential commodities move by railway. Has road transport been used to relieve the general transport position?

Answer: By general transport I think you mean transport of the kind provided by railways, inland waterways and coastal shipping, as opposed to the purely short distance local carriage of goods and people inside towns and industrial areas. In that sense motor transport has taken a part in general transport. But you must realise that the total number of motor transport vehicles in India is relatively small and that many of them have been used in special war and war supply work.

Goods Transport

But perhaps I had better deal separately with goods and passenger transport, although the majority of our lorries and buses are built on the same chassis, so that in the war buses have been used as lorries often with little alteration to the bodies. Indeed, before the war there was in certain areas a regular type of dual purpose vehicle. The seats could be taken out or folded down leaving a van which could be loaded with bales of cotton, sacks of wheat and so on. One word more of general explanation. With few exceptions our transport vehicles are built on a more or less standard type of chassis from North America with a wheel base of about 13½ feet and a nominal load capacity of three tons. The usual single-deck bus body on this chassis seats about 25. As regards goods, with the dual rear wheels usually fitted, the law allows greater loads than the nominal capacity or a little over four tons with the most common size of tyre and a little more with larger tyres. They are often grossly overloaded beyond that. Now let us deal with passengers and goods separately.

Taking goods first. When the war started India had about 15,000 vehicles registered as goods lorries, many employed locally in the cities and at the main ports and industrial areas. Even if all of them could have been put on to what we have called general transport, there would only have been one lorry to every five miles of metalled road, and as you know the total mileage of metalled roads is in itself very small for the size of the country—a thing to be remedied, we hope, in post-war reconstruction. Anyway there you have the general picture, one mile of metalled road for about every 20 square miles of area and one goods lorry for every five miles of road.

The reason for this relatively small number of lorries was purely economic. The cost of motor transport per ton per mile is about 2½ times the average railway freight over all classes of goods (as a matter of interest it is between eight and ten times the railway freight for coal) so that it did not pay to use motor transport where railway transport was available except over short distances or for specially high-rated classes of goods. In the towns, again, the large numbers of bullock and buffalo carts in use showed that they were cheaper than motor transport. That was the general position before the war.

Since the war started, and particularly since 1942, the available lorries, and many converted buses, have largely been absorbed in special war work such as construction of airfields, roads and other war works; on local transport for the ever-growing war industries; and on extraction of raw materials, such as timber and other forest produce and valuable minerals. As you know, at one time A.R.P. absorbed many. Others are now being increasingly used in certain provinces for procurement and distribution of food. These are only some of the special war uses. In all these cases motor transport naturally is relieving other forms of transport, including railways, but my point is that up till now its capacity to relieve general transport has been small.

Passenger Transport

Turning now to passenger transport, we started the war with some 28,000 buses of all sorts, more widely distributed over the country than lorries, but when it became necessary to save petrol and tyres, bus service had to be reduced, unless run on producer gas, and a number of buses were converted into lorries. The great congestion of railway travel came later. Now we hope to restore and expand bus services.

Many of the vehicles in use were already fairly old by 1941 when commercial imports more or less dried up, and war wear and tear has been considerable. But since early last year, with the generous help of the Governments of the United States and Canada in sending lorry chassis to India for essential civil needs, on Lease-Lend or Canadian Government aid, it has been possible gradually to make up the wastage and by the end of this year we shall be back again at about the pre-war total numbers, but with a good proportion of newer vehicles. From then on the position will, I hope, improve substantially. So

You see that while road transport has not so far contributed in any spectacular way to what we have called general transport, it has done and is doing a wholetime war job.

Q.—How has road transport been maintained in the face of petrol rationing and restricted imports of motor vehicles and parts so as to make this alternative means available for the public for travelling as well as for the transport of goods?

A.—Well as to vehicles, I have just given you the general picture.

As regards spare parts, as the transport vehicles come mainly from North America, the parts must come from there too. Again, due largely to the generous help of the United States and Canadian Governments, we are getting them, but with so many demands on those countries our needs have had to take their turn with others of very high war priority. Early this year we seemed to be nearly out of the wood, then there was a temporary setback and renewed stringency in certain lines. Now substantial shipments are again arriving and prospects are good.

Parts for British cars are also coming forward but the diversity of makes and models scattered all over India creates special difficulties.

The petrol difficulty has been met to a great extent by producer gas and, despite the demand for and supply of motor transport, we are only using petrol for civil work at the rate of about 65 per cent of the pre-rationing rate of consumption.

Distribution and Sale of Vehicles

Q.—In answer to the previous question you referred generally to imports of vehicles and spare parts. What arrangements have been made to see that these are properly distributed at fair prices?

A.—The distribution and sale of vehicles under control is working smoothly, under Provincial Motor Transport Controllers. Parts are more difficult. A motor vehicle has between two and three thousand parts. In wartime we are concerned only with functional or what the trade calls fast moving parts, meaning those in frequent demand. There are six or seven hundred fast moving parts for each vehicle and many peculiar to each make.

There are nearly 150,000 motor vehicles of all sorts in India, and over 200 registered dealers who distribute the parts imported by Government or under Government sponsorship; and many more to small dealers jobbing anything they can get hold of. It is all pretty complicated, and of course when parts are available people will try to get more than they need at the time, lest they be short again later and so aggravate the disease they fear. On the whole things are better and will, I hope, improve further still, although, in war, supplies will never be lavish. I do believe that for many makes they will be adequate before very long. On the whole the controls are working reasonably well.

Q.—What about motor tyres? The ordinary man finds it extremely difficult to get them to replace worn out ones.

A.—I know that tyres are difficult to come by, particularly for private cars. That, I am afraid, is an inevitable consequence of the war. Private car owners can, I think, still help more than they do by being really tyre-minded before instead of after their tyres begin to wear out. Giant tyres for transport vehicles should, given co-operation by drivers in saving tyres all they can, be just enough to get us through even with more vehicles on the road. But big profits are now being made by overloading and overspeeding, compared with which the cost of a new tyre is a trifle. Consequently a severe check has to be imposed on replacements.

Speculation in Second Hand Cars

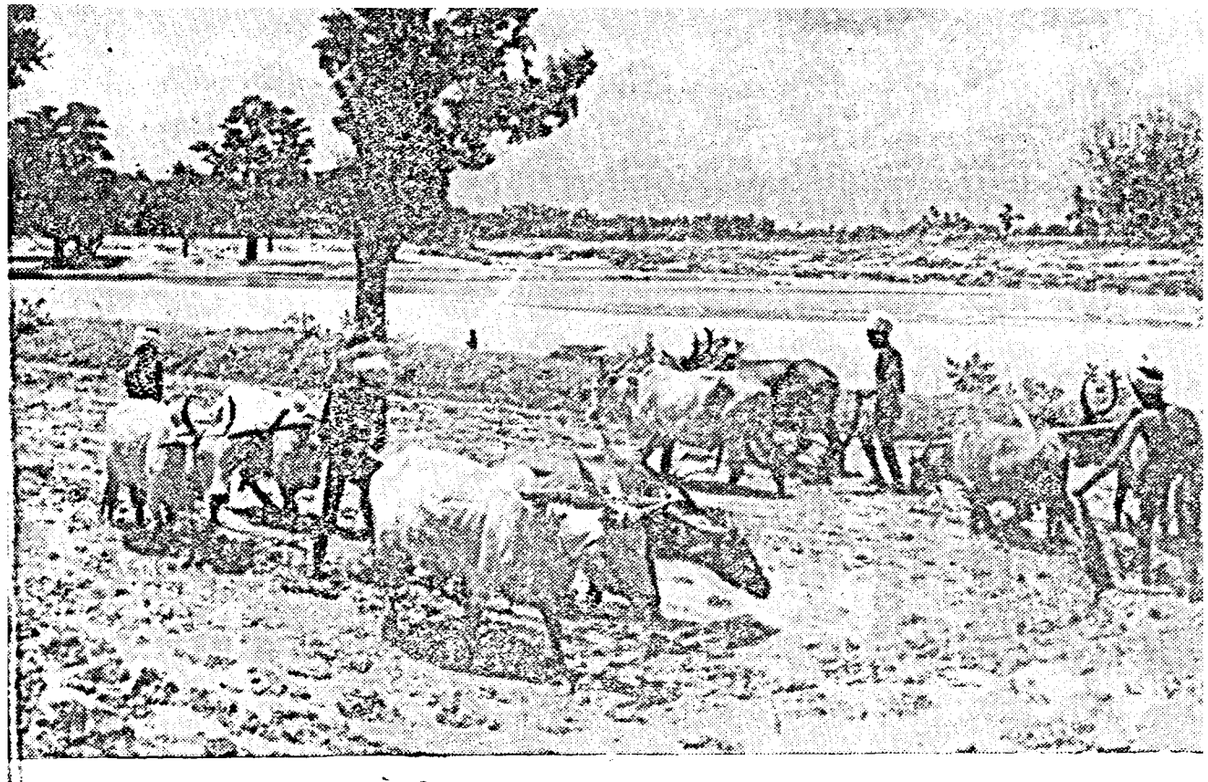
Q.—Until recently there was apparently great speculation in second hand cars resulting in cars being advertised for sale at very high prices. Has Government been able to do anything to stop this speculation?

A.—For some time Government refrained from interfering, but when second hand prices became quite fantastic and beyond the means of people really needing cars for their work, control was put on sales and prices four months ago. The prices fixed allow reasonably for genuine appreciation in values. At first the effect seems to have been to stop sales entirely. Now there are signs that people are beginning to see that, with the approaching end of the war, it may be dangerous to hold on to a car one does not use hoping for a high uncontrolled price after the war.

Obviously in this highly mechanised war the motor industries of the United Nations have been geared to a high pitch of production, and the switch-over from war vehicles to the production of large numbers of passenger cars at competitive prices may take place very quickly. We may even get some new cars before the end of the war.

PODANUR-POLLACHI RAILWAY

The Government of India have decided to purchase the Podanur-Pollachi Railway on October 15, 1945. A notice has been served on the District Board of Coimbatore accordingly.



Ploughing a field in a South Indian village.

PROGRESS OF THE "GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

THE total increased production expected as a result of the "Grow More Food" campaign in the two years, 1943-44 and 1944-45, is one million tons under normal conditions. An increase of 300,000 tons is expected in 1943-44 and a further 700,000 tons during the current year from development schemes financed by the Centre in Provinces and States.

In 1943-44, loans were sanctioned to Provinces for Rs. 164½ lakhs and grants for Rs. 69.77 lakhs from Central Revenues, and Rs. 14.84 lakhs from the Cotton Fund. The grants were usually on a 50-50 basis. The loans sanctioned up to September, 1944, in the current year came to Rs. 119 lakhs, while grants from the Central Revenues already amount to Rs. 116 lakhs and from the Cotton Fund to Rs. 21.32 lakhs.

The "Grow More Food" campaign has hitherto been organised on a year-to-year basis. It has now been decided to plan the campaign on a three-year basis and the co-operation of Provincial Governments and States has been invited to associate growers with the planning as well as with the implementing of the campaign by organising agriculturists' associations for each district, tehsil and circle.

Efforts are being made to co-ordinate production with urgent needs and the facilities that can be made available. The targets for Provinces and States will be prepared in consultation with the Food Department, Government of India, and the Provincial and State staffs will be asked to fix, if practicable, provisional production targets for each district and break this down to each tehsil, and again for each circle and then for each village in consultation with local agriculturists' associations. The target for each village, tehsil and district will then be considered and revised in the light of local conditions and built up again.

This examination will also indicate what is needed in respect of wells, tanks and other sources of irrigation, bunding and drainage, manures, and of improved seeds, etc. On this basis

a plan for the provision of necessary facilities will be drawn up and thus a Provincial and finally a Central plan will be built up.

The main difficulty in carrying out such a survey and then preparing a co-ordinated plan is the inadequacy of trained agricultural staff of all grades in Provinces and States.

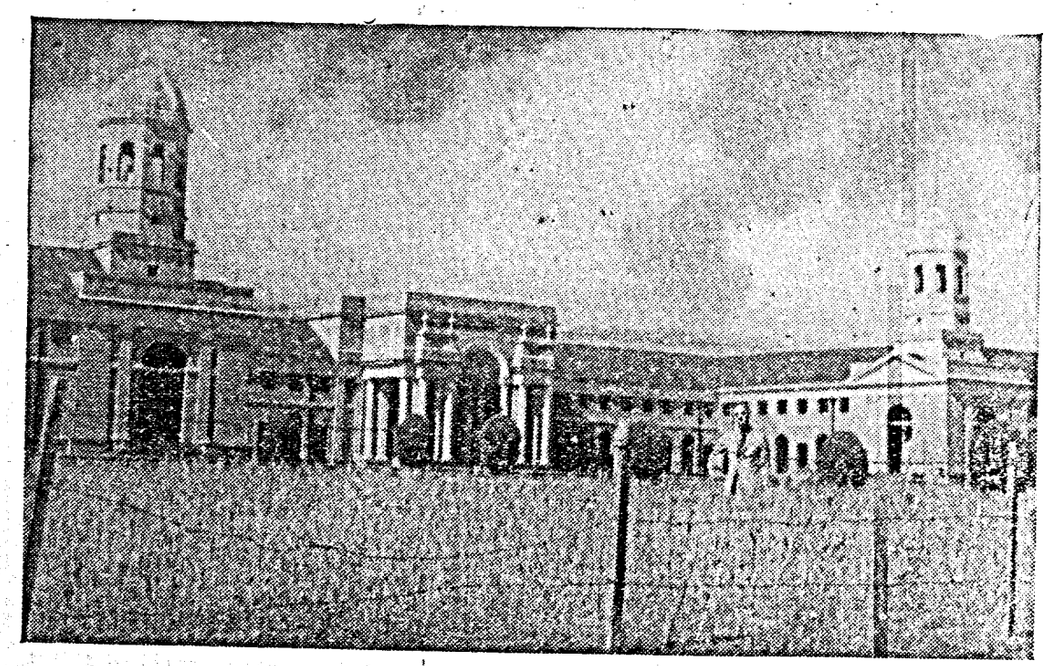
The work of training personnel has been given the highest priority. Men from the Army with theoretical or practical experience of agriculture are being secured for some of the higher posts. But the main reliance for most of the officers and the subordinate personnel is being placed on civilian resources. In districts, practical knowledge, common sense and drive are the most important qualifications. Educated landowners farming on model farms may fill the Officer posts in districts. Every province has been asked to have a training scheme based on its estimated needs and to use not only Government farms and institutions but well-run private farms as training centres. The mass methods applied to technical training for industry will be applied to agriculture.

The Agricultural part of the Education, Health and Lands Department at the Centre has been organised as a separate branch within the Department under an Additional Secretary. There will also be Advisers for necessary assistance for (1) Agricultural Production, (2) Livestock. (3) Dairy, (4) Fish, (5) Economics and Statistics and (6) Irrigation.

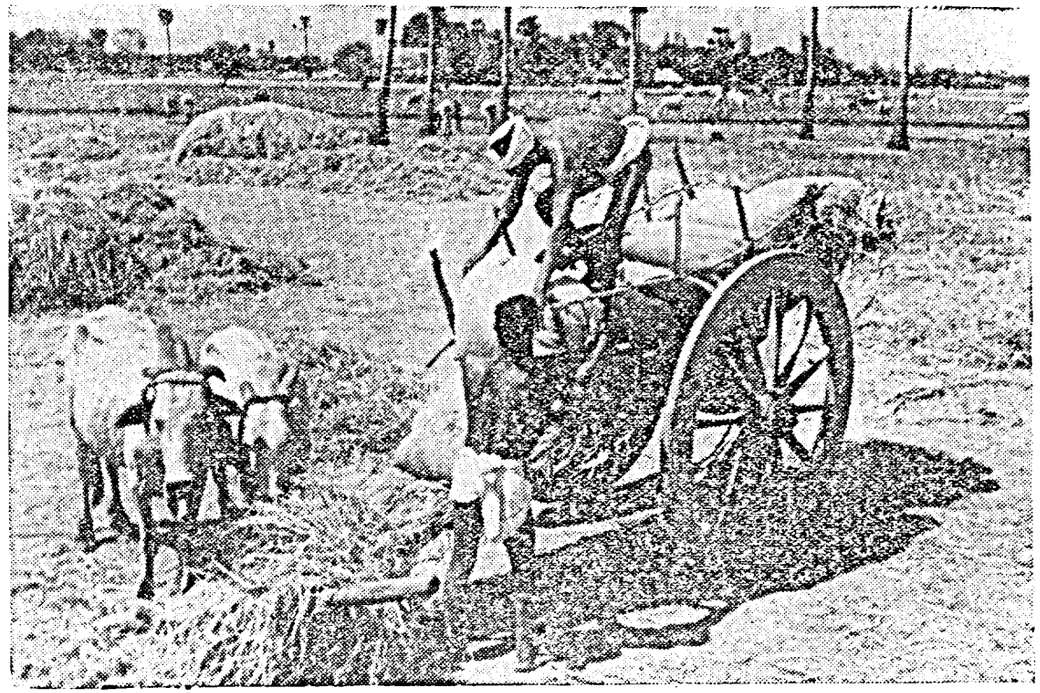
The two methods employed for increasing production are (a) getting more out of the land already under cultivation, and (b) bringing new land under cultivation. Steps have been taken to ensure that of the present cultivated area an adequate part is sown with food as opposed to money crops. Provincial Governments have already co-operated in reducing the area under short-staple cotton, and some of them are considering introduction of statutory crop regulation.

Irrigation Schemes

Several minor irrigation schemes for pumping water from tube-wells and river beds have been launched, help given to provinces in securing priorities for the release of plant, equipment and material, loans and grants sanctioned for the construction and repair of tanks, for the sinking and improvement of surface wells and for the reclamation of waste lands and field embankments. Altogether the loans sanctioned for these items come to nearly Rs. 80 lakhs, the grants from Central Revenues to Rs. 60 lakhs and from the Cotton Fund to Rs. 18½ lakhs. As a result, it is expected that a million acres of unirrigated land will be brought under irrigation, giving nearly 200,000 tons of extra food.



Wheat crop grown on what used to be a part of the grass terraces of the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun. Sir Herbert Howard, Inspector General of Forests, inspects the crop.



Loading bags of newly threshed paddy into a cart.

Compost from town waste is expected to produce 20,000 tons of such manure for the *rabi* sowings of 1944-45. Grants have also been made for the production of compost from vegetable waste. The use of green manure and oil cakes as manure has also been subsidised and encouraged. The export abroad of all kinds of manures (bone meal, oil cakes, etc.) is strictly controlled.

Supplies of chemical fertilisers from abroad are now beginning to arrive. The available indigenous production of sulphate of ammonia has been taken over by Government. The supplies from these two sources are pooled and quotas assigned for various Provinces and States on the pre-war consumption basis.

The financial assistance given for manurial schemes is Rs. 53½ lakhs as loans and Rs. 27 lakhs as grants. The extra yield expected is about one lakh tons of foodgrains.

Improved seed can increase production by 10 to 15 per cent. Financial assistance has been sanctioned for the multiplication and distribution of improved seed; Rs. 156 lakhs have been sanctioned as loans, and Rs. 47 lakhs as grants. In 1943-44, the Department was able to distribute 17.26 lakh maunds and it is hoped to distribute another 18.81 lakh maunds in the current year. The increased production is estimated at 4 lakh tons.

Efforts have been made to produce vegetable seeds of European type vegetables in Kashmir and Baluchistan. Formerly all such seeds were imported. It is hoped to be able to produce 450,000 lbs. this year and to be largely independent of imported seed in subsequent years. Vegetable production in collaboration with the military authorities is being extended.

Cattle Position

Arrangements have been made to prepare accurate indents for the supply of iron and steel for agricultural implements to each Province and State.

The cattle position has become acute on account of the increased demand for animals for cultivation, transport, milk and meat. The military authorities have agreed not to slaughter (1) cattle under three years of age (2) male cattle between three and 10 years of age which are used as or likely to be used as working cattle (3) cows between three and 10 years of age which

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 484)

SURVEY OF INDIA'S FOOD POLICY IN 1943-44

Price Control, Procurement and Rationing

IT is comparatively simple to plan for some definite objective on which there is general agreement. Food lends itself to such planning. It enters into almost every economic and social problem. Whatever is decided about India's food affects India's agriculture, and more than 70 per cent of India's population is engaged in agriculture. In a poor country like India a large proportion of the total income is devoted to the purchase of food. When schemes for the promotion of the people's welfare are considered, the question of food immediately arises because it is such an important factor in determining health.

During the 12 months' interval since the previous resume of the food problem, considerable progress has been made in laying the foundations of sound food administration and control. There is now a fuller realisation both by the Centre and the Provinces of the immensity of the task involved in feeding 400 million people and the means by which it can be solved.

The Foodgrains Policy Committee laid down last September, the broad outlines of a co-ordinated all-India food policy and this article reviews briefly the progress made by the Food Department in the implementation of that policy. Among the main features of this policy are strict price control, an efficient system of procurement and urban rationing.

Price Control

The Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended that statutory price control should be instituted for all major foodgrains in all provinces. Price control is the pivot on which the whole scheme of food control turns and the aim is to fix prices so as to keep them within reach of the needy consumer while allowing a reasonable return to producers. The producer must not be denied the activities are being successfully countered and food will not be produced, or if produced it will not come to the consuming areas.

At the same time Government realise that there can be little value in providing the people with their requirements of food if they are unable to buy them. The Government of India, therefore, accepted this recommendation on price control and announced (i) that they would build up price control first on a provincial and then on a regional basis, (ii) that their conception of statutory price control was a price fixed for a crop throughout the crop season based on a fair return to the cultivator and (iii) that the Central Government should co-ordinate statutory price control throughout India with a view to the eventual building up of an All-India price control.

The first step in this direction was the summoning of a Price Conference at which all Governments principally concerned were represented. As a result of this conference it was decided that maximum prices should be notified at Rs. 7 for *jowar* and Rs. 7-8 for *bajra* in primary wholesale markets of surplus millet producing areas. In the case of rice the variations between individual producing areas were still great and prices in the Eastern region, which passed through a severe crisis last year, were still so high that no immediate reconciliation to an All-India standard was possible.

The Government of India realised early that without expert advice, including the advice of representatives both of producers and of the trade, any attempt to fix or control prices was unlikely to succeed. A Price Advisory Committee was, therefore, constituted under the chairmanship of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, and the first meeting was held in March, 1944, to consider the level at which prices of *rabi* foodgrains should be fixed, and the expediency of fixing an all-India statutory maximum for rice. After considering the recommendations of the Committee, the Government of India fixed the statutory maximum price for wheat for the next 12 months at Rs. 9-8 in the primary assembling markets in the Punjab and Sind, and Rs. 10-8 for U.P. In other wheat producing provinces, differentials based on the above figures have been allowed. Maximum prices for barley and gram have also been fixed.

Cultivators' Interests Safeguarded

The fixation of rice prices on an all-India basis obviously presented great difficulties, but progress had been made both in fixing regional prices and in narrowing down the discrepancies between local prices, which were a feature of the situation at the commencement of the year. Maximum prices for rice are in operation all over India though not yet related to a common all-India basis.

At the same time the Government of India took an important decision in the interests of cultivators to support the wheat market and have guaranteed to purchase all wheat of FAQ standard offered in the assembling markets of the Punjab, U. P. and Sind at Rs. 7-8. Events may prove the farsightedness of this measure.

During the middle of the year, to encourage diversion of the area under short staple cotton to foodgrains, the Government of India announced a similar guarantee to purchase all *bajra* and *jowar* offered in the main producing areas at the "floor" prices of Rs. 6 and Rs. 5-8 respectively.

The aim of price control during the year has been to bring prices into conformity with the desired maxima and to hold them steady without violent fluctuations in either direction. The graphs on page 476 indicate how far this has been achieved.

The view that Government should subsidise people's food to enable them to buy their requirements has sometimes been seriously advocated, but its protagonists sometimes ignore the fact that the cost of subsidising the total food requirements of a continent of the size of India is prohibitive. It is admitted that prices in certain parts of the country are still too high and need scaling down. But the carefully planned policy of the Government of India combined with other favourable factors is gradually having its effect, and during the last two weeks, the fall in prices has been notable in certain areas and attention has suddenly turned towards the implementing by Government of its undertaking to buy grain at 'floor' prices.

Monopoly Purchase

One of the basic responsibilities of the Food Department in the conditions that obtain to-day is the stimulation throughout India of efficient systems of procurement. It is obvious that for the duration of the war and for some considerable time afterwards, India is unlikely to be able to revert to free trade.

The Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended that in principle the only satisfactory solution of the problem was a Government monopoly purchase system, though at the time this was considered impracticable from an administrative point of view. During the past year the Central Government have kept a constant watch on the development of provincial procurement with this recommendation of the Policy Committee in view. In a country so large and diverse as India absolute uniformity is impossible. The points to which the Food Department has directed its attention most in the various local schemes, are elimination of competitive buying, control of movement and transport, employment of the trade under official supervision, the prohibition of private trade for purchasing agents, and the extension of Government procurement to a point where even if it is not a true monopoly, it is a dominating influence on the market.

There has been considerable progress in this direction and monopoly purchase in varying degrees is in operation in whole or in part in the C.P., Orissa, Madras and Bihar. The U.P. has localised purchases and movement, and has largely eliminated competitive buying, while the Bombay Government has an ambitious programme of procurement by a graded levy of produce, and by making it obligatory to sell a proportion of the crop to the Government. The Central Food Department has now under consideration a report submitted by their special officer on the development of monopoly purchase in different parts of India.

Storage and Movement

The problem of procurement involves two other factors, *viz.*, storage and movement. Lack of storage arrangements in some of the main supplying provinces proved a serious handicap last year in procurement operations. In close co-operation with provincial Governments, steps have now been taken to arrange for storage so as to ensure an even flow of rail movement throughout the crop period, and permit the unimpeded continuance of procurement operations.

When stocks are low, difficulties of transport within the country can produce moments of extreme anxiety, and it is by the quick and efficient handling of situations like these that the Food Department has often been able to stave off disaster. The Foodgrains Policy Committee had realised that even if food is available in surplus quantities it could not be of much use unless it could be transported. Therefore, some of the following instances where the Food Department has rendered special help with the co-operation of the War Transport Department are of significance: for instance the emergency help to Bombay after the April explosions, and to Deccan States which but for the timely assistance rendered by the Food Department, would have had to face a severe food crisis, and again emergency supplies to the North-West Frontier Province where the failure of the maize crop and the introduction of rationing in large towns necessitated the movement of supplies within a short period.

Movement Directorate's Functions

The main functions of the Movement Directorate in the Food Department have been, assistance in the preparation of the Basic Plan so that allocations are made from surplus to deficit provinces with strict regard to transport considerations, *i.e.*, ease of movement and economy of transport and to meet peculiar conditions of procurement, according to the needs of the recipient provinces, and sometimes to get provinces and States to accelerate their programme of despatches to suit specially favourable conditions of transport, arising from time to time.



Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, leaving a Delhi Circle Rationing Office.

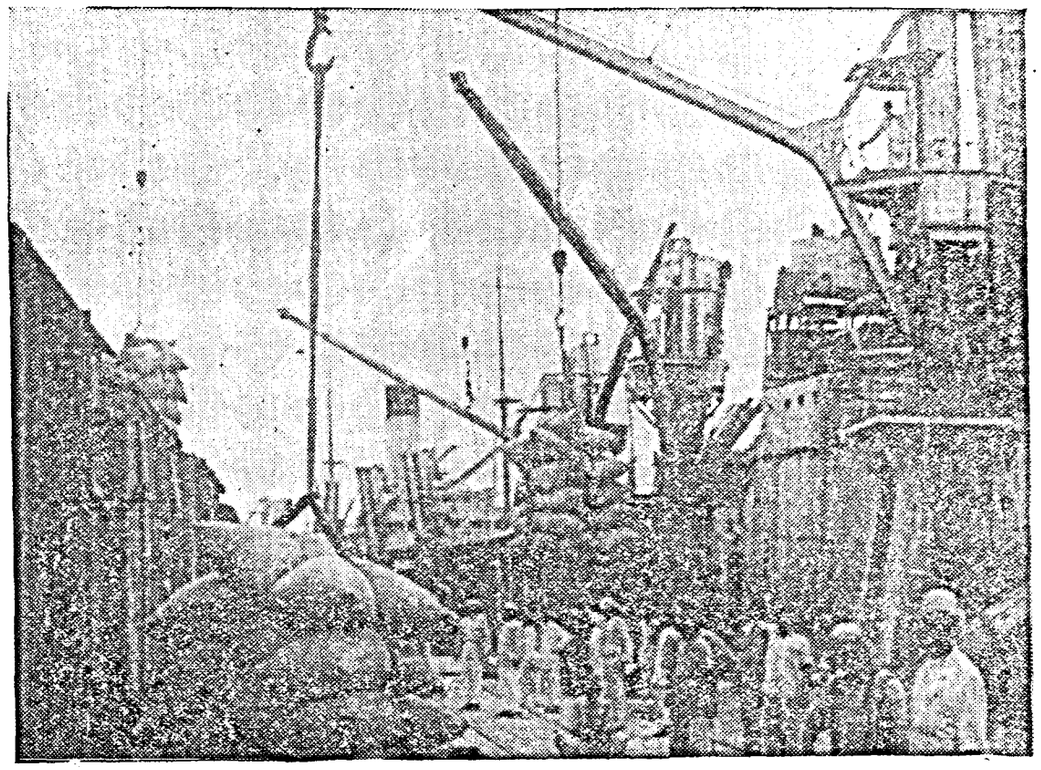
A regular programme of despatches by sea routes has been laid out and shipping has been increased to meet the minimum requirements of the Food Department. The necessity for this additional shipping has now been fully recognised and there are now prospects of the country's requirements being met to a substantial extent. This will obviate the difficulties of rail movement which in the past have led to difficulties in meeting commitments to certain deficit provinces. With a planned programme of movement by sea, it has been found possible to take advantage of country craft service available on the West Coast during the fair weather season. The extent of transport demands can be appreciated from the fact that train movement under the Government Basic Plan for four main foodgrains, *i.e.*, rice, millets, wheat and gram approximates 30 lakh tons. This is in addition to the movement of foodgrains within provinces, whether on private or Government account.

Rationing

Where the necessities of life are in short supply they have to be divided as equally as possible. The logical sequel to Government control of prices and procurement is Government control of distribution. This is in two stages, the allocation of surpluses under the Basic Plan by the Centre and the internal distribution of overall supplies to the individual citizen by the Province. The latter implies rationing.



A crowd listening to rationing instructions from a broadcasting van.



Imported wheat being unloaded at an Indian port.

Rationing has made remarkable progress in spite of the vastness of the administrative effort involved and notwithstanding all the defects and difficulties with which it is still associated.

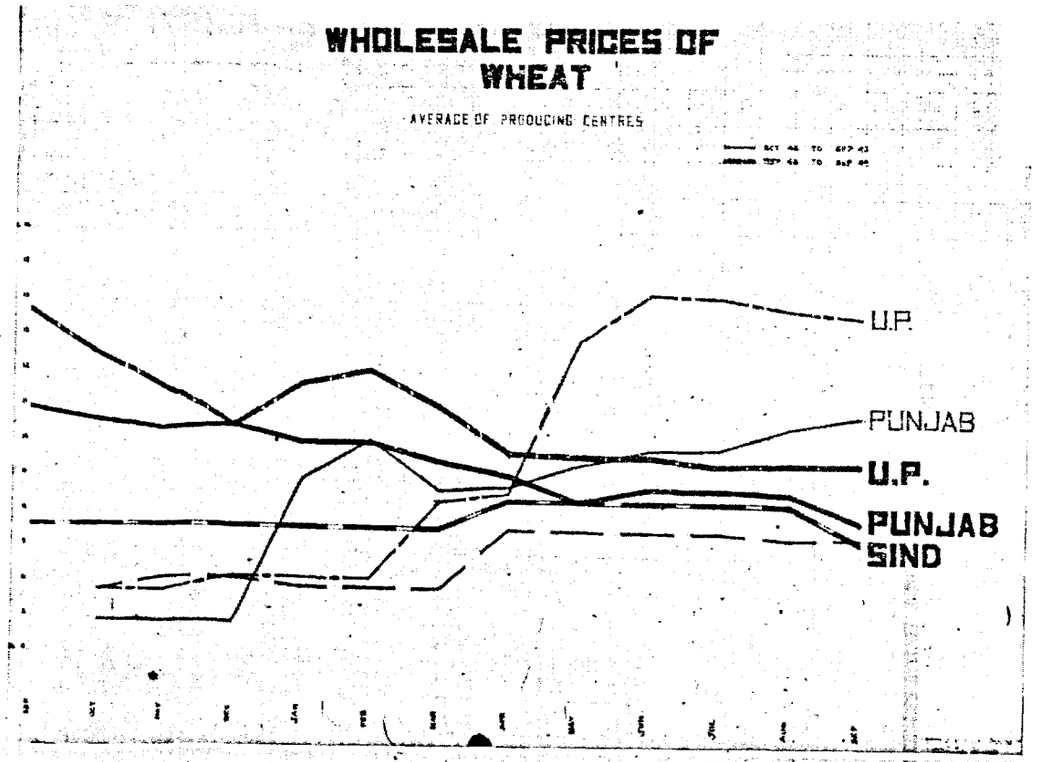
There are in India to-day some 50 millions of the urban population on rations and there can be no doubt that the popular tendency in spite of complaints about quality and prices is to ask for an extension of rationing. Extension is not confined to more towns, it means more complete and highly developed rationing of more and more categories of foodstuffs and also the inclusion of kerosene and fuel in rationing schemes.

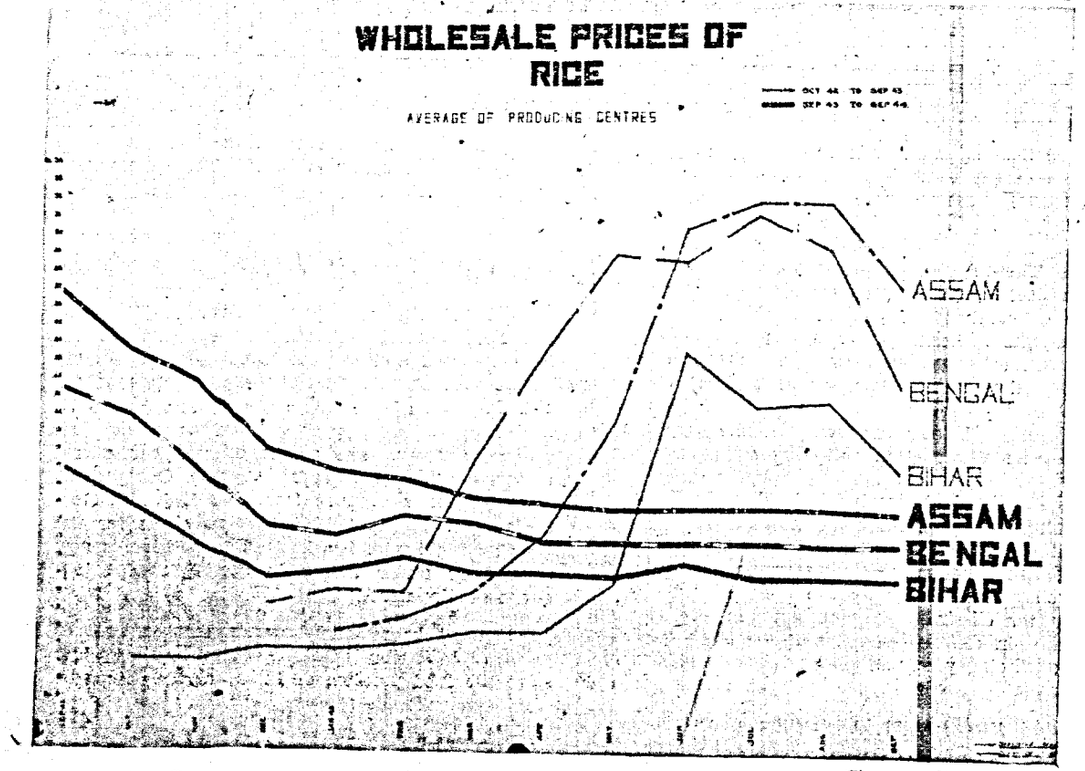
A great deal remains to be done in improving quality, provision for grading, stabilisation of retail prices and the elimination of black marketing and other abuses. Attention has recently forcibly been drawn by the Centre to the necessity for eliminating anomalies in the size of ration in different areas and the need for making special provision for the "vulnerable" sections of the community such as mothers and young children and certain classes of industrial employees with special needs. The foundations are in fact laid for planned and balanced nutrition.

Imports

One of the principal recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee was regarding imports from and exports to overseas. The Government of India accepted the principle that for the duration of the war India must cease to be an exporting country and must be a net importing country. The export of rice has ceased altogether and as regards imports, Government have secured a promise from His Majesty's Government to supply 800,000 tons of wheat for the year ending September 1944. The position is now once more under review in the light of subsequent developments.

It must be realised however that control of prices and distribution alone cannot by themselves solve the food problem of India, nor can imports.





Food production must be geared up to consumption requirements. This part of the task which calls for an effort comparable to that required for the distribution of foodgrains to deficit areas, is already being tackled by the Education, Health and Lands Department of the Central Government.

Common Policy

In spite of what has been done in the past 12 months to secure the feeding of the people of India, and it is not negligible, much remains to be done. The work of all the Governments concerned, Central, Provincial, and State administrations is continuous, pressing and never finished. They have to be consistent in aim, alert to anticipate danger, resourceful and elastic in meeting it, and ready to adapt themselves to constantly changing conditions. What has been achieved has been achieved by co-operation and give and take in a common cause, and by loyalty to a common policy. The capacity for intelligent self-discipline, and readiness to use restraint and make sacrifices in a common cause, are no bad tests of citizenship. In the sphere of food planning and food control perhaps more than in any other sphere these qualities are called for, both from the man in the street or in the field, as well as from his Government. Given the support to which they are entitled by the individual, the different Governments can press on in the coming year towards their ultimate goal, a well fed India.

MORE WHEAT IMPORTS

His Majesty's Government in the course of the previous announcement regarding food imports undertook to give further consideration to India's requirements for the fourth quarter of 1944, said a Press Communique issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on October 15.

It added: This has now been completed and shipping and supply are being arranged for approximately 300,000 tons of wheat and wheat products to be loaded for India in the months of October, November and December. This quantity is in addition to 800,000 tons already announced. His Majesty's Government will review the position again in November.

About 25,000 tons of wheat arrived in India from overseas during the week ended October 17, 1944.

GOVERNMENT'S FOOD PRICE CONTROL POLICY

TO bring prices of foodgrains down to normal levels firmly, but not too quickly, to strike a delicate balance between the claims of the producer for an adequate return for his labour, and the demand of the consumer for cheap food, and to hold prices steady without violent fluctuations in either direction, has been the purpose and aim of the Price Control Policy of the Central Food Department. Maximum prices have been fixed for wheat, *bajra* and *jowar*, and in the case of rice maximum prices are in operation all over the country though they are not yet related to a common all-India basis.

One of the chief duties of the Food authorities in wartime is to protect the interests of the consumer, and to safeguard the economic organisation of the country in general by controlling food prices so that they may not rise to unjustified heights. Failure to do this in the early years of the war has exposed the Government to much criticism some of which may be justified. Piecemeal legislation dealing with grain prices which had been introduced since the war, could be regarded only as a series of temporary expedients dealing with crises as they arose. A long-range policy was necessary. Price control for all major foodgrains was therefore accepted last October as one of the main principles of Government's food policy, and came into operation early this year. It is not generally known, that till recently Provincial Governments—who have to operate price control measures—were not enthusiastic over introducing price control.

Two Aspects

Price control has two aspects—determination and enforcement of prices. Determination of a "fair" price, even in normal conditions is no easy task, but under the stress of a total war owing to a rise in the costs of production it has become a task of far greater magnitude and complication. Prices of foodgrains are determined by the Food Department on the recommendation of its Central Price Advisory Committee whose chairman is the Economic Adviser to the Government of India. On this body are representatives of producers and traders as well as of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, which watches the interests of agriculturists and sees that prices are fixed on levels, best calculated to promote the maximum production of foodgrains. To further guard the producer against a precipitous fall in prices, the Government have guaranteed a minimum price for wheat, *bajra* and *jowar*.

The licensing of traders in foodgrains has been found indispensable for enforcement of price regulations. This has been an effective step in driving from the grain market profiteers and speculators who brought the trade into disrepute on the outbreak of war.

A word of caution is necessary. No one suggests that grain prices have come down to satisfactory levels; on the contrary it is recognised that they are still about double or treble the pre-war prices, but the steady decline cannot be missed. It would not be surprising if the favourable news from all theatres of war, the assurance of imports and determination of the Government to maintain price control at all costs, does not accelerate the downward movement of grain prices. The price of foodgrains bears a close relation to the price of other goods, so that a fall in the prices of our food should ultimately lead to a consequent decline in the price of other necessities.

NO COAL EXPORTS FROM INDIA

As a result of coal shortage export of Indian coal has totally ceased for some time, said a Press Note issued by the Supply Department, Government of India, on October 10.

It added: Before the war India was exporting coal to Ceylon, Burma, the Straits Settlements, China and Hong-Kong. Ceylon was one of the most important markets and used to take nearly a quarter of India's coal exports. At the beginning of the war India was supplying substantial quantities of coal to the Middle East for the conduct of the war in that area. From 1943 India herself began to suffer from coal shortage, and exports to the Middle East had to be stopped, but it was decided that Ceylon's requirements which involved only a very small fraction of India's production should be supplied from India's output. Purely for reasons connected with the United Nations' shipping convenience, the coal earmarked for export to Ceylon has in practice been shipped to Mideast, while Ceylon's requirements have been met to an equivalent extent from South Africa.

The actual destination of Indian coal shipped to Mideast is not controlled from India, and it is of course possible that some of it may have been shipped onward to Italy; it is in this sense only that a very small quantity of Indian coal may have found its way to Italy. Recently it has been decided that India's coal position no longer allows of any exports being made at present and exports have accordingly now ceased.

PROGRESS OF RATIONING IN INDIA

THE welfare of the civilians in wartime is affected by the organisation of food supply and distribution as much as by the organisation of industrial production and military activity, and the ability and desire of the people to stand the strain imposed by war conditions, depends largely on the quantity and kind of food supplied. The somewhat anarchic conditions of food distribution in some parts of this country last year, was one of the principal causes for the recommendation by the Foodgrains Policy Committee last September that "Rationing of the urban areas is the *only* way of dealing with a series of phenomena of the most distressing kind and having the most deleterious social consequences."

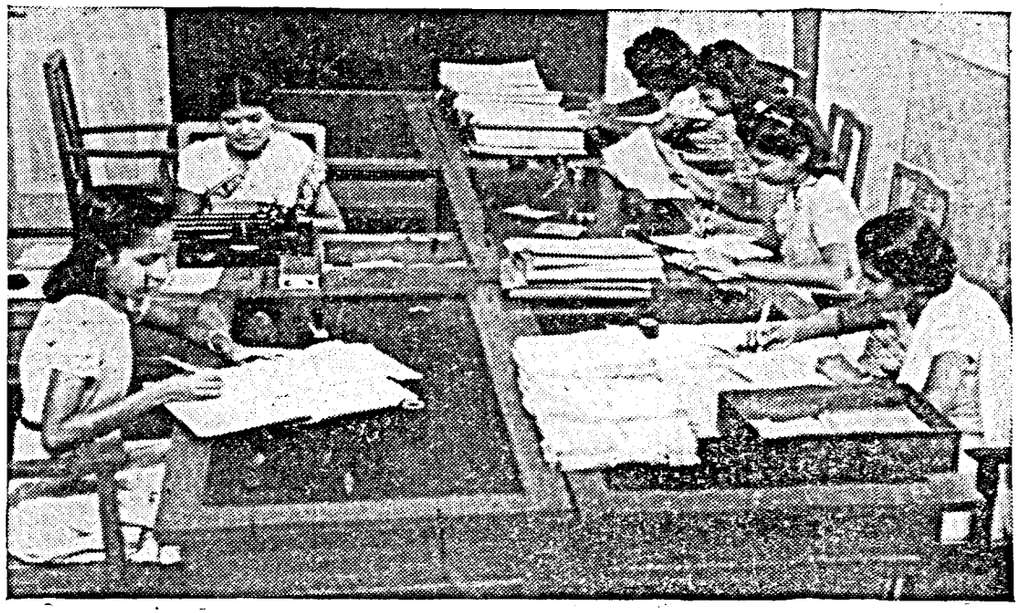
One of the chief duties of any Government in wartime is to protect the interests of the consumer and to safeguard the economic organisation of the country in general, by preventing food prices from rising to unjustified heights. But it was quickly discovered by the Government of India that mere control of food prices was no solution of the food problem as the demand was greater than the supply. There was only one way of meeting this problem, by controlling the demand for food, *i.e.*, by rationing the consumer.

Mere price control without rationing is liable to mean that goods will be consumed in centres of production while other areas go short. Furthermore, price control without rationing gives an unfair advantage to those with leisure to seek out the small supplies available. The busy man or woman is at a disadvantage. He or she goes short, penalised for the very productiveness that should be rewarded. The Central Government, therefore, accepted urban rationing as a part of their co-ordinated "All-India" Policy, in October last, although it had already been introduced with success in a few areas in India.

Bombay Rationing Conferences

Once the necessity for urban rationing had been accepted, its extension was bound to be rapid, for in spite of initial nervousness and opposition from a section of the public, it was quickly recognised that no other method could ensure equitable distribution of the available supplies.

To create the nucleus of an efficient and skilled rationing administration, a series of conferences and lectures on the subject were arranged in Bombay in August and September 1943. These conferences which were attended by a large number of officers from all parts of the country



Women employees in a Bombay rationing office.

proved singularly successful, and created a reservoir of highly knowledgeable officers from which it was later found possible to draw experienced administrators of rationing schemes in all important cities.

There are 53 towns in India with a population of more than 400,000, 100 towns with a population of between 50,000 and 100,000 and 1,000 towns with a population of more than 10,000. The task before the Government of India was to start with the rationing of the larger and gradually extend the system down to the smaller towns. Expert advice and guidance on rationing was given by the Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, whose services had been made available to the Government of India by the Ministry of Food, London. Preparations were soon started in almost all the towns with a population of 100,000 and over. To-day the total number of rationed towns is 230, which means that roughly 35 million people are assured of sufficient food at a fair price. Racketeering, profiteering and other antisocial activities have been effectively checked; prices generally are lower and a regular inflow of supplies has been assured.

The most rapid development of rationing has been in the Madras Presidency where 80 municipal areas are now on a rice ration. Bengal has extended the scheme to greater Calcutta and its entire industrial area and 29 suburban municipalities. Bombay which took the lead amongst the Indian cities in the matter of rationing, has been gradually extending its scheme to cover a large number of towns. Both the Punjab and Sind, although surplus provinces, have initiated rationing in their larger towns. Travancore and Cochin are first amongst the States to have introduced State-wide rationing. Among other States which have rationed some of their areas are Mysore, Hyderabad, Gwalior and Indore. Orissa has rationed five towns and the Central Provinces have started with Nagpur and Jubbulpore. The United Provinces has introduced partial rationing in 39 big towns, rationing about 50 to 87 per cent of the urban population. It is hoped that the total urban rationing in U.P. will be introduced before long.

Rationing Problems

With the advent of rationing, the Department of Food was faced with new problems, some of which are reviewed below.

According to the Foodgrains Policy Committee the minimum overall size of cereal ration should not be less than 1 lb. per adult per day. Every effort has been made to attain this standard both in surplus as well as deficit areas, but inevitably there have been differences in the level due either to temporary shortages or local conditions.



Ration card holders in Bombay queuing up to obtain their supplies.

It must not be forgotten that the idea of rationing foodgrains was a novel one to India. In the early stages, the Central Government had to allow a certain amount of latitude to provincial Governments. The tendency of the surplus areas has been to give a generous ration whereas on account of the difficult supply position, deficit areas like Travancore and Cochin and other Provinces and States have had to accept a lower scale of rations. Now that rationing has got into its stride and in view of India's overall deficit, the question of equalisation of rationing schemes is being considered by the Central Government.

Food Advisory Council's Resolution

It is of interest to note the wording of a strong resolution passed on the subject by the Central Food Advisory Council, which runs as follows:—

"This Council is of the view that the present burden of an overall deficiency of foodgrains should be shared evenly by all parts of the country, and deprecates the existing disparity in rationing scales. It therefore recommends that full rationing should be introduced in every province in all urban areas and that the basic ration per head should be uniformly 1 lb. per adult per day."

With the rapid extension of rationing one of the most difficult food problems has come to the fore, *i.e.*, how to deal with the food demands of labour and the heavy manual worker. Labour has made claims, on good grounds, for supplementary rations for workers engaged in industries or for long hours. It is a well recognised fact that 'heavy' manual workers require more of energy producing food than those whose jobs are not so laborious.

One method which has been followed is to provide labour with a supplementary ration in addition to the basic ration. The method has its drawbacks for one has to bear in mind that apart from the difficulty of differentiating between 'heavy' and 'light' workers, supplementary rations can only be provided at the expense of the domestic supply which in many places is far from satisfactory. Further, the granting of an extra ration is against the basic principle of equal sharing, and is likely to create much resentment in those groups excluded from this privilege. The best manner of ensuring that the heavy worker gets the additional nourishment that he undoubtedly requires, is to give him cooked food in industrial canteens 'outside' the basic ration. In a number of cases industrial

canteens have worked very successfully, some of the most notable instances being (1) Messrs. Tata Iron and Steel Co., Jamshedpur; (2) Ahmedabad Manufacturing and Calico Printing Co., Ltd., and (3) Indian Tea Market Expansion Board.

Another difficulty which Provincial Governments have had to battle against as a result of the introduction of rationing, is the poor quality of grain supplied at ration shops. Complaints come generally from two sets of people and they should be clearly distinguished. Certain individuals, especially the well-to-do, have been accustomed to particular qualities of grain. Under a rationing scheme it is obvious that the requirements of these persons cannot be met. The very basis of rationing is to share alike, not only the size but also the quality of the ration.

The other complaint of adulterated or poor quality of grain is legitimate, and one reason is that often there is a time lag between the purchase of grain and the introduction of rationing, especially as stocks have to be built up immediately before rationing can be introduced. Stocks therefore must be cleaned and sifted before issue to retailers. Another reason is that the normal relations of buyers and sellers as between merchant and retailer, have been replaced by Government procurement. It is no longer the merchant's concern to secure quality. Every care, however, is being taken to ensure proper inspection of foodgrains and experience shows that complaints regarding quality of grain tend to disappear as rationing progresses, and inspection control becomes more effective. Trade associations can be especially useful in the strict enforcement of measures to supply good quality of grain to consumers.

Nutrition

Rationing has brought into the forefront the nutritional aspect of foods in India where under and mal-nutrition are prominent amongst the majority of the people. Nutritional experts have devised carefully planned alternative foods with equal or even better nutritional value. This has proved of great advantage in rice eating areas, particularly where due to shortage of rice, millets have had to be introduced. Recipes have been prepared from different alternative foodgrains to ensure taste and nutritional value. These have been circulated to provinces and states concerned for practical demonstration.

In the last few years our ideas of food requirements have been revolutionised. Until lately people interested in food requirements have studied man as a machine. Appetite has been the natural guide to the amount of food required, so if people had enough food to satisfy hunger they were regarded as adequately fed. Our experience during the last two years has shown that this is no longer true, but the caloric intake must be carefully considered.

One of the recommendations of the Foodgrains Policy Committee was that normal trade channels should be utilised. Every effort has been made in the provinces and states to use the wholesale and retail traders for procurement and distribution of rationed foodstuffs, under Government license and supervision. A system of fixing prices has been devised which seeks to ensure for the consumer a minimum price based on the actual average cost for a short period. A check is kept on the utilisation of normal trade channels to show that the trade is not driven out of business. Obviously rationing suggests restrictions; this might entail reduction in the number of people in the trade.

The Choice

One of the most welcome signs of the changed popular feeling regarding rationing has been the insistent demand by the public and the Press that rationing schemes should be extended to other commodities than foodgrains, *viz.*, milk and other foods, firewood and other fuels. The choice—people realise—is between fair distribution of existing stocks in short supply and a scramble to buy in a market in which prices constantly rise. War conditions which imposed this choice are likely to persist for a long time, for even if the war ceases in Europe there will continue to be heavy demands on shipping, and of course the shipping available for the import of foodgrains is a big factor in the Indian Supply position. Though the fighting in the East may not perhaps be on as big a scale on land as the war in Europe, but the distances involved are greater, and the sea and air offensive will be no less exacting. There will be competing demands on shipping for the food and rehabilitation of occupied countries, pending the return of normal conditions.

Necessary rationing controls, by keeping a check on results of scarcity, will accelerate and make smoother the return to normality. Indeed unless distribution and prices are kept firmly under control, the effects of abnormal conditions will persist for years. India's experience during the last year has overwhelmingly supported the cause for an efficient system of rationing, which might have to remain in force for about five years. It is not merely a matter of justice and fair distribution of food or even of the stresses resulting from a failure to distribute fairly. If normal conditions are to return within a reasonable time, the Indian economic system must be kept under control till normality is achieved.

WAR AGAINST LOCUSTS IN INDIA

INDIA has been, from times immemorial, subject to periodical visitations of locust swarms. In Sanskrit literature of the third or fourth century there is a mention of locust menace being one of the most serious calamities that Indian cultivators had to face. Coming to more recent times, in the 19th century India was invaded by this pest on eight occasions. During the 20th century we are now in the midst of the fifth cycle, the fourth having lasted from 1926 to 1931.

It is well known that locust swarms and hoppers cause incalculable damage to crops, fodder, pasture, etc., causing severe famines and heavy mortality among cattle and other domestic stock. A very moderate estimate of damage caused to crops alone during the last cycle is about five crores of rupees and one can without exaggeration say that the resulting loss due to death of livestock etc. was almost the same.

The locust which causes so much damage in India is also a pest in almost all the Middle East countries extending up to North West Africa. Swarm invasions occur in cycles, but the locust actually never dies. During the intervals between the cycles it lives and breeds in its permanent homes. Such permanent breeding grounds in India are the extensive desert tracts of Rajputana, Sind and Southern Baluch-

By Hem Singh Pruthi, M.Sc., Ph.D. and Sc.D. (Cantab) Imperial Entomologist and Director, Imperial Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

istan. These dry and sandy areas become green during rainy weather due to sprouting wild vegetation on which the locust feeds. If after a period of drought there is good rainfall for two or three consecutive seasons, locusts multiply more rapidly and form swarms and thus a new locust cycle starts. The swarms leave the permanent breeding grounds and can invade almost all parts of India and cross the western borders of India into Persia and Arabia. If rainfall is good in Sind, the Punjab, United Provinces, etc. the swarms further breed in the provinces, giving rise to more swarms and there is a general flare up.

The present locust cycle started in 1940, a very critical time because of the War and thus the food supply both for the troops and civil population which was already difficult was likely



A close-up of locusts.

to become very serious. To fight this pest, the Government of India immediately took steps. States and Provinces being independent or autonomous in agricultural matters, every Province and State is responsible for the destruction of crop pests including locust in its jurisdiction.

Locust Warning Organisation

In the past, anti-locust measures were independently undertaken by the Provinces and States affected, with the result that often good work carried out by one administration was undone through the neglect of its neighbours. This was specially so because the territories which contain the largest permanent desert breeding grounds are agriculturally poor and, therefore, have little inducement to incur heavy expenditure on locust destruction. Appreciating the all-India, in fact the international importance of locust and threatening food situation, the Central Government immediately strengthened its permanent Locust Warning Organisation which is in the charge of the Imperial Entomologist and has superior field staff and scouts posted at strategic points throughout North-West India.

By the autumn of 1941, some larger measures of co-ordination of work in various Provinces and States became necessary and a conference of representatives of various provinces and States approved of a co-ordinated Anti-Locust Scheme according to which the cost of locust destruction in the desert areas was to be shared by the neighbouring Governments whose territories were liable to locust attacks.

The Government of India has also been taking active interest in locust control in the neighbouring countries in the west, *viz.*, Persia and Arabia, because the locust breeding in those countries has direct influence on the locust situation in India. Our locust control parties and troops have done very useful work in Arabia, Persia, etc.

Locust Menace Under Control

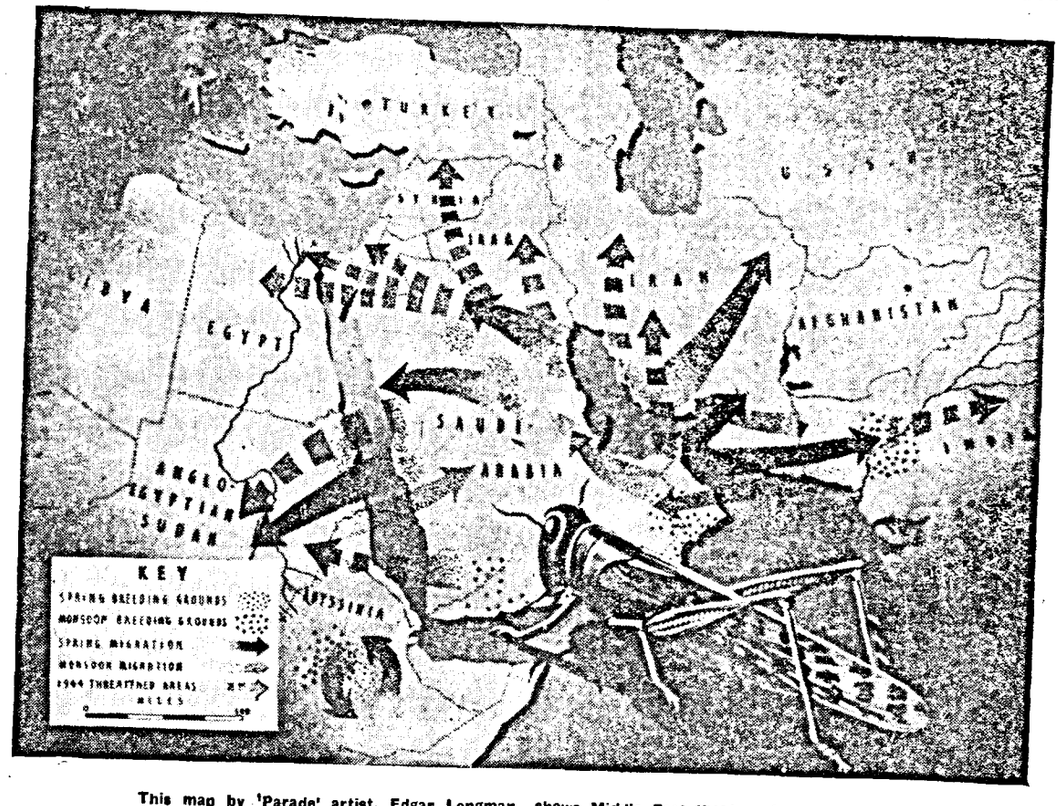
Owing to the steps taken by the Government of India referred to above, we have been successful every season, during the past four years, in destroying the pest mostly in the hopper stage in the desert areas, and very few swarms which developed in such areas invaded the neighbouring Provinces.

Last year, which was the peak year of the cycle, no swarm crossed the Indian borders into Persia and Arabia, which is very unusual. In fact the western countries were expecting a large number of swarms from India and had made elaborate arrangements to meet the menace. Naturally they were disappointed but were happy because their crops became free from danger.

Destruction of Hoppers

In India though the cycle is in its fifth year, hardly any damage has been caused to our crops in the fertile plains of the Punjab, U.P. or Sind which constitute the first targets of the locust swarms. This is the first occasion in the history of locust control in India or in other countries when locust has been brought under control to such an extent.

If arrangements in Persia and Arabia, particularly in the latter country, had been as efficient as ours, the locust cycle would have ended



This map by 'Parade' artist, Edgar Longman, shows Middle East theatre of locusts. The Key indicates how research by Dr. Uvrov and by locust Officers has located spring and monsoon areas. Thus it is possible to predict formation of swarms and to take steps to wipe them out.



Young locust hoppers on the march.

last year but unfortunately several swarms developed in various parts of Arabia during last spring and India again received waves of immigrant swarms from the end of March and up to about the middle of July. In view of very good monsoons this year the swarms laid eggs over extensive tracts in Sind and Rajputana.

At present we are again engaged on the destruction of hoppers in desert areas. Our *Kharif* crops are in danger since if the hoppers escape destruction they will give rise to swarms which would invade the cultivated areas of Punjab, U.P., Sind, etc. Both the Central and regional organisations are fully co-operating with one another and the War Department has kindly placed the Bikaner Ganga Risala, some trucks and aeroplanes at our disposal. It is hoped that like last year the pest will not be allowed to develop to such an extent as to damage crops at this critical situation in our food supply.

FIRST LOCUST GENERATION DESTROYED

THE first monsoon generation of locust has been completely destroyed, reports the Imperial Entomologist.

Though there has been fair amount of rainfall in certain parts of Sind-Rajputana deserts during September, there is no fear of the second generation breeding since the few swarms which developed have got scattered about. Excepting possibly for one swarm reported at Dera Ghazikhan, no swarm reached the Punjab and U.P., and no report of damage to crops by swarms has been received from any part of India.

Egg-laying on a small scale has been reported from one locality in Lasbella State.

No swarm has so far been observed in Mekran and, therefore, it is expected that Persia and East Arabia will not be invaded from Indian side during the next autumn and winter. However, there is danger of these countries being invaded by swarms from the Arabian side since active monsoon breeding took place in East Africa and south-western Arabia. Numerous hopper bands escaped destruction giving rise to swarms. Though India has succeeded in preventing the migration of swarms to the western countries, she has to prepare to receive any swarms that may approach Baluchistan from the west

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 471)

are capable of giving milk other than those unsuitable for bearing offspring and (4) cows which are pregnant or in milk. Provinces have been asked to issue similar instructions in respect of civilian slaughter houses and to establish some meatless days in a week where feasible.

The attention of Provinces and States has been drawn to the pressing need for increasing fish production. Schemes are being framed by several Provinces in consultation with the Fisheries Development Adviser.

Steps are being taken in the permanently settled areas to obtain correct acreage statistics by field enumeration as is done in the rest of British India. Similar action is needed on the part of many States.

The random sampling method has been tried out for conducting crop cutting operations to estimate yields and have given very promising results. It is hoped shortly to extend this system.

INDIAN PRINCES' CONTRIBUTION TO WAR EFFORT

AT the outbreak of the second World War the Indian Princes reiterated their loyalty and devotion to the King-Emperor and pledged their full support to the prosecution of the war. Judging from their contributions in men, money and material during the last five years, this promise has been abundantly fulfilled. The Princes have subscribed generously to various war funds; have helped splendidly in the training and equipment of the armed forces of the country and in maintaining the morale of the public in those dark and difficult days when the fortunes of war were going against the United Nations.

During some of the most critical phases of the war, the members of the Indian States forces showed exemplary courage and sense of duty. They covered themselves with glory on the battlefields of North Africa, Italy and the Assam-Burma Front. Along with their comrades from British India, they have fought magnificently in Europe, Asia and Africa to uphold the principles of justice and freedom and to save the world from Axis tyranny and domination.

Lord Linlithgow's Tribute

Before laying down the reins of Viceroyalty, Lord Linlithgow paid a handsome tribute to the Indian States' war effort. In the course of his farewell address to the Chamber of Princes in October, 1943, Lord Linlithgow said:

"The Indian States Forces have taken full advantage of the opportunities that have come to them to win fresh distinction on the battlefield. Comparisons are rash. And such distinction is of course largely dependent upon opportunity. But I would mention the gallant record of the Kashmir Mountain Battery, the 1st Patiala Infantry, the Jind Infantry, the Jodhpur Sardar Infantry, two Jaipur Battalions, the Tripura Rifles and the Tehri-Garhwal and Malerkotla Sappers and Miners. Nor should I fail to record my gratitude for the manner in which the States as a whole have adopted the scheme devised to raise the standard of efficiency among the higher ranks of their forces. A new scheme for the exchange of officers, and another for providing advanced training for State units will, I understand, shortly be put forward.

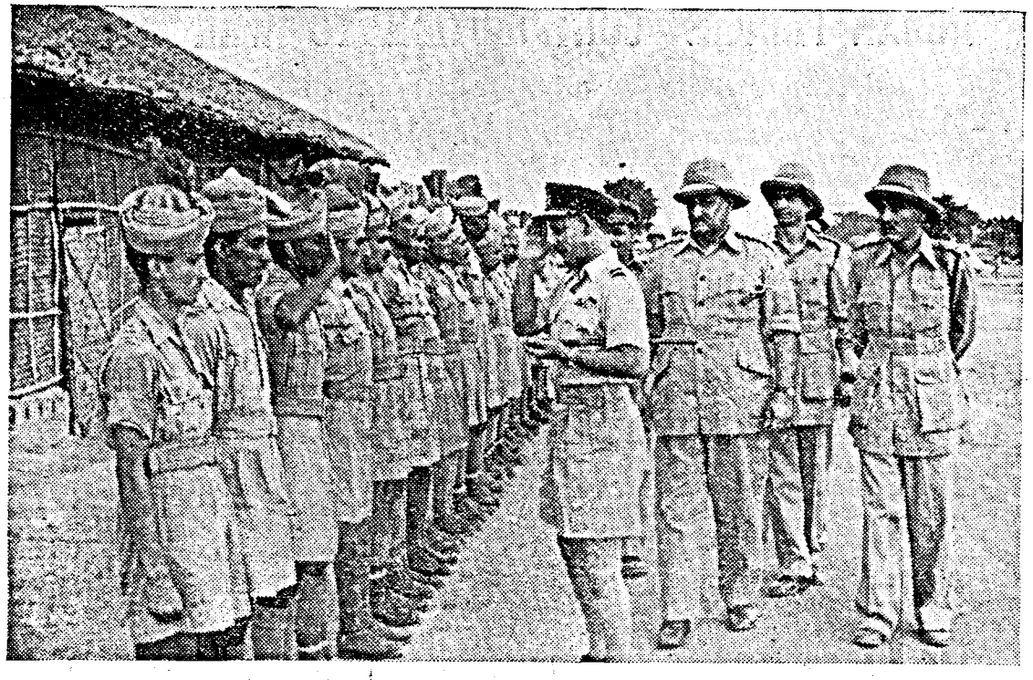
"Nor has the active aid of the States in the actual war zones been confined to combatant units. Invaluable assistance, at a time of very real and pressing need, has been lent by the Indian States in providing labour units for the construction of roads and aerodromes. Our gratitude is due in very special measure to the great States of the South whose contributions in this sphere have been, and continue to be, outstanding. From Travancore and Cochin over 70,000 men have travelled north to carve out roads to be traversed by the fighting soldiers, and in doing so to face the perils of disease. Those who have laid down their lives side by side with the fighting man in the fever-infested belts in which so much has had to be done, have sacrificed themselves as truly as any fighting soldier for their motherland, and we salute their memory to-day.

"For the rest, contributions and offers of personal services, aircraft, buildings, labour, watercraft, machinery, training facilities and medical aid, donations and gifts of every sort and description have continued to pour in from Indian States in an ever widening stream. I cannot speak too highly of the magnificent response consistently made by the Indian States to the urgent needs of this critical time. They have shown unstinted generosity and co-operation; thanks to their help, great aerodromes, strategical projects of every kind, have sprung up in the territory of the Indian States. Facilities of every kind have been most readily granted not only to British and Indian forces, but to the forces of our Allies; and in particular certain States, at the cost of wide stretches of famous forests most carefully guarded in the past, have helped immensely in the training of men in the new science of jungle warfare."

Indian States Forces

The Ruling Princes have supplied over 375,000 recruits for the fighting forces of India. Some of these joined the States forces and are with States units, while others joined the Indian Army direct and are with the Indian Army units. While some of the bigger States like Patiala have provided as many as 33,000 recruits, the smaller States have contributed their own quota. The comparatively small States of Kalsia and Maihar, for instance, have each supplied to the armed forces well over 2,000 recruits. Another State, Mandi, has supplied some 6,000 men. In the comparatively small State of Sachin, about 8 per cent of the total male population is serving outside the State in various services connected with war effort.

Recruitment in the States has covered all branches of the fighting forces—the army, navy and air force as well as the auxiliary services attached to them. Large numbers of men have also been recruited to non-combatant ranks including many for skilled or technical work. Enlistment is entirely on a voluntary basis in all the States. Besides enlisting large numbers through their own recruiting organisation, the



H. H. the Nawab of Bhopal inspecting officers of a Bhopal Infantry Battalion at a training centre in India.

States have also given complete co-operation and active assistance to the Central Indian Recruiting Committees which have toured many States.

There are at present some 63 States forces units serving outside the States. In addition to these, some 38 Indian Army units have been raised by the States. The following are among the many States whose forces have proceeded on active service and overseas:

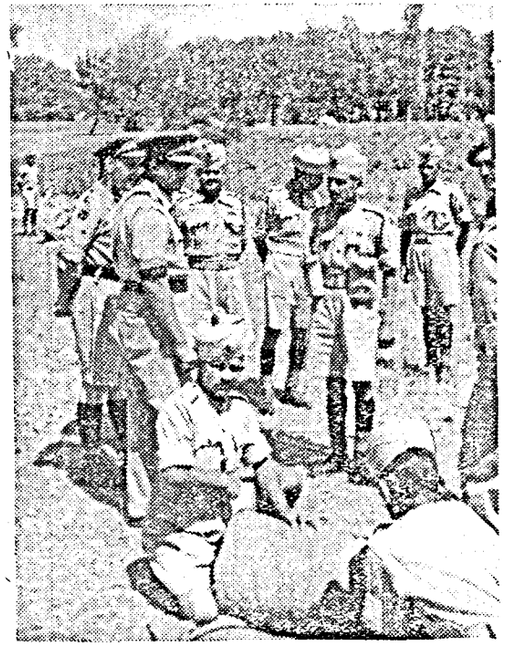
Hyderabad	Udaipur	Rampur
Mysore	Bahawalpur	Jind
Baroda	Bharatpur	Kapurthala
Gwalior	Bikaner	Nabha
Kashmir	Jaipur	Tripura
Bhopal	Jodhpur	Faridkot
Indore	Kotah	Malerkotla
Kolhapur	Patiala	Tehri-Garhwal
Travancore	Alwar	

Every State has placed its resources and industries unreservedly at the disposal of the War Department. While some of the larger States like Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kashmir, Gwalior and Travancore, which have several large industries, have been able to supply a variety of goods, many of the comparatively smaller States have been able to make valuable contributions from their natural resources. Thus while Hyderabad and Mysore have well-developed steel industries and arms and ammunition production centres, comparatively small States like Keonjarh and Mayurbhanj have been supplying upwards of three million tons of iron ore (two million tons of pig iron) for the Indian heavy industries. Sandur State in South India is making a very valuable contribution by placing all its vast resources in Manganese at the disposal of the War Department.

An arms factory has been started in the Hyderabad State with the active co-operation of the Nizam's Government. Mysore has its well-developed iron and steel works producing at present 24,000 tons of steel per annum. This is subsequently rolled into bars and structurals. The State also makes large quantities of cast pipes and some of its high grade iron is used for making machinery castings. Mysore is now erecting a second 25-ton steel furnace which will almost double the State's steel output. Mysore has recently installed an electric furnace which is making Ferro-Silicon for steel making. These furnaces will meet about half the total demands of India. In Indore, Patiala, Malerkotla and



G.O.C. of an Indian Division explains the war situation, using maps, to the Kashmir Ruler when His Highness visited Indian troops in Italy.



H. H. the Maharaja of Jaipur also recently visited Indian units serving in Italy. Here, His Highness is seen with men of a Jaipur Regiment

a number of other States, there are several steel rolling mills which are being put to great use at the present time.

Arms and ammunition production has also been considerably developed. Hyderabad, Jodhpur, Baroda, Bikaner, Jaipur and several other States are doing vital work in this field.

The States have also undertaken pioneering work in the field of aircraft production in India. More than a beginning has been made in some States. An aircraft factory situated somewhere in Mysore State is playing an important part in India's war effort.

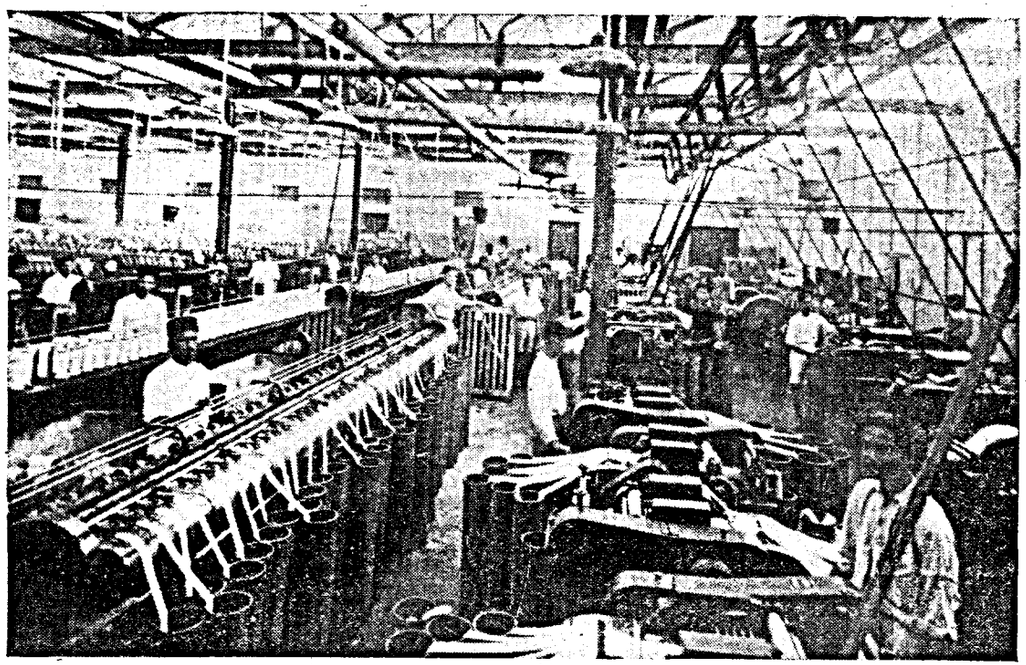
Supplies of Textiles

The States are providing their own quota in the textile supply from India. Thousands of army blankets and many thousands of yards of woollen cloth and hosiery goods have been supplied from States like Hyderabad, Baroda, Kashmir, Jodhpur, Gwalior, Jind, Nawanagar, Malerkotla and Porbandar. Kashmir and Mysore supply valuable silk required for the manufacture of parachutes. The Maharaja of Gwalior presented to the Government of India as a free gift the only mill in India for the manufacture of webbing cloth. The mill has a capacity to produce Rs. 800,000 worth of cloth per year.

A very large proportion of India's supply of chemicals comes from the States of Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kashmir, Gwalior, Bikaner and Mayurbhanj. A number of other States have large-scale industries for the production of chemicals and these have fulfilled large orders from the Government of India. Kashmir is the world's chief supplier of Belladonna from which atropine sulphas and various other preparations are made. The State has set up a plant for making extracts. The entire Turpentine production of Kashmir has been placed at the disposal of the War Department. Valuable chemicals of every kind are prepared in Hyderabad, Mysore and Baroda and these are exclusively devoted to defence requirements.

Rubber products have come from Travancore, Baroda and Mysore. Since the loss to the British of their rich eastern possessions with their immense supplies of rubber and tea, the supply of these commodities from India became vital. Travancore's contribution, amounting to many millions of pounds of rubber last year, has partially made up for this loss.

Another important item of supply from the States is timber. For the manufacture of sleepers, for building railways in war zones, for aero-

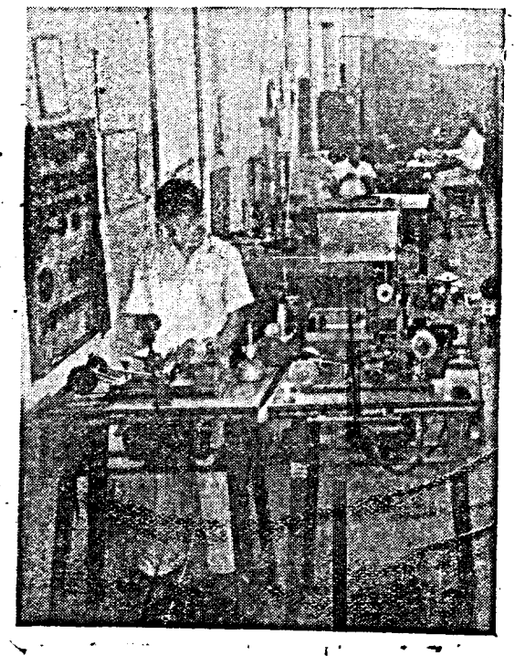


Silk yarn for parachutes being manufactured in a spun silk mill of an Indian State.

planes as well as for various small articles such as packing cases, rifle butts, tools, etc., the States have supplied approximately 215,000 tons of timber. This figure compares with the total timber production of India for war purposes which was 396,000 tons in 1941-42.

Timber has been supplemented by large supplies of building materials. Cement, tiles and other materials have come in large quantities from the States. Hyderabad, Gwalior, Baroda and Porbandar have factories producing large quantities of cement; 250,000 tons of cement were produced in Hyderabad alone last year. The Gwalior Potteries have supplied large quantities of crockery for hospitals and institutes.

Among other articles, footwear and leather goods have been available from Hyderabad, Baroda, Gwalior, Bikaner, Cochin, Nawanagar and other States. Different kinds of oil have come from Hyderabad, Gwalior, Patiala and Rampur. Over 7,000 tons of oil were obtained from States' mills last year. Travancore and Cochin have supplied large quantities of coir rope and rope material valued at over two million rupees. Tent-building materials have also been supplied by these States along with other States like Jodhpur and Porbandar. Travancore has supplied burnt coconut shell essential for the production of



A section of the Mysore Lamp Works.

gas masks. More than ten thousand maunds were supplied last year by this State.

Large quantities of food supplies have also been provided by the States. Thousands of tons of wheat, rice, gram and other foodgrains have been exported. Export of foodgrains from Bahawalpur State to the Defence Services and the deficit areas in India (which were formerly importing foodgrains, especially rice, from the Far East) has totalled 180,000 tons. Seven thousand tons of millets, 1,000 tons of wheat and 11,000 tons of gram have been exported by Gwalior. Five thousand tons of wheat, 5,000 tons of rice, and 1,000 tons of barley were exported by Rewa last year. Approximately 10,000 tons of wheat and 5,000 tons of barley and gram have been exported by Bikaner. Thousands of tins of canned fruit were sent by Nabha and Rampur. The total value of these goods is estimated to be one million rupees.

Monetary Contributions

In their all-out war effort the States are pouring money as unstintingly as they are providing men and material. In various States military expenditure has increased by as much as 300 to 400 per cent, while the average increase in most of the States is well over 100 per cent. These figures are exclusive of items of expenditure on A.R.P., Civic Guards, additional police, etc.

In spite of these large commitments on their own defence, the total financial contributions from the States have exceeded Rs. 65,000,000. These include donations to the Red Cross, St. Dunstan's Sailors, and other funds as well as gifts for 'planes, armoured cars, lorries, ambulances and naval vessels, big and small. In addition, they have given freely for the relief of evacuees, amenities for troops abroad and for the families of soldiers on active service. The States' total contributions are more than half the all-India figure in H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund which, according to the latest announcement, stands at approximately Rs. 10½ crores.

This is not all. The Rulers and their people have made large investments in the various war loans. The total figure of investments stands at approximately Rs. 375,000,000.

These figures do not take into account the contributions and investments made by States subjects through the agency of banks whose head offices are situated in British India and through British Indian post offices in Indian States. For instance, the sale of Defence Savings Certificates at the British Indian post offices in the States is included in the total published by the nearest British Indian post office

Though the dawn of victory is in sight, there is no slackening of effort on the part of the Indian Princes. They are determined to play a part worthy of their Order in bringing about the complete annihilation of the Axis military machine and in the establishment of a lasting world peace.

His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal, Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, was perhaps voicing the opinion of his brother Princes when in a recent speech he declared: "I am not one of those who regard the turning of the tide as an occasion for resting upon our oars; rather, should we redouble our efforts to reach our goal with the least delay, lest another turn of the tide should find us still at sea."

CARGOES *EX* GERMAN SHIPS AT MARMUGAO

In their Commerce Department Press Communique dated April 29, 1943, the Government of India announced that the three German ships *Braunfels*, *Ehrenfels* and *Drachenfels*, which had been sheltering in Marmugao, were scuttled there on March 9, 1943. From information so far received by the Government of India, it appears that most of the cargoes which were on board those ships at the time have either been destroyed or are irrecoverable, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on October 5.

It added: The Government of India also understand that the London Chamber of Commerce Scheme for the recovery of the cargoes *ex* German ships has fallen through, as the Chamber find themselves unable to do anything further in view of the present changed circumstances. Messrs. Cox & Kings (Agents) Ltd., Bombay, who were the agents in India of the London Chamber of Commerce, are accordingly returning to cargo-owners the shipping documents which were lodged with them.

Owners of cargoes and those interested in consignments *ex* the above ships are, therefore, advised to register their claims in respect of such cargoes with the Director of Commercial Intelligence, 1, Council House Street, Calcutta, with a view to facilitating any settlement that may be possible after the conclusion of the war.

It is emphasised that this step must be regarded as being without prejudice to the scope and method of any such settlement and that the Government of India do not accept any responsibility regarding the validity of the claims nor guarantee that the claims will eventually be met or compensated for.



An open air class in a Punjab village school.

PLAN FOR NATIONAL SYSTEM OF EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL facilities during wartime have not only been maintained at the pre-war level but a limited effort has been made to extend the scope of education, according to a review of the progress of education in British India. An ambitious plan for a national system of education after the war has been drawn up.. Students enlisting in war services have been granted various concessions by Universities and arrangements have been made for special attention to children and dependants of soldiers in educational institutions.

More Schools for Boys and Girls

The expenditure on education has, during the war, increased by nearly 9 per cent, from Rs. 29.09 lakhs in 1939-40 to Rs. 31,61 lakhs in 1942-43. In 1941-42, according to the review, 12,60,147 boys and 3,11,355 girls reached the literacy stage, an increase over the previous year by 70,565 boys and 31,606 girls. A number of uneconomic and inefficient primary schools closed down during 1941-42, but the enrolment of boys and girls in primary schools advanced by 66,687 and 1,54,190 respectively.

The number of special schools for boys increased by 614 and for girls by 62 during 1941-42. There was also an all-round increase in middle schools (both English and vernacular) and in high schools for boys and for girls. The total number of arts and science colleges rose to 338 in 1941-42 as compared to 325 in the previous year and the number of men under instruction showed an increase of 4,745.

The Government of India's expenditure on education in the Centrally administered areas of Delhi, Ajmer Merwara and Baluchistan marked a striking increase of about 72 per cent from Rs. 18 lakhs in 1939-40 to Rs. 31 lakhs provided for the current year. A committee of experts is engaged in considering if the post-war plan of the Central Advisory Board of Education could be introduced in Delhi immediately.

All universities have granted various concessions in regard to age, attendance at lectures and residence to students who enter War Service. A further extension of these concessions, particularly that they may be available to all students on

War Service irrespective of whether they belonged to the university whose concessions are to be availed of or to any other, is under consideration of the Government of India.

Steps have also been taken to promote the welfare of the classes which provide personnel for the defence services. It was suggested to Provincial Governments and Local Administrations in 1941 that children of soldiers should be given educational concessions, such as (a) free primary education, with a small allowance to cover incidental expenses on books, etc., (b) scholarships in Middle Schools, and (c) a number of special scholarships in High Schools and Colleges.

Concession Schemes

It was also suggested that the concessions should be extended not only to the children and dependants of the personnel recruited under the Indian Army Act but also to those of men enrolled under the Indian Air Force Act or the Naval Discipline Act or serving in the Mercantile Marine and also of those engaged in A.R.P. work, whether whole-time or part-time, who are killed or incapacitated during the performance of their duties.

Schemes of concessions actually adopted by Provinces and Local Administrations vary from province to province according to their special circumstances, but a common feature of almost all the schemes is the provision of free education in Primary and Middle Schools, with a supply of free books and additional financial assistance for those children who have to stay in hostels attached to the educational institutions. In addition, certain Governments have provided special scholarships for vocational education, and certain other scholarships tenable in military schools and schools for particular classes, such as Rajput or Gurkha schools. Some Governments have also granted scholarships for High Schools and Colleges.

Many Indian States have adopted similar schemes of educational concessions.

C.A.B.'s Plan

The post-war educational plan prepared by the Central Advisory Board of Education outlines the minimum programme of educational development which will place India on an approximate educational level with other countries. It suggests universal compulsory and free education for all boys and girls between the ages of six and fourteen in order to ensure literacy and the minimum preparation for citizenship. It provides for education before the age of six in the form of nursery schools and classes; secondary or high school education for those who show the capacity for benefiting by it; university education, including an adequate provision of post-graduate and research facilities for picked students; technical, commercial and art education; and adult education, both vocational and non-vocational of all kinds and standards, to meet the needs of those who were denied adequate opportunities in their earlier years or recognise the importance of supplementing what they then received.

The plan lays special emphasis on the training of teachers, an efficient school medical service, which will see that children are made healthy and kept healthy, special schools for children suffering from mental or physical handicaps and recreational facilities of all kinds for people of all ages. Further, the plan suggests the setting up of employment bureaux to guide those leaving school and college into profitable employment and as far as possible to adjust the output of the schools to the capacity of the labour market.

Under the Board's scheme, the expenditure on education will increase ten times, pupils in school stage will increase from 15 million to 59 million in university stage from 163,000 to 240,000 and the number of school teachers will be nearly fourfold, besides providing for additional facilities for pre-primary education, school medical service, employment bureaux and recreative and social activities.

DIRECTORATE OF UNSKILLED LABOUR SUPPLY

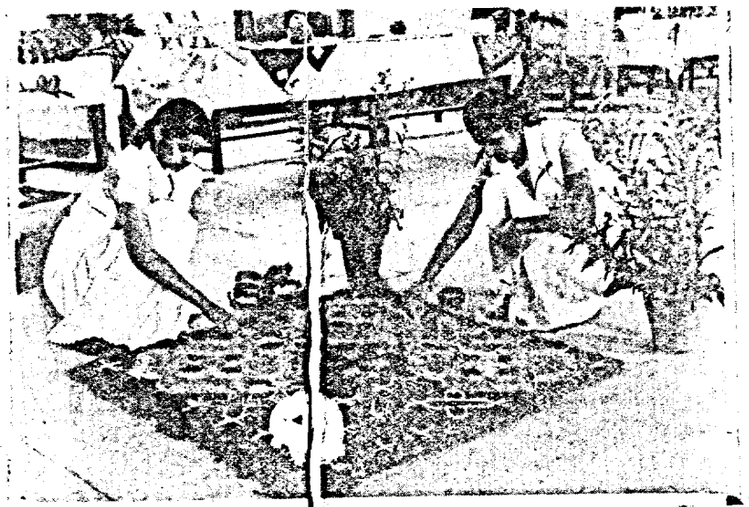
To cope with the increasingly important problems of unskilled labour, a Directorate of Unskilled Labour Supply has been set up under the Labour Department of the Central Government, consisting of a Director and a number of Deputy Directors, said a Press Note issued recently by the Labour Department, Government of India.

It added: This organisation will keep in touch with all Provincial and District or Regional Supply Committees set up under the Central Government's Scheme for co-ordinating the use of unskilled labour throughout India. It will co-ordinate the activities of these Committees, supervise existing Labour Supply Depots and establish new ones. While generally speaking, the Directorate will assist in the more effective mobilisation of available unskilled labour supply, it will also take steps to see that man-power economy measures are vigorously pressed.

One Deputy Director has been specially entrusted with the work of labour supply in colliery areas, for the time being. He will deal with questions relating to recruitment of labour for collieries, supervision and control of imported labour camps and working of the Controlled Area Scheme which is operating in the coalfields to get back to the collieries coal mining labour employed in other works.



IN LABORATORY



DECORATION



COOKING



SS-MAKING

Training in Home Craft

Training for girls in domestic arts and crafts consistent with the everyday requirements of the housewife and mother is given at the Lady Irwin College, New Delhi. The syllabus includes cookery, dietetics, housewifery, laundry work, needlework, physics and chemistry.

On the practical side a series of house duties is assigned to the students in Practising Colleges in rotation: a few students live at a time in each of these colleges and do their entire house work all by themselves under the supervision of the staff. These pictures show the students at work.

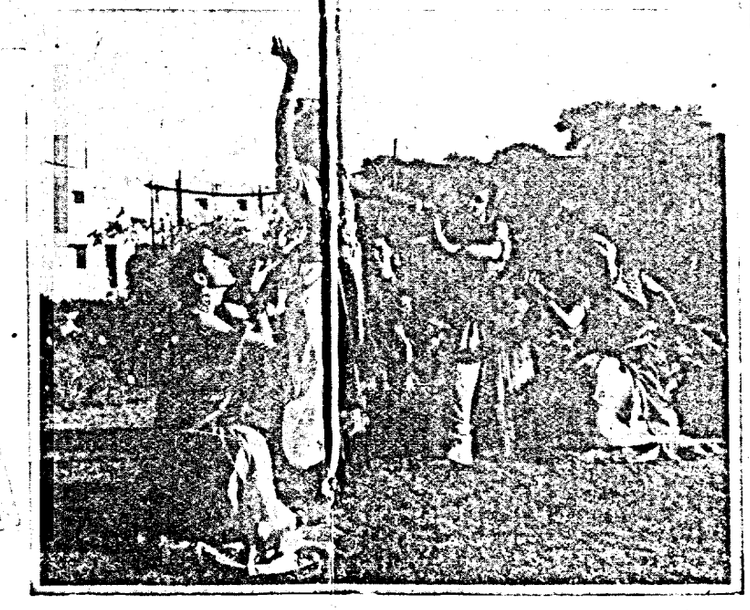


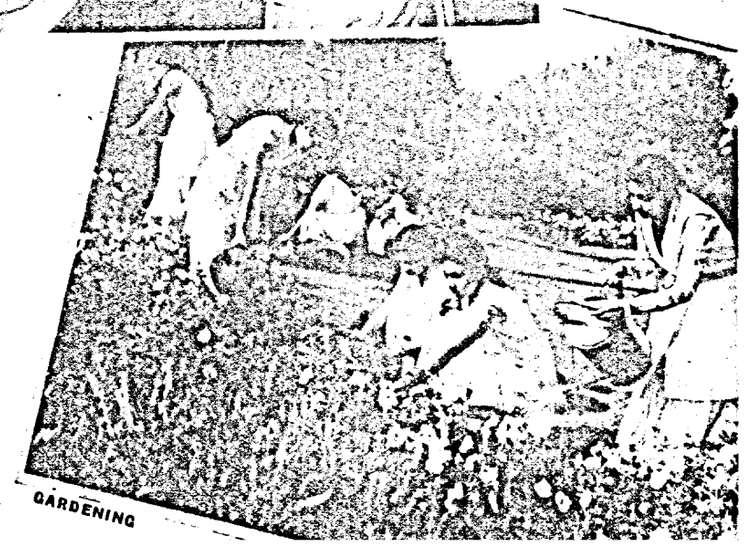
IN PANTRY



LAYING OUT

DANCING





GARDENING

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN THE FIFTH YEAR OF WAR

INDIA'S foreign trade showed a distinct improvement in 1943-44, the fifth financial year of the war, over the preceding year during which it had reached its lowest ebb since the outbreak of war. The outstanding features of the year were an increase in the total foreign trade of the country; increased favourable balance of trade, increase in trade with non-Empire countries; decline in the exports and increase in the imports of grains, pulses and flour, decline in the relative importance of manufactured articles as compared with raw materials and articles partly or wholly unmanufactured in the import trade; and slight increase in the relative importance of manufactured articles over raw materials and articles partly or wholly unmanufactured in the export trade.

Increase in Foreign Trade

The total foreign trade of British India increased from Rs. 305 crores in 1942-43 to Rs. 329 crores in 1943-44, an increase of Rs. 24 crores as compared with 1942-43 and of Rs. 8 crores as compared with 1938-39. It may be noted, however, that these statistics do not include either the value of imports and exports on Defence account, or the value of transactions under Lease|Lend, and, therefore, do not account for the entire volume of goods imported into or exported from the country. The volume of trade covered by the excluded items may however be presumed to have increased considerably during the year under review.

The total exports of Indian merchandise on private account from British India expanded to Rs. 199.2 crores in 1943-44 as compared with Rs. 187.6 crores in 1942-43, being an increase of 6 per cent over last year; while the total imports of foreign merchandise into British India increased by Rs. 8.4 crores or 8 per cent from Rs. 110.4 crores in 1942-43 to Rs. 118.8 crores during the year under review. The balance of trade in merchandise (private) of British India continued to be favourable to India. In 1943-44 it was favourable to the extent of Rs. 91.4 crores as against a favourable balance of Rs. 84.4 crores in 1942-43, and of Rs. 17.4 crores in the pre-war year, 1938-39.

The table (on page 495, top) gives the value of total imports and total exports of private merchandise together with the balance of trade in merchandise for British India since 1938-39.

The tables (on page 495, bottom, and page 496) indicate the trend in the import and export trade of British India by main groups since 1941-42 along with the more important items under each head.

It will be observed that imports under Group I (of table on page 495, bottom), *viz.* "Food, Drink and Tobacco," which had declined to the extent of about Rs. 20 crores during 1942-43 due mainly to the cessation of imports of rice from Burma, increased from Rs. 7,62 lakhs in that year to Rs. 8,13 lakhs in 1943-44. This increase was, however, not large enough to effect any significant change in the relative importance of this group which continued to be about 7 per cent of the total imports into British India. Attention may, however, be drawn to one item in this group, *viz.* "Grain, pulses and flour" whose imports increased by Rs. 1,17 lakhs from Rs. 31 lakhs in 1942-43 to Rs. 1,48 lakhs in 1943-44.

In 1942-43, "Grain, pulses and flour" no longer remained the most important item, constituting only 4 per cent of the total imports under Group I, whereas in 1941-42 it comprised over 60 per cent of the total imports under that Group. In 1943-44, however, it again grew in relative importance ranking next only to "tobacco" and accounted for 18 per cent of the total imports under Group I.

Raw Material Imports

Imports under Group II, *viz.* "Raw materials and Produce and articles mainly unmanufactured" also increased by Rs. 11,98 lakhs to Rs. 63,94 lakhs in 1943-44. Until 1941-42 the value of raw material imports was less than that of imports of manufactured articles, but in 1942-43 the position was reversed. In that year, raw material imports constituted nearly 50 per cent of the total imports as against 29 per cent in 1941-42. This tendency was further developed in 1943-44, when the value of imports under Group II increased to Rs. 63.94 lakhs from Rs. 51,96 lakhs in 1942-43 and constituted 54 per cent of the total imports as against 47 per cent in the previous year. The items in this group whose imports increased during the year as compared to the previous year were oils (vegetable, mineral and animal) whose imports increased from Rs. 27,79 lakhs to Rs. 36,33 lakhs; cotton (raw and waste)—its imports increased from Rs. 15,42 lakhs to Rs. 17,53 lakhs; raw wool—its imports increased from Rs. 2,96 lakhs to Rs. 4,02 lakhs and non-metallic mining and quarry products other than coal whose imports increased from Rs. 1,89 lakhs to Rs. 3,31 lakhs. An important item whose imports decreased in 1943-44 was "seeds," the fall in imports amounting to Rs. 1,04 lakhs from Rs. 2,27 lakhs in 1942-43 to Rs. 1.23 lakhs during the year.

Total Exports from and Imports into British India

(Private Merchandise).

(Rs. lakhs.)

	1938-39	1939-40	1940-41	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	Increase (+) or decrease (—) in 1943-44 over 1942-43	Percentage increase(+) or decrease (—)
Exports ..	162,79	203,92	186,90	237,55	187,63	199,20	+11,57	+ 6
Re-exports ..	6,42	9,65	11,81	15,33	7,07	10,96	+3,89	+ 55
Imports ..	151,83*	164,76*	156,72*	172,86*	110,34*	118,75*	+8,41*	+ 8*
Total trade ..	321,04	378,33	355,43	425,74	305,04	328,91	+23,87	+ 8
Balance of trade in merchandise	17,38	48,81	41,99	80,02	84,36	91,41	+7,05	+ 8

* Exclusive of the value of railway materials.

Imports of some Principal Commodities into British India

(Rs. lakhs.)

	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	Increase (+) or decrease (—) as compared with 1942-43
I. Food Drink and Tobacco--				
Grain, Pulses and Flour	15,02	31	1,48	+ 1,17
Liquors	2,19	1,19	1,25	+ 6
Provisions and Oilman's stores	2,56	71	55	— 16
Total, Group I	27,89	7,62	8,13	+ 51
II. Raw Materials and Produce and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured--				
Oils	21,76	27,79	36,33	+ 8,54
Cotton (raw)	15,34	15,42	17,53	+ 2,11
Wool (raw)	2,77	2,96	4,02	+ 1,06
Wood and Timber	2,74	16	12	— 4
Total, Group II	49,98	51,96	63,94	+ 11,98
III. Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
Chemicals, Drugs and Medicines	3,73	6,38	7,26	+ 88
Cutlery, Hardware, etc.	5,44	3,26	2,77	— 49
Dyes and Colours	6,97	5,43	8,38	+ 2,95
Machinery of all kinds	13,71	10,53	11,39	+ 86
Metals, Iron and Steel and Manufactures thereof	6,30	2,81	2,03	— 78
Metals other than Iron and steel	6,34	3,32	2,09	— 1,23
Paper	4,06	2,16	1,97	— 19
Vehicles (excluding locomotives, etc. for railways)	13,03	5,71	1,27	— 4,44
Cotton Yarn and Manufactures	6,80	1,36	1,34	— 2
Woollen Manufactures	1,93	83	45	— 38
Other Yarn and textile fabrics	4,97	55	35	— 20
Total, Group III ..	93,54	49,51	45,12	— 4,39
IV. Miscellaneous	1,74	1,36	1,66	+ 30
Total Imports	173,15	110,45	118,85	+ 8,40

The table (on page 495, bottom) also shows that the value of imports under Group III *viz.* "Artices wholly or mainly manufactured," particularly in respect of the more important articles in this Group, further declined in 1943-44. The total value of imports under this Group decreased from Rs. 49,51 lakhs in 1942-43 or 45 per cent of total imports during the year, to Rs. 45,12 lakhs in 1943-44 or 38 per cent of the total imports. The items which showed the most significant declines were "Vehicles" from Rs. 5,71 lakhs to Rs. 1,27 lakhs; "Metals" (including iron and steel) from Rs. 6,13 lakhs to Rs. 4,13 lakhs; and "Paper, paste board and stationery" from Rs. 2,16 lakhs to Rs. 1,97 lakhs. Certain other items showed an increase, *e.g.,* "Dyes and colours" from Rs. 5,43 lakhs to Rs. 8,38 lakhs; "Chemicals, drugs and medicines" from Rs. 6,38 lakhs to Rs. 7,26 lakhs; and "Machinery" from Rs. 10,53 lakhs to Rs. 11,39 lakhs.

Coming to exports it will be seen from the table (below) that the total value of exports under Group I, *viz.* "Food, Drink and Tobacco" increased from Rs. 46,97 lakhs in 1942-43 to Rs. 47,60 lakhs in 1943-44, whereas in 1942-43 there was a decline of about Rs. 12 crores under this head as compared with the preceding year. There was, however, a significant decrease in 1943-44 in one of the items in this Group *viz.* "Grain, pulses and flour" whose exports fell by Rs. 4,62 lakhs from Rs. 6,93 lakhs to Rs. 2,31 lakhs.

Exports under Group II *viz.* "Raw materials and produce and articles mainly unmanufactured" also increased from Rs. 42,76 lakhs in 1942-43 to Rs. 44,64 lakhs in 1943-44 *i.e.,* by Rs. 1,88 lakhs, whereas they had declined in 1942-43 by about Rs. 22 crores. In this Group the principal increases in exports were recorded under the following heads: cotton (raw) from Rs. 5,31 lakhs in 1942-43 to Rs. 7,49 lakhs in 1943-44; raw hides and skins from Rs. 3,38 lakhs to Rs. 4,12 lakhs; and seeds from Rs. 10,52 lakhs to Rs. 11,16 lakhs. On the other hand, exports of raw jute dropped from Rs. 9,02 lakhs in 1942-43 to Rs. 8,32 lakhs in 1943-44, and those of oils and oil-cakes from Rs. 1,98 lakhs to Rs. 98 lakhs.

Export of Manufactures

The increase in the value of exports under Group III from Rs. 95,37 lakhs in 1942-43 to Rs. 104,60 lakhs in 1943-44 *i.e.* by Rs. 9,23 lakhs is significant, as this group consists mainly of manufactured articles and indicates the growing dependence since the outbreak of war of certain countries on India for their requirements of such commodities. While the exports of certain articles like jute manufactures, woollen manufactures, chemicals, machinery, rubber manufactures and metals other than iron and steel increased, a few important items suffered a reduction, for instance, cotton yarn and manufactures from Rs. 46,19 lakhs in 1942-43 to Rs. 42,48 lakhs in 1943-44; hides and skins from Rs. 4,76 lakhs to Rs. 4,37 lakhs and iron and steel from Rs. 1,45 lakhs to Rs. 1,05 lakhs.

Another feature of the export trade during the year was that the relative importance of the main Groups underwent little change except that the share of Group III consisting of manufactured articles in the total exports showed a slight increase.

The table below shows the direction of the foreign trade of British India during the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 502)

Exports (excluding re-exports) of some Principal Commodities from British India

(Rs. lakhs).

	1941-42	1942-43	1943-44	Increase (+) or decrease (—) over 1942-43
I. Food, Drink and Tobacco—				
Grain, Pulse and Flour	10,41	6,93	2,31	— 4,62
Sugar	32	1,08	42	— 66
Tea	39,57	31,64	37,54	+ 5,90
Total, Group I	58,58	46,97	47,60	+ 63
II. Raw Materials and Produce and Articles Mainly Unmanufactured—				
Hides and Skins (raw)	4,77	3,38	4,12	+ 74
Gums, Resin and Lac	5,44	3,24	2,75	— 49
Oils	2,64	1,37	83	— 54
Seeds	10,43	10,52	11,16	+ 64
Cotton (raw and waste)	17,54	5,31	7,49	+ 2,18
Jute (raw)	10,42	9,02	8,32	— 70
Wool (raw)	2,60	1,20	1,72	+ 52
Total, Group II	65,38	42,76	44,64	+ 1,88
III. Articles Wholly or Mainly Manufactured—				
Hides and Skins (tanned)	6,02	4,76	4,37	— 39
Cotton yarn and Manufactures	35,96	46,19	42,48	— 3,71
Jute Manufactures	53,90	36,41	49,46	+ 13,05
Total, Group III	109,26	95,37	104,60	+ 9,23
IV. Miscellaneous	4,33	2,53	2,37	— 16
Total Exports	237,55	187,63	199,20	+ 11,57

Share of Principal Countries in India's Foreign Trade

(Rs. lakhs).

	Imports.			Exports.		
	1942-43	1943-44	Increase (+) or Decrease (—)	1942-43	1943-44	Increase (+) or Decrease (—)
British Empire—						
U. K. ..	29,56	29,80	+ 24	57,32	60,19	+ 2,87
Ceylon ..	4,37	3,51	— 86	14,43	14,36	— 7
Burma ..	1,44	3	— 1,41	0.3	..	..
Straits Settlements ..	25	0 2	— 25	..	..	..
Union of South Africa ..	2,24	2,59	+ 35	10,51	9,90	— 61
Canada ..	5,53	2,52	— 3,01	3,78	493	+ 1,15
Australia ..	3,22	9,92	+ 6,70	16,08	13,31	—82,77
Other British Possessions	14,64	8,64	— 6,00	23,69	25,82	+ 2,13
Total, British Empire..	61,25	57,01	— 4,24	1,25,81	1,28,51	+ 2,70
Foreign Countries—						
U. S. S. R. ..	..	..	..	86	2	— 84
Switzerland ..	1,05	1,46	+ 41	2	0.2	— 2
Iraq ..	23	1,56	+ 1,33	7,95	3,88	— 4,07
Iran ..	17,75	27,56	+ 9,81	4,27	1,72	— 2,55
China ..	7	7	..	3	2	— 1
Egypt ..	8,12	11,19	+ 3,07	3,68	2,98	— 70
U. S. A. ..	19,12	18,40	— 72	27,80	40,29	+ 12,49
Other Foreign Countries..	2,85	1,60	— 1,25	17,21	21,79	+ 4,58
Total, Foreign Countries ..	49,19	61,84	+12,65	61,82	70,70	+ 8,88
Grand Total ..	1,10,44	1,18,85	+841	1,87,63	1,99,20	+ 11,57

WORKING OF IMPORT AND EXPORT CONTROLS

More Goods Ensured to Check Inflation

THE problem of inflation, which assumed a very serious aspect in the first half of 1943, had to be tackled from many sides, financial, industrial and commercial. As a result of these and other measures, the price level substantially declined at the end of last year and this tendency has been maintained in 1944. The Commerce Department has greatly contributed towards such a consummation. It liberalised its Import Control policy in certain directions with the object of ensuring for India, through imports, increased supplies of essential consumption goods for civilian use. At the same time and with the same object in view, Export Control was tightened up with a view to ensuring that commodities considered essential for local consumption did not leave the country.

Another important matter which claimed the attention of the Commerce Department during the year was the provision of more and better amenities to Indian seamen in ports and on board ships. These seamen have played a heroic role in the war. Many have died as a result of enemy action and a large number have fallen into enemy hands as prisoners of war. It is, therefore, just and proper that their interests and those of their dependants should be adequately safeguarded. The Department is doing its best in this direction. The question of further raising the wartime allowances of Indian seamen is under active consideration. A comprehensive Amenities Scheme is under preparation, which will be put through by special officers entrusted with this specific function.

Export Trade Control

In view of the continuous and rapid increase in the volume and complexity of work connected with Export Trade Control, a separate executive organisation was set up at the headquarters of the Government of India as from April, 1944, and entrusted with the administration of the Export Control Regulations under the general direction of the Commerce Department. The Chief Controller of Exports is the head of this organisation.

Special arrangements have been made to secure co-ordination between Indian export licences and import licences granted in the Middle East countries. This enables the importing countries to secure proper internal distribution of goods permitted to be exported from India.

A certain minimum quantity of cloth is permitted to be exported from India, as part of a combined world planning scheme, to a wide belt of countries extending from West Africa in the West to New Zealand in the East. The quantity permitted is decided upon in advance after careful consideration of internal requirements and defence needs. The position is reviewed once in three months and quotas are fixed for export to each territory. Export licences within these allocations are granted to shippers established in the trade.

Ceiling Prices for Exported Cloth

As a measure of assistance to importing countries in obtaining supplies at reasonable prices, ceiling prices have been fixed for mill-made cotton piecegoods exported to them. The Order issued in this connection prescribes, in respect of mill-made cotton cloth and yarn exported from India, maximum margins which may be charged by mills and exporters over and above the *ex*-mill ceiling prices applicable to similar goods in the internal market. The margins are intended to compensate mills for the maintenance of minimum standards for export and also cover exporters' expenses and profits.

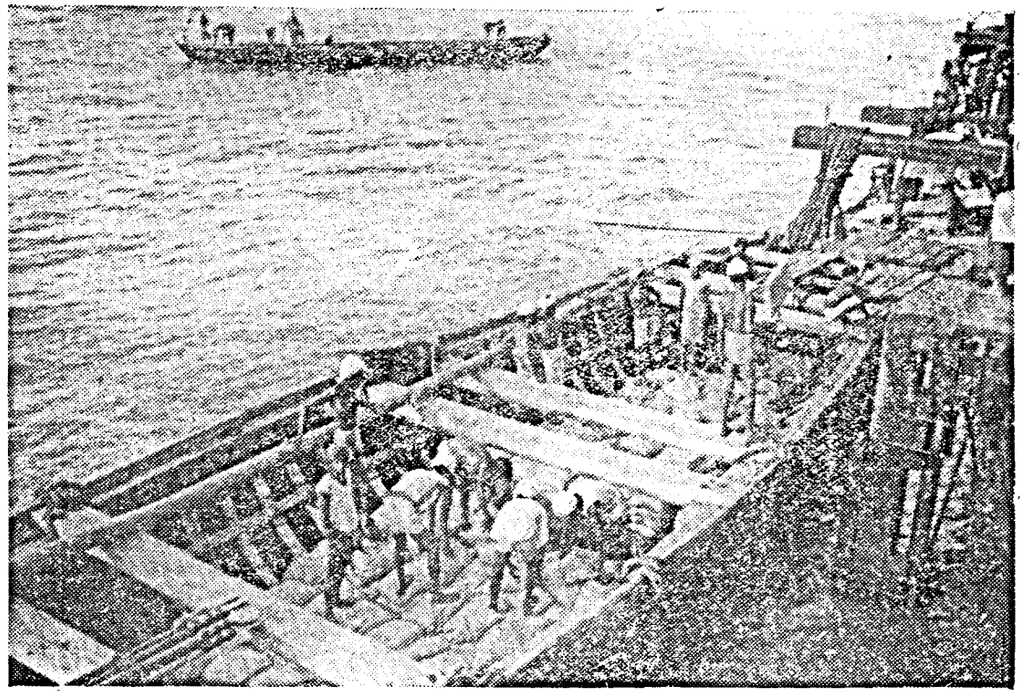
Powers have been taken by the Central Government to prescribe and enforce minimum standards of specification and packing for cloth intended for export.

The ceiling prices will apply in respect of exports to all permissible destinations and are intended to enable consuming countries to obtain their supplies at reasonable prices. The Government of India, however, reserve the right to withdraw these ceilings in respect of exports to any country where the Government concerned have not adopted measures for regulating prices and margins of profit in the interests of the ultimate consumer.

Export Control Tightened

With a view to tightening up Export Control, restrictions were placed on the export of a variety of articles. Some of the articles so dealt with during the year were textiles, manures (including oilcakes) bones and bonemeal, leather and leather goods, and paper and stationery; the object was to conserve essential supplies required for use within the country.

Essential demands for civil supplies from a number of Empire and Allied countries such as



Manganese being loaded into lighters at an Indian port for export.

Ceylon, South Africa, East Africa, the Middle East, Australia and Afghanistan were carefully screened in the light of the internal supply position and assistance given wherever possible for essential requirements.

Exports to Portuguese India have also been brought under the licensing procedure. A system of licensing has been introduced in respect of exports to certain maritime States on the West coast of India with a view to restricting exports to those States to quantities required for *bona fide* use or consumption therein. Special action was also taken to prevent accumulation at the Persian land frontiers of goods which are subject to strict Export Control and which are likely to find their way across the border through the activities of smugglers.

To check the upward trend in prices, it was found necessary during the year to arrange, among other things, for increased imports of certain essential commodities of civil consumption, chief of them being medical stores, paper, textiles, apparel, stationery, sewing machines, typewriters and paints.

Steps were simultaneously taken by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department to assist in the increased production of consumer goods in India, and to secure the fair distribution of available supplies among the consuming public at reasonable prices.

Consumer goods are now being imported more freely and in larger quantities than has been the case previously. This has contributed to a material extent towards checking the upward trend of prices.

Other important changes in Import Control were initiated during the year. Imports by country craft from Sterling areas in the Middle East, Persian Gulf and East Africa have been decontrolled and these will henceforth be governed by an Open General Licence. It has also been found possible to allot some quantities, out of the surpluses left over after meeting the quotas of established importers, to Burma evacuee firms and other deserving persons.

Outstanding import licences, for items other than iron and steel and certain non-ferrous metals, valid for the period July to December 1943, were automatically revalidated for the period January to June 1944, and similarly outstanding licences at the end of the first half of 1944 have been carried over to the second half of this year.

The first Indian Trade Commissioner was appointed in the U.K. in 1917; but it was not until 1930 that definite steps were taken to set up Trade Commissioner's post in countries in which the fostering of India's trade was a matter of some importance. At the outbreak of the war, there were Trade Commissioners in London, New York, Alexandria, Mombasa, Hamburg, Milan and Osaka; but the last three offices had to be closed down on the outbreak of hostilities. New posts of Trade Commissioners have since been created at Sydney, Toronto and Buenos Aires.

Trade Commissioner's Duties

During normal times, the principal duties of Trade Commissioners are to answer trade inquiries which are directed to the development of markets for Indian goods, to furnish commercial information directed to the development of Indian export trade required by Government departments, to report local developments likely to affect Indian trade, to organise exhibits of Indian goods at local exhibitions and fairs, to represent the possibilities of Indian trade by means of lectures, display of films and other suitable methods and to take such other steps as will promote the development of India's foreign trade. These functions show what an important role India's Trade Commissioners will be called upon to play in the post-war period in fostering India's trade and industries abroad.

During the present war emergency, Trade Commissioners are performing certain functions outside their normal duties in the territories under their jurisdiction where there is no other suitable officer to represent the Government of India. For example, their services have been utilised in arranging for the supply of raw materials required for Defence Services and for recruitment of specialists for military services and nurses for the Indian Nursing Services (Temporary).

War Risks Insurance

War risks insurance in India is governed by two schemes, viz. the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme promulgated in October, 1940, and the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Scheme promulgated in April, 1942. Under these two schemes the Government of India provide cover against land war risks for goods for sale in business, factory properties, etc.

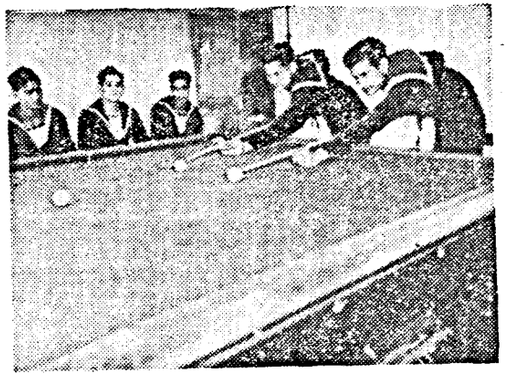
Under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance scheme, insurance is compulsory if the value of all such goods owned by the seller thereof and held by him in any one Presidency town or district exceeds Rs. 20,000; in other cases insurance is optional. Insurance is by quarterly periods and the rate of premium, which was originally fixed at half anna per Rs. 100 per month, has been revised from time to time; the rate for the October-December, 1944, quarter is one anna and three pies per month for every complete sum of Rs. 100. The total receipts under the scheme up to September 30, 1943, amounted to Rs. 11,86,90,369 against a total expenditure of Rs. 13,43,513 only.

The War Risks (Factories) Insurance Scheme, though designed primarily to cover factories (as defined in the Factories Act of 1934) also applies to certain other properties, *e.g.*, above-ground machinery of mines, the distribution and transmission systems of specified gas, electricity and hydro-electric undertakings, and inland vessels of specified trading corporations. This scheme is worked on a single premium basis. The period of insurance was originally fixed for two years from April 1, 1942, in respect of all properties, other than inland vessels in which case the period was one year from April 1, 1943. Both these periods have now been extended to March 31, 1945. The rate of premium for the entire period is 4 per cent of the insurable value of the assets in the case of inland vessels, and 5 per cent in the case of factories insurable under the scheme. The total receipts under the scheme up to March 31, 1943, amounted to Rs. 9,07,89,880 against a total expenditure of Rs. 4,09,255 only.

The War Risks (Goods) Insurance Scheme has been extended by mutual agreement to 28 Indian States and the War Risks (Factories) Insurance Scheme to 29 Indian States. Both the schemes have also been extended to the French Establishments in India and the Administered areas.

Indian Seamen's Contribution to Victory

Indian seamen have played a glorious part in the war. They form an important section of marine transport workers in many lands; and, from the point of view of the number engaged at any one time, India occupies the fourth place in the world. Theirs was a risky job even during peacetime; it has become much more so in war. Nearly 6,000 of our gallant seamen have already sacrificed their lives; over a thousand are suffering detention in enemy countries; and many more have been disabled. The wages of these men, however, notwithstanding the increases sanctioned from time to time since the outbreak of the war, are low as compared with those of British and Chinese seamen. Shipowners are actively considering the question of granting them a further substantial increase and a decision is expected shortly.



R. I. N. Ratings playing billiards.

Various measures have been taken during the year to improve welfare facilities and amenities of Indian seamen ashore and on board. H.E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 3 lakhs for this purpose, from the War purposes Fund. At His Excellency's request, the Governors of some of the non-maritime provinces have also contributed generously to the Amenities Fund which now totals over Rs. 4½ lakhs.

Amenities for Seamen

A comprehensive scheme of amenities is under preparation, which will provide improved transport facilities, canteens, commodious hostels and clubs, convalescent homes, V.D. clinics, cheap grain and cloth shops, etc. Adequate clothing will also be provided to R.I.N. escorts and at ports to shipwrecked seamen. A Welfare Officer for Indian Seamen has already been appointed at Calcutta. An Amenities Officer has also been appointed at Calcutta and another will shortly be appointed at Bombay. They will visit all ports and plan, organise and improve amenities.

The needs of Indian seamen in overseas ports have also not been forgotten. Handsome grants have been made for the establishment of Indian Seamen's Homes in Australia, South Africa and Ceylon. Welfare Officers for Indian seamen have also been appointed in the U.S.A. and Australia.

A scheme of compensation is in operation which provides for widow's pensions and children's allowances in case of death of Indian seamen through enemy action. A widow's pension varies from Rs. 8 to Rs. 30 per mensem, while allowances to children are Rs. 3 per mensem per child with the mother alive and Rs. 4 per mensem per motherless child. Disablement benefit in the case of 100 per cent disablement, varies from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 5,000. The rates of widow's pensions are expected to be practically doubled in the very near future, while disablement benefits, etc, are going to be substantially increased.

The needs of British and Allied seamen arriving in India are being looked after equally carefully. Similar grants have been made by H.E. the Viceroy and the Governors of some of the maritime provinces, and the Amenities Fund for the British and Allied Seamen also now totals over Rs. 4½ lakhs. An Amenities Officer for these seamen has already been appointed with headquarters at Calcutta and two more such officers are proposed to be appointed, one at Calcutta and the other at Bombay.

During the year, the Government of India in the Commerce Department took part in two international conferences convened for the purpose of establishing organisations to deal with post-war relief. One was the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture which met at Hot Springs (U.S.A.). This Conference considered long-range agricultural problems from the point of view of needs, prospects and possibilities. The other was the first session of the Council of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, which had been set up to consider the question of providing immediate relief in areas liberated from Axis domination in Europe and elsewhere, immediately on their being set free.

In order to establish the latter organisation, a Draft Agreement was formulated as early as November 1942. The Government of India expressed their sympathy with the proposed agreement, but maintained that in view of their limited resources, any contribution that they could make to an international relief organisation would have to be only on a limited scale. As a result of consultations with Governments, a revised Draft Agreement was received in June 1943, which made certain modifications in the powers of the various bodies to be set up to administer relief. The Government of India signified their assent to the Agreement, subject to its ratification by the Legislature which was secured during the last Spring session of the Legislature. The Central Assembly, while ratifying the agreement, recommended that "any area important to military operations of United Nations which is stricken by famine or disease should be included in benefits to be made available by the U.N.R.R.A."

The objects of the U.N.R.R.A. are: (a) relief of the victims of war in any area under the control of any of the United Nations by the provision of materials and services required for

such relief, and (b) pursuit of measures for individual or joint action for co-ordination of purchase and the use of shipping for the purposes of the Administration. The Council of the Administration proposed that each participating Government should contribute one per cent of its national income for the year ending June 30, 1943, towards the expenses of the Administration. It was, however, recognised that this formula might inflict hardship on countries, which have a low per capita income or encountered special difficulties provided that in respect of such countries the amount and character of the contribution may be determined by the countries concerned with due regard to these conditions. The formula for financial contributions thus allows sufficient freedom to countries in special circumstances to determine their own contributions. The contribution to be made by India has not yet been settled.

The Government of India have approached the Director-General of the Administration to secure adequate representation of Indians in the high ranks of the administration and in its technical services.

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE IN FIFTH YEAR OF WAR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 497)

year under review as compared with the previous year.

It will be seen from the table (on page 497) that while the share of the Empire countries in the import trade of British India in 1943-44 declined by Rs. 4,24 lakhs as compared with the preceding year, that of foreign countries increased by Rs. 12,65 lakhs. On the export side also non-Empire countries took a greater share of the increase in India's exports. There was a substantial increase in imports from Australia, but Canada's share in the import trade was reduced from Rs. 5,53 lakhs in 1942-43 to Rs. 2,52 lakhs in 1943-44.

Exports to U.S.

The increase in imports from non-Empire countries was mainly due to higher receipts from Iran, Iraq and Egypt. On the export side, the United States whose share increased by Rs. 12,49 lakhs over the previous year, largely accounted for the increased offtake by non-Empire countries, while amongst the Empire countries the largest increase was recorded in the exports to the United Kingdom which were higher by Rs. 2,87 lakhs than in the previous year.

INDIA, MEMBER OF U.N.R.R.A. COMMITTEE ON SUPPLIES

At the second session of the U.N.R.R.A. Council concluded recently, India's membership on the Administration's Committee on Supplies was unanimously approved.

Besides India, the Committee consists of members of the Council or their alternates representing Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, the French Committee of National Liberation, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

The functions of the Committee are as follows:

1. To advise the Council, the Central Committee, and the Director-General on general policies regarding the provision, financing and transport of supplies.
2. To discuss with the Director-General broad programmes for securing the provision of supplies, as such programmes affect the supplying countries.
3. To co-operate with the Director-General and the established inter-governmental supply and shipping agencies regarding supply policies and, when necessary, make recommendations to supplement the actions of such agencies and to assure the availability of required supplies.
4. To co-operate with the Director-General and the established inter-governmental and governmental agencies in efforts to increase production and the availability of supplies.
5. To co-operate with the Director-General and the inter-governmental supply and shipping agencies concerned, so that as between contributing countries, their supplies and services shall be drawn upon in an equitable manner; and that any necessary financial adjustments among them may be arranged.
6. To consider whether there are unjustifiable differences in the valuations placed by the contributing countries upon the supplies and services purchased by or made available to the Administration, and make necessary recommendations regarding the adjustment of such valuations. These recommendations would be made after having given due regard to the points of view expressed by the representative of the contributing country concerned.

CLOTHING THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

CLOTH control in India did not become inevitable immediately on the outbreak of hostilities as it did in many other countries. This was because of the fairly fortunate position in which India was placed—she had a good and flourishing textile industry which after many vicissitudes had come to stay. The Indian textile industry had the capacity to produce enough cloth to meet the needs of her population.

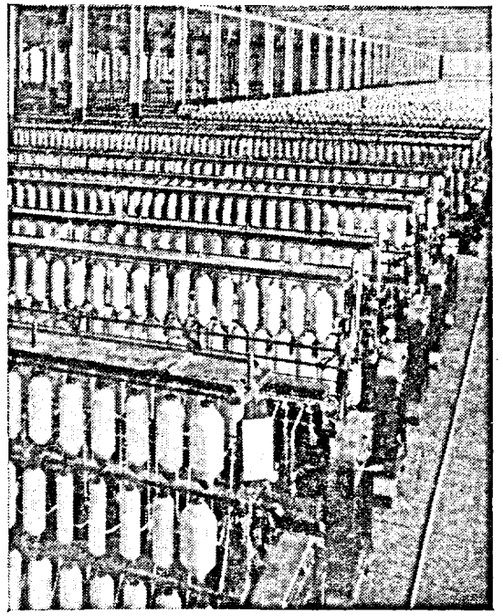
Just before the outbreak of war production had considerably decreased due to various causes, one of them being the uneconomic competition with foreign textile industries. India used to import quite a large quantity of cotton textile goods both from the United Kingdom and Japan. When the second European war started imports from the United Kingdom diminished till they came to a dead stop just before Japan entered the war.

With the entry of Japan imports were completely cut off, and the Indian textile industry had to provide for all the needs of the people of India. The industry had also to provide at least a small percentage of the needs of the people in the neighbouring countries who used to get their imports from the United Kingdom or Japan. In addition, the textile industry had to manufacture cloth for the defence services.

India's Total Production

Immediately before the war started the Indian textile industry produced on an average 3,500 million yards of cloth per annum while the production of the handloom industry was round about 1,500 million yards. Both these, coupled with the imports from the United Kingdom and Japan, enabled Indians to have between 16 to 18 yards of cloth per head per annum.

With the outbreak of the war and the complete stoppage of imports from abroad, there were elements in the industry and trade which wanted to exploit the situation created by the war for their benefit. Added to this, a number of merchants who had idle money made during the earlier days of war entered the market, started purchasing goods and hoarding them to enrich themselves. This resulted in the cloth disappearing from the markets, and the difficulty of the consumers started. People found great difficulty in getting their needs in cotton cloth and only those who were prepared to pay enormous amounts could secure what they wanted. While the really rich and the upper

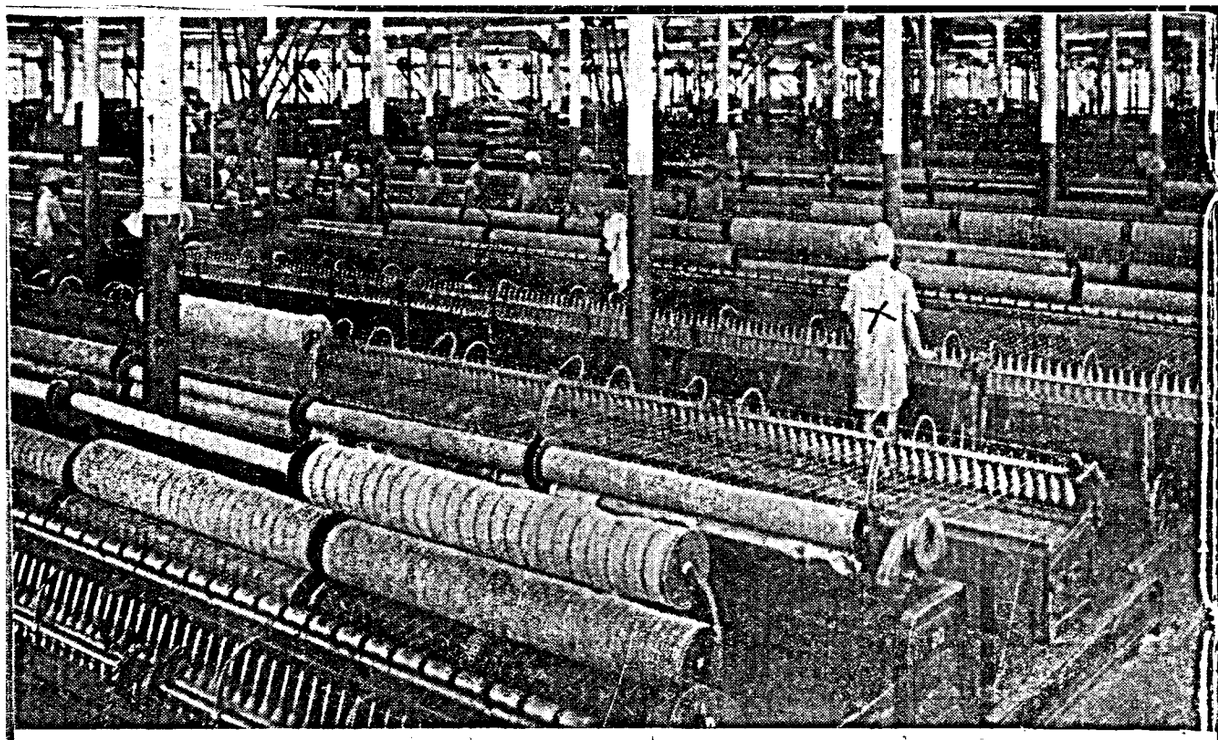


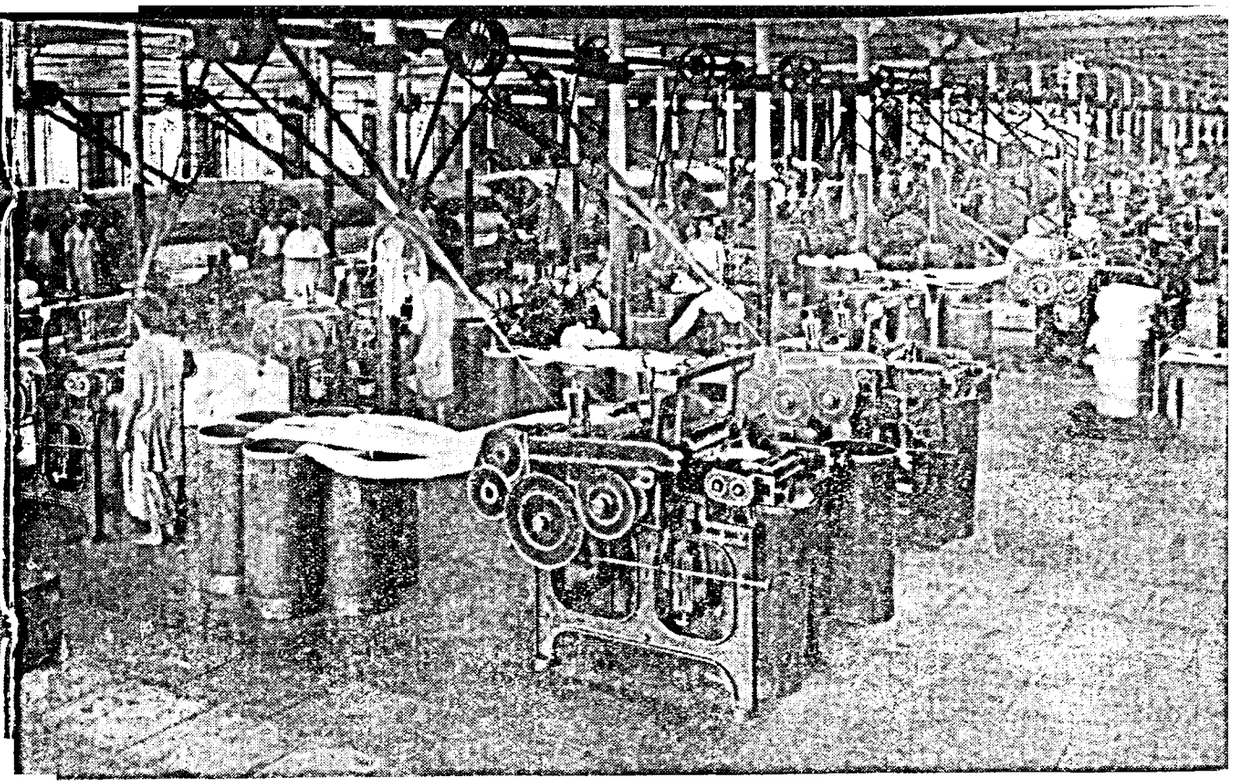
The Roving Frame section in a South Indian spinning mill.

middle-class could afford to pay, the lower middle-class and the poorer classes who form the vast majority in this country were hard hit.

The spiral of prices reached its peak during the early part of 1943 when it was difficult to get cloth at rates which were 400 to 500 per cent. above those ruling before the war. A cry about shortage of cloth went round the country and a cloth famine, it was stated, was in the offing. The Government of India saw what was coming and started negotiations with representatives of the industry with the dual purpose of providing enough cloth for the population and of increasing the production of cotton cloth. After prolonged discussions an arrangement was arrived at by which the industry agreed to increase production to a considerable extent and to impose restrictions on itself with a view to making the proposed control order a success.

Following the successful negotiations, the Cotton Cloth and Yarn Control Order was promulgated by the Government of India on June 17, 1943. The Order provided for the constitution of a Textile Control Board consisting of 25 members representing the industry, the trade, labour and handloom interests, as also the interests of the consumers. Mr. Krishnaraj M. D. Thackersey was appointed Chairman of the Board which held its first meeting on June 20, 1943. The Board constituted a number of





Manufacture of woollen goods in a big mill in Dhariwal. The industry has made great progress in recent years and has received added stimulus from the war.

Spinning wool in a big Dhariwal mill famous for its wool products.

committees like the Industry's Committee, the Distribution Committee, the Transport Committee, the Cotton Committee, the Handloom Committee, the Priority and Advisory Committee, the Export Committee, the Standardisation and Rationalisation Committee, etc., to each of which definite functions were allotted.

The first concrete step taken by the Government of India under the new Order was to call for the declaration of stocks of cloth and yarn held by manufacturers and dealers. The returns showed that on July 31, 1943, there were in stock in the country 2,727 million yards of cloth representing nearly 8 months' normal production by mills in the country. This proved beyond doubt that there was no fear whatever of a cloth famine in the offing as was once feared.

The second step was to ask the dealers to dispose of their goods by a certain given period. The result of this Order showed that within a period of 130 days, 1,600 million yards of cloth were sold obviously to the consumers, giving a per capita consumption of four yards for that period.

Meanwhile, the Textile Control Board held a number of meetings and considered ways and means of achieving the objects of the Control Order, viz., to effect (1) a substantial reduction in the prices of cloth and yarn and (2) a considerable increase in their production within a reasonable period of time. Decisions were taken towards that end. It was decided as a first step to tex-mark goods produced after July 31, 1943. The next step was to print the *ex*-mill and retail prices on the cloth thus produced after deciding that the difference between the *ex*-mill and retail price of cloth should be not more than 20 per cent and that of yarn not more than 15 per cent. The result of the first price fixation which came into effect as from October 1943, was that the prices were lowered by about 30 per cent compared with the ruling prices six months previously.

The cumulative effect of the declaration of stocks, stamping of goods manufactured after July 31, 1943, and finally the price fixation of goods manufactured after December 31, 1943, has been that the Indian consumers are estimated to have saved, within 9 months ending May 1944, about Rs. 160 crores.

The prices of cloth and yarn were further reduced by the two subsequent price revisions, each time the reduction being one and a half annas in the rupee for cloth and two annas in the rupee for yarn. The last reduction meant that the prices of cloth and yarn were brought down by about 50 per cent from the peak levels in the middle of last year. These achievements were possible entirely due to the willing co-operation of the industry as a whole.

It was again the industry that helped in arriving at a proper and equitable distribution of the 20 and 15 per cent profits allowed for cloth and yarn respectively among the wholesalers and retailers.

Raw Materials for Industry

The industry having agreed to step up production and help to bring down prices, the Government agreed to do all it can to provide the wherewithal to achieve the objects—namely, the supply of essential raw materials at reasonable prices. The list of such materials includes cotton, coal, machinery, spare parts, stores and dyes. There is a special section in the office of the Textile Commissioner whose main function is to ensure the supply of these raw materials to the industry. If these are not obtainable from Indian sources, the Section endeavours to get them from abroad.

It may be mentioned here that this Section has been responsible for encouraging many small industries to provide for the needs of the textile industry. Not only are these flourishing but have come to stay. This Section is also in charge of rationalising the movement of cotton, cotton cloth and yarn. The Cotton Cloth Movements Control Order provides that piecegoods shall not be moved from deficit areas to surplus areas except under a special permit. For this purpose the entire country has been divided into surplus and deficit areas, and the movement of these goods is regulated in such a manner that cloth and yarn are evenly distributed all over the country.

It will be seen that every effort has been made and is being continued to provide the people of this country with enough cotton cloth at reasonable prices. It will also be noticed that no effort is being spared to help the industry to increase its production. Despite all these efforts, certain elements both in the industry and the trade have not fallen into line. A number of them tried to bypass the provisions of the Order or have broken them deliberately with a view to pocketing more money. This could have been possible only at the cost of the consumer.

During March and April 1944, it was evident that black markets were flourishing on a



Carpet weaving—shuttles carrying coloured yarn (above) are wefted in by passing them through the warps and then fixing them in position with the dexterous ply of the hand at the loom (below)



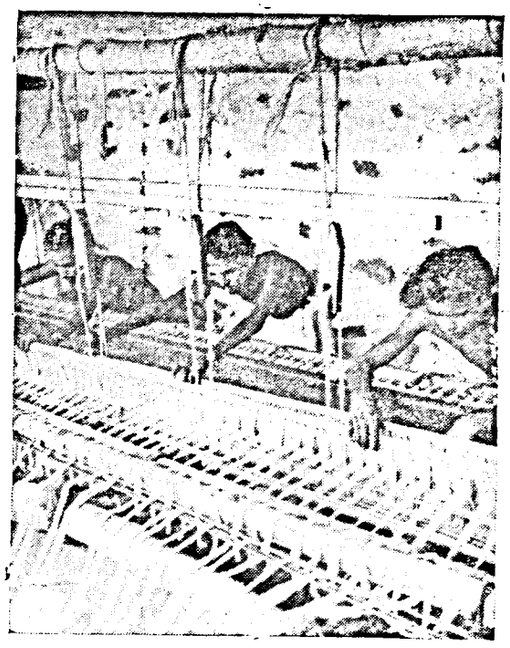


A village handloom in South India.

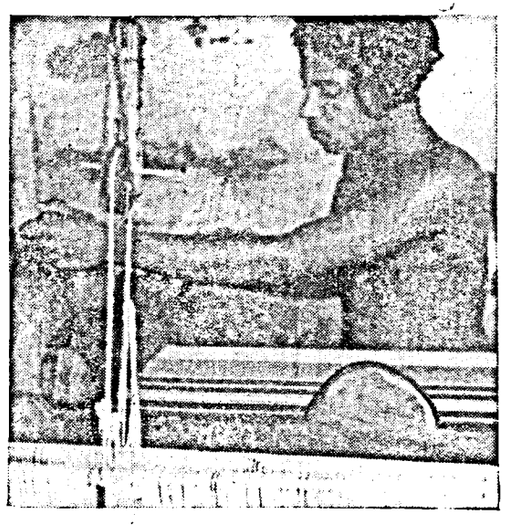
large scale. Despite warnings, manufacturers and dealers had not improved their methods and the authorities had to take stringent measures to prevent the spread of malpractices leading to black-marketing. One of the important steps taken towards the elimination of these anti-social elements was the restriction placed on the manufacturers by asking them to distribute their production to only those who bought from them at any time during the three years ending 1942. By this action it was possible to remove from the trade those strangers to the trade who had come in at a time when there was a threatened cloth famine. This scheme, which is called the quota scheme, has been of considerable help and will enable people all over the country to obtain their needs in cloth at controlled rates.

Side by side with the decision to introduce the quota scheme, the Textile Commissioner urged the Provincial Governments to take stringent measures against those cloth and yarn dealers who indulged in malpractices. He also issued a number of warnings both to the manufacturers and dealers. These warnings in some cases did not have the desired effect. After giving the recalcitrant elements a reasonable time to mend their ways, the authorities launched a campaign against black market trading. The Government of Bombay set the ball rolling. The Provincial Textile Controller raided a number of godowns and brought out into the open market a large number of bales of hoarded cloth. The Provincial authorities not only cancelled or suspended the licences of dealers, but prosecuted many of them for contravention of the provisions of either the all-India or the Provincial Licencing Order.

Further, the Bombay Government in consultation with the Textile Commissioner, evolved a scheme by which about 300 authorised shops were opened in the city and suburbs of Bombay for sale of cloth to genuine consumers at rates



A small carpet is woven by a single person while a bigger one—a hall carpet—is done by three persons. Two, one at each end of the loom, pass the shuttle from one end to the other alternately while the man in centre fixes the weft thread in position.



As the carpet is made, the frame is brought nearer and the carpet rolled up until its end is out from the loom.

below the retail rates printed on the cloth. The other Provincial Governments also started taking steps, and some of them are at present considering schemes similar to those that have been put into practice by the Bombay Government to enable consumers to obtain their cloth.

That was not all. On the advice of the Textile Commissioner, the Government took over the control of distribution of production of two mills in the Madras Presidency; a few days later the distribution of the production of 10 mills in the Province of Bombay was also controlled. A further and most important step was the controlling of management and distribution of the production of two mills in Bombay. The total production of all these mills is now being distributed to the various deficit provinces in the country and the cloth position has thus been very much eased in these areas.

Help To Handloom Industry

The position of the handloom industry and the powerloom factories is engaging the attention of the Textile Commissioner and the Provincial Governments. The handloom industry, one of the oldest industries of this country, was in an unorganised state even after the war started and had to face all the consequent difficulties. It is entirely due to the efforts of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments that the position of the weavers is very much better to-day. It is not, however, what one would like it to be. In a better position, one could expect the weavers to produce much more cloth annually than the present 2,000-million yards or thereabouts. Their main difficulty, and the difficulty of the powerlooms (to a lesser degree) is to obtain yarn. Some of the Provincial Governments are very much concerned and even agitated over the position created by the alleged shortage of yarn and the consequent unemployment of weavers. Steps have been taken to organise the weavers and to provide them with yarn at or below controlled rates. The Textile Commissioner has under consideration a scheme to provide a regular flow of yarn of different counts to the handloom weavers and the powerloom factories. This scheme is expected to come into force in the very near future.

Standard Cloth Scheme

This review would be incomplete without mention being made about standard cloth. The idea of manufacturing standard cloth was mooted some time during the latter part of 1942 though the first lot was put in the market some time in the middle of 1943. The main object of the standard cloth scheme was to provide the people of this country with cloth at prices which they could afford and at a time when cloth prices were at their peak. This cloth was manufactured by various textile mills and supplied under Government auspices to the consumers.

In spite of the very heavy handicaps that the standard cloth scheme has had to contend with, it has been very popular in the countryside and has been of considerable help in bringing down the soaring prices. Though a prejudice was evident among the people against this cloth just because it was called standard cloth, it was found later that this cloth had become very popular. It started with only a few varieties and today there are more than a hundred different varieties and these are on the increase.

Several Provincial Governments have unequivocally testified that the introduction of standard cloth has been the best scheme devised by the Government of India for the amelioration of the condition of the masses. The popularity of standard cloth can be judged from the fact that out of 746 million yards so far supplied to the Provincial Governments and States, over 410 million yards of cloth have been sold to the consumers.

When imports from the United Kingdom and Japan were cut off to those countries around India, there was an unprecedented demand for cloth from this country, resulting in indiscriminate export of large quantities of cloth to those countries. The exports, in some cases, were found to be of very inferior quality. To minimise this evil the Textile Control Board and the Government evolved a scheme for the restriction of profit margin on exports in cloth and yarn and also for the regulation of the quality. This scheme has now come into force. Under the scheme it is provided that a certain percentage of the profit margin should be utilised, in the form of a cess, to build up a fund for textile technological research and education.

HOSIERY NEEDLES

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on October 27, stated:

With a view to ascertaining the types and quantities of hosiery needles required to meet the demands of the Cotton Hosiery Knitting machines the Government of India, by a recent Notification in the Government of India Gazette have directed that all persons possessing such machines should furnish all details about the types, makes, needles used, etc., of the machines and their production capacity to the Textile Commissioner of the Government of India in Bombay, on or before November 15, 1944, in the prescribed form (which can be had on application).

INCREASED CIVILIAN SUPPLIES AT REDUCED PRICES

Work of Industries and Civil Supplies Department

THE Industries and Civil Supplies Department was started in the middle of 1943; its existence has coincided more or less with the fifth year of war. During these first 12 months—to be more exact 18 months—of existence, it had to fight inflation, which had assumed dangerous proportions on various fronts in the early months of 1943. How it has successfully accomplished its task is unfolded below.

Firstly, it had to organise increased supplies of consumer goods for civilian consumption through increased local production and imports, and through releasing for the purpose, capacity or stocks surplus to the needs of the Supply Department. Secondly, it had to break the racket of the hoarder and the profiteer, counter black-market activities, and make available to consumers as much goods as possible at reasonable prices.

Special Measures

For achieving these results, it had to control production, distribution and prices. Special measures had to be devised to prevent hoarding and bring out hidden stocks to the market. All these and other things it did with the co-operation of the interests concerned—witness, for instance, the setting up of the Textile Control Board, Drugs Advisory Council, Central Consumers' Council, Advisory Panels for price fixation and the several *ad hoc* conferences like the recent Bombay Conference on paper control.

To-day the supply and price positions of consumer goods for civilian needs are far better than they were in the beginning of 1943. That represents the measure of achievement of the Department. Supplies have increased; prices have substantially declined; what is produced moves into consumption; and black-market achivities are being successfully countered and reduced to a minimum.

By the beginning of 1943, cotton cloth prices had risen to about 500 per cent above pre-war levels. There was also a cloth famine, either genuine or artificially produced. The problems which faced Government were how to bring down prices to reasonable levels, how to make more cloth available for civil consumption and how to ensure that what is produced goes into the market for genuine consumption.

For achieving these purposes the cloth control scheme was inaugurated in the middle of 1943. Under the direct supervision and control of the Textile Commissioner, its working has been entrusted to a Textile Control Board, on which there are representatives of the industry, the trade and the consumers. The scheme aims at making available to the masses adequate quantities of cloth by increasing production through rationalisation and multiple shifts and ensuring that what is available for civil consumption is marketed in the best manner possible. Production has been stepped up to 4,800 million yards per annum as against an annual average production of 3,500 million yards prior to the war.

Ceiling Prices Fixed

The most important provisions of the scheme relate to controlling prices and preventing hoarding. Ceiling prices were fixed for the first time in August, 1943, in respect of a few popular varieties of cloth. In December, 1943, they were reduced and a comprehensive list of ceiling prices was issued, comprising nearly 20,000 varieties of about 400 mills. Prices were still further reduced in March and June, 1944; and the present levels are only about 250 per cent above pre-war levels as against 500 per cent when the prices had shot up to peak levels in the earlier half of 1943. Hoarding is prevented by the prescription of a time limit within which cloth and yarn must move from a mill to the ultimate consumer. By this method, hidden stocks to the tune of 2,000 million yards (manufactured before August, 1943) have been brought into the market and made available for consumption, in addition to enlarged current production.

To Check Black-Market Activities

Another method by which black-market activities have been sought to be checked is by introducing in all provinces a system of licensing of dealers. By this method it is expected that only genuine dealers who were in the trade in 1941-42 before the 1942-43 boom started will remain in the trade; others who entered during the boom period for speculative purposes will go out of it.

As there appeared to be a growing tendency among textile mills to assist and sometimes even to participate in black-market activities, Government decided to take drastic action and have recently taken complete control of two cotton mills and undertaken the distribution of the output of 12 other mills. They are now in a

position to distribute large quantities of cloth to the public in places where it is most needed, through approved and licensed dealers at favourable prices.

As a natural corollary to the cloth control scheme, raw cotton and mill stores had also to be controlled. Ceiling prices have been fixed for the chief varieties of cotton; and the cultivators' interests have been safeguarded by fixing floor prices too, which can be sustained by Government purchases when prices decline below the floor levels. The distribution and prices of mill stores, such as shuttles, bobbins, ring travellers, etc., and of starch and certain chemicals and dyes are also controlled.

In spite of the very heavy handicaps which it has had to contend with, the standard cloth scheme has been very popular in the countryside. Out of 604 million yards of this cloth so far supplied to Provincial Governments and States, 401 million yards have been sold in retail. To see that the cloth reaches a wide circle of the less wealthy sections of the community, arrangements have been made to sell standard cloth in retail shops kept by official agencies, large employers of labour, co-operative societies, municipal and local bodies, trade unions, reputable charitable and philanthropic organisations and retail dealers selected by Collectors. Steps have been taken to make the cloth available to the rural population and especially to agriculturists. Several Provincial Governments have unequivocally testified that the introduction of standard cloth is the best scheme devised by the Government of India for the amelioration of the masses of this country. It is still the cheapest cloth that is sold throughout the country.

Woollen and Jute Controls

Since the outbreak of the war, the whole of India's woollen manufacturing capacity has been devoted to Defence requirements. Recently 25 per cent of this capacity was released to meet civilian needs, as this was now surplus to Defence requirements. Further releases are expected in due course. This capacity has been utilised to manufacture popular lines of woollen goods for civilian consumption. Under the control scheme Government place orders with the mills and the goods so manufactured are distributed to the public through dealers selected by them. The retail prices are fixed by Government and no consumer is allowed to purchase more than a certain maximum quantity.

Maximum and minimum prices for raw jute in Calcutta have been fixed, on the basis of Rs. 17 and Rs. 15 per maund, respectively, for Indian Jat Middles. Maximum prices for manufactured jute goods sold for export have also been fixed. Ceiling *ex*-mill, wholesale and retail, prices have also been fixed for manufactures consumed within the country. These prices allow a profit margin of 2½ per cent to the wholesale and 2½ per cent to the retailer exclusive of freight and similar charges.

Drugs Control

Before the Drugs Control Order was issued in 1943, the prices of drugs and medicines had skyrocketed; and stocks had gone underground. The Order brought under control the maximum selling prices, wholesale and retail, of about 800 drugs and pharmaceutical preparations. Additions to the list were made in February and May, 1944, which have brought the number of controlled drugs to 1,700 in about 4,000 packings. It is now an offence to sell any controlled drug at a price higher than the controlled price and for any dealer to refuse to sell any drug he has on stock without reasonable cause. To maintain a hold over the chemists' trade, it has been laid down that no importer, manufacturer, wholesaler or retailer of drugs may carry on business without a licence. An Advisory Committee has been constituted to assist Government in the operation of the Control Order.

Control of Civil Supplies

Side by side with control measures, all possible efforts are being made to increase supplies of controlled drugs for civilian needs. Increased imports of such of those drugs which can only be obtained from abroad have been arranged. About 16,000 tons of essential drugs and medicines, including proprietary medicines, are expected to arrive from abroad in 1944 for civil trade. Efforts are also being made to increase indigenous production. Help in the provision of raw materials at controlled rates is being given to Indian manufacturers wherever possible. Chemicals imported on Government account are being released to them at controlled rates.

As in cloth and medicines, the prices of miscellaneous articles of civil consumption were also very high before the civil supplies control scheme was inaugurated in October, 1943. Stocks had gone underground; there was hoarding in addition to profiteering.

The Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance aimed at putting down both these evils and making available to the public consumer goods at reasonable prices. The principal features of the control scheme were fixation of ceiling prices for a large number of articles, general regulation of prices in others, obligatory issue of cash memos, exhibition of price-lists and general obligation to sell to any customer. During the first eight months of the operation

of the Ordinance, ceiling prices have been fixed for a number of articles of wide use as cycles and cycle parts, fountain pens, razor blades, imported woollen goods, certain sports goods, boot polishes, electric bulbs, cigarettes, etc. Endeavours are being made to expand the list.

A fairly large organisation has been set up for the proper enforcement of the Ordinance. A substantial measure of success has been achieved in regard to reduction of prices. Black-market activities are being successfully countered through the anti-hoarding provisions of the Ordinance, strict enforcement of the price-fixing orders, the ceaseless activities of a vigilant and widespread organisation and deterrent punishment to offenders through summary trials. Price fixation under the Ordinance is generally carried out in consultation with the main interests concerned, for which purpose the Controller-General of Civil Supplies has set up Advisory Panels representing them.

Increased Supplies

As the maladies previous to the Ordinance were the result of short supply of consumer goods in the face of growing demand, the main remedy naturally lay in increasing the supplies of these goods for civilian consumption. Efforts in this direction took two main forms: stepping up local production wherever possible and increasing the imports of such goods the local production of which could not be immediately expanded.

Increased shipping space was placed at the disposal of India by His Majesty's Government during the year under review and the main items of consumer goods, other than foodgrains, imported between October, 1943 and January, 1944, were books, clothing and wearing apparel, cutlery, razor blades, cycle and cycle parts, electric bulbs and lamps, electric fans, radio apparatus and parts, tinned provisions, glass and glassware, metal lamps, agricultural implements, other implements and tools, other miscellaneous hardware, liquors, medical stores, chemicals, paints, packing and wrapping paper, printing paper, tissue paper, miscellaneous paper, photographic apparatus and appliances, stationery, toilet requisites, cotton thread, other cotton manufactures, haberdashery, wool yarn and knitting wool, woollen manufactures, artificial silk thread, other miscellaneous civilian requirements, earthenware, sewing machines, motor car spares and typewriters.

A Central Consumer's Council, consisting of prominent non-official representatives (both men and women) has been set up to advise Government on the type of consumer goods required by the public, the working of the price control measures taken by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies and the proper method of distributing commodities in short supply.

The first meeting of the Council was held in July, 1944, and it recommended, among other things, that Government should economise in the use of paper by their departments, that the control staff should be increased, that adequate punishment should be given for offences against Control Orders and that, in order to increase the supply of consumer goods, the policy of giving every possible assistance to existing industries in the country should be vigorously pursued and that, wherever possible, the establishment of new industries should be encouraged.

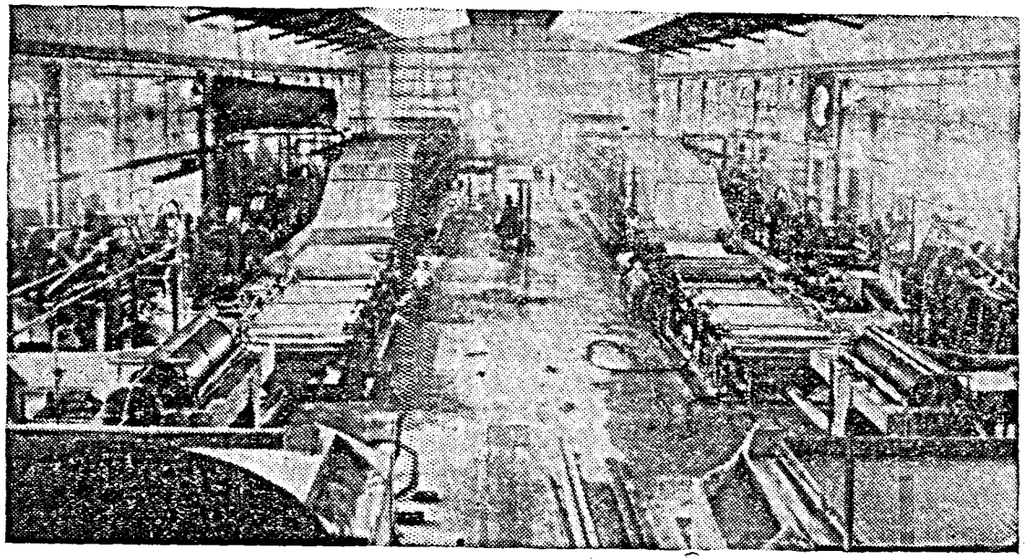
Newsprint Control

Shortly after the commencement of the war, shortage of newsprint was begun to be felt as this variety of paper is not produced in India and was imported entirely from abroad. Therefore, it became necessary to exercise some control on the use of newsprint as early as 1941 and accordingly the Newsprint Control Order, 1941, was issued. The Order, as it stands at present, prohibits the sale of newsprint to any person other than the proprietor of a newspaper. Proprietors of newspapers are prohibited from using newsprint in any month in excess of the ration allowed to them by permits. All newsprint stocks in the country, whether held by newspapers or dealers, have been frozen and their use reserved exclusively for newspapers.

The price of newsprint has been controlled from November 1943. Until recently the price of a newspaper was regulated by a schedule of prices; this schedule has now been withdrawn in the interests of the newspaper reading public, and prices will henceforth be determined on the basis of free competition. The newsprint position has improved to the extent of permitting one-third increase in the quota of newspapers as from August 1, 1944.

Paper Control

As regards printing paper, India was meeting her requirements to a large extent by imports, although local production was also becoming more and more important, thanks to the protection given to paper manufactured from indigenous bamboo pulp. The drying up of imports and increase in Government requirements resulted in an acute shortage of paper for civilian consumption which led to the issue of the Paper Control Order of 1942, aimed at conserving the civilian use of paper for essential purposes. The position became so acute that early



Interior of an Indian paper mill.

in 1943 it became necessary to reserve for Government 90 per cent of Indian production, releasing only 10 per cent to the civilian market. Later, however, i.e., from April 1, 1943, it became possible to release 30 per cent for this purpose.

Special efforts were made to increase production through rationalisation and other methods. The average Indian production previous to the war was 54,000 tons a year. It increased to 86,483 tons in 1941-42, 90,261 tons in 1942-43 and more than 100,000 tons in 1943-44. But the position has since deteriorated, mainly on account of the shortage of coal and bamboo, and production in 1944-45 is estimated at only 70,000 tons. The import position has also not been satisfactory, as there is an overall shortage of paper production in the United Nations.

To meet this situation, it became necessary in June, 1944, to promulgate two measures, the Paper Control Economy Order and the Paper Control Distribution Order to introduce stringent economy in the use of paper and to arrange for the satisfactory distribution of available supplies. The former Order limits the consumption of paper by newspapers and periodicals, printing presses, publishers and manufacturers of exercise books, account books and other articles made from paper to a certain percentage of their consumption during a basic period. As the quantity available for non-Government use is estimated to be only about 30 per cent of requirements, civilian users of paper are required under the Order, generally speaking, to cut down their consumption to 30 per cent. Under the latter Order, importers and manufacturers of paper are required to submit monthly returns to the Controller of Paper of the stocks of paper held and disposed of by them and not to dispose of their stocks except in accordance with instructions issued by him.

Government are trying to import on their own account a substantial tonnage of paper from North America. If that should eventuate, Government will review the position and consider the question of softening the severity of cut in consumption.

Bombay Conference and After

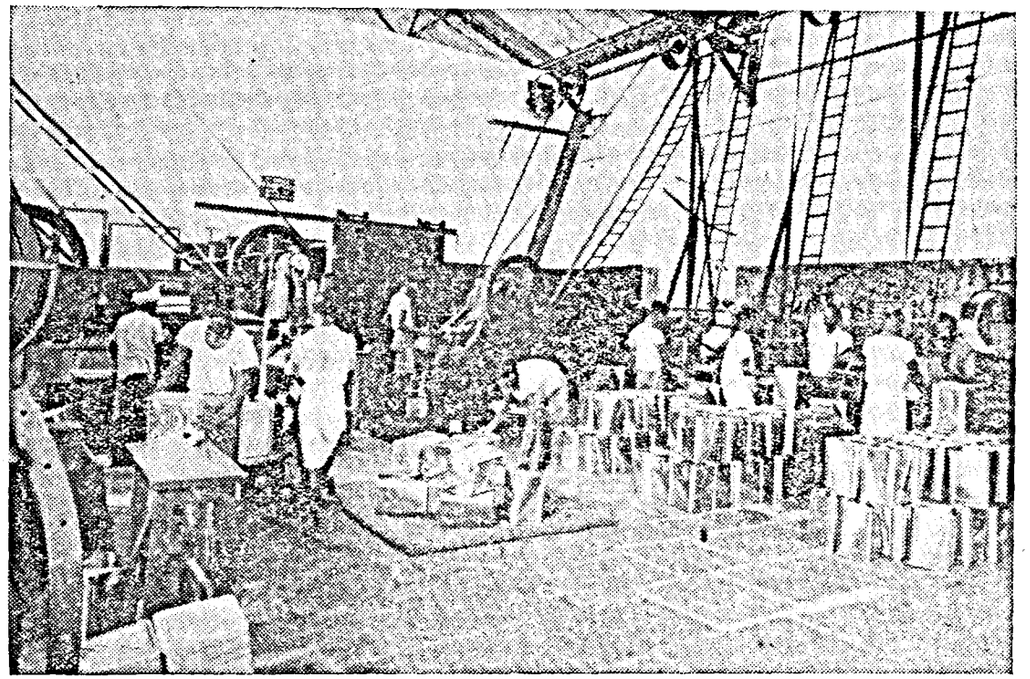
A representative meeting of those affected by the Paper Control Orders was held in Bombay in July, 1944. The Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S., Secretary, Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, who presided at the meeting, gave an assurance that "Government are prepared, within the framework of the Order and without giving up the objective of an overall reduction in consumption to 30 per cent, to be as accommodating as we can." He gave a sympathetic hearing to the 18 recommendations of a committee of the meeting and immediately announced the acceptance of the suggestion to constitute an Advisory Committee to assist Government in the administration of paper control. Various concessions, within the framework of the Orders and in accordance with the assurances given in Bombay, have since been announced.

Iron and Steel Control

As steel is a vital war material, the Iron and Steel Control Order is administered by the Supply Department. To meet essential civil requirements, however, the Industries and Civil Supplies Department obtain from the Master General of the Ordnance a periodical quota of standard iron and steel under various categories which is eventually licensed to various users by the Steel Controller (Civil Supplies). Special arrangements have been made to meet the needs of small and unorganised manufacturers of agricultural implements and consumer goods; certain quantities of good iron and steel, as well as defectives and cuttings, are made available to them for fabrication of such goods as may be decided upon by the authorities concerned. Gradually more and more iron and steel is being obtained for civil requirements. In 1943, 127,000 tons were secured; the quota for 1944 is 176,000 tons. It is expected to secure at the rate of 75,000 tons per quarter in 1945.

Following the loss of oil supplies from Burma and the difficulties in the way of additional imports from other sources, all-India supplies of kerosene had to be cut down from the middle of 1942 to 50 per cent of the 1941 consumption. Wholesale and retail prices are fixed and there is rationing in a number of urban areas. As kerosene is an important item of consumer goods, as the main illuminant of India, it is proposed, in spite of various difficulties in the way, to increase supplies for civilian consumption by 10 per cent from October, 1944, for a period of six months.

The retail prices of matches are controlled from August, 1942. The large match manufacturing interests have undertaken to supply matches at reasonable wholesale prices throughout India, thus making further control of distribution and prices unnecessary. At the same time Government have increased the supplies of raw materials available at controlled prices to manufacturers. The result is an increase in production which, combined with reduction in military demands, has made it possible to increase supplies for civilian needs from 25,000 cases per month to more than 32,000 cases at present.



The various parts which go to make a kerosene tin are being soldered in the tin factory of a big South Indian oil installation.

Brass sheets have been released to the civil market—2,600 tons between June and September, 1944—for being converted into utensils in common use and sold to the public at controlled prices. Under the control scheme, the sheets are released to a small number of large-scale manufacturers; they manufacture utensils of common use, which are sold to the public through approved dealers at prices ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2-4 per lb. for tinned articles and two annas less per lb. for untinned ones.

Electric Bulbs

The supply position of electric bulbs since the outbreak of the war has been unsatisfactory and the civilian consumer has suffered the most. In 1943, he was allotted only 15 per cent of the total available supplies. The position has improved in 1944 and 29 per cent has been allotted to him. As even after this the available quantity is only 30 per cent of the total requirements, a scheme has been prepared to control distribution. Prices of imported as well as indigenous electric lamp bulbs have been fixed.

Production of soap has been increased by the assistance given to the industry in the provision of the two chief raw materials, *viz.*, coconut oil and caustic soda. The Department of Industries and Civil Supplies has secured a quota of 65,000 tons of copra and coconut oil for import from Ceylon, which is distributed to industrial users, crushers and importers and dealers of these articles at fixed prices. Till December 1943, the soap factories were getting allotments of caustic soda at 50 per cent of their consumption in 1939-40. Since then the supply position has improved and allotments were increased to 75 per cent in January and 100 per cent in March, 1944. A number of manufacturers who had started business after the war are also being given allotments.

Footwear Prices

By a Control Order issued in June, 1944, the prices of all men's and women's footwear sold in India, except "made to measure" and imported footwear, have become regulated. Maximum prices, varying from Rs. 2 to Rs. 18, have been fixed for the general categories covering the whole range of footwear. It is now possible to secure the best footwear made in India for Rs. 18 per pair, for which the market price ranged previously from Rs. 30 to 40 per pair.

The citizens of the Chhuikhadan and Raigarh States have generously contributed Rs. 98-12 and Rs. 30,000 respectively to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The gifts have been gratefully accepted by His Excellency. ed by His Excellency.

DRIVE AGAINST HOARDING AND PROFITEERING

THE impact of this total war has had its natural repercussions in the Indian Commodity Market. Almost immediately on the declaration of war, there was a tendency for a sharp rise in the prices of all articles including food and consumer goods, and swift and strong action had to be taken by Government under the Defence of India Rules.

The measures then adopted were successful to a point, but there was again a marked upward trend in the middle of 1942. Prices of many articles of common use rose as high as 300 per cent. to 500 per cent. over the pre-war levels. A time came when only the well-to-do could obtain their necessities. The average consumer was hard pressed. The prices which he was required to pay bore no relation to basic cost such as cost of importation or the cost of production.

Main Features of Ordinance

Then, there was the additional evil of speculative hoarding aggravated by the invasion of the market by many who were never formerly concerned in the normal distribution or sale of these commodities. Interference by Government to stop these anti-social hoarding and profiteering propensities became imperative. It was in these circumstances that the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance was promulgated on October 16, 1943, with the main object of combating the inflationary tendency in prices and ensuring that articles of common use would be available to the average consumer at reasonable prices and in reasonable quantities.

The principal features of the Ordinance are:

(1) fixation of ceiling prices which cannot be exceeded by any dealer;

(2) general regulation of prices of the remaining articles on a system of basic cost plus profit margin calculated according to pre-war custom;

(3) obligatory issue of a cash memorandum in every sale of the value of Rs. 10 or more, and when demanded in other cases.

(4) exhibition of price lists or marking of prices on articles kept for sale, and

(5) obligation to sell to any customer unless specially authorised to act otherwise.

Between the Ordinance and the Specific Control Orders, no article remains outside the scope of control.

The need for some legislation on the lines of the Ordinance has been recognised on all hands; and the Ordinance itself has proved eminently effective and practicable. The response of the public, about which doubts were entertained in the beginning, has been quite spontaneous and satisfactory. Complaints are received from all classes of people, men as well as women, undeterred by the possibilities of having to appear as a witness in a court of law or at a police station in the course of investigation.

The Press has been particularly sympathetic to all the activities under the Ordinance and has taken special pains to give wide publicity both to the constructive features of the enactment and to the punitive action taken under it.

Advisory Panels

The trade, while often bitterly complaining of some of the detailed provisions of the Ordinance, has, with few exceptions, tried to adjust itself to the injunctions of the Ordinance. It would be idle to suggest that malpractices have been eliminated or that no attempts are being made to evade the laws or to defeat the object of the Ordinance. But there can be no doubt that the upward trend in the prices of consumer goods has been arrested and that the consumers are slowly but surely deriving benefit from the Ordinance.

Price fixation is generally carried out in consultation with the main interests concerned. For this purpose the Controller-General of Civil Supplies has set up Advisory Panels representing importers, wholesalers, retail dealers in ports and up-country, consumers and special organisations in a position to give assistance. The advice tendered by these Panels is scrutinised in the light of data collected by the Controller-General before the proposals take final shape.

During the 10 months of the operation of the Ordinance ceiling prices have been fixed for a number of articles such as (1) bicycles, and their spare parts and accessories; (2) Fountain pens; (3) Razor blades; (4) Certain sports articles; (5) Artificial silk and staple yarn; (6) Imported silk fabrics; (7) Imported woollen goods; (8) Photographic materials; (9) Arms and ammunition; (10) Boot polishes; (11) Electric bulbs; (12) Radio valves, spare parts and accessories; (13) Bag tanned hides and leather; (14) Cigarettes; (15) Wines and liquor; (16) Tinned provisions, and (17) Toilet articles.

Efforts are being made to expand this list so as to include as many articles in daily use as possible. The dealer, the consumer and the administrative authorities concerned all favour the fixation of ceiling prices under Section 3 of the Ordinance and regard it as far more preferable to the general price regulation embodied in Section 6 of the Ordinance.

In respect of articles, the ceiling prices of which have been fixed, substantial reductions over peak prices have been effected and it is reasonable to expect that these prices will decline still further as time passes, as imports grow in volume, and as there is scope for curtailment in profit margins consequent upon increased turnover in business as well as restoration of the element of competition in trade.

Statistics are maintained by the Controller General of Civil Supplies to show what the pre-war prices were of these articles, what peaks they reached when the inflation flourished unchecked, what are the reductions effected and what is the extent of relief afforded to the public and of the contribution made to the anti-inflationary campaign. Percentage reductions over peak prices in the case of some of the articles, the ceiling prices of which have been fixed under the Ordinance, are as follows: bicycles and bicycle parts 36, fountain pens 53, woollen goods 54, razor blades 55, cartridges 55 and boot polishes 62.

The Controller General of Civil Supplies also maintains statistics of the landed cost of most of the important imported goods to be able to work out correct ceiling prices as also advise the trade from time to time what these figures are.

Prosecutions

During the period so far covered by the Ordinance a very large number of prosecutions has been launched for a variety of offences such as overcharging, refusal to issue a cash memo, refusal to sell, issuing an incorrect or misleading cash memo, and failure to exhibit price lists. The number of offences varies from province to province, depending largely upon the vigilance of the public and the energy of the enforcement machinery. On the whole, the Courts have taken a fairly stiff view of these offences, the anti-social nature of which is always emphasised, and in many cases sentences of imprisonment have been passed in addition to fines.

Articles in regard to which prosecutions have been launched cover a very wide range, from leather to fountain pens, from woollen goods to cartridges, and from timber to roll films and batteries. Cases have been reported from every nook and corner of the country. Prosecutions have been avoided in marginal profits and the law has been set in motion, wherever necessary, without fear or favour.

A large organisation has been set up for the enforcement of the Ordinance. The Office of the Controller General is situated in Bombay in

order that he may be in daily and living contact with trade and business. He has four Deputy Controllers General distributed between Bombay, Calcutta, Lahore and Madras; Five Assistant Controllers General distributed between Bombay, Calcutta and Lahore and a staff of 50 Inspectors including one Lady Inspector and 50 Assistant Inspectors with headquarters at the more important commercial centres throughout British India. Each Provincial Government has also set up its own enforcement machinery consisting of officers such as Controllers of consumer goods, Inspectors, Supervisors and Superintendents of Prices.

Control of Distribution

It cannot at once be said that the black market has been wiped out. It is still the biggest headache of the authorities, in the words of the Controller General of Civil Supplies. Black markets will undoubtedly persist in respect of old stocks but in order to eliminate the chances of leakage of new goods into the black market, a system of controlled distribution has been planned and an Order has already been issued called "The Consumer Goods (Control of Distribution) Order." It came into force on July 15, 1944. The Central Organisation has been strengthened in order to control the movement of goods from the stage of importation right up to the retail sale to the consumer.

The Organisation devised for controlled distribution will also deal with the complaints that articles go underground or disappear as soon as their prices are fixed and announced. The time factor is definitely against hoarding; and the system devised should go a long way not only towards satisfying public demands but also inducing old and existing stocks to come out lest further losses should be incurred over them.

POST-WAR DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN RAILWAYS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 454)

services; improved service for goods, parcels and passenger traffic; regrouping of railways; extension of activities of railways to other transport services like roads, air, etc. and evolution of a new rates structure in keeping with post-war requirements.

The Basic Plan will require an expenditure of Rs. 319 crores in the first seven years of the post-war period, details being as under: rehabilitation Rs. 125 crores, operative improvements Rs. 45 crores, staff welfare Rs. 48 crores, provision of third class amenities Rs. 45 crores, construction of new lines Rs. 56 crores.

INDIAN BUSINESSMEN TO VISIT ENGLAND AND AMERICA

As announced on a previous occasion, the Government of India have invited a group of Indian industrialists and businessmen to visit England and America, as soon as war exigencies permit, with the object of studying the present industrial organisation of these countries, the technical advances made by them during the last few years, and their post-war industrial plans, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on October 10.

It added: The Mission will be unofficial in character, and its members, all Indians of independent views and position, will be free to arrange their programme and discuss any matter, unfettered by terms of reference or any form of control by Government. They will be accompanied by their own technical advisers and will bear their own expenses throughout the trip.

Government will Arrange Facilities

Government will arrange facilities for them to visit industrial establishments and to contact leaders of industry and prominent businessmen in Britain and the United States. It is believed that the Mission's study on the spot of the latest developments in the industrial sphere, and the knowledge and ideas which they will bring back with them will be of great value in the further industrialisation of the country after the war.

In view of the inaccurate reports which have appeared in the Press from time to time both in India and in England on the purpose and objects of the Mission, it may be made clear that its Members will not be concerned with India's Sterling Balances in London, nor with any specific plan of post-war economic development.

The Members of the delegation will be.

1. Mr. J. R. D. Tata.
2. Mr. G. D. Birla.
3. Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker.
4. Sir Padampat Singhania.
5. Mr. Krishnaraj Thackersey.
6. Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai.
7. Sir Sultan Chinoy.
8. Mr. M. A. Ispahani.
9. Mir Laik Ali,
10. Mr. A. D. Shroff.

COUNTERING INFLATION: MAIN PLANK OF WAR FINANCE

SUSTAINED efforts to counter the forces of inflation—that sums up the budgetary policy of India in the fifth year of war. A series of anti-inflationary measures was adopted from the middle of 1943, the cumulative effect of which is seen in the substantially lower commodity price level obtaining at present.

Prices generally reached their wartime peak by about the end of June, 1943; further increases were arrested thereafter, the level showing a tendency towards stabilisation by the end of 1943. The Calcutta Index Number of Wholesale Prices (July, 1914-100), after reaching its peak level of 349 in the third quarter of 1943, steadily declined to 299 in May, 1944. A similar tendency was seen in the Economic Adviser's Index Number, which reached its peak in June, 1943, and thereafter declined, with slight irregular fluctuations.

"Goods and services are mobilised for the common end by a vast outpouring of Government money," observed the Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, in his last budget speech, "and unless this is systematically reabsorbed on an adequate scale, it exercises an ever-increasing pressure on the reduced supplies for civilian consumption." He also stressed the need to divert more supplies from war demands to meet civilian needs. "The Government of India have made it clear," he said, "that no further substantial increase in the overall quantum of war demands on India's resources can be met without grave risk of an economic collapse and that an early lightening of her present burden by the release, for vital civil needs, of certain types of supplies and productive capacity at present appropriated for war purposes, is essential in order to counteract the unhealthy tendencies now manifesting themselves."

More Taxation

The above statements explain in brief the fundamental basis of war finance during 1943-44 and the current financial year. Taxation has been further geared up and the borrowing programme has met with outstanding success. As against Rs. 136.57 crores in 1942-43, the principal heads of revenue yielded Rs. 201.05 crores in 1943-44 (revised) and are expected to yield Rs. 262.98 crores in 1944-45. Between January, 1943, and February, 1944, through subscription to Defence Loans and investments in rupee counter-parts, a record sum of Rs. 279 crores was absorbed, as compared with only Rs. 93 crores in the corresponding previous 12 months.

Increased taxation measures were adopted in the budgets of 1943-44 and 1944-45. In the former, Rs. 7 crores were expected to be realised through increases in direct taxation. Central surcharges were increased, so as to impose a uniform surcharge of 66 2/3 per cent on the basic rates of income-tax. The surcharge on super-tax was also increased, so that the resultant aggregate rates of super-tax and surcharge ran from 2½ annas in the rupee on the lowest slab to 10½ annas in the rupee on the top slab. Corporation tax was raised by half anna to 2 annas in the rupee. Two new excise duties were levied—one on tobacco and the other on 'vanaspati' or vegetable ghee. The former was expected to yield Rs 10½ crores and the latter Rs. 1 crore. Certain changes were made in postal and telephone rates, the new levies being estimated to yield Rs. 120 lakhs. The total estimated yield from all these measures of new taxation amounted to Rs. 19.7 crores, which left a revenue deficit of Rs. 40.59 crores to be covered by borrowing.

Direct Taxation Measures

New taxation measures announced in the 1944-45 budget were expected to yield in the aggregate Rs. 23½ crores—Rs. 8½ crores through direct and Rs. 15 crores through indirect taxation. Gradual steepening of Central surcharge on incomes above Rs. 10,000 (with relief to lower incomes by raising taxable minimum from Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000), an increase of half anna in the Central surcharge on super-tax on slabs between Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 2,00,000 and an increase in Corporation tax by one anna to three annas (with a rebate of one anna on undistributed profits)—these constituted the direct taxation measures. As regards indirect taxation, tobacco excise was raised to yield Rs. 10 crores of additional revenue. Three new excise duties were levied—on betelnuts, coffee and tea, at two annas a pound, to yield in the aggregate Rs. 4 crores. As a result of these increased taxation measures, the prospective revenue deficit, to be covered by borrowing. was reduced from Rs. 78.21 crores to Rs. 54.71 crores.

The financial measures of 1944-45 had a two-fold object in view. They were designed not only to bring in more revenue for financing the war, but also to absorb surplus money that would otherwise press against the price structure and accentuate the inflationary tendency.

As observed by the Finance Member, so long as the total of taxation and borrowing fell short of the total of rupee outgoings, the problem of closing the gap or reducing it to innocuous proportions was one of paramount importance in dealing with the menace of inflation. For doing so, the

Government plan, he pointed out, had three broad objects in view: to control and stabilise the net over-all demand placed upon Indian revenues, compensating as far as possible for inevitable increase by imports of food, bullion and other capital and consumer goods; to step up in every way the rate of rupee incomings till it equalled that of rupee outgoings; and to maintain and extend price controls. The gap between rupee incomings and outgoings was estimated at Rs. 250 crores in 1943-44; by implementing the budget proposals and continuing the measures already in force, it was anticipated that a substantial narrowing of this gap would take place during the current year.

The proposals adumbrated with this object in view were: the provision of a "pay-as-you-earn" scheme for payments of tax on income from which tax was not deducted at source; increasing the compulsory deposit under the Excess Profits Tax scheme from 1/5th to 19/64ths of the tax, which would immobilise as deposits the entire excess profit remaining after E.P.T. had been paid thereon and income-tax and super-tax paid on the balance; and a rebate of one anna in the rupee on so much of a company's total income as was not distributed as dividends (other than dividends payable at a fixed rate). The object of the last measure was to discourage any extravagant distribution of ordinary dividends, which would only place surplus money in the hands of shareholders —with all its possible harmful consequences on the price structure.

The revenue and expenditure (on revenue account) position of the last two years and the anticipated position for the current year are shown in the table given below.

The revenue position has been buoyant. The principal heads of revenue show about a hundred per cent increase during the period. Net contribution of Posts and Telegraphs has increased by nearly 2½ times, while that of the railways has expanded by more than 50 per cent. From the divisible pool of income-tax the provinces have substantially benefited, their share increasing from Rs. 10.90 crores in 1942-43 to 23.69 crores in 1944-45. Civil expenditure has also registered a small increase of Rs. 12 crores over the period. The total deficit during the entire period of three years met through borrowing amounted to Rs. 159.31 crores.

Borrowing Programme

To appeal to every type of investor, a number of new loans, in addition to rupee counterparts of 3½ per cent undated paper and special issues of some of the existing loans, were floated during the year under review. The Fourth Defence Loan, *viz.*, the 3 per cent Loan 1953-55, was issued on July 3, 1943, and closed on March 31, 1944. The 3 per cent Victory Loan, repayable at par on September 1, 1957, was issued on April 1, 1944, and is at present on tap. The Post Office Ten Year Defence Savings Certificates were replaced from October 1, 1943, by the more attractive Twelve-Year National Savings Certificates, particularly to appeal to the small investor. A countrywide 'save and lend' drive was launched and has been vigorously prosecuted with a considerable measure of success. This has not only brought in more money to Government (through borrowing) but has also had an anti-inflationary effect by absorbing the surplus money of the small investor. In addition, Five-Year Interest Free Prize Bonds, in denominations of Rs. 100 and Rs. 10 repayable on or after January 15, 1949, were made available from January 15, 1944. The bond holders (winners) will receive half-yearly prizes, the total cost of which to Government will be equivalent to a rate of interest of about 2 per cent per annum.

Between July, 1943, and June, 1944, the total amount raised through all new issues and sales of loans on tap came to Rs. 283 crores.

Revenue and Expenditure

	1942-43 Accounts	1943-44 Revised	1944-45 Budget
	(In crores of rupees.)		
Revenue:			
Principal heads of revenue ..	136.57	201.05	262.98
Other miscellaneous sources of revenue ..	26.56	31.30	26.50
Net contribution of P. & T. to general revenues ..	4.52	9.38	11.31
Net contribution of Railways to general revenues	20.13	32.27	31.18
..	**187.78**	**274.00**	**331.97**
Deduct share of Income-tax payable to Provinces	10.90	19.50	23.69
Total Revenue ..	**176.88**	**254.50**	**308.28**
Expenditure (from revenue) :			
Defence Services (Net) ..	214.62	262.64	276.61
Civil Expenditure ..	74.43	84.29	86.38
Total Expenditure ..	**289·05**	**346.93**	**362.99**
Deficit ..	112.17	92.43	54.71

India's Sound Public Debt Position

In spite of the vast wartime borrowing programme, the Public Debt position of the Government of India is essentially sound, in that the total funded debt is almost fully covered by interest yielding assets. At the end of the current financial year, the total funded debt is expected to amount to Rs. 1,318 crores (including a small sum of Rs. 14 crores of sterling debt still not repatriated). The total value of interest yielding assets will be Rs. 1,021 crores, the uncovered portion thus being only Rs. 297 crores. Even if unfunded debt is also taken into consideration, the position will be substantially the same.

The total interest bearing obligations of the Central Government in India and England—both funded and unfunded debt—will amount to Rs. 1,978 crores by the end of this year. This will be covered, in addition to the interest yielding assets mentioned above, by Rs. 562 crores of cash and security held on Treasury account; so that the uncovered balance of the interest bearing obligations will amount to only Rs. 396 crores.

Small Savings Drive

Total borrowing during the war period, *i.e.*, from 1940-41, when Defence borrowing was inaugurated, to the end of 1944-45 amounts to Rs. 1,150 crores in India. The sterling debt, on the other hand, declined by Rs. 376 crores (practically the entire sterling debt), due to open market operations and the operation of the repatriation schemes. The net additions, therefore, to the total funded debt of the Government of India during the war period is thus only Rs. 774 crores —a modest sum indeed as compared to the astronomical war loan figures of England and America.

There has been a welcome improvement in small investments. While in 1941-42 and 1942-43, the transactions in all forms of small savings resulted in net withdrawals, by the public, of Rs. 14 crores and Rs. 3½ crores respectively, in the latter months of 1943 and the early months of 1944 they were yielding net deposits at the rate of over Rs. 2½ crores a month. The trend continues to be markedly upward. At the end of the current financial year, the net deposits are expected to amount to Rs. 168 crores, this figure being Rs. 26½ crores above the pre-war level and Rs. 75 crores above the lowest level touched during the war period.

At the instance of the Central Government, a vigorous small savings drive was inaugurated during the year under review. A scheme was evolved for encouraging small savings by the employment of authorised agents on a commission basis, whose function was to assist investments from villages. As a result of the operation of the scheme, between October, 1943, and January, 1944, National Savings Certificates worth Rs. 4½ crores were sold to the public in the Provinces and the Centrally-Administered Areas.

Prize Bonds Scheme

The Prize Bonds Scheme is not a lottery, since the Bonds will be repaid in full on or after January 15, 1949, besides giving the bond-holder a chance to draw prizes every half-year during the period of their currency. The first draw took place in Bombay on July 15, 1944; the next one will take place on January 15, 1945. The value of Prize Bonds sold up to the time of the first draw amounted to about Rs. 2½ crores.

The first draw consisted of three series in the 100-rupee denomination and of nine series in the 10-rupee denomination.

To facilitate the drawing of prizes, each group of one lakh pieces forms a separate series. In the case of 100-rupee denomination there are five prizes in each series, comprising one prize of Rs. 50,000, two prizes of Rs. 20,000 each and two prizes of Rs. 5,000 each or an aggregate of Rs. 1,00,000 in prizes. In the case of the 10-rupee denomination, there are 18 prizes in each series, comprising one prize of Rs. 2,500, two prizes of Rs. 1,250 each, five prizes of Rs. 500 each and ten prizes of Rs. 250 each, *i.e.*, a total of Rs. 10,000 in prizes.

These Prize Bonds, as has already been explained, are not analogous to lottery tickets. In a lottery, the money invested is lost unless a lucky number is drawn. Not so in the Bonds: they constitute a regular Government loan which will be repaid in full in 1949. The only difference

between the Prize Bonds and the other Government loans is that, while interest is paid direct to the bond holders in the latter case, it is pooled together in the former and distributed as prizes to the winners. Whether one wins a prize or not, the money invested in the Prize Bonds is safe, remains intact and will be returned in full.

The draw for prizes takes place every half year. Thus every Bond, purchased before the first draw, has ten chances of winning a prize. The Bond which has won a prize in one half-year is not precluded from winning a prize in subsequent draws. The prize money is free from income-tax, super-tax, corporation tax and E.P.T. As the Bonds are issued in the form of bearer bonds, one has simply to pay the money across the counter at any office of the Reserve Bank of India or a branch of the Imperial Bank or any of the Government treasuries or sub-treasuries and get his Bond straightaway, without the formality of application forms, etc., associated with the other normal types of Government securities. The scheduled banks have now been added to those places where the Bonds will be available for purchase.

Defence Expenditure

The aggregate of Defence expenditure for the three years 1942-43, 1943-44 and 1944-45 amounts to Rs. 753 88 crores. There is, besides, a Defence capital expenditure in each of these years amounting to Rs. 52.51 crores in the first, Rs. 38.30 crores in the second and Rs. 24.60 crores in the third year, or Rs. 115.41 crores in the aggregate. Thus the total Defence expenditure, on India's account, including Defence capital expenditure, comes to Rs. 869.29 crores.

This is not, however, the entire Defence expenditure brought to account in India's books, which includes that which is allocated to His Majesty's Government under the terms of the Financial Settlement. Thus, the over-all expenditure on Defence in India is at least twice of what is indicated by the above figure. The total of such expenditure since 1939-40 amounts to Rs. 2,481 crores, including Rs. 744 crores budgeted for 1944-45. Of this, the war expenditure recoverable from H.M.G. represents Rs. 1,385 crores or 55.8 per cent. Thus more than half of the total war expenditure has been incurred by H.M.G. and other Allied Governments.

The allocation of Defence expenditure between India and the U.K. continues to be governed by the terms and principles of the Financial Settlement. Developments in the war situation and the establishment of the South-East Asia Command have not rendered it necessary to depart from those principles.

In accordance with those principles India's liability for the cost of forces serving within her geographical frontiers is subject to the condition that such forces are both necessary and available for local defence purposes.

The strength of forces needed for such purposes at any time are subject to maximum limits; and limits of this nature have already been laid down by H.E. the Commander-in-Chief for both the land and air forces. These ceilings are, however, subject to revision in the light of developments in the war situation as a whole.

Lease-Lend Aid to India

After preliminary discussions, the talks relating to the possibility of India entering into a direct Mutual Aid Agreement with the U.S.A. were suspended in view of the difficulty of determining India's post-war policy in certain respects at this stage. The Government of India, however, had accepted the principle underlying Mutual Aid and continued to receive Lease-Lend goods and services from the U.S.A. and to grant Reciprocal Aid in return.

The Finance Member gave in his budget speech a few statistical particulars relating to Lease-Lend and Reciprocal Aid. According to him, the total value of the former received in India up to the end of 1944-45 was estimated to be Rs. 350 crores. It was not possible, however, to say at present what would be India's actual share of this amount, because the allocation of Lease-Lend goods and services between India and H.M.G. had not yet been determined. Nonetheless, "it will be reasonable to assume," he added, "that India's share in these benefits will not be less than one-third."

India's Reciprocal Aid to U.S.

In regard to Reciprocal Aid by India to America the Finance Member estimated the cost, on present information, to be about Rs. 26 crores and Rs. 43 crores in 1943-44 and 1944-45, respectively. The total cost of such aid up to the end of 1942-43 was Rs. 12¼ crores. The estimated progressive total up to the end of 1944-45 is a little more than Rs. 81 crores.

This Reciprocal Aid now takes three main forms:

1. Reciprocal Aid to U. S. forces in India in the shape of rations, clothing, ordnance and other stores, the construction of accommodation, airfields and connected works and the provision of transportation, communications and maintenance facilities of various kinds.

2. Reciprocal Aid to U. S. shipping using Indian ports, in the shape of port dues of all kinds, ship repairs etc.
3. Available raw materials and available foodstuffs, such as tea, required by the U. S. Government directly for war purposes.

A broad and incomplete estimate of the value of the main items of Reciprocal Aid given up to the end of 1943 is given below:

Value of works sanctioned (part completed and part in progress)	Rs. 33 crores
Stores of various sorts	Rs. 150 lakhs
Rations	Rs. 250 lakhs
Transportation facilities	Rs. 175 lakhs
Telegrams and telephone services	Rs. 85.5 lakhs
Labour facilities	Rs. 185 lakhs
Petroleum Products	Rs. 565 lakhs
Harbour facilities to American shipping	Rs. 105 lakhs

In addition, tea estates and jute mills have been requisitioned and placed at the disposal of U. S. authorities in India. Substantial compensation will be payable by the Government of India on this account in due course. The value of raw materials aid, provided from April 1, 1944, has not yet been estimated; but it is learned to be considerable.

Gold Sales

One of the anti-inflationary measures adopted during the year was the sale of gold to the public by the Reserve Bank of India on behalf of H.M.G. and America. This gold was supplied by these Governments from their own resources and the proceeds of the sales were utilised by them towards their war expenditure in India.

As observed by the Finance Member, "the import of this gold has usefully reduced the gap between India's exports and the restricted imports of other commodities which are available in present circumstances and, by its direct effect in absorbing surplus purchasing power as well as by its less direct influence, has materially supplemented the other measures which we have been taking to counter inflation and check the rise in commodity prices."

These sales were criticised in some quarters on the ground that while H.M.G. and the U.S. Government enjoyed the advantages of uncontrolled gold prices in India, they were able to purchase commodities at controlled prices out of their sale proceeds. The Finance Member effectively answered this criticism in his reply to budget criticisms in the Central Assembly. He explained that the controlled prices were not necessarily lower than the index at which gold was being sold; in some cases they were actually higher, *e.g.*, jute and cotton textiles, tea, ghee, flour and rice

In June, 1944, the U.S. Government agreed to supply the Government of India with 100 million ounces of silver for coinage and for sale to the public, if required, in furtherance of the Government of India's anti-inflationary policy. The Government of India have undertaken to return a corresponding quantity of silver to the U.S. Government over a suitable period after the end of the war.

Control of Capital Issues

To canalise wartime investments into sound and healthy channels and as an anti-inflationary measure, the Control of Capital Issue Scheme was inaugurated in May 1943. Among other things, the scheme prohibited the issue of capital by companies in British India without the prior consent of the Central Government. Recently the procedure relating to the grant of permission to long-range schemes, *i.e.*, schemes which would mature only after the end of the war, was relaxed to some extent, so as to give permission for the immediate issue of capital, provided the bulk of it was invested in Defence loans until actually needed. The revised procedure serves a double purpose. It ultimately helps the post-war industrial development of India by enabling proposed ventures to equip themselves with the necessary capital beforehand and be ready with their plans when the war ends. It immediately helps to counter inflation by immobilising surplus money drawn off the market through such capital issues.

Post-War Finance

Up to the end of 1943, the number of applications classified as "industrial" on which orders were passed was 687 and the total capital asked for was Rs. 2,499 lakhs. Consent to the issue of capital was given in 588 cases involving in the aggregate a capital sum of Rs. 1,669 lakhs. There were 99 refusals, the capital asked for amounting to Rs. 698 lakhs. Refusals thus amounted to about 14 per cent of the total number of applications and 28 per cent of the total amount of capital asked for.

The Finance Member gave expression to his views on post-war finance in his last budget speech. He was of the opinion that, granting the maintenance by concerted international effort of full production and employment and a determination on the part of Government to

utilise to the full the taxable capacity of the country, after one or two deficit years, revenue surpluses of the order of Rs. 100 crores per annum could be expected with the Central Government from the fourth or the fifth year after the end of the war. "With all-out borrowing continued in accordance with the technique developed during the war," he said, "it is by no means fantastic to visualise total resources for the purpose of reconstruction during the first effective quinquennium approximating to the Rs. 1,000-crore level."

This excluded Provincial resources and any estimate of direct private investments. Regarding subsequent five-year periods, the Finance Member was of the view that the estimates could be related to the actual results of the first quinquennium in a sort of geometric progression. He further observed that individual schemes should be so designed as to be as remunerative as possible and that priority should be given to those schemes which could "contribute directly to an increase in material wealth and prosperity and thereby reinforce the public revenues."

International Monetary Conference

A Delegation from India, consisting of Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member (Leader), Sir C. D. Deshmukh, Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, Dr. Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty and Mr. A. D. Shroff (with Dr. Madan of the Reserve Bank as the Secretary), attended the International Monetary Conference, which was held in Bretton Woods (U.S.A.) in July, 1944, to consider the International Monetary Fund proposals (which had been previously circulated to the United Nations) and proposals for the establishment of an International Bank.

The Conference accepted the draft proposals with slight modifications, fixed the quotas of the different nations for the Fund as well as for the Bank and gave the five permanent seats of the Council of the Fund to the first five highest quota holders, *viz.*, U.S.A., England, Russia, France and China. Two seats have been set apart for the member nations of South America. India may compete for one of the remaining five seats and is fairly certain to secure one.

The seven highest quotas are: U.S.A. 2,750,000,000 dollars, U.K. 1,300,000,000 dollars, U.S.S.R. 1,200,000,000 dollars, China 550,000,000 dollars, France 450,000,000 dollars, India 400,000,000 dollars and Canada 300,000,000 dollars. The total Fund (aggregate of all the quotas) amounts to 8,800,000,000 dollars. Countries have been allotted voting strength as follows: 250 votes automatically assigned to every member nation, plus one vote for each 100,000 dollars of its quota. There will thus be about 99,000 votes. At the time of joining, each member will have to pay as a minimum in gold either 25 per cent of its quota or ten per cent of its net official holdings of gold and dollars.

The Indian Delegation pressed, albeit unsuccessfully, for raising the quota of India so as to enable her to get a permanent seat on the Council. Two other proposals also shared the same fate. One was to bring within the scope of the Fund the question of the orderly liquidation of abnormal wartime balances and the other, that the resources of the Fund should be utilised for the economic development of backward countries.

Object of Monetary Fund

The Indian Delegation at first made its "reservation" regarding the quota resolution for the purpose of recording that, in its opinion, India should have a larger quota on account of its relative economic position. The "reservation" was, however, finally withdrawn when the draft plan for the Fund came up for final consideration before the Conference.

According to the final draft of the United Nations' Monetary Agreement approved by the Conference, the purposes of the International Monetary Fund are as follows:

1. To promote international monetary co-operation through a permanent institution which provides the machinery for consultation and collaboration on international monetary problems.
2. To facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade and to contribute thereby to the promotion and maintenance of high levels of employment and real income and to the development of the productive resources of all members as primary objectives of economic policy.
3. To promote exchange stability, to maintain orderly exchange stability, to maintain orderly exchange arrangements among members, and to avoid competitive exchange depreciation.
4. To assist in the establishment of a multilateral system of payments in respect of current transactions between members and in the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions which hamper the growth of world trade.
5. To give confidence to members of making the fund's resources available to them under adequate safeguards, thus providing them with the opportunity to correct maladjustments in their balance of payments without resorting to measures destructive of national or international prosperity.
6. In accordance with the above to shorten the duration and lessen the degree of misequilibrium in the international balances of payment of members.

The International Bank

The quota for the proposed International Bank is similar to that for the Fund. It is open for membership only to those nations who become members of the Fund. Its authorised capital is 10,000,000,000 dollars, divided into 100,000 shares. Quotas set for the 44 nations who participated in the Conference amount to 8,800,000,000 dollars, leaving 1,200,000,000 dollars for subscription by other nations. The immediate paid-up capital, on the formal constitution of the Bank, will be 20 per cent of its authorised capital. Two per cent of the price of each share will be payable in gold or in U.S. dollars; the remaining 18 per cent will be paid in the currency of the member. Conditions under which the Bank may guarantee or make loans have been laid down.

The objects of the Bank are as follows:

1. To assist in the reconstruction and development of territories of members by facilitating the investment of capital for productive purposes including the restoration of economics destroyed or disrupted by war, the reconversion of productive facilities to peacetime needs and the encouragement of the development of productive facilities and resources in less developed countries.
2. To promote private foreign investment by means of guarantees or participation in loans and other investments made by private investors; and when private capital is not available on reasonable terms to supplement private investment by providing on suitable conditions finance for productive purposes out of its own capital funds raised by it and its other resources.
3. To promote the long-range balanced growth of international trade and the maintenance of equilibrium in balances of payments by encouraging international investment for the development of the productive resources of members, thereby assisting in raising productivity, the standard of living and conditions of labour in their territories.
4. To arrange the loans made or guaranteed by it in relation to international loans through other channels so that the more useful and urgent projects, large and small alike, will be dealt with first.
5. To conduct its operations with due regard to the effect of international investment on business conditions in the territories of members and in the immediate post-war years to assist in bringing about a smooth transition from wartime to peace economy.

The Agreement regarding the International Fund will come into force only when it has been signed on behalf of Governments having 65 per cent of the total quotas, but in no event before May 1, 1945. The Government of India will, in due course, place the scheme before the Central Legislature for its consideration.

REGISTRATION OF EUROPEAN BRITISH WOMEN

An Ordinance published to-day requires all European British women in India between the ages of 18 and 50 who are not in whole-time Government employment, military or civil, to register themselves as explained below, said a Press Note issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on October 7.

It added: The object is to discover what war work women in each district are in a position to do, so as to help the local authorities to offer an opportunity for such work to all women residing in their district and to find the most suitable work for each woman to do. Government appreciate the valuable service that women of the European community are already performing in many ways, but they think that this measure is desirable in order to co-ordinate their efforts to the best advantage. They hope that every woman who is required to register will make a point of doing so punctually.

Every woman is required to answer a questionnaire on a prescribed form and to see that it reaches the registration authority, which is the District Magistrate of the district in which she lives, or, in Madras, Calcutta or Bombay, the Commissioner of Police, between November 13 and 25, 1944. Forms can be obtained after November 1, from the Registration authority by writing to him or calling at his office, or from the local branch of the Women's Voluntary Services or the European Association where such branches exist. Any of these authorities will be glad to advise women who find any difficulty in filling up the form. When filled in, forms may be left at the office of the Registration authority or sent to him by post.

INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE

IT has for some time been the intention of the Governments of the British Commonwealth and Empire to hold further conversations on certain aviation problems, said a Press Communique issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on October 4.

It added: It has now been decided that officials of the British Commonwealth Governments and of India should meet in Montreal (Canada) beginning October 23, 1944, to discuss operational and technical problems connected with the establishment of air routes between members of the British Commonwealth and Empire.

Military Air Transport services operated during the war will be reviewed and it is expected that there will be discussions of possible operations during the remainder of the war as well as in the post-war period. Any recommendations made by the Conference will be submitted to the respective Governments for their approval.

It is not intended that any decisions on matters of policy should be made at the Conference. Since a general International Conference on civil aviation is to be held in the United States in November, it was decided that the most convenient method of holding the Commonwealth talks would be to arrange a meeting in Canada which could be attended by the Delegates going to the American Continent for the International Conference in the United States.

INDIAN DELEGATION

The Indian Delegation to the conference in Montreal will consist of:

Sir Gurunath Bewoor, Leader of the Delegation;

Sir Frederick Tymms, Delegate and Expert Adviser;

Mr. Gur Dayal Singh (Aerodrome Officer, Karachi) Delegate;

Mr. S. C. Sen (Aerodrome Officer, Bombay) Secretary-Delegate.

The same Delegation will represent India at the International Civil Aviation Conference opening in Chicago on November 1.

H. M. the King has been graciously pleased to appoint the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shiva Prasad Sinha to be a Judge of the High Court in Allahabad upon the retirement of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shiam Krishna Dar.

NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL

THE 16th session of the National Defence Council opened at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on October 9. H. E. the Commander-in-Chief presided.

The Hon'ble Member for War Transport (Sir Edward Benthall) made a statement on the supply of new equipment for Indian railways. There was also a discussion on a memorandum circulated by Sir Edward Benthall on the handling of explosives at major ports.

In the afternoon, Major-General Lewis explained the work being done in regard to the welfare and amenities of soldiers.

The Council re-assembled the following day, the C.-in-C. presiding.

Speaking of his experiences in Europe, H. H. the Maharaja of Kashmir referred to his personal impressions of conditions in England and of the working of the War Cabinet.

Memoranda on the Technical Training Scheme and on the civil import position, presented by the Hon'ble Labour Member (Dr. B. R. Ambedkar) and the Hon'ble Commerce Member (Sir M. Azizul Haque) respectively, were discussed. The Hon'ble Commerce Member then made a statement on the position in regard to the supply of cloth, fuel and medical drugs, and a general discussion ensued on this subject.

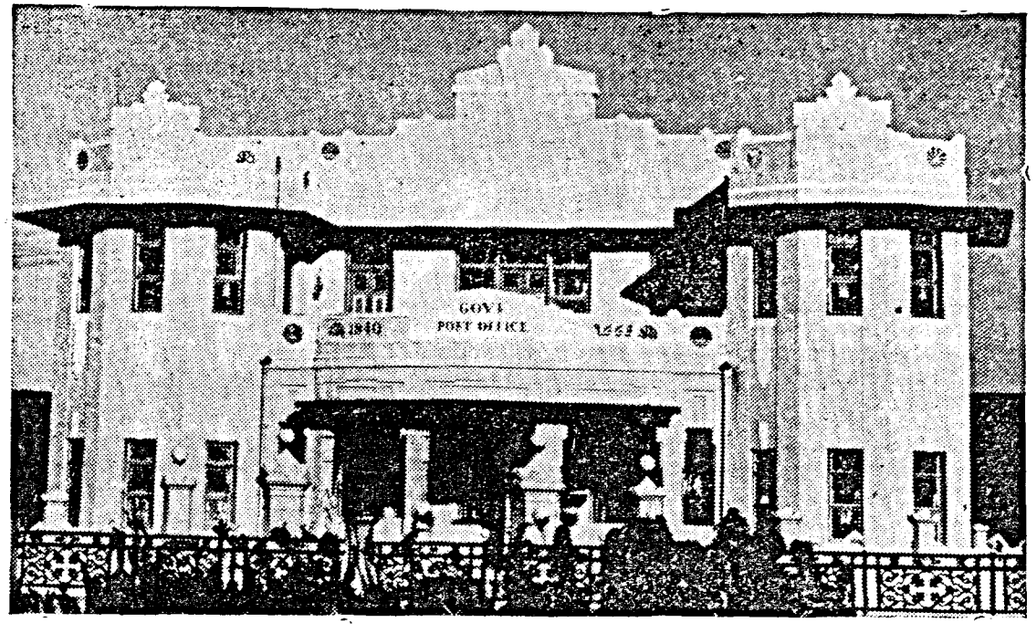
Lord Munster, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for India, was present for part of the proceedings on October 11, the last day of the session. H. E. the Viceroy presided.

The Hon'ble the Food Member (Sir J. P. Srivastava) made a statement on the organisation of the Food Department and its working in the past 12 months, and a general discussion on the food position followed.

The session then concluded.

SUMMARY TRIAL OF FOOD OFFENCES

To expedite trial of offences affecting food and securing quick punishment, a Government of India notification specifies for the purpose of Sub-Rule 4 of Rule 130, Rule 38 (1) (a) read with Rule 34 (6) (h) Defence of India Rules, when the prejudicial act in question is an act which is intended or is likely to impede, delay or restrict the supply or distribution of any article of food. This will ensure speedy trial of the less important cases of this category.



A modern Indian post office.

THE INDIAN POST OFFICE CAN TAKE IT

Department's Problems in War and Peace

COMMUNICATIONS are one of the most vital threads in the pattern of war as well as peace, and the story of communications in India is closely bound up with the story of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. It is a story of millions of articles handled every day, of tens of thousands of telegrams sent off and received during the same period, of ceaseless telephone traffic, of money orders and other transactions worth hundreds of millions of rupees every year. It is a story set against a background of vast distances and varying climates and geographical features, of hundreds of languages and dialects, of illiterate persons who have incomplete addresses written by literate acquaintances, of 400,000,000 people more than 85 per cent of whom live in 700,000 villages, of natural calamities that all but crush man's endeavour and subdue his spirit—the story, in brief, of how one-fifth of the human race, spread over an area as large as Europe excluding Russia, keep in touch with one another.

Every form of transport is mobilised to carry our mails. The generation which used to associate its mail with runners has long passed, but runners and boats between them still cover 84,000 of the 157,000 miles over which our mails are carried within the country. Bullock carts and horses, mules and camels are all called upon to play their part, and these leave their track along 4,500 miles. Railways of course are the mainspring of postal activity and cover upwards of 38,000 miles, while motor vehicles help with nearly 27,000. Steamers ply close on 3,000 miles. Add to this 556,000 miles of overhead wires and 118,400 of aerial, underground and submarine cable conductors, and we have a fairly full picture of mail and telegraph channels of communication. It is a crowded and busy picture, yet, in disposing of 1,475,000,000 unregistered articles in a year, the Department received only 18,973 complaints—1 in 100,000.

Nearly 24,000,000 telegrams were handled in 1942-43, and at one time this year about 30,000 telegrams were being handled in the Bombay Central Telegraph Office every day. There are approximately 108,000 telephone connections and at the larger exchanges each subscriber makes anything from 20 to 50 calls a day, the figure going up to 57 at a few. About 11,000 trunk calls are put through every day.

The first Field Post Office was mobilised in July, 1939, when the international situation took a serious turn. Today there are respectively

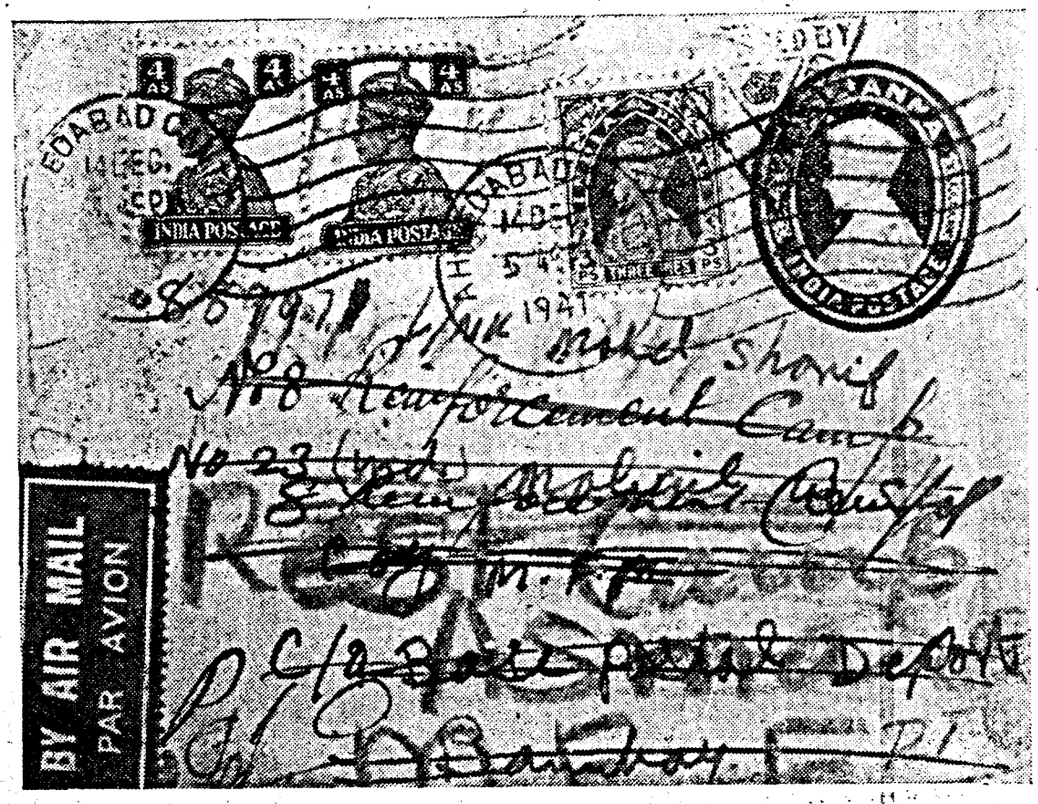
more than 30 and nearly 200 Base and Field Post Offices. In addition, there is a Base Postal Depot in Bombay for sorting surface mails for troops and a Base Air Post Depot in Karachi and an Air Mail Section in Calcutta for air mails.

Even in the good old days of peace the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department was a much worried organisation. It has had to contend with many difficulties peculiar to this country. Birds flying over forest regions may drop snakes over the telegraph and telephone wires, causing dislocation, and workmen have to go into the jungles to set things right. Other difficulties like distances and language have already been mentioned. War has added more headaches.

The Department has temporarily lost nearly 3,000 experienced members of its staff who have been transferred to field service, and their places have been taken by new recruits. A further infiltration of outsiders in the permanent staff was brought about by an increase in traffic. A temporary staff of 12,000 has had to be recruited and hurriedly trained for the additional work.

Foreign mails presented another problem. The "all-up" air mail scheme was suspended in order to release air space for military purposes. Charges for air mails were raised so as to reduce their bulk. This reacted on the surface mails, where considerable dislocation occurred in the beginning of the war as the usual routes had to be abandoned owing to enemy action and the new routes were not convenient. Air mail routes had also to be altered from time to time for the same reasons. Thus Trans-Pacific and Trans-Atlantic air services were utilised for a time for carrying mails to Europe and America, but on the entry of Japan into the war, these routes had to be closed and the air-cum-surface route *via* Durban adopted. The position continued to be unsatisfactory and the only way to minimise delays in transit was to carry as much mail as possible by air, where again the shortage of accommodation continued to cause anxiety.

The introduction of airgraph service in February, 1942, however, eased the situation.



An insufficiently addressed letter—this is what the post office has often to contend with.

More than 20,000,000 airgraphs were dispatched from India to the U.K., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries during the last financial year.

Measures for the defence of the country, which included the mobilisation of all its resources; the arrival of foreign troops; the departure of Indian troops for destinations abroad; vast increase in employment—all these have resulted in a large increase in traffic which has imposed a great strain on the resources of the Department. Difficulty in importing technical apparatus from abroad led to frequent delays, especially on the telephone and telegraph lines, as there were not enough channels. Efforts were made to reduce the load as far as possible by withdrawing cheap classes of telegrams like greetings telegrams, by curtailing the period during which trunk telephone calls could be booked at concessional rates, by introducing urgent trunk calls at double the usual rates, by raising the postal and telegraph rates and by reorganising the traffic arrangements.

Telecommunications Scheme

In mid-1942, owing to the growing needs of the Defence Department, it was found necessary to erect additional telegraph and telephone channels, and an extensive scheme for telecommunications development was put in hand. The scheme, which is estimated to cost Rs. 17,00,00,000 and is scheduled to be completed in 1944-45, provides not only for a fivefold increase in the number of telegraph and telephone channels between the main centres in India for civil and defence purposes, but also for extensive line communications required by the Defence Services for operational purposes. One hundred and twenty-three thousand miles of wire (with 11,000 miles of new routes) will connect all important cities, enabling a number of messages to be transmitted on a single pair of wires at the same time.

Provision has also been made for the expansion of local telephone systems in various places, amounting to 20,000 new connections. Over 100 telephone and nearly 350 telegraph channels have already been added. New trunk routes running mostly along roads are being put up all over the country and nearly 2,000 miles of post route and over 10,000 miles of wire have so far been erected. Over and above this, since the beginning of the war, 4,000 miles of line and 60,000 miles of wire have been erected for meeting the operational needs of the Defence Services.

But traffic headaches were only one aspect of the Department's problem. The Department was called upon to manufacture communication equipment in very large quantities for the Armed Forces. Vast expansion of existing workshops had to be undertaken and a new workshop was established in Central India at a cost of well over Rs. 30,00,000. Even this huge expansion was found insufficient to meet the demand, and 91 other workshops, large and small, all over India have had to be employed in the manufacture of these stores. The value of stores supplied in 1938-39 was Rs. 61,95,720; in 1943-44 it was Rs. 4,83,46,000.

The Department also undertook other work connected with the war effort such as sales of Defence Savings Certificates, National Savings Certificates and Defence Savings Bank. It paid Family Allotment Money Orders to the families of serving soldiers; these amounted to Rs. 19,60,00,000 in 1943-44.

The circumstances in which all this expansion had to be carried out were by no means easy. In the August 1942 disturbances, 941 post offices were attacked, of which 60 were completely destroyed and 270 badly damaged. There were about 12,000 cases of damage to telegraph and telephone lines. Government property estimated to be worth well over Rs. 10,00,000 was destroyed and great dislocation was caused in the service.

Sometimes Nature is the enemy. In July, 1942, the Indus breached its banks and caused a great deal of damage to the communications system in upper Sind. A couple of months later a cyclone wrought havoc in the Midnapore division of Bengal. In July last year the Damodar river, swollen by monsoon floods, suddenly reverted to a course it had deserted hundreds of years ago. Unleashed from their containing banks, the angry waters swept all before them; telegraph poles and wires were overtopped, crumpled and collapsed; more than 100 miles of line were down and in many places under water for several months.

Acquisition of Telephone Systems

An event of considerable importance from the point of view of the telephone user in India was the acquisition by the Department of telephone systems hitherto owned by private companies in Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Karachi and Ahmedabad. This move has great potential advantages from the point of view of long-term planning and development, and is expected to work for the greater co-ordination of the trunk and local telephone systems.

The Posts and Telegraphs Department, being run on a commercial basis, always has to have an eye on its finances, and its equipment and personnel have to be provided with due regard to economy consistent with efficiency. War has brought new and sudden demands from several directions, and the history of the



Sorting letters at a field post office.



Mail vans arrive at an Indian base post office.

Department for the last five years has been one long effort to meet them without materially affecting its pre-war clientele. The present increased rates and surcharges are not a part of the Department's financial policy, but are aimed, in some cases, at cutting out non-essential traffic and, in others, at raising revenue for the war effort.

While immersed in its wartime problems, the Department is not forgetful of its post-war responsibilities and possibilities. It already has an organisation the framework of which can easily take on the additional burden expected as a result of the development of the country after the war. It can play a valuable part in knitting closer together the rural areas by developing communications and opening more post offices and establishing necessary postal contacts with outlying areas. This applies equally to the telephone and telegraph service, where, too, present schemes can be adjusted to suit the needs of peacetime economy. Another possible sphere of development is the air mail service, and there is also an obvious field of activity for the post office in the matter of small investments. The thing always to remember, however, is that the Posts and Telegraphs Department is first and foremost a public service whose principal objectives should be cheapness and efficiency.

TRAFFIC AND REVENUE STATISTICS

Here are the traffic and revenue statistics of the Posts and Telegraphs Department:

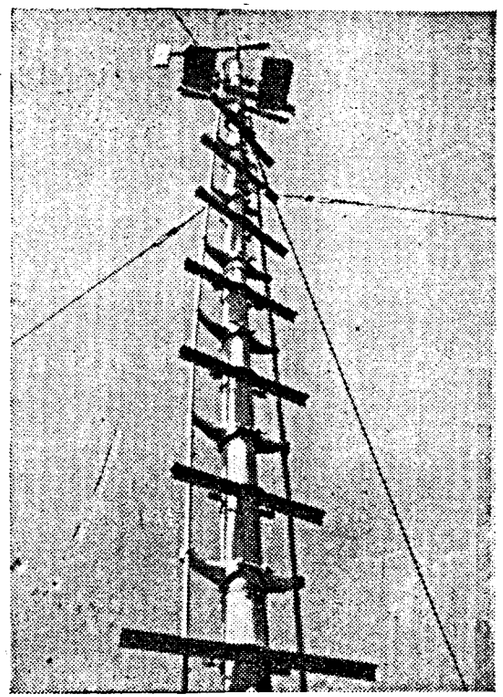
	1938-39	1941-42	1942-43
(i) Revenue and Expenditure of the Department			
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Total Revenue ..	11,67,59,891	15,89,43,018	19,30,32,916
Total Expenditure ..	11,48,62,092	12,48,80,141	14,78,63,698
Surplus ..	18,97,799	3,40,62,877	4,51,69,218
(ii) Postal, Telegraph and Telephone Traffic Handled			
	Nos.	Nos.	Nos.
Letters ..	634,721,472	661,018,826	692,906,992
Post Cards ..	382,499,622	415,233,494	479,804,284
Newspapers ..	80,064,916	80,578,260	82,162,126
Packets ..	132,736,868	102,654,776	101,482,316
Parcels ..	11,440,648	12,438,958	13,654,664
	1,241,463,526	**1,271,924,314**	**1,370,010,382**
Telegrams ..	16,373,405	22,448,666	23,890,289
No. of Words in Foreign Telegrams ..	25,000,000	109,000,000	104,500,000
No. of Operations involved in despatching Telegrams ..	82,308,801	99,653,504	105,103,638
Trunk Telephone Calls ..	2,250,000	3,153,532	3,658,718
Telephone Connections ..	31,878	38,207	73,561
(iii) Money Order and other Trust Transactions			
No. of Inland M.O.s issued ..	40,117,269	47,297,230	50,387,164
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Value of Inland M.O.s issued ..	73,30,32,000	92,19,93,328	1,12,27,08,000
	Nos.	Nos.	Nos.
No. of International M.O.s issued ..	328,814	403,531	593,887
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Value of International M.O.s issued ..	97,13,000	1,01,60,371	1,66,06,000
Value of Indian Postal Orders and British Postal Orders Sold ..	49,55,000	35,02,000	42,74,000
Value of Indian Postal Orders and British Postal Orders Paid ..	40,09,000	46,23,000	66,14,000
Value of Cash Certificates issued ..	14,79,61,000	4,08,69,000	3,86,71,000
Value of Cash Certificates discharged ..	18,69,22,000	13,26,13,000	9,22,70,000
Amount of Savings Bank Deposits ..	44,60,27,000	21,91,36,000	22,25,94,000
Amount of Savings Bank Withdrawals ..	41,64,91,000	30,17,95,000	22,84,05,000
Premia realised on Life Insurance and Endowment Assurance policies ..	80,96,000	81,17,000	78,08,000
Customs Duty realised ..	66,90,000	51,41,000	52,64,000
Military Pensions paid ..	1,71,56,000	1,62,03,000	1,55,59,000
(iv) Miscellaneous			
	Nos.	Nos.	Nos.
Milage of Telegraph and Telephone Wires	513,900	543,300	556,000
Milage of Telegraph and Telephone Conductors ..	114,300	121,200	118,400
Distance over which Mails were conveyed (in miles) ..	160,540	158,616	156,437
No. of Post Offices ..	24,303	25,536	25,671
No. of Letter Boxes ..	53,103	56,149	55,218
Strength of Staff ..	117,151	128,013	134,578

"FINE TODAY—RAIN TOMORROW"

How Weather "Prophets" Help to Win the War

THERE is a Department in the Government of India which is full of "prophets." They do not, however, prophesy about the end of the war or a person's coming good luck. They are concerned with the far more important job of forecasting the weather and warning pilots against storm and squall. Nor are their forecasts based, as those of the soothsayer in the street are, on visions in a crystal or the reading of a hand. They base their information on an apparatus that is much more scientific if also somewhat more prosaic.

At the outbreak of war, India's meteorological organisation, although it compared favourably in most features with those of other countries except perhaps Britain, Germany and the U.S.A., was not up to the mark in aeronautical meteorology, as pre-war air traffic in this country was on a restricted scale. Except in a few undeveloped areas such as Central India and the Himalayan region, however, there was a fairly good network of surface stations and a somewhat sparser network of pilot balloon stations for observing upper winds, although there was no organisation for daily observation of upper air pressures, temperatures and humidities.



The top of the Dines' pressure tube anemograph which records instantaneously wind direction and velocity on the same chart.

Where the Met. Comes in

The entry of Japan into the war completely altered the air picture, and the great increase in air traffic and the numerous other demands of modern warfare suddenly called for both a widespread and an intensive weather service. Forecasts and weather reports of all types of meteorological conditions at surface and in the air had to be provided at short notice, day and night, at a large number of centres throughout the country. The idea that tropical countries have only a climate and no weather is a fallacy. If day-to-day changes of weather are less common here, the hour-to-hour variations are greater and often unexpected, with violent squalls or thunder storms and dust storms. Among the various elements that flying control officers and pilots have to weigh, none is more important than weather. They must know not only the present weather conditions as obtained from actual observations but also the likely changes during the period the aircraft will be in flight; it is here that the meteorologist comes in.

The Meteorological Department has gone full steam ahead during the last two years. A few large forecast centres and several smaller ones as well as auxiliary briefing centres have been established. A number of new pilot balloon stations for observing upper winds have been opened. Before the war synoptic stations in India recorded observations twice a day; now a network of selected observations make five, six or seven observations a day. Before the war forecasting officers had to base their forecasts to aviators on observations taken 10 to 14 hours before the start of a flight; today they have skeleton weather charts every three hours in addition to the more detailed charts prepared every morning and evening. To provide for quick dissemination of weather data a special plan is now nearing completion.

Temperature and Pressure

The technique of two different types of radio apparatus, which gives by wireless signals the degrees of temperature and pressure at different levels in the upper atmosphere, has been developed and daily soundings are being made. These, along with similar observations organised by the military meteorological services in India,



The lower part of the Dines' pressure tube anemograph.



Releasing a hydrogen filled balloon to determine wind direction and velocity at higher altitudes.

give most valuable data in the vertical directions and enable meteorologists to obtain a three-dimensional rather than only the two-dimensional picture of the atmosphere which could be obtained when the main observations were surface observations only.

Improvements have also been made in the technique of weather charting, the presentation of forecasts and the establishment of a closer contact between the meteorological officer and the pilot. The issue of routine forecasts for different routes has more or less ceased, and the pilots now receive individual attention and are given special forecasts for the routes and times at which they intend to fly.

Efficiency in meteorological services depends on signals facilities such as tele-communication channels specially reserved for meteorological traffic, and this is now engaging the close attention of the Department.

Training School

All this expansion has meant a huge increase in staff, and in the last 24 months more officers have been recruited in the Department than in the previous 66 years of its history. A training school has been established, which puts the recruits through courses of instruction in the technique of observation, weather codes, drawing of weather charts and preparation of weather reports and aviation forecasts. A number of those who have passed through this school have been enrolled in the I.A.F.

The newspaper reader today misses his daily weather chart which used to tell him through what degree of heat or cold he had passed the previous day and what rain had occurred or was expected to occur; but, to give this information would be to take the enemy into our confidence, and war requirements are more imperious than those of peace. The development that in peace days was awaiting more prosperous times is being effected as a wartime activity, and it is hoped that the present developments will result in a great increase of usefulness and efficiency of meteorological services after the war.

MAHARAJA OF KARAULI'S GIFT

H.H. the Maharaja of Karauli has contributed Rs. 4,000 to H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The gift has been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.

ALL INDIA RADIO—ITS HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT

THE first comprehensive report on the progress of broadcasting in India was published in 1940, covering the activities of AIR up to April 1939. All India Radio then operated, from its eight stations and 13 transmitters, a basically internal service. To-day it has at its command a most powerful battery of transmitters capable of covering at least four continents direct. The Studios in Old Delhi have been replaced by Broadcasting House, with its most up-to-date equipment. Of AIR's 20 transmitters to-day, Delhi has a concentration of nine, of which the latest to be installed were two high powered 100-K.W. short wave transmitters.

Transmitters

(1) Dacca Station: The Dacca Station was completed and began to operate on December 16, 1939, with a 5-K.W. medium wave transmitter. Dacca was the ninth AIR centre and the 14th transmitter created under the original programme of development.

(2) On February 17, 1940, a 10-K.W. short wave transmitter was assembled and set up departmentally at Delhi for news distribution by radio link.

(3) In view of the Japanese threat to the East coast in April 1942, the 10-K.W. short wave transmitter at Madras was removed to Delhi where it was set up as part of the Madras Radio Station. The whole work of dismantling, transport and reassembling was done in less than a month. Madras continued its local short wave broadcasts with a 25-K.W. transmitter.

(4) The original 25-K.W. medium wave transmitter at Peshawar was replaced by a new 10-K.W. medium wave transmitter and Peshawar became a full-fledged "originating" station with a studio building which was designed and constructed as such.

(5) Two 7.5-K.W. short wave transmitters were installed and added to the service for operation from Delhi early this year.

In April of this year, AIR added to its service two 100-K.W. short wave transmitters.

The exigencies of war brought powerfully into focus the need for providing broadcasting service to countries far beyond India's frontiers. AIR's external services are the subject of a separate heading in this note. It is enough to point out here that, owing to India's pivotal position to-day in the global strategy of the war, AIR has been called upon to play an important part as the voice of the United Nations in the East.

Broadcasting House in New Delhi was one of the projects which made up the original scheme of development of broadcasting in India. It was thought at one time, however, that the construction of the building would have to be held over for an indefinite period. But with the tremendous pressure on broadcasting brought about by the war, the vast expansion that has taken place in the last few years in AIR's services, both internal and external, and with the decision to install high-powered transmitters, the construction of Broadcasting House could no longer be postponed. Work was started on the building in October 1941, and the studios began to function in July, 1943.

Architecturally, Delhi's newest and one of its most striking buildings, Broadcasting House represents from the point of view of equipment, the latest in radio engineering. With its soft-shaded studios, each with an individual acoustic pattern to suit every variety of sound reproduction, its Control Room—a compact of up-to-the-second scientific efficiency, its dramatic control panels, its maze of concealed wiring, and its "luxury-liner" corridors, Broadcasting House constitutes a landmark, in every sense of the word, in the history of Indian broadcasting.

At the beginning of the war, only three stations had receiving centres. These have now been provided for all AIR Stations which form AIR's network of radio linkage.

Centralization of News Service

The question of radio linkage is closely associated with the centralization of the news service at Delhi. The news prepared by the Central News Organization is announced from Delhi and relayed by the other Stations. The news service has been centralized at Delhi so that all special facilities required for rapid and efficient broadcasting of news may be concentrated at one point.

Patna Station: The establishment of a broadcasting station at Patna was included in the original development programme. Land for the transmitter and receiving centre was acquired and construction of the transmitter building, etc., has been completed, but the scheme has been held up owing to difficulties in securing equipment; it may not be possible to put the station into operation for another year.

Karachi Station: Although a station for Sind was not included in the original scheme for development of broadcasting in India, the matter was considered subsequently and it was decided to install a .25-K.W. transmitter at Karachi. The project has, however, been held in abeyance owing to technical difficulties.

Technical Expansion: The technical expansion outlined earlier was undertaken to bring about a rapid growth of AIR's activities on the programme side. Within a month of the outbreak of hostilities, the total transmission output from all AIR Stations was stepped up from 45 hours daily to 75 hours daily. To-day the transmitters in Delhi alone transmit 126 hours a day. An idea of the varied character and a quantitative appraisal of AIR's broadcasting service can be had by a brief reference to its programme contents which include, besides the normal mainstay of musical entertainment, news in nine Indian languages and 15 non-Indian languages, news commentaries, talks—topical, informative and cultural—features, plays and discussions; special programmes for schools, universities, villages and industrial areas; women's and children's hour; broadcasts for Indian troops in India and abroad; service for British and American Forces now in this country and special programmes for Indians overseas.

The total programme transmission hours for 1939-40 were 29,859. In 1943-44, this figure had almost exactly doubled itself and stood at 59,600. With the new transmitters now on the air, the current year's total output will be very much higher.

The Central News Organization is situated in Delhi and provides (i) news bulletins for home programmes (in English and Indian languages) and (ii) external programmes. All internal news bulletins are prepared in the Central News Organization and broadcast from the transmitters in Delhi set apart for news. Each station relays the bulletins suitable for its listening area.

Before the war, four news bulletins in English, three in Hindustani and one in Bengali comprised the daily news service of AIR. The total time taken up was a little more than an hour a day. To-day 27 news bulletins, filling over six hours a day, are broadcast in AIR's internal news service which is made up as follows:

English	5
Hindustani	4
Bengali	
Tamil	
Telugu	3
Marathi	
Gujarati	
Pushtu	

Originally designed for internal service, AIR was, however, not slow to enter the field of external broadcasts. In December 1939, the first foreign language service was inaugurated with a news bulletin in Persian, sometimes supplemented by topical talks and regularly supported by a programme of entertainment, broadcast from Delhi for Afghanistan and Iran. The next step was the inauguration in September 1941, of a daily news service in Arabic. The presence of a large number of Indian troops in the Middle East led to the institution of a late evening transmission for their benefit. These were the beginnings of what now constitutes one of the biggest single units for the projection of the Allied viewpoint within and beyond the borders of India. The war, especially Japan's entry into it and the events that followed, forced the pace, and to-day AIR's Central News Organization controls, besides broadcasts in various Indian languages for our countrymen abroad, services in 15 foreign languages.

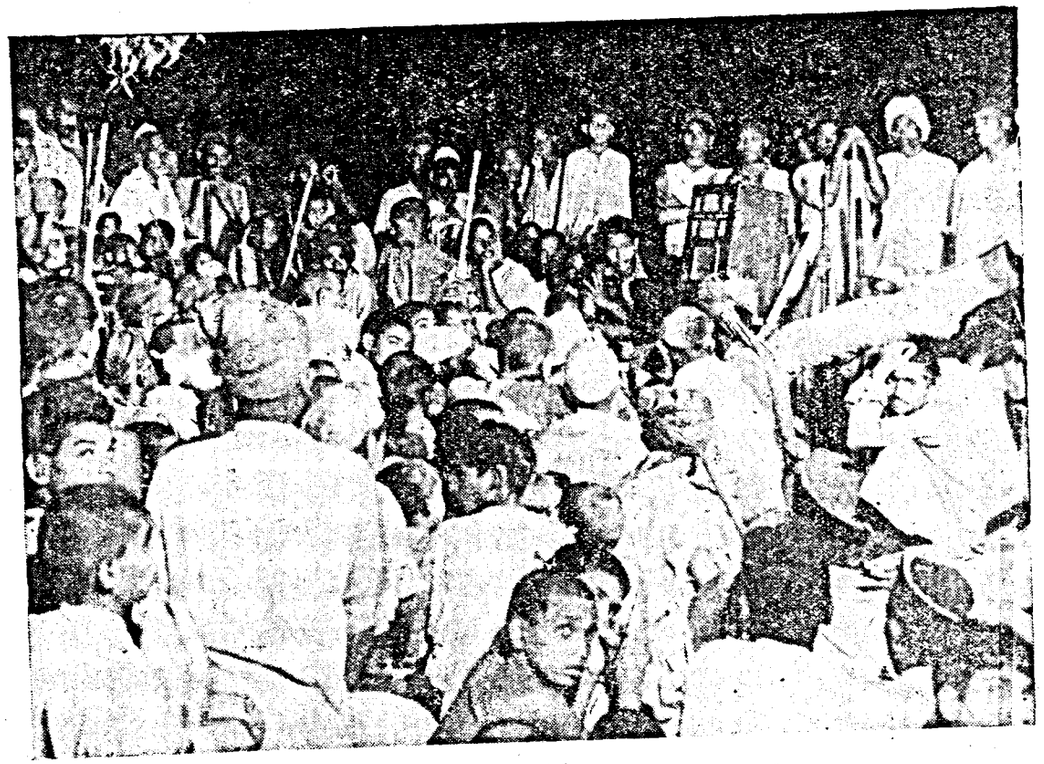
These broadcasts, which are not confined to news, follow one another almost right round the clock, and reach their far-flung audiences in their own languages and at their most convenient listening times. As many as 41 news bulletins are broadcast daily in the external services and the foreign languages used include French, Annamite, Malay, Burmese, Amoy, Cantonese, Kuoyo, Thai, Japanese, German, Persian, Afghan-Persian, Arabic and Italian. Indian languages used in the external services include Punjabi, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindustani, Malayalam and Tamil.

A I R and B B C

The relations between AIR and the B.B.C. have always been cordial and marked by close and active co-operation. Since the outbreak of war the co-operation between the two organizations has become still closer, and perhaps more equally reciprocal. An instance is the relay of B.B.C. news and important B.B.C. war broadcasts. From September 2, 1939, AIR began the daily relay of the B.B.C.'s 9-30 p.m. (Indian Standard Time) news bulletin following the main evening news bulletin in English broadcast by the Central News Organization as an organic part of its news service.

AIR is now gratified to find itself in a position to render certain services to the B.B.C. It has been supplying to the B.B.C. various types of recorded programmes specially prepared for use in their Indian service. On request from the B.B.C. special broadcasts have been prepared and transmitted for rebroadcast from London. Studio and transmission facilities are given to the B.B.C.'s news correspondent in India. Advance information of AIR talks in which the B.B.C. might be interested, critical appreciation and reception reports of B.B.C. broadcasts are sent regularly.

Recorded messages from British troops in India to their relatives in England are also forwarded periodically to the B.B.C. Messages for Indian soldiers in England from relatives in



A village crowd listening to the most popular item in A.I.R.'s rural programme—"Swang".

India, recorded by AIR are forwarded periodically to the B.B.C.

At the request of the B.B.C. facilities for the broadcast of despatches every day on Sir Stafford Cripps' Mission to India were placed at the disposal of their correspondent. They were broadcast every day from March 26, 1942, to April 12, 1942. With effect from April 25, 1942, these despatches were broadcast on a weekly basis and from April 29, on a bi-weekly basis.

Forces Programmes

The despatches are recorded by the Bombay Station and beamed to the B.B.C. *via* Kirkee. With the installation of high-powered transmitters, there will be direct point-to-point transmission from Delhi to London and *via* London to America. Facilities have also been provided for the transmission of despatches by American commentators for inclusion in the programmes of American broadcasting organizations.

In January 1941, a special programme for Indian troops in the Middle East was inaugurated with the object of entertaining our soldiers abroad and keeping them in good spirits. This is a daily half-hour programme of music and light entertainment interrupted by short talks and news items about matters of special interest to the Indian soldier—his home, his village, his crops.

In January of the following year, a special service of programmes for the British and American forces in India was introduced. These programmes are broadcast from Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Lahore, Lucknow and Peshawar on special days of the week. Arranged with the help and co-operation of the military authorities these broadcasts not only provide entertainment for the forces but serve to supplement the normal internal service with programmes which bring to the microphone a new wealth of talent.

In May 1942, AIR began to broadcast from Delhi, a daily programme for the benefit of Indian troops in India and Ceylon.

In the composition of these Forces programmes an important factor always to be taken account of is the prevalence of community listening represented at one extreme by half a dozen sharing a set in a billet and at the other by

background listening in a canteen or barrack with a ratio of about 100 listeners to a set.

Primarily each station builds up its programmes according to its own requirements pertaining to language, cultural bias, local talent, etc. The working of this zonal system requires a good deal of careful and delicate adjustment, as complete isolation is never possible, and a certain amount of overlapping or merging of listeners' requirements is inevitable. There are also occasions when broadcasts of all-India interest and importance have to be radiated simultaneously by all stations. For purposes of radio linkage each station has a receiving centre.

Overlapping Avoided

There exists a fairly large area in this country where more than one station of AIR can be heard satisfactorily, and listeners are always inclined to take advantage of this fact. The short wave stations in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta, and Madras provide a service which could be said to have an all-India coverage. The various types of programmes from these stations, which could clash with each other, are carefully studied so as to avoid overlapping as far as possible.

Programmes of general interest are planned by stations with reference to each other, as opposed to programmes of local interest. A system by which each station contributes one music item a fortnight to Delhi was introduced in June 1943, and has enabled AIR to present to its listeners the best from all over the country. A somewhat similar arrangement exists in respect of Hindustani plays between Lahore, Lucknow, Delhi and Peshawar. Inter-station coordination exists also in the matter of booking artists, talkers, etc.

Statistics

Total number of B. R. Licences:

April 1, 1939—72,282.

April 1, 1944—1,80,660. The growth of licences has been retarded by the paucity of stocks of radio apparatus in the market.

Circulation of Radio Journals:

April 1939	32,150
April 1944	63,350

AIR's capital expenditure up to March, 1944: Rs. 77,00,000.

AIR's recurring expenditure (1943-44): Rs. 47,77,000.

Programme output per day: 236.5 hours (on week days).

ASSISTANCE TO EVACUEES FROM BURMA

NEARLY 50,000 evacuees and dependants of British subjects detained in enemy-occupied territories are receiving assistance from the Government of India. The total amount disbursed in 1943 amounted to approximately Rs. 90 lakhs.

The scheme of financial assistance to evacuees and dependants was sanctioned in 1942. The assistance still continues and allowances cover education of children, expenditure on special and genuine needs of the evacuees, etc. Financial assistance is also provided to University students to enable them to resume their interrupted course of studies in Indian Universities. Grants amounting to Rs. 73,000 and Rs. 162,000 were sanctioned under the scheme to 273 and 430 evacuee students for the academic years, 1942-43 and 1943-44.

Scheme of Capital Advance

A scheme of capital advance has also been put into operation to assist evacuees to start in some line of business or trade. Refugee officers in each of the Eastern, Southern and Northern Zones continue to work for the settlement of refugees in suitable employment. The Central Employment Bureau co-ordinates the work in the Provinces and the Centre.

The Commonwealth Relations Department obtained information about 1,589 British civilian subjects in Japanese-occupied territories. The total number of enquiries received was 9,000.

Grants were made in 1943 for Indian seamen's clubs to be started in South African ports where a large number of Indian seamen were awaiting repatriation. £500 were given towards the construction of a club in Durban; £250 towards running of the Indian seamen's club at Cape Town and £240 for running of the Indian Seamen's Club in East London.

South African Indian students attending schools or colleges in India were permitted to extend the period of their absence from South Africa up to a maximum of 10 years. The Commonwealth Relations Department has now requested the Union Government, through the High Commissioner for further extension in deserving cases who are unable to return owing to the difficulty of obtaining passage.

It has also been arranged with Provincial Governments to reserve a limited number of seats for South and East African students in medical and engineering colleges.



India's defenders take off and land while thousands of Indian labourers work day and night to enlarge an aerodrome.

NETWORK OF AIRFIELDS ON INDIAN SOIL

How Central P.W.D. Organised Constructions

ONLY after the war is over will the curtain be lifted to disclose the full picture of the immense programme of airfield construction undertaken in India after the entry of Japan into the war.

Before this construction was undertaken, India's eastern frontiers were practically undefended and protection from the air had become an urgent necessity. Aeroplanes were not many, but the operation of even these few was seriously hampered by the absence of airfields.

India had only the small beginnings of the civil air service on the Imperial Service route across the country with various branches running into it and this has had to be developed into the vast network of airfields necessary for the operations against Japan and for maintaining the supply route to China. The construction of this vast network meant the mobilisation of all available construction agencies and this article deals with the work of the agency which carried out the largest share in this construction work—that is the Central Public Works Department.

Some idea of the magnitude of the work undertaken by the C.P.W.D. can be had from the fact that no less than 600,000 Indian labourers were employed by them in airfield construction at the peak period and that at one and the same time a large number of airfields—considerably more than 50—were under construction under the administrative control of one Chief Engineer in five different provinces and two States—with a spreadover covering nearly the whole of India.

Contribution of Indian Labour

The construction of a modern airfield, even of the type originally required for Fighters and Light Bombers, is a large engineering project. As India is not a fully mechanised country and bulldozers and such like were not available, the construction of the many airfields necessary had to be tackled mainly by using vast masses of labour. Labourers who used to do earth work, road, bund and canal construction, labourers who previously found insufficient occupation in agriculture, were collected from all over India to supplement those available in the immediate

locality of the airfield sites. Labourers were brought up to Assam from Cochin and Travancore, from Patiala and Nabha. Oriyas and Santals were also employed and the Gorakhpur labourer, who was already used to periodical journeys to distant places for work of this nature, came along too. Local labour from tea gardens and Nagas from the hills were also utilised in large numbers. It was no uncommon sight to see some of these primitive peoples putting one of their men to watch over a small heap of their belongings including bows and arrows while they turned to work on airfield construction using such modern appliances as were available.

Organised for Work

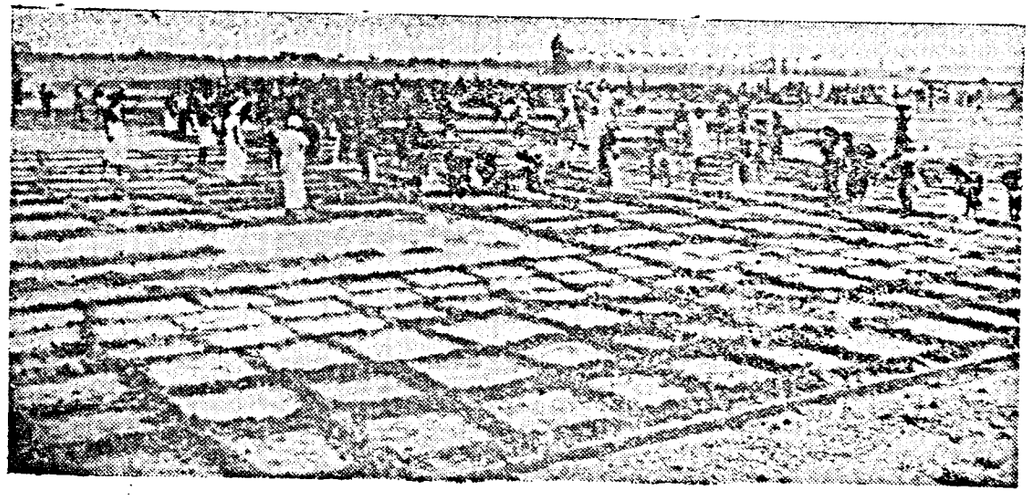
At the peak of this work over 600,000 labourers were at one time employed and arrangements for their housing, food and water supply and medical attention was no small problem. The organisation of transport—and the construction of an airfield means vast quantities of stores, stone, cement, timber, brick, coal most of which in India have to be brought over long distances—was an increasingly difficult task. The peak has now been passed but still large labour forces are regularly working on the maintenance and further improvement of the network of airfields constructed in Eastern and Southern India. They were organised in groups of 800 and to each group was posted a medical officer with a dispensary and the necessary compounding staff. In the period of scarcity in Bengal the labour, whether it was imported from other areas or local labour, had food provided



A Cochin State labour unit engaged in aerodrome construction. The men work to music; the man on the left is beating a tin-can drum.

for them and issued to them in addition to their money wage and it was no easy task to secure in a period of scarcity and through an agency specially set up for the purpose, the necessary foodgrains. Labour, not mechanical equipment, made these airfields and made them in record time.

Of equal interest is the story of the vast organisation which the Central P.W.D. was required to set up to cope with the work. The Central Circle of this Agency was in 1941 constructing, on behalf of the Director of Civil



Curing the concrete surface of a new airfield.

Aviation, a few airfields designed essentially for civil air services but in which the R.A.F. were also interested. That was the beginning from which a vast organisation grew. Immediately after Japan's entry into the war three new circles were created, two in Calcutta for Assam and Bengal and one in Bombay for Southern and Western India. Staff of all grades, and plant were secured from provinces, States and local bodies but the requisite staff was never fully available and the construction of the vast programme with insufficient staff threw a heavy burden on all.

As the airfield construction programme further expanded, a third circle was set up in Calcutta and one in Madras. At this stage, May to August, 1942, the U.P., and Hyderabad P.W.D. also took up construction.

Assam Airfields

A little later airfields in Assam became the responsibility of the M.E.S. who took over from the Central P.W.D. so as to release Central P.W.D. staff for more intensive work in Bengal. One division of the Central P.W.D., however, remained in Assam. The services of some engineers who evacuated from Malaya and Burma were also enlisted.

By the summer of 1942, the Central P.W.D. had a Chief Engineer, 5 Superintending Engineers and 32 Executive Engineers engaged on constructing airfields in Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Madras, Bombay and Sind and in Mysore and some other States, and the senior supervisory staff were continuously flying from one airfield under construction to another to secure maximum supervision in minimum time.

Fortunately some of the senior officers of the Central P.W.D. had previous experience on airfield work which enabled them to get a flying start, and with the help of Air Ministry drawings and specifications, technical instructions on runway design and construction were issued as early as February, 1942, though work had, of course, been pushed on vigorously before that.

Jungle Turned into Runways

A typical instance of rapid expansion is provided by the fact that in March-April, 1942, a Sub-Division in Madras expanded into a Circle with 5 Divisions, to meet an airfield construction programme of 16 airfields each costing an average of Rs. 50 lakhs. Its activities covered Mysore State as well as Madras Presidency. The progress on these airfields was phenomenal. Despite the invasion panic of April 1942, a jungle was turned into runways in about 60 working days and that without the assistance of any mechanical plant except some steam rollers and concrete mixers—the latter only sufficient to mix one third of the cement required. Everything else was done by hand and by labour and the speed of completion was about 10 times what had previously been considered possible.

The airfield contruction organisation of the Central P.W.D. now consists of one Chief Engineer with six Superintending Engineers, four in Eastern India with headquarters in Calcutta, controlling 23 airfield construction divisions and five Electrical Divisions also engaged on airfield work, one in South India with headquarters in Madras, controlling 6 airfield construction divisions, and an Independent Electrical Sub-Division, and one in Western India with headquarters in Bombay controlling 4 airfield construction divisions and one Electrical Division engaged on airfield work.

The Central P.W.D. not only constructed the airfields but has taken over responsibilities for their maintenance also, and sub-divisions have been created to deal primarily with maintenance. This has been particularly necessary where the airfields were occupied and were being used for active operations against the enemy as was the case with the majority of those constructed by the Central P.W.D.

MAILS FOR FRANCE

Resumption of civil mail communication with all places in the Departments of Calvados and Manche in France was announced some time ago, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on October 14.

It added: Postal service to liberated France has now been extended to the following places:

Paris and the Departments of Eure, Seine-inferieure, Orne, Ille-et-Vilaine, Cotes-du-Nord, Mayenne, Sarthe, Eure-et-Loir, Seine, Seine-et-Oise and Seine-et-Marne.

In all cases the service is restricted to non-illustrated post cards containing messages of a purely personal and family nature.

INLAND TELEGRAMS: ONE-MONTH TIME LIMIT FOR QUERIES

The Central Government has decided, as a wartime measure, that the originals of inland telegrams shall ordinarily be preserved for two months only following the month of booking and that no complaint or claim for refund of charges in respect of such telegrams will be entertained unless received by the appropriate officer within one month from the date of the telegram in respect of which the complaint or claim is made, said a Press Communique issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on October 5.

LEVY OF CESS ON COAL RECOMMENDED

Fund to Finance Labour Welfare

A CESS of four annas per ton, to be levied on all coal and coke despatched from collieries in British India, was recommended by the Advisory Committee constituted under the Coalmines Labour Welfare Fund Ordinance at their second meeting held at Dhanbad on October 12.

The Fund thus built up will be utilised for the promotion of labour welfare activities, like health, sanitation, housing, etc., in coalfields. Subject to the final decision of the Central Government the cess will be levied with effect from November 1 next.

The figure of four annas per ton being the maximum figure laid down in the Ordinance, the Committee felt that it might not be possible to maintain this figure in periods of slump. They recommended that Government should accept, as a general principle, the building up of a reserve fund in those periods in which maximum was levied to ensure that welfare measures could be maintained in periods of slump.

Mr. H. C. Prior, Chairman of the Committee, emphasised that the Fund thus built up would be spent only after the welfare schemes were carefully considered by sub-committees appointed by the Advisory Committee and Government.

Welfare Measures

In his opening speech he welcomed the two miners nominated to represent the colliery labour along with four other representatives of labour organisations. Their presence on the Committee, he said, would enable them to take a joint share in welfare measures.

Referring to the appointment of an official Vice-Chairman—who is at the same time Labour Welfare Commissioner for coalmines—and various sub-committees attached to the Advisory Committee, Mr. Prior said that Government had set up a local executive with wide delegated powers. These sub-committees would advise the Welfare Committee on matters concerning individual coalfields and a co-ordinated picture would thus be obtained for giving proper advice which would be considered by Government with the help of best technical advice.

The Advisory Committee elected a Works Sub-Committee and a Finance Sub-Committee. Both the Sub-Committees contain equal number of representatives of Labour and Industry. Ramdhar Singh, one of the miners on the Advisory Committee, was elected to the Works Sub-Committee which would consider all major projects for works and construction, the cost of which was to be met from the Welfare Fund. The Finance Sub-Committee would advise generally on all expenditure debitable to the Fund.

The Committee discussed a number of welfare measures which were either in operation or were proposed to be put into operation. Among the former was the Anti-Malaria Scheme which had been in operation for some time in coalfields.

Brig. Covell, under whose supervision the Scheme had been working, outlined the activities of the Anti-Malaria Units with regard to canalising and oiling water in Bengal and Bihar fields. He hoped that these preliminary activities of Anti-Malaria Units would bear fruit in the next malaria season. Stressing the importance of this work, he said that if malaria were tackled properly general sickness rate must go down.

Housing Accommodation

The Committee recommended that an expenditure of Rs. 6 lakhs might be incurred on this scheme as a regular recurring expenditure on the Fund. Another health measure discussed by the Committee was a scheme suggested by Col. S. L. Bhatia, Deputy Director-General, Indian Medical Service, after a survey of coalfields, to open one central and five feeder hospitals in outlying areas of Jharia fields. The Committee recommended the examination by the Finance Sub-Committee of the two schemes of public health and sanitation in coalfields submitted by the Asansol and Jharia Boards of Health.

According to discussions of the Advisory Committee, schemes relating to health and water supplies should be executed first in the interest of colliery labour. The proposal for providing housing accommodation to workers outside coalfields was discussed and for this purpose the appointment of an expert in town planning received approval. Responsibility for housing would, however, still rest with the colliery owners who might submit housing schemes to the Advisory Committee for aid from the Welfare Fund.

Giving her views on the necessity of opening creches for the workers' children, Kolada Bibi, woman miner on the Committee, said that it was an absolute necessity. It was suggested that the opening of creches should be made a statutory obligation and that a provision to this effect should be made in the Indian Mines Act. Suggestions were also made that the Welfare Fund might be utilised for providing recreational activities like mobile cinemas, sports, swimming pools and concert parties.

The Chairman announced that Budget would be prepared and placed before the Advisory Committee in January next.

WAR WORK AT FOREST RESEARCH INSTITUTE

INVESTIGATION of possible sources of rubber was one of the war problems dealt with last year at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, according to its annual report.

In co-operation with the Silviculture Branch, the Chemistry and Minor Forest Products Branch investigated all species which might reasonably be considered possible sources of rubber, bearing in mind the availability of the species for large-scale tapping. Twelve species were investigated in detail and three gave a rubber of the gutta-percha type and the others an elastic type of latex. Unfortunately, relatively large quantities of resin in the latex were present and further research is required for its elimination. The Silviculture Branch organised a collection of rubber latex from various species for large-scale tests and is growing an experimental plantation of one species, which may prove to be of considerable importance as a source of rubber.

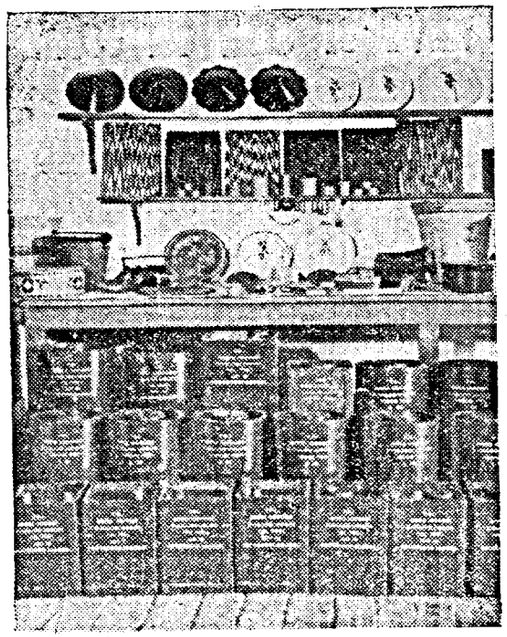
Wood for Air Screw Blades

The report says that the fourth year of war found the majority of the branches of the Institute engaged directly in war research. Normal peacetime programmes have, for the most part, been suspended and all branches have combined in tackling different aspects of problems referred to the Institute.

Three of the five branches, namely, Utilisation, Chemistry and Entomology, were engaged almost entirely in the solution of problems directly connected with war work. The Silviculture and Botany branches, though not so directly concerned with war problems, found it necessary to devote more and more time to particular aspects of numerous problems.

The Utilisation branch, comprising sections dealing with timber testing, wood working, wood preservation, wood technology, seasoning and paper pulp, produced compregnated wood for use in propeller blades. This has been used for rotal airscrews and has been found as good, or better, than compregnated wood from European species. Compregnated wood is made from thin veneers impregnated with synthetic resin, stuck together and compressed, and shows promise of a great future as it almost turns bad wood into good wood. A cold setting synthetic plywood adhesive has been produced, which compares favourably with foreign adhesives of the same type.

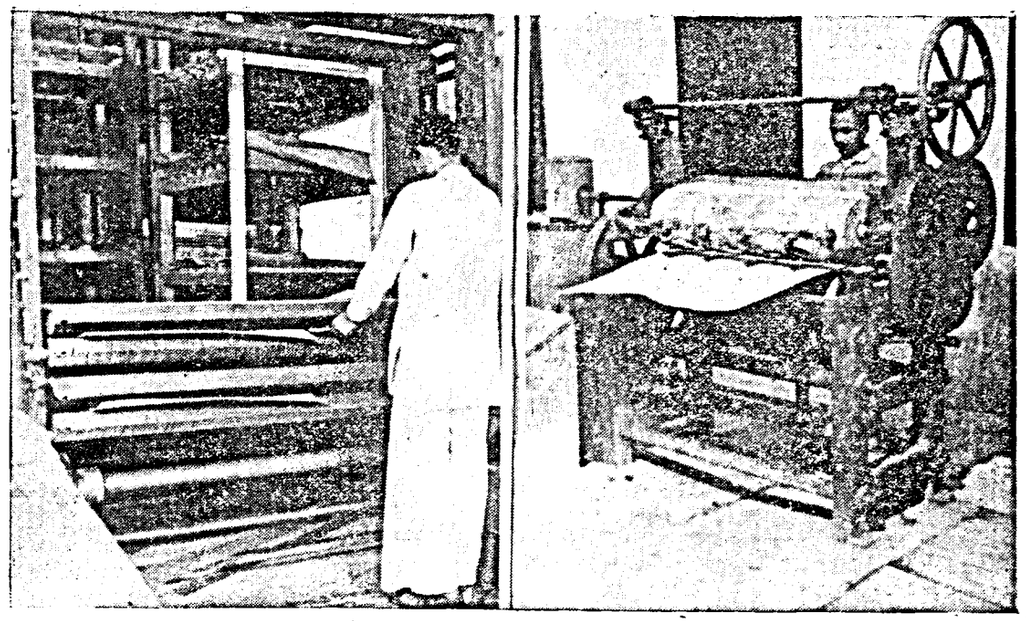
A large variety of timber material sent by the Defence and other Government Departments



Some of the articles made of veneer and plywood at the Forest Research Institute.



Peeling logs for plywood manufacture.



Veneer sheets are being dried by the redryingmachine. The sheets are placed between steam-heated plates which move up and down. (Right)The glue is spread automatically on both sides of veneer on which another layer is laid for pressing into plywood.

and various manufacturing concerns was also identified by the Wood Technology Section of the Utilisation Branch, which gave advice regarding the suitability or otherwise of the timbers for particular purposes. These included aeroplane propellers, panels for folding boat bridges, handspikes and various types of wooden containers. Altogether 2,800 samples were identified and reported on, compared with 400 to 600 identifications per annum during peacetime. The number of identifications undertaken since the beginning of the war now totals 7,400.

A special investigation was carried out on two aeroplane screws, which failed during a dive. The failure was found to be due to the weakening of the timber by fungus attack, combined with the excessive strain set up during the dive.

The Wood Working Section of the Utilisation Branch made numerous types of wooden articles as substitutes for metal.

Eighty-four officers and supervisors were trained at the Institute in the field identification of timbers for the M.E.S., Ordnance depots, G.H.Q. and other Departments, and special training relating to aircraft timber was given to five men.

The Entomology Branch was largely concerned with the subject of the protection of bamboos from insect attack and devised a treatment suitable for hollow bamboos, which should be of practical value after the method has been standardised. In conjunction with the Botany Branch, work was carried out on the seasonal starch content of bamboos, with the object of determining the best cutting period, since starch is one of the substances used by insects as food.

The Botany Branch was chiefly concerned with the mycological aspect of this subject and carried out the preliminary work required to prepare a key for the Ordnance Department to identify certain fungi, which are responsible for wood-rot.

CATTLE SHOWS

Over 9,000 animals representing 55 breeds of cattle and buffaloes were exhibited at the 40 cattle shows arranged by the All-India Cattle Show Committee during 1943-44. The prizes awarded totalled over Rs. 18,000.

Owing to transport difficulties the Committee decided in 1942 to give up the all-India and other Regional shows for the duration of the war and organise more of local shows in provinces and States.

The Committee has decided to hold as many as 50 local cattle shows in 1944-45 and the total amount to be awarded as cash prizes will be Rs. 27,000.

MILITARY MEDICAL AND NURSING SERVICES

TO provide the Indian Army with a unified Medical Service, the Indian Army Medical Corps was formed in April, 1943. Commissions in this Corps are open to both male and female Graduates and Licentiates. Graduates are, however, first commissioned for service with the I.M.S., and immediately thereafter seconded for duty in the I.A.M.C.

Service in this Corps has provided opportunity for the medical men of this country to gain valuable and interesting experience in the profession.

Military hospitals are being equipped with the most modern appliances and patients receive the latest forms of treatment under the supervision of some of the Empire's best known specialists. Hence doctors working in these hospitals have a good opportunity of learning the use of the latest instruments and apparatus, and of becoming acquainted with up-to-date methods practised in the medical profession. Service in the Corps, besides affording a substantial salary, gives doctors the chance of taking what is, in effect, an intensive post-graduate professional course with facilities for specialisation in many branches of surgery and medicine.

In addition, they have the advantage of broadening their outlook on life in general, and medical subjects in particular, by coming in contact with medical men of standing and repute



Auxiliary Nurse C. d'Silva from Hubli (Bombay) measures medicine in an Indian Military Hospital.



The morning round—the sister accompanies the duty Doctor on his visit to patients.

from all over the Allied countries, and travelling extensively in and outside India.

The new Corps has fully justified its creation by its work during the first year of its existence both in India and in other war theatres. Specialised training has been intensified; specialist units have been used in forward areas, and, amongst others, Mobile Surgical Units have been outstandingly successful; the use of the new "Wonder-drug," Penicillin, has been extensively developed; large numbers of casualties have been evacuated from forward areas by air and the ordinary means of evacuation have been completely overhauled and improved. Base hospitals with the latest medical equipment are being opened or expanded throughout India, and a large number of rehabilitation centres, working on the most modern lines, provide an outstanding feature of the rapidly developing Medical Services of the Army which together form a field of medical experience unequalled in India.

The I. M. N. S.

The Indian Military Nursing Service is composed of commissioned officers who are fully trained nurses, both Indian and European. Nearly 10 per cent of the available trained nurses in India have already been recruited to this Service. They are employed in medical units for Indian troops both in India and overseas.

The Auxiliary Nursing Service was constituted in 1941 to supplement the Indian Military Nursing Service. Recruits without previous nursing experience undergo residential training

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 547)

H. E. THE VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

WITH the receipt of Rs. 164 lakhs during the 11 months ending June 30, 1944, H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund reached a total of Rs. 10¾ crores on that date. Payments made up to date amount to Rs. 9 crores leaving a balance of Rs. 1¾ crores of which Rs. 1¼ crores represent the free balance.

The Fund was opened by H.E. the Viceroy shortly after the war broke out to receive the spontaneous donations which had begun to pour in for armaments, and for welfare and benevolent purposes connected with the war. Donors have full discretion to earmark their contributions for any war purpose they like and as far as possible their wishes are complied with. Contributions not so earmarked constitute the free balance of the Fund which is disbursed by His Excellency on the advice of an Appeal Committee consisting of distinguished soldiers and civilians who have experience of all aspects of India's war effort. The Auditor-General of India is the Honorary Treasurer and His Excellency's Deputy Private Secretary is the Secretary of the Fund.

Non-recurring Contributions

The flow of contributions during the fifth year since the Fund was opened shows the ever-increasing desire of the Princes and people of India to aid to their utmost India's war effort. As hitherto, Princes have kept up the lead by contributing large sums from their Privy Purses as well as from State Funds and the following large non-recurring contributions received from them between August 1943 and June 1944 are examples of their generosity:—

Mysore State, Rs. 10 lakhs for general war purposes.

Junagadh State, Rs. 5 lakhs for mobile canteens on the Burma Front.

Jaipur State, Rs. 3 lakhs for general war purposes.

Travancore State, Rs. 3 lakhs (1½ lakhs for general war purposes, 1 lakh for amenities for troops and ½ lakh for women's war work).

Bahawalpur State, Rs. 2¾ lakhs (Rs. 1¾ lakhs for general war purposes and Rs. ½ lakh each for the R.I.N. Benevolent Fund and the Central Red Cross.

Khairpur State, Rs. 2,57,000 for general war purposes.

Baroda State, Rs. 2,55,000 (Rs. 1 lakh for Red Cross and the balance for Benevolent Funds of the R.A.F. and I.A.F.).

Jodhpur State, Rs. 2 lakhs for two 'planes for the Indian Air Force.

Small contributions given by those members of the public who are less fortunately placed are no less striking since many of them involve great self-sacrifice by the donors for the sake of the war effort. Some notable examples of such contributions are as follows:

A Pathan of the Multan District with humble means was impressed by the various war economy campaigns and determined to start one himself to contribute to the War Fund. He was able to save Rs. 5 in cash, one maund of wheat and 12 seers of paddy in a short period and offered them all to the War Fund.

A Peon's Monthly Contribution

A peon of the Delhi Polytechnic contributes Rs. 2 p.m. and has also offered his land to the Fund; an employee of a Municipal Committee has offered the amount of his security returned by the Committee; some girls contributed the money they had collected by singing carols on Christmas day.

A proprietor of a journal has offered Rs. 200 p.m. from its sale proceeds, a film distributor the proceeds of a show in each place of one of his films, a Committee of an Exhibition the profit on the sale of its catalogues, and a club the sale proceeds of its property on being wound up. These and the contributions representing the collections made as a result of the organisation of dramas, wrestling matches, exhibitions and observance of special days of prayer in churches as well as from the sale of used stamps and scrap, show that there are many among rich and poor alike who are keen to further India's war effort by all means within their power.

Donations from Indians Abroad

Indians abroad are also not lagging behind in contributing their mite and amounts totalling some thousands of rupees have during the period been received from Aden, Kerman, Muscat, Zahidan and Zanzibar and the Aly Khan's Ismailia War Fund of Africa.

Contributions received from the Consul for Netherlands and a national of the British West Indies in India show that foreigners in India are no less anxious to have a share in India's war effort.

Over 70 per cent. of the money received so far represents contributions earmarked by the donors for specific objects and so expended. The following important payments have been made up to June 30, 1944, in accordance with the wishes of



A Red Cross work party in Sangli (Deccan States).

the donors as well as with the advice of the Appeal Committee:—

	(Rs. lakhs)
Aircraft for the R.A.F. ..	252.16
Aircraft for the I.A.F. ..	68.58
Armaments for the defence of India ..	51.18
British Defence Budget (for armaments) ..	19.59
Motor Ambulances	20.69
Amenities for troops in India and the Middle East	44.00
Indian Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association ..	202.34
British Red Cross	4.37
Indian Soldiers' Board	8.00
Royal Navy in England	21.22
Royal Indian Navy	38.39
Indian Comforts Fund in London ..	10.67
King George's Fund for Sailors ..	10.64
Lord Mayor's Fund for Air Raid Relief	20.64
War Relief in China	15.18
Aid to Russia and Russian Red Cross ..	3.10
Relief of distress in Greece ..	6.12
Polish Relief Committee in India ..	6.88
Relief of air raid victims in Burma ..	5.00
Amenities for officers of the Army, Navy and the Air Forces in India	20.19
Welfare of the personnel of R. I. N. ..	4.17
Welfare of merchant seamen ..	7.20
R.A.F. Benevolent Fund	1.92
I.A.F. Benevolent Fund	2.23
R.I.N. Benevolent Fund	1.50

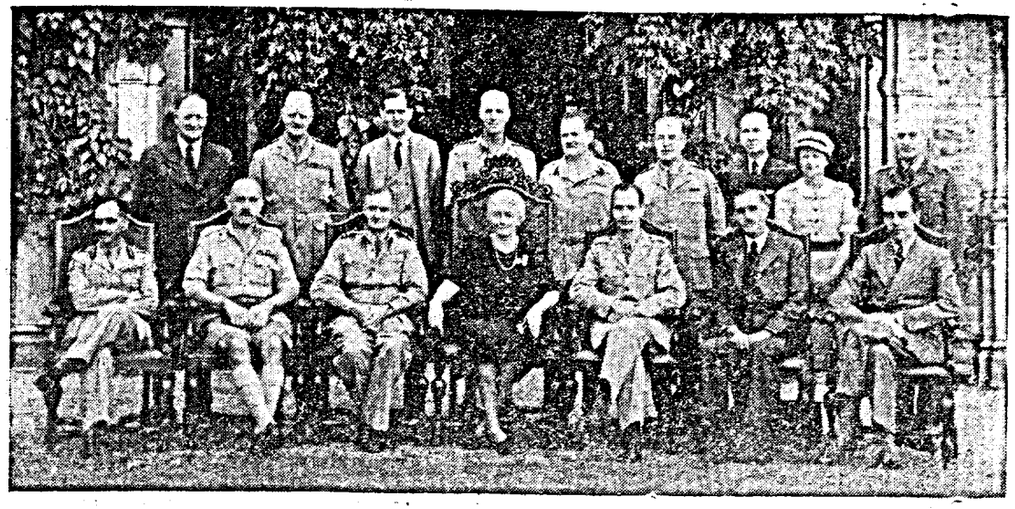
In addition to these, grants have been made to various social benevolent and charitable organisations both in India and abroad connected with the war effort and for the relief of Belgian, Rumanian, Balkan, and French refugees, for air raid victims in Egypt, Palestine and Malta and for relief of Indian residents in Damascus. Indian evacuees from the Far East who were assisted during their difficult trek from Burma continue to receive assistance from the Indians Overseas Evacuees Relief Fund created out of a grant of Rs. 6 lakhs from the Fund.

Welfare of the Forces

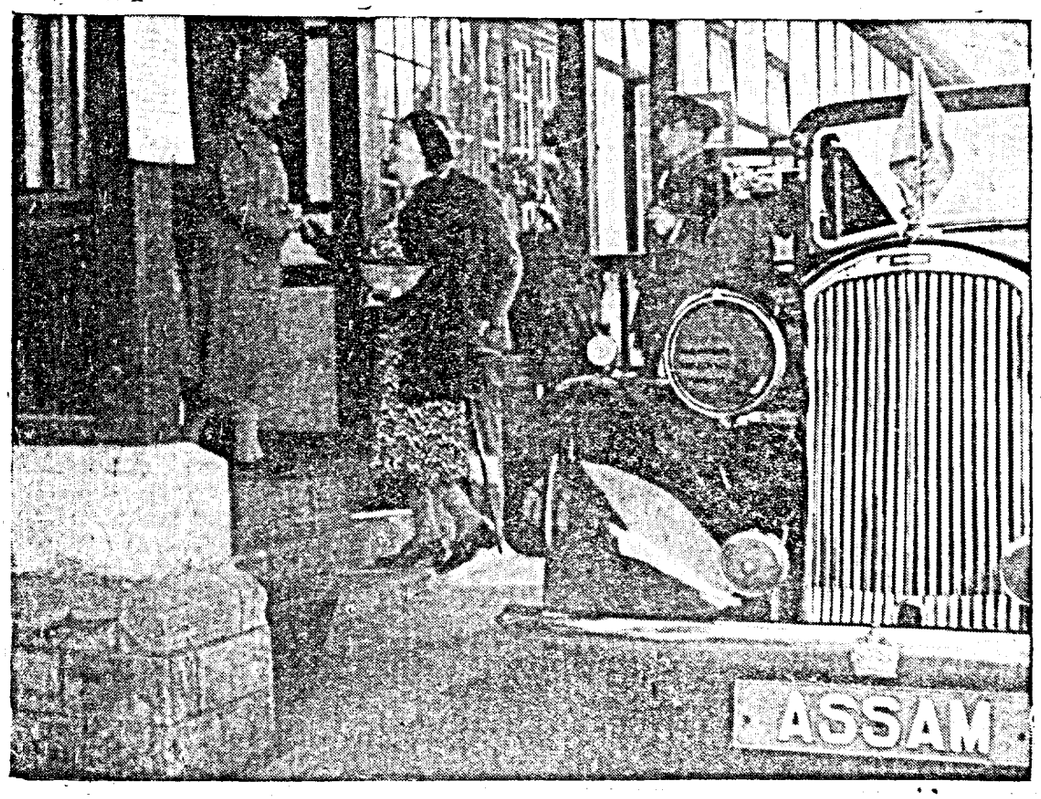
Welfare of the forces and merchant seamen has received special attention during the last eleven months and grants of over Rs. 16 lakhs have been made from the free balance during this period for the establishment of clubs, the providing of hotel accommodation, etc., for officers of the three services who receive little assistance from the official Amenities, Comforts and Entertainments of the Services Fund.

Grants of Rs. 1,66,000 and Rs. 1 lakh, respectively, have been made to Toc H and Y.W.C.A. in India for establishing clubs for service personnel, male and female; Rs. 2 lakhs to the A.C.E.S. Fund for providing Christmas gifts to Indian troops overseas and extra Christmas fare to British and Indian troops in India; Rs. 40,000 for the establishment of clubs and hostels for Officers and other ranks of the Indian Army in Rome. Other grants were Rs. 1 lakh placed at the disposal of the Governor of Assam for provision of comforts to forces on the Eastern Front and over Rs. 4 lakhs for Naval Headquarters for the welfare of R.I.N. personnel.

For provision of amenities to merchant seamen, British and Allied, as well as Indians arriving at the Indian ports, two amenities funds have



H. E. Lady Wavell photographed with Red Cross representatives of India, Britain, Australia, United States and the Netherlands East Indies. Her Excellency presided over a meeting held in Simla.



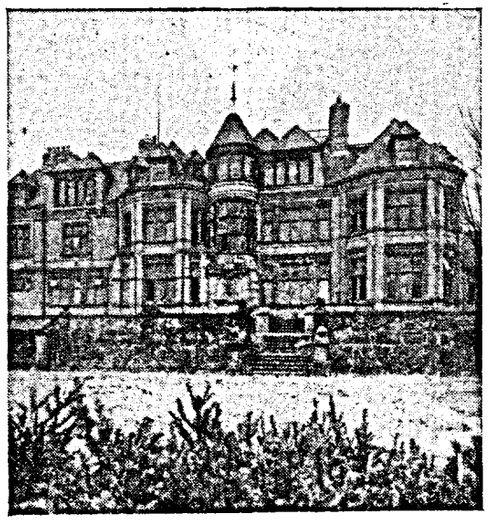
Lady Wavell arriving at the Red Cross work party premises in Shillong during her tour of Assam with the Viceroy.

been created with a grant of Rs. 1 lakh each, and special grants amounting to over Rs. 83,000 have been made during the period for establishing Institutes and canteens for them in India as well as one in Australia; Rs. 15,000 have been given for payment of advances to disabled Indian seamen and dependants of those killed. Indian seamen in England receive assistance from the King George's Fund for Sailors and the Indian Comforts Fund which have received substantial contributions from the Fund.

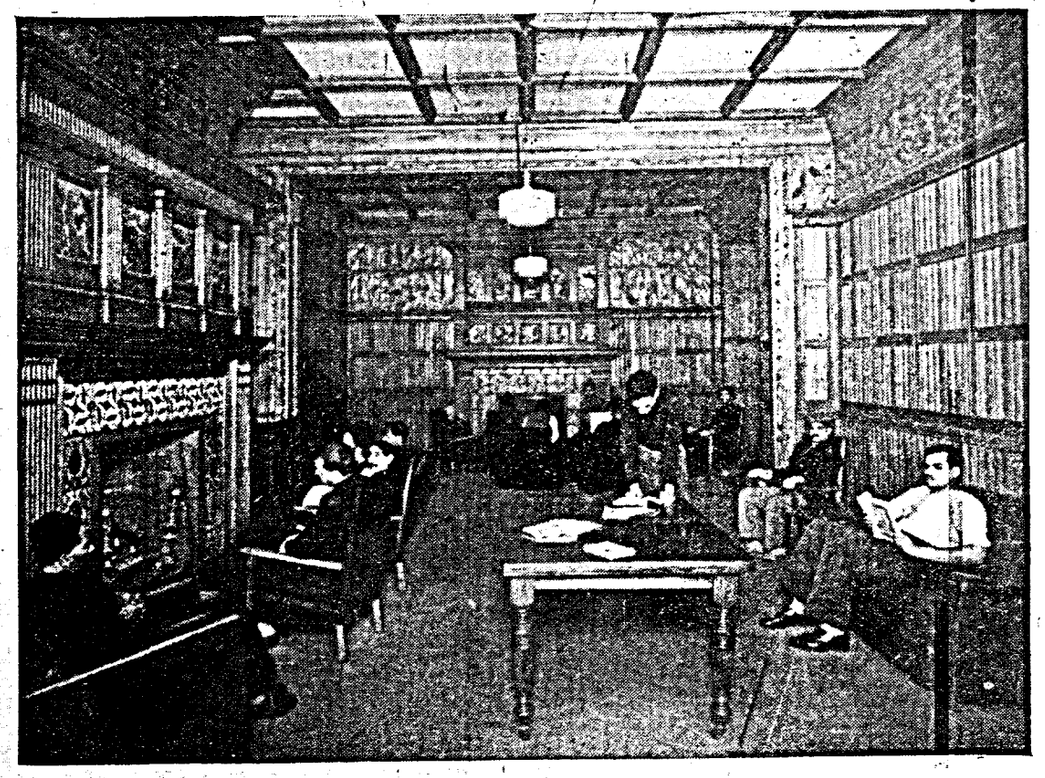
The welfare of incapacitated Indian soldiers and the dependants of casualties also continues to receive special attention and Benevolent Funds of the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force are constantly being helped and are earmarked for special consideration at the end of the war when the balance in the Fund comes to be distributed.

Financing Red Cross Work

A large proportion of the money received in the Fund goes to finance the Joint War Committee of the Indian Red Cross and St. John which supplies Red Cross services and comforts to sick and wounded troops of the Indian Army, and food and clothing parcels and other comforts to Indian prisoners of war.



Mere Hall, hostel for Indian Seamen in Liverpool.



The lounge in Mere Hall.



Tea cars for Indian troops provided by the Indian Tea Market Expansion Board.

There is hardly a war charity, in India or in England, which has not at one time or another during the past five years benefited from contributions from the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund and acknowledgments continue to be received from benevolent, social and charitable organisations thanking donors for their generous support.

A special section of the Fund called the St. Dunstan's Section deals with contributions for the war-blinded. Contributions received in it totalled Rs. 13,80,000 on June 30, 1944. The bulk of these contributions is periodically transferred to St. Dunstan's in England while such sums as are required for expenditure in India are handed over to the St. Dunstan's Indian Committee which is now in existence. A St. Dunstan's Hostel has been opened in Dehra Dun for the training and after-care of Indian war-blinded.

Total collections in the various Provincial War Funds since they were started amount to Rs. 14 crores though the total of balances now in hand is of course far less. A portion of the collections has been remitted through the Viceroy's Fund and is included in its figures. Madras continues to lead with a total of over Rs. 3 crores and is followed by U.P., Bombay, Bengal and the Punjab, who have collected between Rs. 2.64 and 2 crores each.

The Indian States' collections amount to Rs. 4 crores, Hyderabad topping the list with over Rs. 1¾ crores, followed by Mysore, Rs. 41 lakhs, Baroda, Rs. 24 lakhs, Travancore, Rs. 22 lakhs and Gwalior, Rs. 18 lakhs. The bulk of these collections has been remitted to the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.

H.E. the Viceroy is most grateful for the generous support which the Fund continues to receive from the Princes and people of India.

MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 512)

up to nine months in recognised hospitals before they are called up for service. The Service is representative of all communities and although service overseas is voluntary, a large number is serving *ex*-India. Many ladies with domestic responsibilities are also serving in local military hospitals in their own home stations.

The Lady District Superintendents of the St. John Ambulance Brigade act as the honorary recruiting officers to the Service.

In recognition of the war services of the Auxiliary Nursing Service, most of the Provincial Nursing Councils have agreed to recognise their training and a portion of the service, as part of the training required for qualifying as certificated nurses, after the war.



The C.-in-C. watches recruits learning wireless telegraphy at the 9th Gurkha Regimental Training Centre in Dehra Dun.

GEN. AUCHINLECK'S VISIT TO DEHRA DUN

DURING his recent visit to Dehra Dun, the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, was shown how Indian industry is applying itself to the precise requirements demanded by the war machine.

Near Dehra Dun there is a Government ordnance factory which is almost unique in India. Apart from the Mathematical Instruments Office in Calcutta it is the only factory in India which is making such equipment. Its contribution to the war effort is expressed in clinometers for 25-pounder guns, telescopes for anti-tank guns and binoculars. Soon it is hoped to go on to the making of prismatic compasses.

The C.-in-C. visited this factory accompanied by Lieut.-General Sir J. G. des R. Swayne, Chief of the General Staff, and Brig. A. E. Cumming, V.C., Dehra Dun Area Commander. They were shown round the factory by Mr. N. M. Walton, Works Manager. His Excellency saw slabs of flawless glass being sawn up, ground and polished to become the lenses which are the "eyes" of the gunners. The work involves a high degree of skill and technical efficiency, involving measurements down to thousandths of an inch.

In another part of the factory His Excellency saw the metal parts of the instruments being manufactured with the same skill and exactness. He watched the heat treatment of metals in gas and electric furnaces, saw technicians working at lathes and grinding machines to the same high degree of accuracy and was particularly interested in a toolmaker's microscope for checking the precision measurements which are required. This rare instrument was made by the German firm of Zeiss, and there is an interesting story behind its appropriation for our own use.

Although the factory has been in production for only a few months, output is already exceeding expectations. Many of the skilled personnel were transferred from the Mathematical Instruments Office in Calcutta, this being reflected in the fact that nearly 80 per cent of the 1,000 employed are Bengalis, the balance being drawn mainly from the Punjab.

The Indian Army's system for testing the powers of leadership and organisation and the ingenuity of candidates for commissions appearing before G.H.Q. Selection Boards was also seen by the Commander-in-Chief during his tour of the Dehra Dun district.

The selection board is the primary testing ground for potential officers. During a five-day stay they are submitted to a series of carefully prepared individual and group tests and also come under the surveillance of a psychologist. At the end of their stay in the selection board camp an all-in assessment of the candidate's merits is arrived at and usually within a week he knows whether he is being passed on for further testing in the six months' course at an Officers' Training School.

In a thatch-covered tent the C.-in-C. listened to a group discussion on the future of education, the subject being chosen by the candidates themselves. Four of those taking part were from the Aligarh University O.T.C., the other two were members of an Indian State Force. They discussed all aspects of education exhaustively and volubly, from the need for a compulsory system through the handicaps of finance and the education of girls, to co-education.

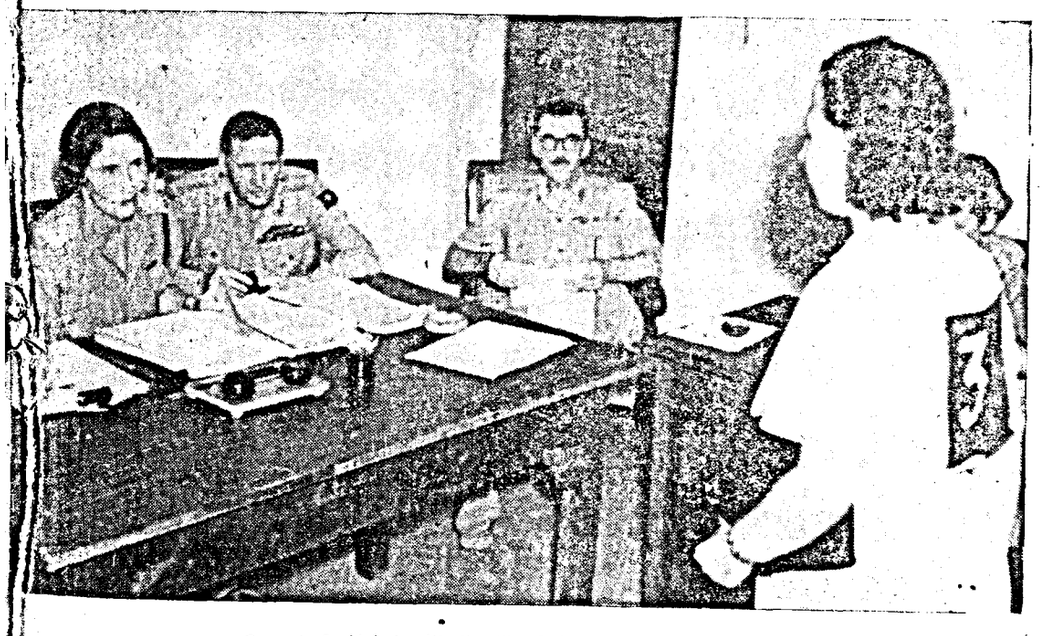
In clearings in the woods about the camp were group tests of ingenuity and enterprise in overcoming obstacles with limited equipment for improvisation, all designed to discover the practical ability, physical fitness and character of the candidates.

Individual capacity for leadership is tested by "command situations" in which the candidate is presented with an emergency which, using the other candidates in the group as men under his command, he must overcome. He may have to "rig up" accommodation for his men during a month's monsoon rain, or deal with armed bandits, or get a wounded comrade out of a deep ditch. In such situations leadership and enterprise are looked for.

Later in the day the C.-in-C. sat with the W.A.C. (I) selection board and heard the final appraisement of the worth of the candidates who had just completed their stay.

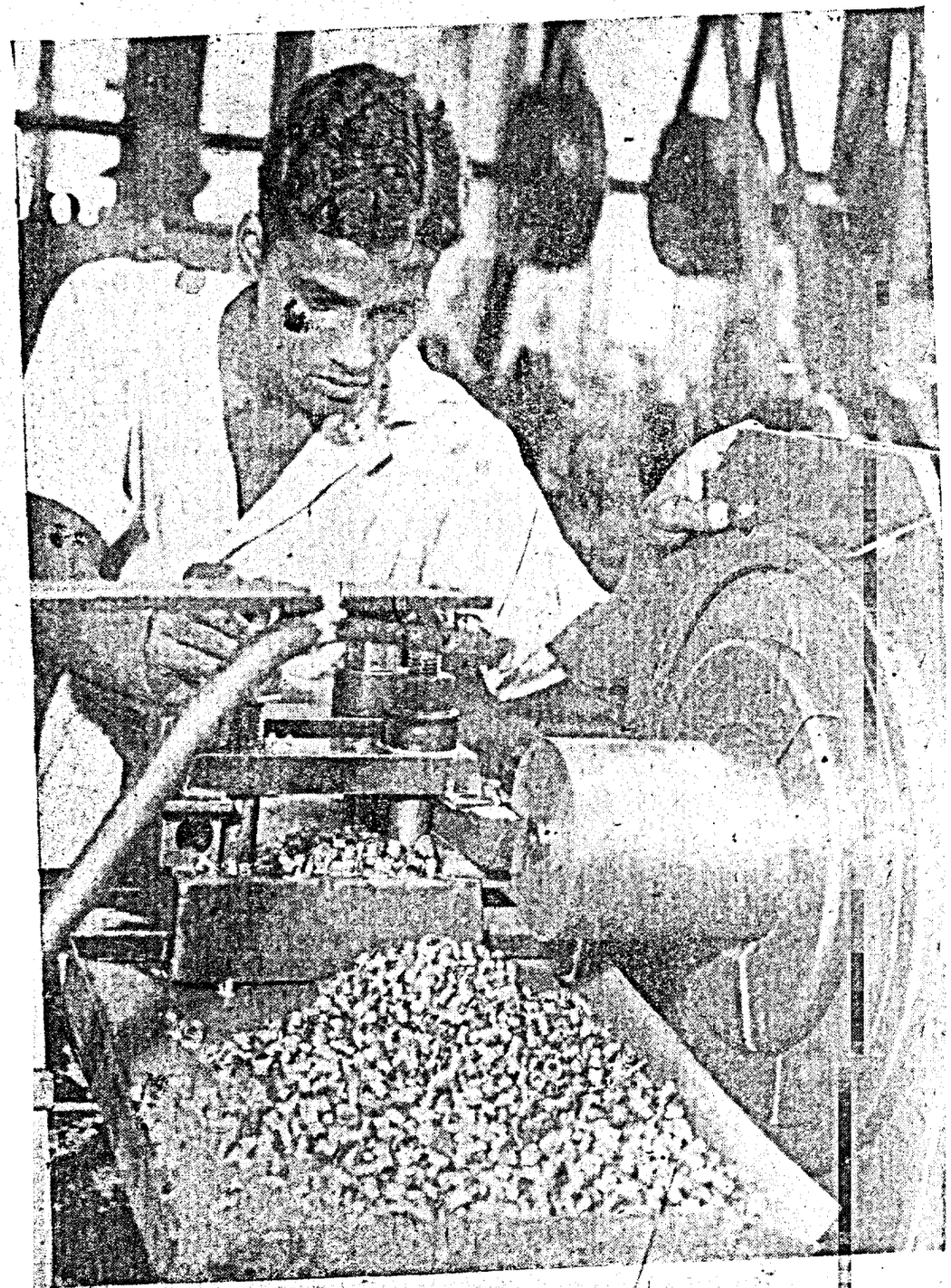
His Excellency also visited officers and men of the 14th Army, resting in Dehra Dun after successful operations against the Japs in Burma. In officers' and sergeants' messes the C.-in-C. met and talked with these men, listened to accounts of their experiences in battle and had a word of praise for the men who had won awards.

The C.-in-C.'s tour programme also included visits to the regimental training centres of the 2nd and 9th Gurkha Rifles, the Indian Military Academy, where he took the salute at a march past, the Dehra Dun W.V.S. Canteen, which serves hundreds of troops each day, and the Royal Indian Military College, where British and Indian boys are trained for the express purpose of entering the Army. Among those he met at the R.I.M.C. was 17-year-old John Slim, son of Lieut.-General Sir W. J. Slim, G.O.C.-in-C., 14th Army.



General Auchinleck with the W.A.C.(I) Selection Board.

Regd. No. L-5066



A worker engaged in the manufacture of high explosive shells in an Indian railway workshop.

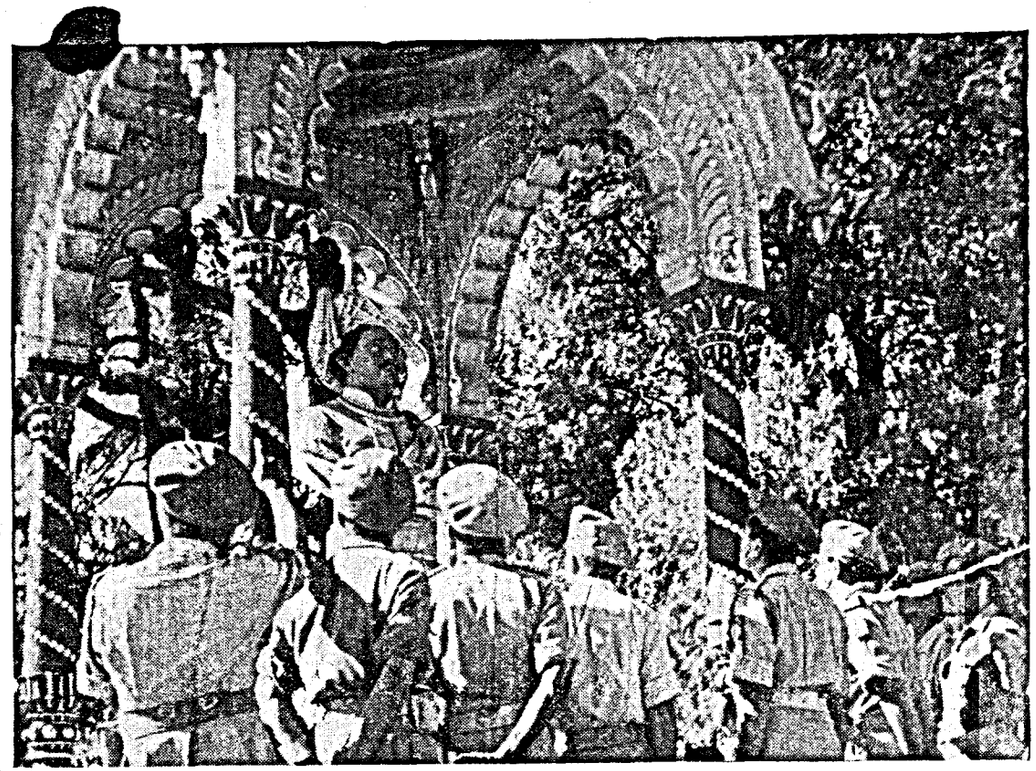
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INDIAN INFORMATION



Fortnightly by the
Information Officer,
Government of India.

● V.C. PRESENTATION PARADE AT DELHI



Men of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry inspecting the statue of Chhatrapati Rajaram, a former Maharaja of Kolhapur (himself a Mahratta) in Florence. The statue bears the inscription, "Chhatrapati Rajaram, while returning to India from England, in Florence, at the age of 21, met with his unfortunate and untimely demise in 1870. The monument erected by a Captain of Royal Engineers in 1874."

Vol. 15, No. 149. INDIAN INFORMATION NOV. 15, 1944

AIMS:—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading, but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

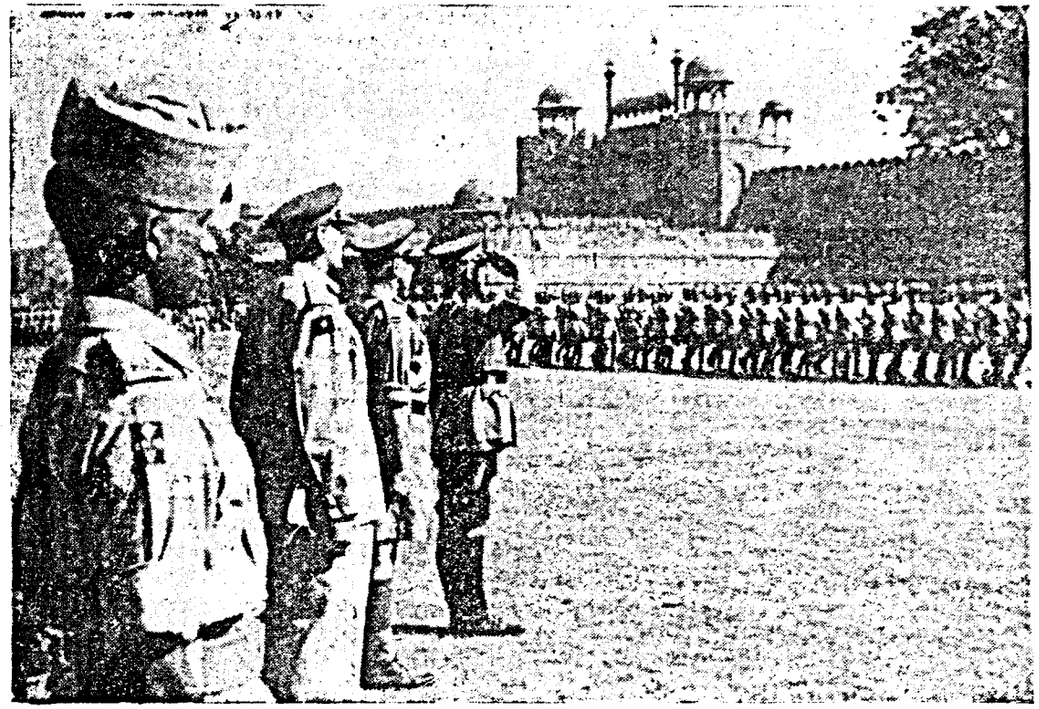
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source, it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

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Associate Editor : P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: Subedar Bhagwan Singh radioing a message to Battalion H.Q. in Italy following the capture of an important position north-west of Arezzo.



H.E. the Viceroy taking the salute at the march past after the V.C. decoration ceremony in Delhi.

VICEROY PRESENTS FOUR V.C.'s AND A GEORGE CROSS

Impressive Military Ceremony at Delhi

DELHI'S famous Red Fort, landmark in more than 300 years of history and pageantry, formed the background to India's greatest military ceremony of this war on October 24, when His Excellency Lord Wavell, dressed in the uniform of a Field Marshal, presented four Victoria Crosses and one George Cross as the Empire's acknowledgment of the valour of five Indian fighting men.

Those honoured were Sepoy Kamal Ram, 8th Punjab Regiment, Naik Nand Singh, 11th Sikh Regiment, Rifleman Ganju Lama, 7th Gurkha Rifles, and the late Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, 9th Jat Regiment, who had been awarded V.C.'s, and the late Subedar Subramanian, Madras Sappers and Miners, who won the Indian Army's first George Cross, which ranks next to the V.C. in British awards for valour. The awards to Jemadar Abdul Hafiz and Subedar Subramanian were posthumous and the decorations were received by their widows."

The presentations took place on the sward below the west wall of the Red Fort. A hollow square was formed of detachments representing all the three arms of the Fighting Forces with guards of honour drawn from the regiments of the men honoured. High Allied Service chiefs and India's legislative and administrative leaders watched the ceremony. Also among the spectators were the men's families, who for the first time were visiting the Imperial Capital, officers and men from their regiments and boys from the boys' companies. Special arrangements were made for members of the public as well as for the sick and wounded from the Delhi area hospitals to witness the unique V.C. parade. One enclosure was reserved for school children.

Brave men framed the picture of the presentation ceremony, writes an Indian Army Observer describing the pageant, for the hollow square in which it was set was made up of those who had fought on many fronts. The 9th Jats



Naik Nand Singh, V.C.

were there, the 6th Rajputana Rifles and, to represent the British Army, the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry. At the outer tip of either flank were the men of the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.

Within the square were guards of honour from the regiments of the men to whom the awards were being presented by the Viceroy.

Before them stood boyish 19-year-old Sepoy Kamal Ram, 8th Punjab Regiment; tall and bearded Naik Nand Singh, 11th Sikh Regiment; and, in a wheel chair, Rifleman Ganju Lama, 7th Gurkha Rifles, not yet recovered from his wounds.

Highest Acknowledgment

In a special enclosure sat the widows of Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, V.C., 9th Jat Regiment, and Subedar Subramanian, G.C., Madras Sappers and Miners. They had lost their husbands and were to receive, in their place, the highest acknowledgment of an Empire's gratitude.

Facing the square were military leaders of the Allied Nations—India's Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, South East Asia's Supreme Commander, Lord Louis Mountbatten, all the Army commanders from Burma and India, United States generals and China's military representative. With them were the Rulers of Indian States and members of the Governor-General's Executive Council. Leaders from the Dominions were also there; thousands of general spectators thronged the bank behind the enclosures.

The ceremony began with the precise movements and crackle of salutes—salutes for the Commander-in-Chief and the Viceroy. There followed the inspection of the guards of honour to the brave music of the pipe band of the 8th Punjab Regiment.

The parade scene stilled, to be broken by the march forward of Sepoy Kamal Ram, youngest V.C. of the war. He heard the citation of his award, read in Urdu by Lt.-Col. S. D. Verma, I.A.C., and then marched forward again to receive from the hands of the Viceroy the simple cross which he won at the Gari River crossing in Italy.

There followed Naik Nand Singh, tall and stern in his jungle green battle dress. A lone fight in Burma against an overwhelming number of Japs had brought him before the Viceroy.



Jem. Abdul Hafiz, V.C.

Then came Rifleman Ganju Lama, wheeled forward by a comrade from his regiment. This "tank killer" had sufficiently recovered from his wounds to stand and accept a double tribute—for he received the M.M. as well as the V.C.

From their special enclosures the widows were led forward, Mst. Jagri Begum in the long white *burqa* which custom prescribes, and Srimati Shanmughavalli Ammal in brick-red and gold sari. To the former went the V.C. won by Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, who fought until he could not press the trigger of his bren gun in Burma; to the latter the George Cross, which Subedar Subramanian won by selflessness in Italy.

Once again the parade stirred. Bayonets flashed as they were placed in scabbards. The pipes struck up to the tune of "Bonnie Dundee." The long parade marched past the Viceroy's saluting base in column of threes.

Then ceremony broke, military leaders met V.C.'s; their ladies chatted with the widows. And V.C.'s met V.C.'s. Chatting together at



Rifleman Ganju Lama, V.C.



Sepoy Kamal Ram, V.C.

one time were seven holders of the Empire's most coveted award. They included Brig. A. E. Cumming, Brig. C. G. Martin, Group Captain G. L. Cheshire and Wing Commander J. B. Nicholson, with the three men who had received their awards that day.

The crowd dispersed, the scene returned to normal. The walls of the Red Fort had looked down on a historic scene evoked from the battle fronts where India's fighting men stand with those who fight tyranny.

The Gathering

Among the distinguished visitors who watched the parade were: H.E. Lady Wavell; the Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, and Lady Auchinleck; Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Commander, S.E. Asia Command; General Sir George Giffard, Commander-in-Chief, 11th Army Group; Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, Air Officer Commanding in Chief, S.E. Asia; General Sir W. J. Slim, Commander, 14th Army; General Sir Mosley Mayne, G.O.C.-in-C., Eastern Command; General H. Finnis, G.O.C.-in-C., North Western Army; Lieut.-General Sir Noel de la Poer Beresford-Peirse, G.O.C.-in-C., Southern Army; Lieut.-General H. B. D. Willcox, G.O.C.-in-C., Central Command; Vice-Admiral



The widow of Sub. Subramanian receives the George Cross (posthumous award to her husband) from Lord Wavell.



Wearing a white "Burqa," the widow of Jem. Abdul Hafiz receives her husband's V.C. from His Excellency.

J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, and Mrs. Godfrey; Air Vice Marshal M. Thomas, Air Officer Commanding, India Command; Air Vice Marshal Stevenson, Royal Canadian Air Force; Major General Thomas and Major General Lane, United States Army; Col. Irving Dooh, Chinese Resident Military Officer in India, and Mrs. Dooh; H.H. the Maharaja of Jaipur; H.H. the Raja of Faridkot; the Maharaj Kumar George Namgyal of Sikkim; General Sir Iven Mackay, Australian High Commissioner in India, and Lady Mackay; Sir Patrick Spens, Chief Justice, and Lady Spens; and members of the Governor-General's Executive Council.

THE STORY OF AWARDS

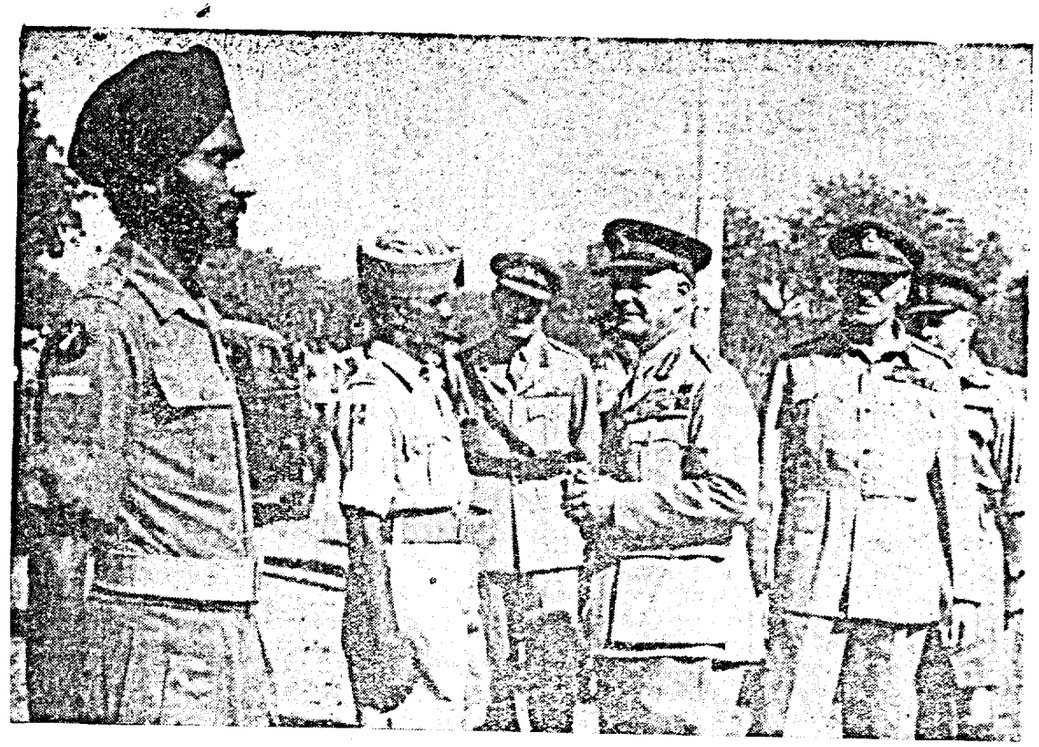
Nineteen-year-old Sepoy Kamal Ram, youngest V.C. of the war, of Bholupura village, Karauli State, single-handed destroyed two machine gun posts menacing the Gari River crossing in Italy. With a havildar he destroyed a third and in subsequent fighting killed a German and took two prisoners. It was his first action and he volunteered for it.

Naik Nand Singh won his V.C. in the Arakan. Six times wounded in an assault he went on alone up a steep hillside to carry a position in which the Japs were strongly entrenched. He is a Sikh from Bahadurpur, "the home of brave men," in Patiala.

Rifleman Ganju Lama, who is known to his comrades as "the tank killer", won the M.M. for an exploit on the Burma front in which he knocked out a Jap tank. His V.C. was awarded for his part at Ningthoukhong, where he crawled forward although wounded and knocked out two tanks with his piat, an anti-tank weapon, and killed the crews with grenades.

The first Muslim to win the V.C. in this war, Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, of village Kalanaur, district Rohtak, Punjab, led his men with such ferocity that the Japs fled from their position. Mortally wounded, he called on his men to reorganise while he provided covering fire; he was too weak to pull the trigger but his men swept on to victory.

Subedar Subramanian, a Madrassi from the Keelwotivackam village, Chingleput district, was on mine detection work in Italy when an anti-personnel mine was detonated. Realising that within four seconds the canister would explode he flung himself on top of it, at the same time pushing his comrade aside. The explosion was largely neutralised by his body and six lives were saved. Subedar Subramanian won the I.D.S.M. in North Africa last year.



H.E. the Viceroy talking to Naik Nand Singh and Sepoy Kamal Ram after the V.C. parade. (Below) Sepoy Kamal Ram besieged by his admirers for autographs.



THE V.C. FAMILIES AT DELHI

Writing on the eve of the V.C. presentation ceremony, an Indian Army Observer says:

"Five of India's proudest families, the centre of an Empire's tribute to bravery, have arrived in Delhi to attend the V.C. parade to be held outside the Red Fort on October 24. It is the first time any of them have been to the capital. They are the relatives of Sepoy Kamal Ram, Naik Nand Singh, Jemadar Abdul Hafiz and Rifleman Ganju Lama, who have won the V.C., and Subedar Subramanian, who won the Indian Army's first George Cross. Hindus, Punjabi Mussalmans, Sikhs, Madrassis and Gurkhas, they are typical of the people who sent their sons to the Colours.

"Great Honour"

"Mst. Jagri Begum, widow of Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, told me of the kindness she had received since the death in action of her husband. 'I have brought my five months' old daughter with me; one day she will understand the great honour done to her father whom she never saw,' she said.

"A tragic figure in her long white *burqa*, she is being looked after by Mrs. Adams, wife of Col. D. R. Adams, commanding the 9th Jat Regimental Centre, Bareilly, where her husband was trained.

"Kinchuh Lama, father of Rfn. Ganju Lama, was a picturesque figure in his shimmering black and gold robes, gift of the Maharaja of Sikkim. The sombre maroon garments of his two sons made a striking contrast. 'My son is ready to return to the fight as soon as his wounds have healed,' he said. 'His brothers, Dozang Lama and Gana Chering, have come with me to see the Viceroy decorate him. When we return to Sikkim we shall have much to say. My sons will continue their work in my fields and I shall go on with my religious teaching.'

"Sheo Chand, tall, dignified father of Sepoy Kamal Ram, told me: 'The King himself spoke to my son in Italy. We in Bholupura, Karauli State, have to work hard in our fields and do not see much of the world outside. My son has brought great fame to the village. If only the war lasts long enough my second son is going to join up.'

"White-bearded Bhag Singh, father of Naik Nand Singh, said: 'We Sikhs are very proud of our son. Soon he is going back to fight in Burma; we know he will always be in the front.'



Lord Louis Mountbatten congratulates Naik Nand Singh.

"Simply-dressed in a pale blue sari, Srimati Shanmughavalli Ammal, widow of Sub. Subramanian, came to Delhi with her six-year-old daughter and other relatives. Mrs. Jeakes, wife of Col. M. M. Jeakes, Group Commandant, Madras Sappers and Miners, has taken charge of her little son, who is ill. The shy little widow spoke with pride of the honour her husband has brought to her village."

NAWAB OF RAMPUR'S GIFT FOR INDIAN SERVICEMEN

H.H. the Nawab of Rampur has given Rs. 10,000 for additional amenities at the "Auchinleck Aramgah" in Delhi, which he recently inspected with the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

In a letter to the Commander-in-Chief enclosing a cheque for Rs. 10,000 His Highness says: "It gave me immense pleasure to see the wonderful work which is being done at the Auchinleck Aramgah for the comfort of Indian troops. This institution will remain a fitting and abiding monument to the great personal interest you have always evinced in the welfare of Indian soldiers."



H.E. Lord Wavell entertained over 600 Indian troops to tea at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, recently. Picture shows His Excellency chatting with his guests.

THE VICEROY ENTERTAINS INDIAN SOLDIERS

A number of Indian officers and some 600 soldiers were the guests of the Viceroy at an At Home at the Viceroy's House on October 25.

Among the 100 convalescents from an Indian military hospital was Rifleman Ganju Lama, V.C., whom the Viceroy had decorated the previous day.

Companies of the 8th Punjab Regiment, 9th Jat Regiment, 7th Gurkha Rifles, Queen Victoria's Own Madras Sappers and Miners, ratings and boys from H.M.I.S. *Himalaya* and *Bahadur*, units of the I.A.F. and the guards of honour which attended the colourful V.C. parade a day before were also present.

Tea was served in the banqueting hall of the Viceroy's House overlooking the famous Moghul Gardens. The party then moved down to the wide green lawns and brick-red fountains. The Viceroy and Lady Wavell joined them there, and cold drinks and ice cream were served.

The band of the 8th Punjab Regiment played while Lord and Lady Wavell and the C.-in-C., accompanied by his niece, Mrs. Baldwin, went round the groups of Indian soldiers and V.C.O.s. They chatted with the three new V.C.'s.

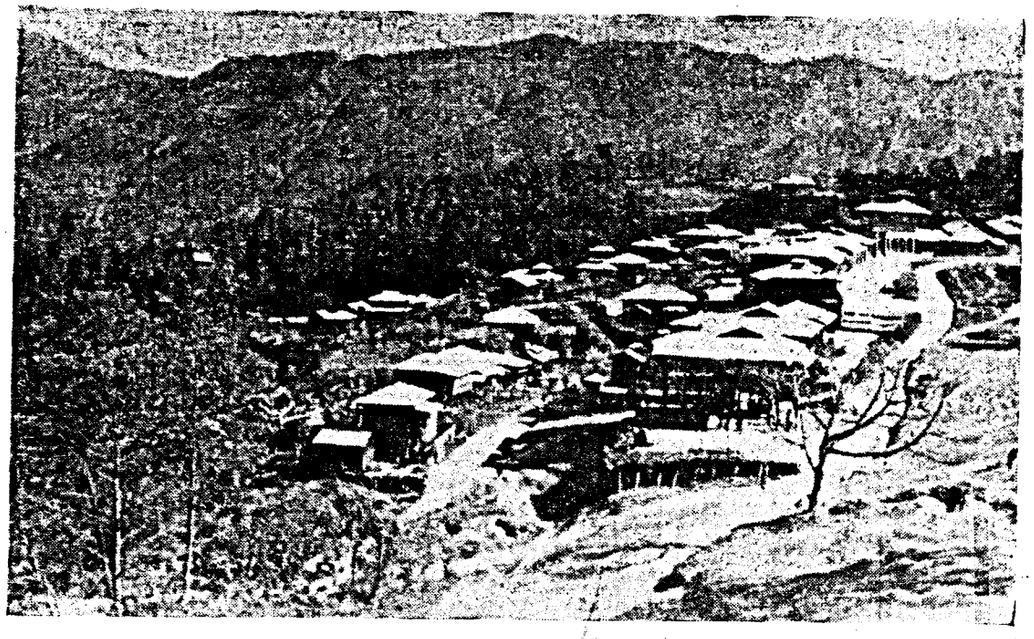
Those present included: Group Capt. G. L. Cheshire, V.C., Wing Cdr. J. B. Nicholson, V.C., Naik Nand Singh, V.C., Sepoy Kamal Ram, V.C., with his father and younger brother; Rfn. Ganju Lama, V.C., and W/Cdr. A. Engineer, D.F.C.

AUSTRALIAN OFFICERS MEET GENERAL AUCHINLECK

Twenty-two Australian officers, representing every arm of the Australian forces, who have come to India on a reciprocal visit, met the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, and staff officers of G.H.Q. at a party given for them by the C.-in-C., and Lady Auchinleck. The Australian High Commissioner in India, Lt.-Gen. Sir Iven Mackay, entertained them at a similar gathering.

The visitors attended the V.C. parade at Delhi and also heard a lecture by Lt.-Gen. Sir W. J. Slim, 14th Army Commander, on how the Jap invasion of Assam was defeated.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 578)



The Tiddim Village.

THE FALL OF TIDDIM

5th Indian Division's Victory

TIDDIM, a tiny village nestling in the 6,000-foot shoulder of the Burmese-Chin Hills, fell before the sledge hammer advance of the Fifth Indian Division. They drove down through mud, slush and fog along 162 miles of the "worst road in Asia" against ill-conceived but determined Jap opposition.

It was near Tiddim that the 1942 retreat from Burma became a stand, writes an Indian Army Observer. From then until March of this year the little toadstool-like cluster of tin-roofed houses served as a base for our operations further to the south. The 17th Indian Division, who had held the village for over a year, were then recalled from Tiddim to meet the threat to the Imphal plain.

For days the Japs had known that the game was up. The series of dull explosions and midnight fires which marked the closing days of the enemy's occupation told of destroyed ammunition and blazing stores; there was no parallel here to the 14th Army's dogged defence and final heroic victory at that other lofty village on the Indo-Burma border, Kohima.



Jeeps carry vital supplies through thick mud and slush on the Tiddim Road.



Men of the 1st Punjab Regiment inspecting a Jap tank captured on the Tiddim Road.

The Fifth Indian Division's advance in monsoon conditions down a narrow and tortuous mountain road, earth-surfaced only, pitted by landslides and washed away by rain-swollen waterfalls through country where the advantage is with the defender in small numbers rather than with the attacker in force, was a masterly feat of arms. It was worthy of the tradition built up by the Division in Abyssinia, the Middle East and the Arakan.

Bitter Struggle

From the time when, locked in a bitter struggle, our troops held the Japs at Bishenpur, the enemy has been slowly and unwillingly giving way along the road back to Tiddim. At first our advance was slow, for the enemy was organised in force in the valley mouth where the road debouches into the Imphal plain.

But tank attacks and repeated air strikes by the R.A.F. and I.A.F. weakened the Japs. As the road became more precipitous the tanks were winched up hillsides climbing wooded slopes of 30 degrees so that their guns could be brought to bear on Jap positions.

Enemy demolitions were numerous; in 56 miles a company of the Bombay Sappers and Miners built no less than 2,000 feet of bridging of various types. The infantry had several times to push back the enemy to permit the indispensable bulldozer to fill in huge craters so that tanks in turn could advance.

Mule Transport

First to cross the Indo-Burma border were men of a British battalion who, working in patrol ahead of the Division, covered 50 miles of hilly jungle in five days. Progress for the remainder was slow; exposed corners were blocked and covered by Jap artillery, and hold-ups occurred.

The solution was found in wide patrol detours with mule transport through endless elephant grass and jungle to cut the enemy's rear line of communications. Then he in his turn would scatter and retreat to make his next stand nearer Tiddim.

This tactic of ours culminated in a wide detour march of over 80 miles by a column of

Indian troops of the Division which resulted in the capture of Tongzang higgledy-piggledy village of tin and wooden huts and the first place of any size between Imphal and Tiddim.

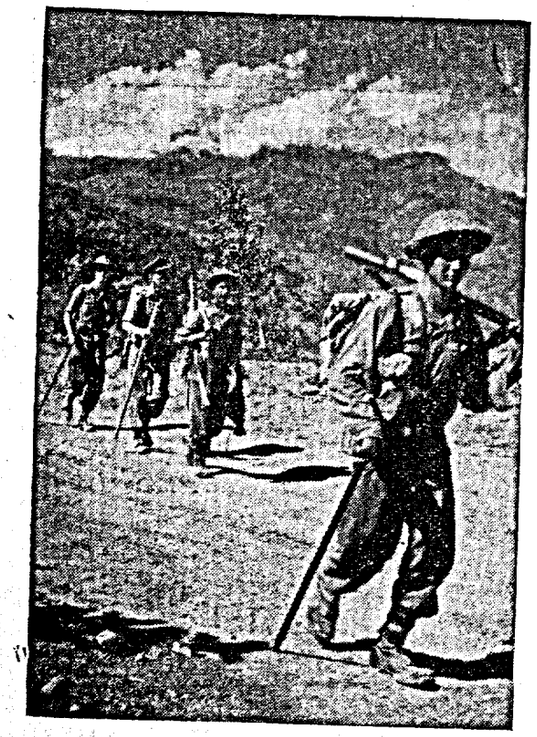
Chocolate Staircase

Finally came the ascent up the 40 hair-pin bends in the 3,000-foot "Chocolate Staircase", where the dark red earth was scooped out by last year's bulldozers to form a road fit for three-ton trucks. While British gunners gave the enemy no respite, and Sikh engineers in the valley worked to bridge the river throughout the night, infantry thousands of feet up were clearing the tracks that converge on Tiddim, reopening the road and advancing yard by yard until what was left of the village became ours.

Now, from a peak looming to the south-east, the Jap can see the blue ridge of the Chin Hills running towards the sea. As the weather clears the greenery of the Kabaw Valley is revealed and to the east, the Chindwin and its fertile plain are just not visible, stand on tip toe as he may.



The "Chocolate Staircase" with some of its hair-pin bends.



Men of the 7th Rajputs on the ridges round Tiddim.

NO JAPS ON "CHOCOLATE STAIRCASE"

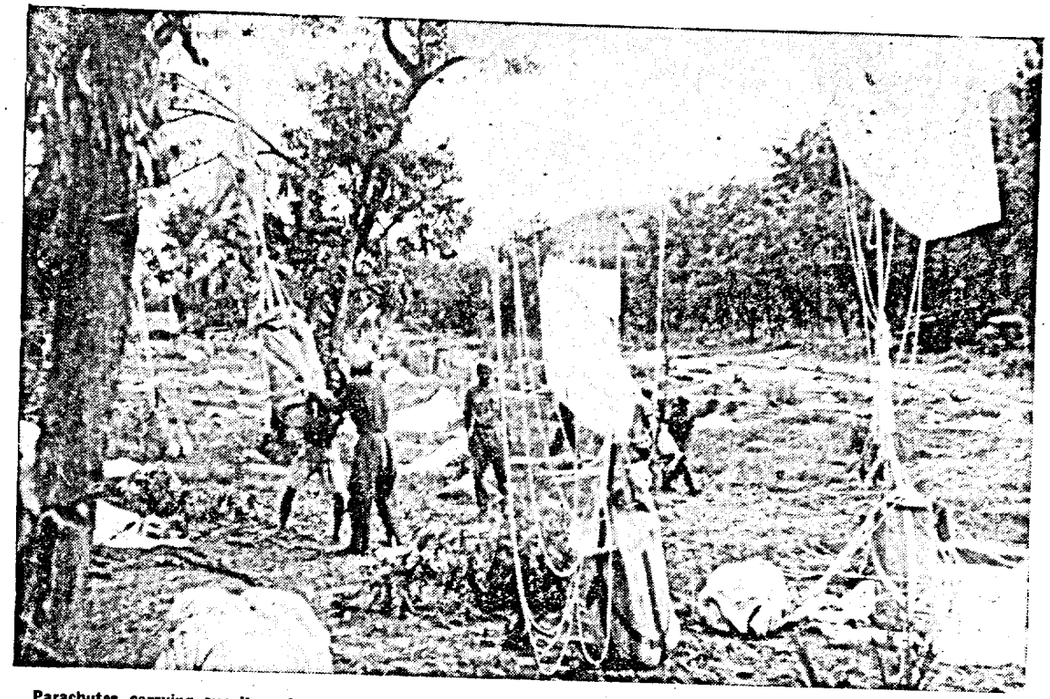
After moving up with the advancing spearheads of the Fifth Indian Division towards Tiddim I have just come back from the "Chocolate Staircase," that aptly named spiral track hewn out of the mountainside on the road to the next big objective of the 14th Army, wrote an Indian Army Observer from Tiddim Road on October 11. The "staircase" is completely clear of the enemy.

Judging from the visible signs of their retreat the Japs are now trying to make a more orderly and careful withdrawal. A wrecked tank five furlongs up the zigzag road stands as a symbol of the continued enemy retreat. A Jap bunker position higher up, blasted and pounded by our guns and mortars, has already been cleared, by night, of bodies and equipment.

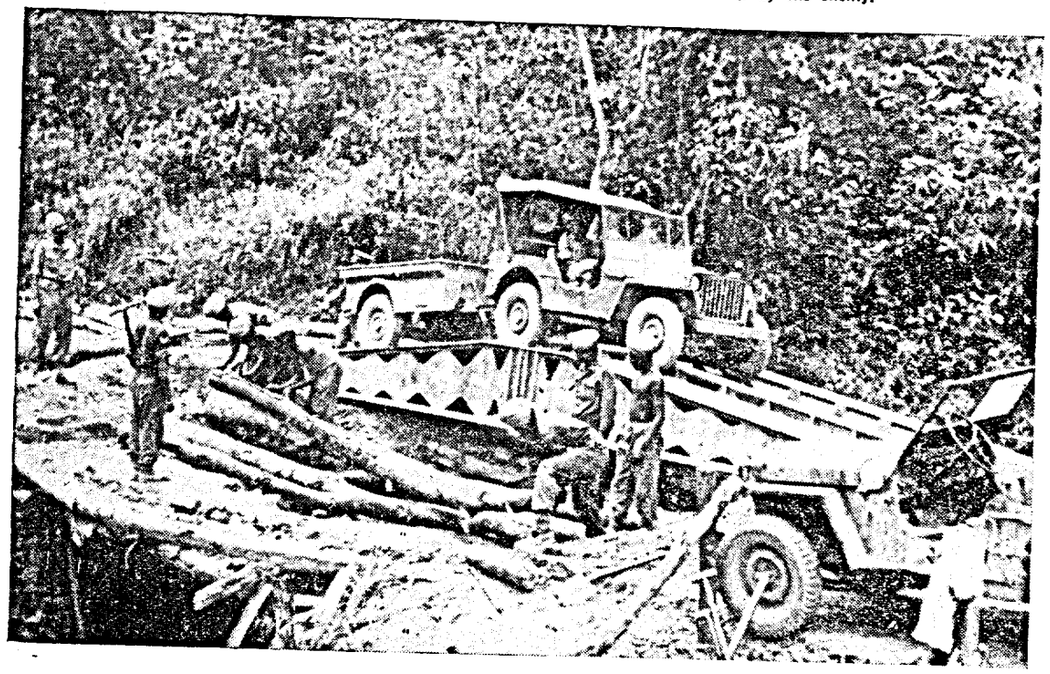
Enemy Retreating

To assist their withdrawal and gain time in which to take up new positions the enemy has succeeded in blowing up a bridge over the Beltang Lui, tributary of the Manipur River at the foot of the "chocolate staircase", and mining the road half-way up.

Our forward troops are in hot pursuit of the enemy. The main body has been helped in its



Parachutes carrying supplies often get entangled in trees, bushes and telephone wires in Burma. Here is a typical scene after supplies aircraft had been over this area. (Below) A Jeep with supplies passes over a temporary bridge built by Indian Sappers in place of the one blown up by the enemy.



advance by the dauntless work of sappers who toiled night and day under shell fire to clear road blocks and bridge torrents so that jeeps, trucks, guns and heavy equipment could press on.

Consistent air support in difficult conditions is earning the praise and gratitude of the men. Our fliers have the ticklish problem of finding targets scattered like needles in haystacks.

During the last 24 hours the weather has cleared and our airmen have been able to see the ground, instead of having to weave their way perilously through low cloud wreathing treacherous mountain peaks. They have made the best of their opportunity by carrying out deadly strikes on Jap positions in the Tiddim area and beyond.

THE DIVISION'S RECORD OF VICTORIES

Thousands of miles of hard fighting, long campaigns in deserts, mountains and jungles and a list of victories second to none—such is the record of India's most travelled Division, the Fifth, which led the march on Tiddim.

Formed in 1940, the Fifth Indian Division has fought Italians, Germans and Japanese—all seasoned and well-disciplined troops—and in defeating them has brought undying fame to the might of India's armies. The British and Indian troops composing this Division have been forged in battle into a battering ram that none can withstand.

Success after Success

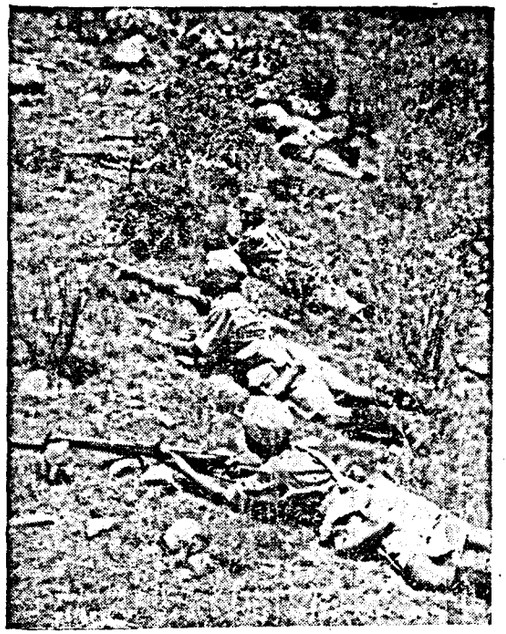
Arriving in the Sudan in September, 1940, the Division had its first brush with the Italians at Gallabat two months later. It was not until early next year, however, that the real trial came when the Italians were forced, with astonishing speed, first out of Gallabat and then from Gedaref and Butana Bridge.

Following up the Italians was no easy task but the Division, in conjunction with the Fourth Indian Division, gave the enemy no respite and bit deeper and deeper into Italian territory.

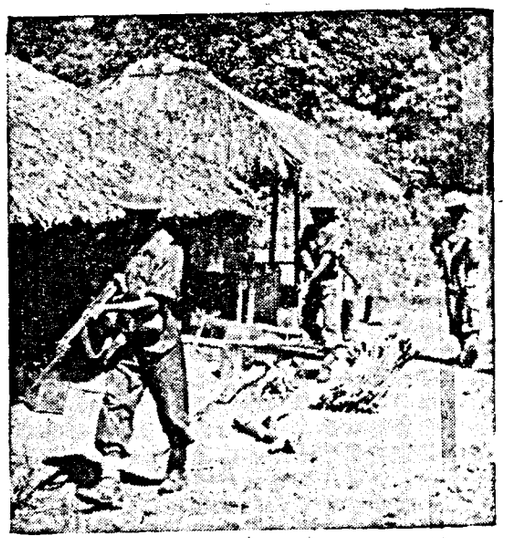
Success after success came their way as they blazed a path into Eritrea. They crossed hundreds of miles of burning desert and over precipitous trails that would have proved insuperable to less determined men.

The victories at Barentu and Ad Teclesan were not only the reward of skilful campaigning but the prelude to a greater victory still to come.

Mussolini's empire was tottering and his colonial forces were on the run. But the chase

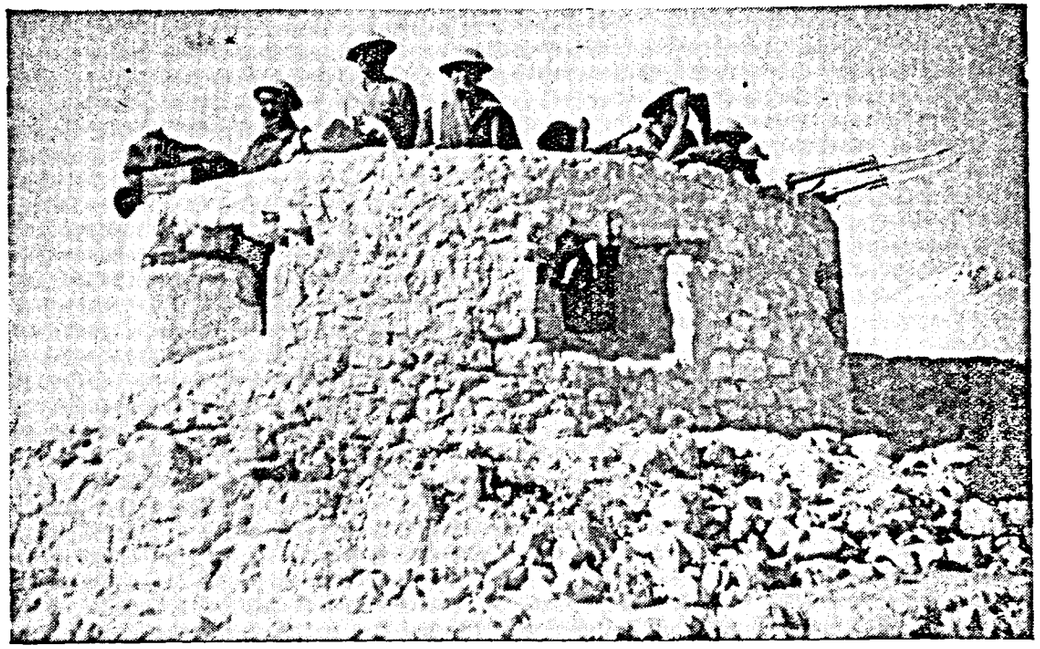


Sikh soldiers take up positions near the crest of a mountain in Abyssinia.



Bayonets fixed, Indian troops enter a village near Goppe Bazaar (Burma) hunting Jap stragglers.

now lay over a wilderness of rocky peaks towering 12,000 feet into the clouds and across terrain every mile of which added to the difficult problems of supplies.



Indian soldiers in one of the watch-towers of the Jalo fort.

At Keren the Italians turned at bay, strongly entrenched in their "impregnable" fortress. Savagely attacked by both the Fourth and the Fifth Indian Divisions the enemy held one assault after another and it was only after such bitter fighting as had never been previously experienced in the Eritrean Campaign that the Italians finally surrendered in March, 1941.

The Fifth swept on to Asmara, the victory of Massawa followed shortly afterwards and then came the crowning triumph of all—in May the Division burst through to Amba Alagi, and Major-Gen. Mosley Mayne (now Gen. Sir Mosley Mayne) compelled the Duke of Aosta, Viceroy of Abyssinia, to capitulate.

In Western Desert

After a brief respite the Fifth was next switched over to the Western Desert. Here, in November, 1941, one of its brigade made a 300-mile dash across the desert to capture Jalo and 700 prisoners.

But a sterner test lay ahead of the Division; the Germans had launched an offensive that seemed at one time to threaten Cairo itself. The Fifth, in May 1942, took part in gallant rearguard actions against reinforced panzer divisions pressing our forces back to Mersa Matruh.

In the El Alamein line, where the German advance was held, the Division further distinguished itself and at Ruweisat Ridge, the Fifth's last action before leaving North Africa for Iraq, the veterans captured over 2,000 prisoners.

On Burma Front

In June, 1943, the Division returned to India, and by the end of the year was in action against the Japs on the Burma Front. In January, 1944, they drove the Japs out of Maungdaw in the Arakan sector, but during the next month the enemy launched their full-scale Arakan offensive. The Seventh Indian Division found itself cut off but the Fifth, with the Japs across its lines of communication and along its front, nevertheless swept aside all opposition, reopened the Ngakyedauk Pass and relieved the Seventh.

The enemy next turned his attention to the Manipur front. The Fifth, heavily engaged in fierce fighting for the Buthidaung-Maungdaw tunnels in the Arakan, was flown 300 miles at a moment's notice to meet the threat further north and thousands of men, jeeps, guns, ammunition and stores arrived to help turn the scale in the Imphal area.

It was a brigade of the Fifth Indian Division that moved up the Manipur Road in April

to Kohima, where one of its battalions stuck grimly to this miniature Stalingrad against terrific odds until relieved after a 13-day siege.

The tide of battle on the Burma Front had now turned. The Jap "March on Delhi" army presented a sorry spectacle, completely demoralised and much reduced in strength.

Worse was yet to befall the enemy when the 14th Army troops began a general advance along this front and forced the Japs to begin a retreat which has not yet ended. Steadily the tide of battle rolled along the Tiddim road, the Fifth Division ever to the fore (and now Tiddim itself has fallen to the men of the Fifth).

But the story does not end with Tiddim. With a great tradition built up behind and further victories ahead the Fifth continues its advance.

TOC. H. IN THE FRONT LINE

Mr Alan M. Cowling, Commissioner of Toc. H. War Services, visited Delhi recently and disclosed that Toc. H. is now operating as far East as Myitkyina and as far south in the Arakan as Maungdaw and Teknaf.

This front-line service has been achieved by Toc. H. equipping itself with three-ton lorries in which to carry stores and tentage for temporary quarters wherever its services are needed. When the troops move Toc. H. follows them.

Mr. Cowling explained that the whole object of the Toc. H. organisation is to take welfare where it does not exist, and with the wholehearted co-operation of the Army authorities they were achieving this aim.

Discussion Groups

The Toc. H. three-tonner moves as forward as possible. Tents are put up, a wireless is connected up and a gramophone is produced. Discussion groups are formed, games and a library are provided and one of the tents is allocated for use as a reading and quiet room.

At Digboi there is a permanent Toc. H. Hostel, to which every week, a large party are flown in from the fighting line to spend a few days' rest in quiet and peaceful surroundings.

Toc H. now has 58 full-time workers in various parts of India, Assam, Arakan and Burma, catering for the off-duty needs of fighting men. Recently at Teknaf some nostalgic East Anglians remarked that only fishing rods were needed to make them feel really at home and Toc. H. duly provided the equipment.

BRITISH V.A.D.s TO NURSE BURMA WOUNDED

MORE than 200 members of the Voluntary Aid Detachments of the British Red Cross and St. John organisations arrived in India recently from Britain. The first V.A.D.'s to assist military nurses overseas in this war, they will soon play an important part in the nursing and rehabilitation of men of the 14th Army who have been wounded in the Burma fighting.

These V.A.D. nurses are among some of the most tried and blitz-tested workers of the war, and have come to India to assist in the overworked military nursing services whose establishment, especially on the Indian side, is greatly below strength. They gained considerable experience among injured in British emergency hospitals when the German blitzes were at their height. Some will use that experience in the forward areas, while others will be detailed for duties in military hospitals in India Command.

On arrival in India they went to the Kirkee military hospital near Poona, not to begin their work but to become acclimatised to the country. While there they made several tours in the surrounding countryside, and were particularly interested in village life in the Mahratta country. They had as guide Professor A. S. Wadia, an authority on Indian rural life.

Many of the V.A.D.s were presented to Lady Colville, wife of the Governor of Bombay, when she visited their quarters at the military hospital in Kirkee. One of them, 22-year-old Miss Gillian Mary Davison, a London girl, spent two years in the London dock area dealing with casualties in air-raid shelters. She met flying bombs, too, and says: "It may not be the experience of others, but I found there were less serious casualties than from ordinary bombs—more injuries from flying glass than broken limbs."

During their stay at Poona they made friends with Miss Mary Colville, daughter of the Bombay Governor, who was formerly a V.A.D. in Lanarkshire, Scotland, and now helps in a military hospital in Poona.

The Maharana of Danta has generously contributed Rs. 5,000 each to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund, and the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association. His Excellency has gratefully accepted the gifts.



Miss I. J. Caldwell of Newark (Nottinghamshire) Sister in charge of a casualty clearing station in Burma, examines / Sepoy Rasal Singh of the 13th Frontier Force Rifles. With her is Sister Anne Slade.

BIG DROP IN BURMA FRONT SICKNESS CASUALTIES

SIXTY-FIVE per cent fewer casualties due to sickness this year on the Burma Front than in 1943—this is one of the achievements of the front-line doctors and hospitals with the 14th Army.

Behind this announcement is an immense amount of hard work put in under the most difficult conditions by doctors, nutrition experts, psychiatrists, malariologists and research teams. Half the officers coming to forward hospitals are Indian colonels.

Anti-Malaria Measures

The sickness rate per thousand per day during the peak period (June-July) was only 3.5 this year, compared to six last year. In the non-malarial season it is as low as two per thousand per day. Malaria, the biggest cause of sickness, claimed only 1.6 per thousand per day, whereas last year it was 3.6.

Giving these figures to an Indian Army Observer, a R.A.M.C. officer attributed the improvement partly to increased malaria discipline, anti-malarial measures and to increased availability of mepacrine. "One mepacrine a day keeps malaria away" is the slogan in the malarial areas.

Many research teams are working to get at the root cause of particular diseases. Experts attached to these teams tour other theatres of war and all available knowledge on the prevention and cure of diseases is pooled for the benefit of the soldier. Among others, there are research teams for malaria prevention, malaria cure and tropical typhus.

The R.A.M.C. officer, who had just returned from a lecture tour of forward areas, said that preventive inoculation against enteric group of fevers was "incredibly successful." There have been rare cases of infectious diseases among labour gangs but these were quickly quelled. In spite of the fact that lymphs have to be kept on ice and cannot be used after a short interval, there has not been any shortage of vaccine.

H. H. the Maharaja Raj Saheb of Dhrangadhra has generously contributed a further sum of Rs. 1,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund (earmarked for the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association). The gift has been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.

THE FOURTH INDIAN DIVISION'S VICTORIES



Maj.-Gen. A. W. W. Holworthy.

Gen. Holworthy's Tribute

THE comradeship existing between the British and Indian troops of the Fourth Indian Division was emphasised by Maj.-Gen. A. W. W. Holworthy, M.C. Commander of the Division, in a recent broadcast.

He said: This Division has now been fighting continuously—except for a five-month break during the Tunisian Campaign—since 1940. It has captured well over a hundred thousand prisoners, has killed large numbers of the enemy and has itself suffered many casualties.

Experienced and Efficient Team

As you probably know, over 30 per cent of its composition is British, namely all its gunners, field, anti-tank and light anti-aircraft and three of the infantry battalions, one of which a regular Southern County unit, has served with us since 1940 and has done marvellous work.

Of the remaining six battalions, three are Indian and three Gurkha and the result is a nicely balanced infantry brigade. We are very proud of our gunners, a magnificent lot of veterans whom we have managed to keep with us as a team for several years. In consequence our artillery and infantry co-operation is splendid and our artillery support superb. Our light anti-aircraft regiment has made its century, 103 aircraft having been destroyed to date, and it has also knocked out 12 tanks with its Bofors.

We have had almost a hundred per cent turnover in our original infantry battalions, but have managed to keep together our original sappers, signallers, medical, R.I.A.S.C. and workshop personnel, so we have been wonderfully served by a very experienced and efficient team.

The Division came to Italy in December, 1943, and since then has been engaged in some of the bitterest fighting of its career. In February and March, it fought in very hard and appalling weather conditions at Cassino and had heavy casualties in the hills round the monastery. We made several attacks on the monastery and believe that some Gurkhas actually reached the walls.

Unbroken Period of Fighting

Our casualties at Cassino were high, especially among officers, but we think we gave as good as we got and killed a lot of Boche paratroopers. After Cassino we went straight to the Adriatic Coast where we settled down for a month or two of trench warfare which was rather unpleasant as the enemy had the use of commanding ground at some places, especially Orsogna, where he was only a few yards away. It was a period of raid and counter-raid and all the time we were trying to reorganise and absorb large numbers of reinforcements.

After the Eighth Army break-through of the Gustav and Hitler Lines we had an exhilirating chase following the Boche along the Adriatic Coast to Pescara, Chieti and beyond. There was not much opposition once we got through the devastated zone and minebelt in front of us and we came to lovely country, with undamaged towns and villages and enthusiastic inhabitants.

Since then we have had an unbroken period of fighting in the Appenines and the Upper Tiber and Arno valleys. In places fighting was savage and losses quite severe as our infantry got into the enemy at close quarters, on several occasions with really satisfactory results.

The Appenines are ideal for rearguard actions and the quickest way to get the enemy out is often to surprise him from behind. This may initially take more time but pays in the long run and our men are now pretty expert at finding their way in the dark over difficult terrain.

At the beginning of August we were pulled out for a secret concentration of the Eighth Army prior to the attack on the Gothic Line in the Adriatic Sector and we have been engaged on this job ever since and have some very bitter fighting over ground which has given the enemy every advantage.



Indian soldiers investigate a German dug-out at Monte Calvo (Italy).

We gatecrashed the Gothic Line at Monte Calvo, getting in more easily than we expected, as the positions were really strong with minefields, deep dug-outs and concrete emplacements. The leading troops, an Indian battalion, showed great dash and the enemy was not ready for us. But our operations here have perhaps been too recent to talk about now.

A Tough Job

There have been plenty of incidents; we lost a complete company of Gurkhas one night when attacking a village which was one of the Boche keypoints. We had it completely surrounded and anticipated a tough job mopping it up next day, but when morning came we found the Gurkha Company had been inside all night and had done the task in their own way. The only Boches left were dead ones.

Another time a British Officer, who should have had a revolver but did not, collected four prisoners with his walking stick. A sweeper from one of the Indian battalions who had volunteered to carry ammunition to the forward troops was coming back when he met a Boche who pointed his rifle at him. The sweeper rushed



Indian Sappers blow up a house which served as a landmark for the enemy to direct his fire.



Gurkhas returning for rest shortly after capturing Sant' Arcangelo, a village in Italy.

stick in hand at the German who dropped his rifle and ran.

Picking up the rifle the sweeper fired two rounds but missed. He brought the rifle back and gave it to the adjutant and said, "this is a useless thing—I much prefer my stick."

In my opinion one of the finest things in this division is the splendid comradeship between British and Indian troops. In my own Headquarters it is a common sight to see a Jack, an English lad, a Gurkha and a Pathan playing that wonderful game whist—the cheating is terrific but a good time is had by all.

FIGHTING FOURTH REPEATS EL ALAMEIN FEAT AT GOTHIC LINE

Lt.-Gen. Sir Oliver Leese, Eighth Army Commander, has sent a message to the Commanding Officer of an Indian battalion of the Fourth Indian Division, which reads: "I congratulate you and your battalion on your hard fight and capture of Monte Della Croce. Your battalion thus repeated its feat at Alamein and was the first to get into the Gothic Line."

Behind that message, writes an Indian Army Observer, is a story that India and the whole Allied world may be proud of, a story that commences in 1940 when the Division helped to thrash Graziani in Libya and then turned south to Keren in Abyssinia and later north to the Western Desert. In fact, wherever the Eighth Army fought its fiercest battles, this veteran Division was there; from Alamein, the Western Desert, Wadi Akarit and Tunis to Italy, where it was loaned to the Fifth Army, and on to Cassino, and now the Gothic Line.

Here they opened the Eighth Army offensive, cracked the Gothic Line first, captured the ill-omened Germano after two British formations had milled over and around it, the feature changing hands 11 times. When the Fighting Fourth finally secured the ridge they found desolation worse than at Cassino, with 900 dead counted around the summit.

The whole story of the Division is a story of fighting at its heaviest and they have undoubtedly played one of the most magnificent parts in this global war.

SOUTH INDIAN ASSOCIATION IN ITALY

V.C.O.s and men of the Tenth Indian Division in Italy have formed a South Indian Association.

They meet each week-end to chat about home news, exchange local newspapers and sing Madrassi tunes. They have their own gramophone and a large library of South Indian records.

Founder of the association is Subedar S. Mahadevan, R.I.A.S.C., a graduate from the National College, Trichinopoly, who lives at Second Street, Puducottah, Madras, and has been overseas for more than three years.

"Subedar Mahadevan is our guide, philosopher and friend," said one of the men in the association. "There is always a crowd in his tent when he is off duty."

The Secretary is Lance-Naik G. Kailash, R.I.A.S.C., in civil life a radio mechanic, of 106, Manohar Pukar Road, Calcutta.

50,000 GALLONS OF PETROL A DAY TO DRIVE OUT JAPS

Fifty-thousand gallons of petrol a day was supplied to forward troops driving the Japs out of India following the reopening of the Manipur Road, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Men of the R.I.A.S.C. worked night and day at supply points to maintain the flow of petrol, oil and lubricants to the vehicles of the advancing Indian divisions. Millions of gallons of petrol were tested before issue.



W.A.C. (I)s of the Air Wing, working side by side with R.A.F., played their part in the recapture of Myitkyina. Here, skilled hands make a clay model of the target area for the pilots.

HOW W.A.C.S HELPED IN RECAPTURE OF MYITKYINA

AT bases in India girls of the W.A.C. (I) employed with the R.A.F. played their part in the recapture of Myitkyina. They assisted in plotting pictures, building mosaics, searching photographs for concealed enemy positions, and in the construction of training models used in the briefing of the pilots who bombed the town.

All bombing raids necessitate the same careful preliminary work, and behind every communique announcing a successful trip by our bombers over Burma lies a story of skilled and patient research.

Flying as low as possible the reconnaissance pilot photographs enemy territory and then returns to base where the films are rushed to a photographic interpretation unit. Here they are developed and then starts the first of a series of fascinating processes. The girls assist in the plotting of the pictures into "runs" so that a whole street, river or area is formed. The resulting composite picture is then re-photographed and fitted together in a vast perfectly-scaled picture or mosaic until perhaps a whole town is depicted on the table.

While this is being done other W.A.C. (I)s, working side by side with R.A.F. personnel, closely scan copies of the photographs. Through stereoscopes which make the pictures appear three-dimensional they help in the search for camouflaged Jap positions and installations. Once these are detected and a raid decided upon, a



An Indian W.A.C. (I) plots a "run" of the photographs. The river taking shape under her hands is the Irrawaddy at Myitkyina.

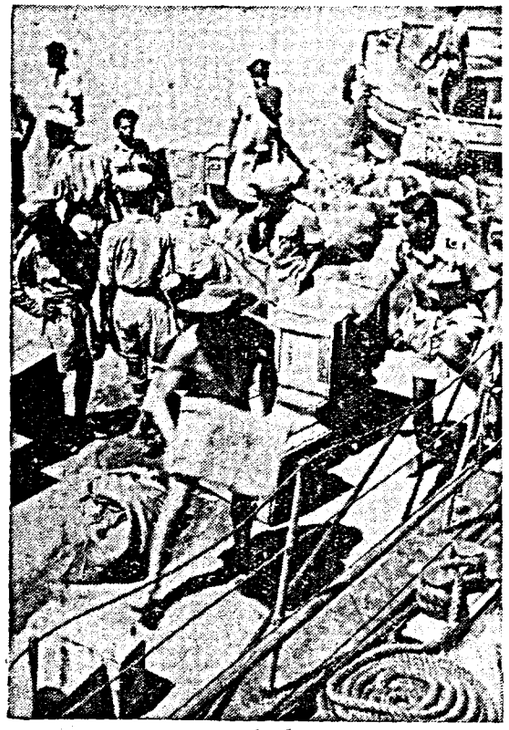
clay model in colour of the target area is made. Pilots briefed for the raid study this closely before the sortie. Next day's communique tells how yet another successful bombing raid has been carried out over Burma.

R.I.N. IN ACTION ON ARAKAN FRONT

ARAKAN Coastal Forces of the Royal Indian Navy, which did valuable work in support of General Slim's 14th Army during the last campaigning season, have continued to stand by throughout the monsoon.

Though weather conditions have made long-range operations difficult, the Indian ships have maintained frequent patrols in the forward area south of Maungdaw and have responded instantly to every call made by the Army for flank support, wrote an R.I.N. Observer from the Arakan Front on October 27.

These little ships are a source of constant annoyance to the Japanese, who, a few weeks ago, moved up a battery of three 75-mm. guns, in the hope of scaring them away.



Ammunition and stores being taken aboard a vessel of R.I.N.'s Arakan Coastal Forces.



On the look out for Jap raiders.

On a recent occasion, soon after midnight, a call for assistance was received from the Commander of an Indian Division. Three ships were ordered to proceed immediately and act in close support of an advanced Army base which was being heavily shelled.

Next morning, when they were in full view of the Japanese positions, two of the ships were engaged by the enemy battery. They took avoiding action with such good effect that no direct hits were suffered, though shrapnel killed one Indian rating and wounded two others.

"The Commanding Officers," wrote the Senior Officer in his action report, "are to be highly commended on the way they took avoiding action and so saved the ships, as the enemy had found the range and were straddling their targets."

The three ships were commanded by Sub-Lieut. K. P. Nair of Travancore, Sub-Lieut. R. R. M. Rao of Madras, and Sub-Lieut. B. E. Wright of Bombay.

"MOST VALUABLE AND EFFICIENT FIGHTING FORCE"

C.-in-C.'s Tribute to R.I.N.

"I should like to see India becoming navy-conscious and sea-minded as befits a great nation with such a great length of coast-line," said H.E. General Sir Claude Auchinleck, G.C.I.E., C.B., C.S.I., D.S.O., O.B.E., A.D.C., Commander-in-Chief, India, in a broadcast from All India Radio, New Delhi, on Navy Day (October 21). He paid a tribute to the work of the Royal Indian Navy, whose ships had since 1939 been in action all over the Seven Seas.

Here is the full text of the broadcast:

This year, for the first time, India joins Great Britain and the Dominions in celebrating Navy Day.

India's first Navy Day is being celebrated on this anniversary as a compliment to the Royal Navy whose efforts, particularly during the present war, have been so largely responsible for bringing the Royal Indian Navy to its present size and efficiency. In future years it is the intention to celebrate India's own Navy Day on October 2, the date on which the Royal Indian Marine became the Royal Indian Navy in 1934.

The foundations of the Royal Indian Navy were laid 333 years ago when a small fleet of four vessels was sent out from England by the Honourable East India Company to fight the power of Portugal in Indian waters. Though India's Navy has seen many changes since then it is to-day a most valuable and efficient fighting force.

Since 1939, His Majesty's Indian ships have been in action all over the Seven Seas. In the close defence of India's shores, many mine-sweepers and trawlers have carried on the arduous task of patrolling our coasts and ensuring that our ports are kept open. Theirs is an inconspicuous but essential task. Credit is due to the officers and ratings who have discharged this task so efficiently.

H.M.I.S. "Bengal's" Exploit

In the battle of the Atlantic, our ships helped to escort convoys as far North as Iceland. In the Mediterranean they were present during the landings on Sicily last summer. In the Red Sea in 1941 they played a part in putting 'paid' to Mussolini's East African Empire. In the Persian Gulf they helped to defeat the Nazi sympathisers in Iran. Further East, ships of the Royal Indian Navy have been in action against the Japanese in the Sunda Straits and the Java Sea and they helped in the evacuation of Malaya and Burma.



General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

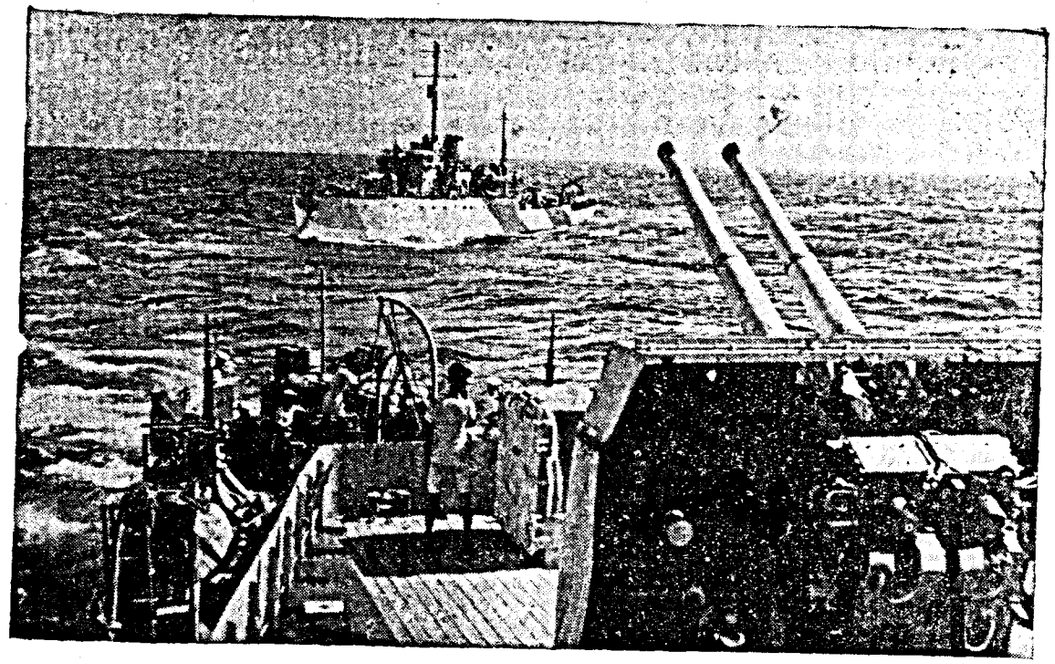
Ranging over the wide expanse of the Indian Ocean, our ships have fought the menace of the Axis. Let us remember with pride the glorious exploit of H.M.I.S. *Bengal* a small escort vessel which, aided by the Dutch tanker *Ondina* challenged and fought two much larger and much more heavily armed Japanese raiders. Thanks to sheer audacity and good gunnery, one of the raiders was sunk and the other fled.

W.A.C.(I)'s Naval Wing

In the last two campaigning seasons the little ships of the Royal Indian Navy's Coastal Forces have harried the Japanese on the coasts of Burma. Their exploits have been in the news from time to time but much more of their story remains to be told when the ban of secrecy can be lifted.

I must mention also the admirable work which is being done by the Naval Wing of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India).

Besides carrying out most important secretarial and cipher duties they are working in Gunnery Schools where they look after the guns used to train our sailor gunners to shoot, and other naval establishments of this kind. The



H.M.I.S. "Punjab," an escort vessel of the Bathurst class, and H.M.I.S. "Jumna" (in the background).

Royal Indian Navy can do with many more of these women auxiliaries and I hope it will get them.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces in India, I take special pride and pleasure in paying this tribute to the Royal Indian Navy. During my tours around the country I have visited many naval establishments and I have always been struck by their keenness, discipline and all round efficiency. These qualities are the foundation of a sound Navy.

Energetic Flag Officers

The Royal Indian Navy has been fortunate in that it has been commanded by a succession of energetic Flag Officers, lent by the Royal Navy. Amongst these, during the present war have been Sir Herbert Fitzherbert and the present Flag Officer Commanding, Admiral Godfrey.

They have succeeded in expanding and building up India's Navy so that it has been able to play a definite and most important part, not only in the defence of our coasts but also generally in the war at sea.

A foundation has thus been laid on which India must build in the future.

Most of the work of the Navy must perforce be done at sea and cannot, therefore, be seen by the public. In the big ports of India



Punjabi ratings of H.M.I.S. "Jumna."

perhaps the public do have some opportunities of seeing something of its activities, but this is not so in the vast area of inland India. It is perhaps because of this that the Navy may not be as well known as it should be throughout the country as a whole.

I should like to see India becoming navy-conscious and sea-minded as befits a great nation with such a great length of coastline. I hope that the realisation that the Indian Navy offers a fine career to their sons will take hold and spread in the minds of the parents of families all over India.

I would like to see the Royal Indian Navy drawing its officers and men from amongst the best of India's youth. Whether they come from areas on the sea-coast or from the interior of this great country does not matter.

As in the United States of America, so in India some of our best seamen come from homes many hundreds of miles from the sea.

This matter of sea power is all important to the India of the future and I hope this Navy Day will focus attention on it.

I ask you all to consider the vital part sea power will play in moulding the destiny of India and to encourage, by example and precept, the growth of the Royal Indian Navy to a size worthy of India's position in the world.

H.M.I. Ships' Gallant Service

"It is upon the Navy, under the good Providence of God, that the safety, honour and welfare of this realm do chiefly depend."

Once again a great war has proved the truth of those famous words. Seapower has hemmed the Nazis in and contributed enormously to their undoing. Japan feels its stranglehold, and will increasingly do so once the war in Europe is over. On October 21, India, with other countries of the British Commonwealth, celebrated Navy Day, honouring a Service that has done so much to win the war.

India joined in the celebrations this year for the first time, and she had good reasons for doing so. Partly as a compliment to the Royal Navy, which has done so much to decide the issue of the war; partly because the Royal Indian Navy is now a combatant force to be reckoned with; and partly because realisation of the role of seapower in national defence is rapidly spreading among the people of India, Navy Day had a special significance.

In operations against Italian East Africa, in Malayan waters, the Battle of the Atlantic, the Mediterranean and Indian Ocean, His Majesty's Indian ships have served with ships of the Royal Navy. The exploits of H.M.I.S. *Jumna*, H.M.I.S. *Sutlej* and H.M.I.S. *Bengal* are notable instances of the work done by Indian escort vessels on the high seas. Convoy escort duties account for the largest share of the great mileage steamed by H.M.I. ships of all classes every year

Day after day, Indian minesweepers keep safe the approaches to our ports, and other vessels maintain unremitting anti-submarine patrols. In Burma coastal waters the little ships of the R.I.N. Coastal Forces—small in size but packing a hard punch—have harassed the Japanese and supported our troops ashore.

In all, 45 awards and 40 mentions in dispatches have gone to officers and men of the Royal Indian Navy in this war. The awards include one D.S.O., eight D.S.O s, eleven D.S.M.s. and ten I.D.S.M.s, all given for gallantry in engagements at sea.

New Shore Establishments

Over 16 new shore establishments for the training of India's Naval personnel have been commissioned in the past five years. In Combined Training Centres, officers and men of the R.I.N. Landing Craft Wing are preparing themselves strenuously, in company with Indian troops and the Air Forces, for amphibious warfare. R.I.N. Signals officers and ratings have rendered important service as part of the world-wide network of Allied Naval communications. H.M.I. Naval Dockyard in Bombay has worked to capacity since the war broke out, repairing and refitting Indian and Allied warships.

These are instances of the R.I.N.'s contribution to the war at sea. And it is not only men who have made that contribution. In the past year, girls of the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing have taken over an increasing share of work in shore establishments. They hold responsible posts that will fit them well for employment in post-war civil life.

H.M.I.S. "SHIVAJI" TO TRAIN ARTIFICERS

H.M.I.S. *Shivaji*, the new Mechanical Training Establishment of the Royal Indian Navy near Poona, will be commissioned early next year. Its main activity will be the training of artificers, but new entry reserve engineer officers and engine room ratings selected for promotion to officer rank will also receive training there.

In the Navy, the artificers who drive the engines are just as much in the front line as the seamen, signalmen and wireless telegraphy ratings. If they fail, the ship ceases to move. They are in fact the most vital and important part of the ship's company in that a mistake or failure of one man in the engine room spells defeat in battle.

The four main categories to be trained at *Shivaji* are engine room, ordnance, electrical and shipwright artificers.

Between them the different types of artificers in a ship are responsible for the efficiency and maintenance of engines, the armament, electrical machinery—including anti-magnetic mine and gun control equipment—and also for the water-tight integrity of the ship and the control of damage. They are a vital part of the ship's company during action. They keep the ship manoeuvrable and the guns in working order. Finally, their duty is to prevent any damage from becoming so serious that the ship sinks or becomes a total loss.

An artificer's work is therefore essential to the fighting efficiency of his ship, and it is for this reason appropriate that the new Mechanical Training Establishment, situated in the heart of Maharashtra, home of generations of men of indomitable courage, should be named after the famous Maratha warrior king, Shivaji.

INDIA'S NAVAL NURSES

"R.I.N.N.S."—these initials represent another addition to India's wartime Services and are thought of with gratitude and affection by officers and ratings of the Royal Indian Navy. They designate the Royal Indian Naval Nursing Service, whose progress is another sign of the expansion of the Navy's Medical Branch.

India's Naval nurses—most of them volunteers from civil hospitals—are responsible for the care of Naval personnel undergoing treatment in the R.I.N. hospital in Bombay. In time, as the Service grows, they will be posted to other bases as well.

Smart and Efficient

These nurses look smart and efficient, and so they are, as their patients testify. On their uniform they display the initials R.I.N.N.S., and a Surgeon-Lieutenant's distinction lace is worn on their epaulettes. Their caps—the conventional muslin squares—are decorated with the Navy's emblem of a "foul" anchor and crown.

Close to the up-to-date and spacious R.I.N. hospital are their quarters, which are equally modern and comfortable.

The Service consists of Indian and European nurses, and is doing a grand job of war work in human "dry-docking and repairs."

C.-IN-C. VISITS INDIAN TROOPS IN CEYLON

TO see for himself the part being played by Indian troops in the defence of Ceylon, the Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, made a one-day air trip of more than 1,500 miles.

The C.-in-C., accompanied by Lt.-Gen. H. E de R. Weatherall, G.O.C., Ceylon Army Command, inspected a guard of honour provided by men of a docks operating company which is working day and night to load and unload supplies for use against the Japs. The company includes men from the North-West to the south of India and 15 languages are spoken in the unit.

Anti-Aircraft Gunners

General Auchinleck then saw Indian heavy anti-aircraft gunners, most of whom are Madrassis, and have quickly learnt the intricacies of this type of gunnery. Their sight is extraordinarily keen, and aircraft identification they take in their stride.

His Excellency also visited Indian and East African troops in an Indian General Hospital, housed in magnificent new buildings provided by the Government of Ceylon.

At a workshop of the Indian Engineers, the C.-in-C. saw machinery of all kinds dismantled, repaired, assembled and tuned up for use against the enemy.

Officers and N.C.O.s of the Indian Army stationed in and near Colombo assembled at the main hall of the Royal College to great General Auchinleck. He shook hands with each of them after inspecting a smart platoon of the 17th Dogra Regiment.

His Excellency concluded his one-day tour by visiting canteens for British and Indian troops.

SARI, NO CAP : W.A.C.(I) CONCESSION

Indian members of the W.A.C. (I) wearing saris need not now wear caps. This was officially announced by the Countess of Carlisle, Chief Commander of the Corps, while addressing the Rawalpindi Company, at an inspection parade during her recent tour of units in Northern India.

The concession has been made in deference to the wishes of Indian girls who are unaccustomed to headgear and have found this European covering uncomfortable and unmanageable.



Vice-Admiral Godfrey pins the D.S.M. on the chest of R.P.O. Mashkur Ali Khan.

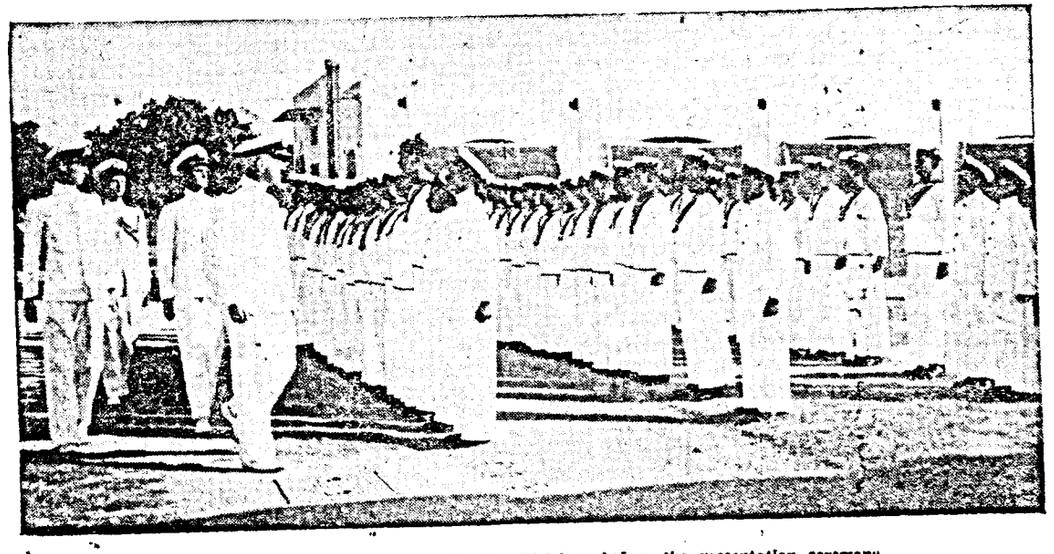
VICE-ADMIRAL GODFREY PRESENTS D.S.M.

R.P.O. Mashkur Ali Khan Decorated

VICE-ADMIRAL J. H. Godfrey, C.B., R.N., Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy, presented the Distinguished Service Medal to Able Seaman (now Regulating Petty Officer) Mashkur Ali Khan at a ceremony in Delhi on October 29. The award was for courage, enterprise and devotion to duty in the Persian Gulf operations of 1941.

Vice-Admiral Godfrey first inspected Sunday Divisions, the ship's company being drawn up outside the R.I.N. Communications barracks at Naval Headquarters. After the inspection he presented the medal.

While serving in H.M.I.S. *Lawrence*, Able Seaman Mashkur Ali Khan took a leading part in boarding Axis vessels skulking in Bandar Shahpur harbour. He helped to save three ships from being scuttled and fought the flames aboard one of them. Earlier, together with his First Lieutenant, he captured the crews of two Persian gunboats.



Vice-Admiral Godfrey inspecting Sunday Divisions before the presentation ceremony.



Gen. Auchinleck recently visited the Aligarh Muslim University which provides facilities for air training. Picture shows C.-in-C. and (to his left) the Nawab of Rampur, leaving the airfield with University and District Officials.

MILITARY STUDIES IN INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

A WRONG impression has been given by recent publication in the Press of extracts from a circular on military studies, sent recently by the Government of India to Indian Universities. Taken from their context, these extracts appeared to indicate that the Government not only do not fully appreciate the value of a diploma in military studies but also disapprove of such studies in the universities.

The contrary is the case. Government stated in the circular that they had been considering the extent to which instruction in military science is proving of practical value to prospective army candidates and how they could help universities if assistance is required. Such instruction is considered useful and Government put forward certain suggestions and comments to promote uniformity and to achieve more substantial results with a greater economy of effort.

Government do not consider it desirable that a university should attempt to carry out the functions of a junior staff college as it is not possible for a university to be up to date with the necessary details. A university should be concerned more with education than with training and should deal with principles rather than with details.

For this reason the Government recommended that there should be no attempt to link the curriculum and syllabus for a diploma of military studies with the instruction given in the U.O.T.C., which is designed to enable students to qualify for certificates "A" and "B". The object of the former is the study of higher military science whilst that of the latter is elementary instruction in the A B C of drill, weapon training and tactics. Government, whilst aware of the value of each, do not suggest that membership of the U.O.T.C. should be made compulsory for students of military studies.

Theoretical Knowledge

Possession of an approved diploma, the Government go on to say, and the Certificate "B" of his university would obviously be factors in favour of a candidate before a selection board but the Government cannot adopt the suggestion that a diploma should be accepted in lieu of a period of training at an O.T.S.

No reference has been made in the Press to the Government's opinion that the holder of a diploma would have a background of useful theoretical knowledge, which would be of help to him in a military career, but that the candidate has still to be made into an officer who can lead and command troops.

Government emphasise the importance of a good knowledge of colloquial English and go on to recommend certain subjects in which instructions should be given. They consider that they can best render aid to universities through the U.O.T.C. At the same time they are ready to help by advice as to syllabus and organisation of studies and as to a suitable bibliography.

From the above it will be seen that the Government of India not only approve of military studies in universities but are also willing to give, as before, practical help in this connection.

THE INDIAN AIR TRAINING CORPS

By a new and important extension of the activities of the Indian Air Training Corps, cadets will be a stimulus to further progress.

Inaugurated in 1943, the I.A.T.C. is now functioning in nine Indian Universities with the object of providing pre-entry training for cadets who wish to join the flying branch of the I.A.F. The courses last for three months during which the candidates receive instruction on ground subjects, such as the theory of flight, aircraft recognition and aero engines.

In future, however, they will also be given experience of a minimum of three hours' actual flying; and those cadets who show marked enthusiasm will spend more time in the air. It is hoped that this chance of getting off the ground will be a stimulus to further progress.

Noteworthy Innovation

The scheme is being worked out in conjunction with the Air Force and the four Flying Clubs of Madras, Bihar, Bombay and Northern India, who will provide the 'planes and the instructor pilots.

With this noteworthy innovation, training in the I.A.T.C. should now approximate more closely to service conditions, which will be of considerable help in the careful selection of cadets, and will help to eliminate wastage of personnel. For the cadets themselves it will mean an increase in interest and excitement, and will be a foretaste of the vivid and adventurous career for which the I.A.T.C. aims to prepare them.

INDIAN WAR RECORD IN PICTURES

INDIAN Army units in Italy, the Middle East, India and Burma have already contributed the nucleus of what will eventually be a complete photographic record of the Indian forces at war.

Units and individual officers and men are sending their photographs to General Headquarters for the India Command Public Relations Directorate's war scrap book. Many of the photographs were taken by amateurs.

The commander of the Central India Horse, now in Italy, has placed his regimental scrap book at the disposal of the Directorate. The 35th Indian Garrison Company, Paiforce, has sent pictures of Air Chief Marshal Trenchard inspecting the garrison after its defence of a frontline airfield

Frontline Pictures

An officer of an Indian division in Italy who is an amateur photographer has sent frontline pictures of the King with Indian troops during his recent tour. The Commandant of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles Regimental Centre, Abbottabad, has offered pictures of the Prime Minister of Nepal presenting the Order of the Star of Nepal to Jemadar Gaje Ghale, V.C., the first Gurkha serving in His Majesty's Forces to wear the star.

The 13th Indian Light A.A. Battery, the first to be formed under the Madrassi scheme, has sent a group photo which also includes members of the 3rd Madras Regiment who served with the battery during August 1942.

Units or individual officers and men, whether on Indian or British Service, are invited to send their photographs. They should be addressed to Public Relations Directorate, G.H.Q., New Delhi.

BRITISH METEOROLOGICAL EXPERT ARRIVES IN INDIA

Sir Nelson Johnson, Director, Meteorological Office, Air Ministry, has arrived in India on a mission on behalf of the Royal Air Force. His purpose is to consider how the meteorological staff, now becoming available in the West, can be best employed to work for the Air Forces, in conjunction with the India Meteorological Department, said a Press Communique issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on October 17.

NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL'S MESSAGE ON ALLIED SUCCESS

THE following messages were sent by H. E. the Viceroy to the Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command, and the Secretary of State for India respectively, on behalf of the National Defence Council on October 9, 1944:

"The National Defence Council at its 16th session to-day asked me to convey to you their heartiest congratulations on the success of the campaign against the Japanese."

"The National Defence Council at its 16th session to-day asked me to convey to General Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery their heartiest congratulations on the liberation of France, Belgium and Luxemburg. The Council also desired similar congratulations to be sent to General Maitland Wilson on the successes in the Italian Campaign. I shall be grateful if you will pass these messages on through most appropriate channels."

H.E. the Viceroy has received the following replies from (i) Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia Command, (ii) General Eisenhower and (iii) General Maitland Wilson:

(i) "Please thank the National Defence Council for their message of congratulations which is much appreciated. We have every reason to hope for increased success in the future."

(ii) "I thank you and the National Defence Council for the gracious message to me and Field Marshal Montgomery who will, I know, feel the same deep appreciation as I do on behalf of the gallant troops of the United Nations in this theatre."

(iii) "Convey to the National Defence Council my sincere thanks for their message of congratulations during the recent fighting in front of the Gothic Line. Indian troops have shown fine fighting qualities, tenacity and daring and their morale has been splendid in spite of harsh weather conditions."

AUSTRALIAN OFFICERS MEET C.-IN-C.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 557)

Later they went on a sight-seeing tour to the Qutab Minar, Tuglakabad, Nizam-ud-Din's Tomb, the War Memorial and the Red Fort. The party also visited the Delhi Cloth Mills and a clothing factory.

At a garden party at the Viceroy's House the Australians met the three Indian V.C.s who were decorated by the Viceroy on October 24, and talked to many other Indian soldiers.

The Australians are shortly leaving on a tour of India Command centres and forward areas of the 14th Army.

QUEEN MARY READING INDIAN WAR RECORD

One of the first copies of *The Tiger Kills*, the full-length volume recording the part played by Indian divisions in North Africa, was delivered to Queen Mary, whose interest in the Indian Services is well known.

Mrs. Eva Bell, the London commentator, in an exclusive message to a recent issue of *Fauji Akhbar*, the Indian forces' weekly journal, says: "I have permission to tell you that Her Majesty Queen Mary has read *The Tiger Strikes* with great interest and admiration. Her Majesty is reading *The Tiger Kills* with equal interest and everincreasing admiration.

"I know how proud Indian soldiers and their families will be to know that Her Majesty has read these books, which record deeds of Indian soldiers in African campaigns."

Mrs. Bell's Weekly Letters

Mrs. Bell is the widow of a retired colonel of the Indian Army. She has been writing a weekly letter for *Fauji Akhbar* since 1924. Her news of Indian troops in the United Kingdom has for long been a feature of the paper. Mrs. Bell has just retired from this work.

The Tiger Kills is a sequel to *The Tiger Strikes*, an account of the Indians' place in the first part of the African campaign. Both books, sponsored by the India Command Public Relations Directorate, are among the most vivid of the war and have been enjoyed by thousands of readers in India and overseas.

HER LATE ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS BEATRICE

The following telegrams, said a Press Note issued from the Viceroy's House on October 29, have been exchanged between H.E. the Viceroy and H.M. the King-Emperor on the death of Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice:

From H.E. the Viceroy:

Humble duty. On behalf of the Princes and people of India, I beg, with great respect, to offer Your Majesty and the Royal Family most sincere sympathy on the death of Her Royal Highness Princess Beatrice.

From H. M. the King-Emperor:

I sincerely thank you for the message of sympathy which you have sent on behalf of the Princes and people of India which I deeply appreciate

SIR A. R. DALAL ON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

First Meeting of Industries Policy Committee

THE first meeting of the Policy Committee on Industries was held in the Reserve Bank Building, Bombay, on October 26, under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Rustomji Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India. The Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member) and the Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) were also present.



Sir Ardeshir Rustomji Dalal.

Following is the personnel of the Policy Committee: Sir George Morton, Dewan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar, Sir Shri Ram, Mr. Bishen Das Basil, Mr. Dwarka Basi, Sir Padampat Singhania, Sir Frederick James, Mr. G. L. Mehta, Dr. John Mathai, Mr. M. A. Ispahani, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, Mr. J. R. D. Tata, Sir V. T. Krishnamachariar, Sir Padamji Ginwala, Mr. N. R. Sarker, Mr. G. D. Birla, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Sir Mirza Ismail, and Mr. Ghulam Mohammed.

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL'S SPEECH

Addressing the meeting, Sir Ardeshir Dalal said:

"In welcoming you to this, the first meeting of the Policy Committee on Industries, I would like to explain that my main object is to seek your advice, guidance and co-operation on the lines of industrial development in India. As to the magnitude of such development both necessary and possible in this country, there can, I fancy, be no controversy. We are determined to foster an intensive development of industries in this country, both because such development is essential if the national wealth is to be increased and also because a country without highly developed industries has, under modern conditions, no political future. We have necessarily set a high target before us, but I am sure you will agree that it is a practicable one.

"It is possible that in some highly industrialised countries some sections of public opinion may have misgivings, regarding the repurcussions on their own trade and industry, of large-scale industrial expansion in India. Such misgivings, if they exist, could only be based on an imperfect appreciation of economic force. Prosperity like peace is indivisible, and the awful tragedy of this war will have been enacted in vain if powerful countries still believe that they can lay the foundation of permanent happiness for themselves on the backwardness or exploitation of less fortunate countries.

Secretary of State's Views

"It is a matter of gratification to observe that so far as His Majesty's Government are concerned, there is a clear appreciation of our needs and aspirations. You will doubtless recollect that in a speech which he made in the Institute of Export in July 1943, the Secretary of State for India stated as follows:

'India has in her all the latent resources, both of raw materials, of power, and of human skill to make her a great industrial country. To develop her own industries to the fullest possible extent, both for their own sake and in order to raise the standard of living of her agricultural population, is the natural and proper ambition of all patriotic Indians. Its fulfilment will no doubt involve a very considerable diversion in the character of India's import trade. It is for us

not to deplore that diversion because it may affect some old-established British export lines, but to be before others in recognising its character and taking full advantage of it.

'In the immediate post-war period our opportunity for co-operating most effectively with Indian requirements and Indian aspirations will no doubt be in the provision of the capital goods that India will most urgently need for industrial re-equipment and expansion. Later on, it may lie more in the provision of such more specialised type of consumers' goods as the growth of India's prosperity may call for. In either case, our success will correspond directly to the extent to which our trade policy is one of wholehearted co-operation in India's effort to raise herself on to a higher plane of economic efficiency.'

"In his speech at the East India Association meeting the other day, Mr. Amery repeated these views by saying:

'I can say that the Government of this country only wants to see Indian industry developing to the fullest. The last thing industrialists of this country have in mind is the idea that the British exports industry can best prosper by India being held back in the course of her industrial development.'

Industrial Planning

"I suggest that as practical men we accept these assurances and go ahead with the problem of industrial planning.

"You have already been supplied with a copy of a letter addressed by the Government of India to all Provincial Governments on the organisation which it is proposed to be set up for dealing with this question. Apart from this Policy Committee, which will advise on the broad lines of policy and examine progress from time to time, it is proposed to set up a number of panels for investigating the problems of the development of individual industries or groups of industries.

"The Provinces have also been requested to set up industrial committees of their own, and after a rapid survey, if possible, to make proposals regarding the development of such industries as they regard as suitable for their areas. This will ensure that the special needs and requirements of the different areas are not overlooked. The recommendations of the panels and of the provincial committees will be co-ordinated in preparing the final proposals. It is not intended that industrial expansion and development, for which schemes are ready, should be held up pending these investigations. I shall deal with the question of immediate expansion of industries at a later stage.

"The list of panels as circulated is a tentative one; it is likely that several industries have been omitted. It has also been criticised on the grounds that the panels are too large and comprehensive and require to be broken up. I shall be grateful for your advice in this connection.

"It is proposed to attach to each of these panels one or more experts, according to requirements, as well as a permanent officer of the Planning Department. In the case of a large number of industries included in the panels, there is already a vast mass of very valuable information available in the Supply Department, or in the Industries and Civil Supplies Department. The Hon'ble the Supply Member has promised to accord the fullest co-operation in supplying the information at his disposal, as well as to make the services of experts, many of whom are in his Department, available for the panels.

Control Board

"The panels will be constituted in close consultations with the Supply, and Industries and Civil Supplies Departments. It may be necessary to obtain the services of some experts from outside to deal with certain industries.

"No panel will be necessary in the case of the cotton textile industry, as in the control board which has been set up by Government, there is already a fully representative organisation in existence which is capable of dealing with the question of the cotton textile industry in India, and I very much hope that they will agree to do so. In other cases, where there are fully representative and authoritative associations representing any particular industry, the same procedure may be followed.

"There are certain other industries, as for instance cement, where the problems are fairly straightforward and the information already at the disposal of the Supply Department is so complete that it may not be necessary to constitute any panel. On the other hand, there are industries involving highly complicated technical processes where it is felt that no single expert could give advice which would be of more than very general assistance regarding the setting up of such industries. This applies, in particular, to industries such as shipbuilding, aircraft, manufacture of large electrical machinery, plastics, dye-stuffs, etc. Individual firms will make their own arrangements with regard to such industries. The panels for such industries can only make general recommendations as regards their feasibility and location. It is the intention not only to start new industries and to maintain and expand the existing ones with the help of imported machinery, but to make, as far as possible, such machinery in this country.

"The question of small scale and cottage industries also requires careful consideration. A machinery for dealing with many of the small scale industries already exists in the Supply Department, and their problems will have to be considered in consultation with the Department. Regarding cottage industries, we will have to rely to a large extent on the recommendations of the Provincial Industrial Committees.

"In view of the somewhat poor response to inquiries from Government regarding industrial matters received so far, I may perhaps explain that, in the formation of this committee and the panels and in any statistics that may be required, no trade or business secrets are wanted and no confidential information likely to be of use to others need be disclosed. The only object is to try to help industrial development.

"In the absence of sufficient data, it has not been possible to make any provisional reservation for capital equipment other than electrical.

"The war in Europe, however, is drawing to a close, and industrial capacity in the U.K. and U.S.A. will be gradually switched over to civilian requirements. There is likely to be a tremendous rush of orders from the devastated countries and elsewhere on the books of both these countries. It is necessary for capital goods as early as possible. The Government of India is considering this problem and will shortly issue a Communique on the subject.

"Government do not propose to canalise the orders, which may be booked direct. But the orders should be registered with Government. Such registration will be provisional for a period not exceeding three months from the date of application, and if no objection is raised by Government within that period, the orders will automatically be confirmed, if this has not already been done specifically. A report will be required as soon as firm orders are placed. If no such report is received after six months of confirmation of the orders by Government and extension is not requested, the registration will be cancelled.

Import Controls

"It is proposed to set up organisations, both in the U.K. and U.S.A. and possibly elsewhere, to help industrialists in this country in securing these goods. Those who fail to register their orders will receive no assistance from Government, and will not be eligible for import licences, for the import of such goods into India.

"It may be argued that the procedure here suggested is inconsistent with ordered planning. There will, however, be control, although at this stage it will be a general and negative control. Registration will be refused in cases where the industrial development contemplated is obviously uneconomic, or leads to over-concentration of certain industries in certain areas. The existing capital issues and import controls will also, of course, remain. In the beginning and before an industrial plan is ready, it is not advisable to hold up development. The volume of industrial development contemplated is so large that no great harm can be done by booking orders at this stage when the volume of capital goods available in many categories is not likely to be equal to the demand.

"In the case of orders on the U.S.A. Dollar Exchange will, of course, have to be arranged. The volume of dollars available till the termination of the war and until some arrangement is made, if possible, for a dollar loan, is likely to be limited, and to that extent it will be necessary to see that the more essential requirements for capital goods receive priority over the less essential ones. The exact procedure to be followed will be laid down in a notification to be issued shortly.

Question of Controls

"We have so far dealt with the more immediate problems of industrial development. Among the larger issues of policy is the question of controls. There is at present a control over capital issues as well as imports. Planning by its very nature implies control and regulation, and even after the war, so long as planned development is the objective, controls must remain. Legislative measures will have to take the place of the present controls imposed under the Defence of India Rules, when the existing emergency is over. Among such measures as will engage the attention of Government will be one of licensing of factories, as it would be difficult to secure the very important objective of regionalisation of industries without licensing. This is, however, a long-term measure.

"Many constitutional questions of great importance will arise after the war in dealing with industries *vis-a-vis* Provinces as well as States. It is premature to discuss those problems now, but it may not be out of place to state that if centralised control is desired, it can best be achieved by agreement and co-operation with the parties concerned.

"There are several important issues on which it has not yet been possible for Government to arrive at final decisions. One of the most important is the question of protection and tariffs. Without trenching upon the domain of my colleagues, I can say that the Government of India are contemplating a liberalisation of the existing protection policy and the elimination of some of the conditions attaching to the grant of protection to industries. They are also contemplating a permanent tariff board. A suggestion for consideration is the creation of a permanent board on a very high level which would deal not only

with questions of protection to industries, but also with all questions of industrial development, investment, licensing of factories, etc., in the post-war period. The Provinces and States would, of course, have to be represented on a body like that.

Government and Industries

"I shall now deal with the question of the extent of the participation of the State in industries. Here, again, no final decisions have been arrived at. I shall welcome the advice of this Committee on the problem of the extent to which they would desire the participation of the State in the ownership, management and control of industries. There are some industries, such as munition works, which in the national interests should be owned and managed by the State. There are other industries which may be required in the national interests but may not afford sufficient attraction to private capitalists. In that event, they will have to be owned by the State, but the management may be either by the State or by private firms. The sulphate of ammonia industry may be a case in point.

"Then there is the important field of public utilities. I shall be glad of the views of this Committee regarding the ownership and or management or control of public utilities, distinguishing existing companies from those to be started in the future. That a larger measure of control over public utility undertakings will have to be exercised by the State in the future in the public interest appears to be obvious. Important basic industries, or these utilising scarce natural resources, or tending to be monopolistic, may also have to submit to a measure of control by the State. State control may vary from a very strict one to a small participation in capita and the appointment of one or more directors on the board. The device of mixed corporation with Government holding a part of the capital and one or more seats in the directorate is widely adopted in the U.S.A. The Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and the South African Iron and Steel Corporation are examples of such bodies in the British Commonwealth.

Public Interest, the Criterion

"Another very well-known device is, of course, the method of public corporations like the London Transport Board, the London Port Authority, the B.B.C., etc. Some of you may have views on the suitability of one or more of these devices for the management and control of such industries as require a larger measure of regimentation in the public interest.

"These are all questions of long term post-war policy which will increasingly engage the attention of Government. I only mention them here to invite expression of your opinion. Speaking for myself, I am not the captive of any theories or 'isms'. The final criterion, to my mind, is public interest. From my experience as an industrialist, I am convinced that private initiative and enterprise have still a large part to play in the development of industries. Even an avowedly Socialist body like the Fabian Society have stated in their last report on "Government and Industry" that it is the quality of management and the policy pursued in such matters as prices and production that matter, and not who owns or controls the industry. One thing, however, appears to be certain that the State will have to take more active part and exercise a greater measure of control over industries than it has done in the past.

"The object of industrial development is not to make the rich richer but the country richer. I may conclude in the words of Mr. Lyttleton, Minister of Production, spoken as long ago as April 1942: 'I am a businessman, or rather I was a businessman and I suppose I am by definition a capitalist. But if anybody asks me whether there should be more socialism or more capitalism, more Government planning or more free enterprise, my answer would be that there ought to be a great deal more of both. The essence of Democracy should be a balance between the organising power of the State and the driving force of the free individual.'

Indian States

"I owe a sincere apology to the representatives of the Indian States for not having expressly mentioned them in considering the problems of industrial development. What applies to the Provinces applies in a large measure also to the States. Planning to be any use has to be done for the country as a whole and if any part of it, such as the States, stands out, it will render the whole problem immensely difficult, if not impossible. Subject to the settlement of certain outstanding issues, the question of industrial development of the States may be regarded as part of the problem of the industrial development of the country. The question for consideration is one of the extent to which, and the machinery under which, the States could bring themselves under the same controls regarding industrial development as exist in British India."

After the opening speech by Sir Ardeshir Dalal, a general discussion followed on the problems involved in industrial development. The import of capital goods and the cost of such imports and the question of the method of planning were among the main subjects dealt with.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, in winding up the discussion, dealt with the various points raised during the session.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 639)

POST-WAR PLANNING

General Policy Committee Meeting

THE third meeting of the General Policy Committee (Post-war Reconstruction) was held in the Reserve Bank Building, Bombay, on October 27 and 28. The Hon'ble Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, presided. The Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member) and the Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar (Supply Member) were also present.

Among those who attended the meeting on the first day were: Begum Shah Nawaz, Mr N. R Sarker, Mr. G. D. Birla, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Mr. A. D. Shroff, Sir Datar Singh, Sir K. Ramunni Menon, Mr. C. S. Rangaswami, the Economic Adviser; the Governor of the Reserve Bank and representatives of the Commerce, Finance, Planning and Development, and Industries and Civil Supplies Departments, Provincial Governments and Indian States.

Sir Jeremy Raisman gave an account of the *modus operandi* and the conclusions reached at the United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference at Bretton Woods, U.S.A. In the discussion which followed, the Finance Member explained that there was no foundation in the rumour that the Government of India had under contemplation a change in the exchange value of the rupee

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL'S SPEECH

Addressing the meeting Sir Ardeshir Dalal said:

At the outset, I must apologise for having placed the Yellow Book on Reconstruction Planning in your hands so late that you have naturally had not enough time to study it. I can only say that it is due to circumstances beyond my control and not to any lack of effort on my part to bring the Report to your notice at the earliest possible moment. The Report was actually drafted before I took office. Since then, it has undergone considerable changes at my hands as well as those of other Members of the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council. It has had to be frequently amended to meet the views of the different Members of the Reconstruction Committee, with the result that the final draft was not ready till October 20, and it had then to be printed and circulated. As it surveys the whole field of planning which it might not be possible to cover in the short time at our disposal, I shall be happy, if the members so desire, to convene another meeting at an early date for fuller consideration of its contents.

The present Report does not embody the final decisions of Government on the various important issues of policy which are discussed in it, although it represents the common denominator of agreement so far arrived at in the Reconstruction Committee on materials already at their disposal. As explained in the Report, a great many subjects which are considered here are the responsibility of the Provinces or the States, and a final decision can only be arrived at after close consultation with them when their plans are ready.

The discussion to-day may be confined to general principles, leaving the details to be considered at a later meeting, if desired.

Provincial Plans

The first report on reconstruction planning dealt with the progress of planning mainly at the Centre. Since then, a Report by the Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research on the Development of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry and reports on the technological possibilities of agricultural development, development of fisheries, development of forests and forest policy, development of industries for war supplies and metallurgical and engineering industries, road development, development of civil air transport and the conclusions of the Technical Conference on Electric Power Development have been issued by the Central Government.

Some of the Provinces are making substantial progress with their plans, Bombay taking the lead with a Rs. 150-crore plan covering a period of five years. I have recently toured the U.P. and the Punjab. A five-year plan involving an expenditure of considerably over Rs. 100 crores is under preparation by the U.P. The Punjab has under consideration many schemes of hydro-electric development involving large expenditure, and should be able to put up a large, well-considered plan at an early date. I have not been able to visit other Provinces, but am aware that Madras is earnestly pursuing this matter and is well ahead with its plans. Bengal and Bihar are devoting considerable attention to the subject. Many of the larger States, such as Hyderabad, Mysore, Travancore, and Jaipur are also busy with their plans.

Many important constitutional questions are likely to arise in the dealings of the Central Government regarding development matters with the Provinces and, still more so, with the States. For the present, our plans are necessarily based on the existing constitution and for India as a whole. Whatever the shape of the future constitution, on all important questions affecting the

general welfare, the separate States or units of a federation should come together and decide on a joint policy in the common interests. Such has been the experience of the U.S.A. and I have no doubt that such will be the experience of India also. In connection with an important projected hydro-electric work, the Government are considering the establishment, by agreement between the Centre, the various Provincial Governments and the States concerned in the project, of an authority on the lines of the T.V.A., to whom the necessary powers will be surrendered by the agreeing units.

At this stage, I may perhaps anticipate a criticism on the whole set up of the plan as envisaged in this Report. The criticism may be to the effect that the plan does not set out, except in general terms, the objectives or targets, the periods, of time within which the targets are to be reached, and the financial or other means of reaching them.

Bombay Plan

I should very much have liked to proceed on such *a priori* lines—which are the lines of the Bombay Plan. A plan on such a basis is likely to inspire enthusiasm and capture popular imagination. Government have, however, decided to proceed on the more prosaic and less inspiring, but what to them appear to be the preferable course of first ascertaining the definite increases which can be brought about in the individual output of goods and services which constitute a normal national income, and then formulate the target in respect of the income as a whole. This obviously is a more difficult thing to do and requires elaborate preparation and detailed inquiries. Such detailed inquiries have been in progress and reports on the extent to which progress has been achieved in different directions have been published and will continue to be published.

At the same time, it may be asserted that the planning that is now going on is not merely a patch-work quilt with no definite central idea unifying the whole. Once the plans of the Centre as well as of the various Provinces are ready and the existing and potential financial resources of both have been fully explored, it would be possible to put up a co-ordinated plan with definite targets.

It may be argued that this is not only psychologically less sound, but also likely to be financially very conservative. To that, it may be pointed out that the Hon'ble the Finance Member has made an estimate of Rs. 1,000 crores which on certain assumptions may be available for the first five effective post-war years. Half of this is estimated to be revenue surpluses and half loans, Provincial as well as Central. Out of this amount, about one-third to one-half may be required for the Centre. The rest should be available to the Provinces, but only after the Provinces have themselves explored their own existing and potential resources to the full. Of the exact principles on which the amount available for the Provinces will be distributed among them, it is difficult to say anything at this stage, but very roughly and subject to a number of adjustments, a population basis may be regarded as the fairest. Apart from this figure of 1,000 crores, the Finance Member considered that an equivalent sum could be raised by private investment during the period.

Training Overseas

If these estimates materialise, even approximately, it seems to me that the real bottle-neck will not be the finance, but the availability of capital goods and of trained personnel and the ability on the part of the country to expend the money in the most effective manner. The question of personnel is of the greatest importance and requires the most urgent consideration. The whole question is being investigated by both the Centre and the Provinces.

It is proposed to expand the existing training institutions and to set up new ones. A new scheme for sending a considerable number of students for training overseas is being worked out. We are at present thinking in terms of some 500 students in the first instance. We hope to get most of the training schemes in hand before the end of the war and especially to send students overseas at an early date. There is also under consideration the setting up of central institutions for training, such as a Central Technological Institute on the lines of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, an All-India Medical Centre, and perhaps a Central Agricultural College. These institutions, and possibly others, will be mainly for post-graduate and higher training.

I do not expect complete agreement with all that is stated in the pamphlet, but I trust that it would be regarded as a reasoned statement of our aims which, if achieved, will change for the better the whole face of India. The success or failure of these aims depends in a large measure on public co-operation, and I feel that, to a body like this, I can confidently appeal for such co-operation.

On October 28, the Committee discussed certain principles and objectives of post-war planning as outlined in the Second Progress Report (see page 585), which had been placed before the Committee.

The session ended with the closing remarks of Sir Ardeshir Dalal who replied briefly to the various points which had been raised during the discussion.

FIFTEEN-YEAR RECONSTRUCTION PLAN FOR INDIA

Second Report on Post-War Planning

An all-India plan on broad lines for a period of 15 years, except in certain subjects requiring a longer period, together with a detailed phased plan for the first five years, is to be prepared by the Centre, the Provinces and the States, say the Reconstruction Committee of the Viceroy's Council in their Second Report on Post-War Planning. The Report does not embody the final decisions of Government on the various issues of policy discussed in it, but is intended to provide guidance to planning authorities as to the lines on which they should proceed.

The Report emphasises the need for planning for India as a whole and for the exercise of far more initiative by the State than hitherto in matters of social reform and economic development. Planning for India as a whole does not prejudice the constitutional issue, for whatever form the future constitution may take and whatever the measure of Provincial and State autonomy under it, it is clear that all the Provinces and States will benefit by the measures taken for the development of the country as a whole. The Report does not, therefore, anticipate future constitutional changes and proceeds on the basis of the existing constitution, emphasising, however, at each stage the importance of concerted all-India action in the various fields of economic and social activity.

General Objectives

The Centre, besides initiating plans and policies on subjects for which it is responsible, will provide expert advice to Prvoinces and States and endeavour to ensure a common policy on important questions; ensure interchange of information and possibly of technical advice between Provinces and States; co-ordinate plans and priorities; provide financial advice and assistance where considered justifiable or necessary; assist in the procurement of plant or technical staff; and co-ordinate scientific research and experiment, expert and technical investigations, training of technicians, etc.

The ultimate object of all planning must be to raise the standard of living of the people as a whole and to provide employment for all. To this end, the purchasing power of the people must be raised by increasing the productivity of labour and by a simultaneous re-organisation and development of agriculture, industry and commerce and a big extension of social services.

The objective will not be fully achieved unless steps are also taken to ensure an equitable distribution of the wealth that is produced. Planning as contemplated in the Report will inevitably have this result by securing to the poorer classes various amenities, free or at reduced cost, such as education up to the age of 14, medical relief, water supply and other public utility services including electric power. Nevertheless more positive measures must be taken. Labour must get a fairer deal in the form of reasonable wages, maternity and sickness benefit, holidays with pay and such like provisions. Efforts must be made to ensure that the amenities provided under the plan work more especially for the benefit of the scheduled and backward classes so as to raise them to the level of their fortunate fellow citizens.

Long-term Objectives

The main objectives of planning are both short-term and long-term. The former which must necessarily be in line with the latter, include:

(i) the resettlement and re-employment of defence service personnel and of labour displaced from war industry, military works, etc.;

(ii) the orderly disposal of surplus military stores and equipment, land and buildings;

(iii) the conversion of industry from war to peace;

(iv) the removal or adjustment of controls to suit peace conditions.

Of the long-term projects, there are some which involve large-scale capital expenditure and are of basic importance to development as a whole. These are:

(i) the development of electric power as the basis of industrial development and to a lesser extent of agricultural development, pump irrigation and rural industry;

(ii) the development of industry with special reference to the production of capital goods and the consumer goods required by the bulk of the population, and also the maintenance and development of small-scale and cottage industries;

(iii) the development of road communications and transport service on a comprehensive scale, especially in rural areas;

(iv) the improvement of agriculture and with it the development of irrigation, anti-erosion measures, land reclamation, etc.

It will be by the increased revenues resulting from expenditure on the above items that comprehensive social services on modern lines must eventually be financed.

The foundations of improved education, health and housing must be laid at the same time, not only because these services are essential for the welfare of the community, but also because at least a substantial development of education, particularly of technical education, is a necessary pre-requisite for the development of industry, agriculture, etc.

Wartime Finance

The Government of India have fully recognised that if any effective development was to take place in the post-war period large sums were bound to be involved. The magnitude of wartime finance has taught both governments and the public to think in terms of figures which would have frightened an older generation. The main resemblance between wartime and reconstruction finance is that they both necessarily involve a continuously high level of taxation and of borrowing if the objective is to be attained.

The Government of India have estimated, on the basis of certain assumptions, that a round figure of Rs. 1,000 crores might be available for the first five-year period. Approximately half of the total will consist of Central Revenue surpluses which would be available for financing such Central development projects as are not financed by loans, and for making grants recurring or otherwise. The remainder represents the total loans which, it is felt, might be raised by the Centre and by Provinces, in the five-year period. The figure of Rs. 1,000 crores is exclusive of amounts which could be raised from the market for private investment. This may be of the same order as that estimated for Government borrowings.

Capital Expenditure

It is suggested provisionally that plans should be drawn up on the assumption that capital expenditure on electrical development, roads and irrigation should be financed out of loans, and in the case of industrial development out of private capital except where participation by the State is decided on. Recurrent expenditure by Governments on these services, including the service of loans raised on their account, and of expenditure on social services, should be financed out of revenue (which will improve almost immediately consequent on the discontinuance of special wartime expenditure and then increasingly with the completion of the development of roads, irrigation, electrical schemes, etc.), or out of assured recurring grants from the Centre.

A full development of social services must eventually depend on an increase in the national income and consequently in Central and Provincial revenues. Provided the development of industry and agriculture, and increase in taxation are on a comparable scale, there is no reason why the provision of comprehensive education, for instance, over the whole of India should not become possible within a period of some 40 years as contemplated in the Central Advisory Board's scheme.

For the effective utilisation of finances for post-war development, it is essential to have a large staff with a high degree of technical training. Indeed the paucity of such staff may prove a real bottle-neck in the initial stages. Steps should, therefore, be taken as early as possible for:

(a) the provision of scholarships and studentships, both in India as well as overseas, for the training of scientists, technicians, educationists, doctors, administrators, etc.:

(b) the expansion of existing institutions and the provision of additional institutions for training in all branches of science, engineering, agriculture, veterinary, medical, forestry, etc.

Industrial Development

It is an essential feature of planning that both agriculture and industry should develop side by side. Agriculture is and will remain India's primary industry, but the present unbalanced economy has to be rectified by an intensive development of the country's industries. Power, which is the basis of all industrial development, should have priority over others. Important capital goods industries like the iron and steel industry, the heavy engineering industries, the machine-tool industry, the heavy chemical industry and fertilisers, considered essential for national purposes, should also have preference in the beginning over consumption goods industries. It is necessary however to develop the consumer goods industry, side by side, because the additional purchasing power created by the development of capital goods industries must find an outlet in the consumption of goods.

The Report refers to the possibility of marrying cottage production with organised industry as has been successfully done in Japan but without the horrors of exploitation that the ruthless capitalist and military creed of that country brought into being. The finances necessary for the development of industries during the first five years are expected to be adequate for its expansion to the largest extent that is feasible, the limiting factors being the availability of the necessary technical personnel and capital equipment, as well as the willingness of the people to submit to the necessary controls and taxation.

Rural and Agricultural Development

Rural development must be dealt with as a whole and measures should be adopted to ensure that the social and material advancement of the people proceeds simultaneously on all fronts. The measures must include improved methods of agriculture, better livestock, organised marketing, the relief of indebtedness, anti-erosion, irrigation and reclamation measures, and reforms in land tenure and the laws of inheritance. In addition, improved communications, medical and health services and education are essential.

The Report suggests that the most serious obstacle to advancement in the villages is the absence of any real leadership and self-help in the villages themselves. The fostering of panchayats, co-operative societies, etc., may do much to improve conditions and to ensure co-operation between the various classes. The ex-soldier may be invaluable and the village schoolmaster should become the leader of village uplift and village society.

The present agricultural population in most parts of the country is too large for the land available and there is an urgent demand for new land or irrigation of existing land. It is suggested that a land development organisation should be set up in each province to carry out on a comprehensive scale various measures to bring new land under cultivation and increase the output from existing cultivation. An important subject connected with land development is the question of erosion. It is not a matter merely of dealing with badly eroded areas but of ensuring proper anti-erosion measures and controls over the whole of British India and the States including forests, waste land and cultivated land.

Animal Husbandry

A special committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has already drawn up a plan for the development of agriculture and animal husbandry. It aims at increasing production by 50 per cent in ten years and ultimately by 100 per cent in 15 years. The capital expenditure envisaged is Rs. 1,000 crores over the latter period with a recurring annual expenditure of Rs. 25 crores. The plan makes recommendations regarding improvements in every field of rural activity and is under examination by Provincial Governments.

The Central Advisory Board of Education's Scheme of compulsory, universal and free education in primary and middle stages is being actively examined in consultation with Provincial Governments. It is anticipated that the plans to be drawn up will be modelled on this scheme with such variations as provinces find necessary.

A Committee on Public Health is preparing a comprehensive and rational public health and medical services policy for the country as a whole; and its report will form the basis of future policy.

A great deal of social and economic progress can be achieved through a well-planned development of the broadcasting and village cinema and loud-speaker services. The Report makes recommendations about their organisation on an all-India basis. Considerable emphasis is also placed on the development of a healthy co-operative movement.

It is recognized that the volume of employment will depend on the industrial, agricultural, public works and financial policies. Taken as a whole, they involve the most efficient utilisation of natural resources and manpower and it will be one of the main concerns of the Central, Provincial and State Governments to see that such policies are actively pursued. The success of such policies will, however, largely depend on the contentment, health and efficiency of labour and steps will be taken to improve employment services and to extend social security, welfare and health schemes.

India's Share in World Shipping

A good system of communications will be essential for the economic and social development of the country. The development of road communications wil be pursued vigorously, so as to secure a uniform and co-ordinated road system over the whole country. A programme for the rehabilitation and re-organisation of railways has been drawn up and will be put into execution as early as practicable. Inland water transport, postal services and civil aviation facilities will also be extended considerably.

The acquisition of an adequate share in the world carrying trade should be the aim of post-war shipping policy and to this end steps should be taken to secure for Indian shipping an increased share of the coastal trade, a substantial share in the near trade, a fair share in the Eastern trade, and a fair share also in the trade between India and the United Kingdom, the Continent of Europe and North America.

NATIONAL WAR FRONT

Sir Sultan Ahmed Refutes Allegations

SPEAKING in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 1 on an adjournment motion moved by Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party, to discuss the "Governor-General in Council's failure to prevent the misuse of the National War Front organisation by the Punjab Premier for propaganda in favour of a political party," the Hon. Sir Sultan Ahmed, Member for Information and Broadcasting, said:

Sir, I will be very brief in my reply. The Hon'ble the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party started by saying that there were three points raised in this motion for adjournment. The first was that the National War Front was not doing its legitimate business, secondly that the National War Front was being misused for a certain purpose and thirdly that this action has created hostility amongst a large section of the people.

Provincial Leader's Assurance

Now, Sir, as regards the first, that the National War Front is not doing its legitimate work, I do not find one word of it in the adjournment motion itself. Then we come to the misuse. I submit it is purely a question of fact. I will deal with that later. As regards the allegation that it has created hostility amongst a large section, I do not see much evidence of that from the Punjab members of this House, at any rate. Therefore the main point to be considered is this: whether the National War Front organisation has been misused for the purpose of propaganda in favour of or for collection of funds for a political party, namely, the Zemindara League. Sir, when I came to know of an allegation of this kind sometime ago, about a couple of months ago, I got into touch with the Provincial Leader and I got his assurance at that time that there was no such misuse at all, and having been satisfied on that point, no further action was taken or could be taken.

Sir, there has been a certain amount of, call it squabble, call it controversy, call it by any name you like, but undoubtedly there has been a violent difference of opinion between the Hon. Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana, the Premier, who is also the National War Front Leader, and the Muslim League Party in the Punjab. Therefore, I beg of the House to consider this question from an absolutely disinterested point of view. I have got a categorical



Sir Sultan Ahmed.

denial of this allegation from the Government of the Punjab and also from the Hon'ble Malik Khizar Hayat Khan Tiwana and I feel happy that in this House that denial has been supported by at least three Punjab members of this House, one of them being the District Leader himself present at certain meetings and he has given us what I submit convincing reasons for supposing that the National War Front organisation was not being misused at all. Unless and until this House has got some more clear and more cogent evidence before it, I feel confident that this motion for adjournment will not be accepted.

The National War Front, I have been assured, has nothing to do with the Unionist Party or the Zemindara League, and no funds of the National War Front have been used for the Zemindara League and no funds of the Zemindara League or the Unionist Party have been used for the National War Front organisation. The practice has been, long before the present Premier came to office, since the time of Sir Sikander Hayat Khan, that when the Premier used to go about the province various addresses used to be presented to him by public bodies, for instance, the local bodies or the Khalsa Defence League or the Soldiers' Board and so on.

(NAWABZADA LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: Were any addresses presented on behalf of any political party?

(THE HON. SIR SULTAN AHMED: If there was any political party, addresses must have been presented and if there was none no address was presented. But it is well known that under the auspices of the National War Front organisation no purses were received by him as leader of the National War Front. The fact is that a National War Front meeting was held, addresses were presented to him by the

different leaders of the different sub-divisions or districts if held in the divisional headquarters, and then after that was over his reply was given. Another address was then presented to him on behalf of the District League or the Khalsa League or the Defence League or, for the matter of that, the Zemindara League; and after one meeting was over the other meeting was held, and so on. But it is not correct to say that any National War Front platform was utilised for the purpose of collecting any funds for the Zemindara League or for promoting its interests. In fact I am assured that no funds are actually collected in the meetings of the National War Front at all.

NAWABZADA LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: I did not say that.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: I say that, and it is for the House to consider the effect of my submission, that no funds were collected at any meeting of the National War Front either for the Zemindara League or any other league; nothing was done which would in any way show the connection of the two. But it is true that the Premier happens to be the provincial leader also and therefore an address must be presented to him as such on behalf of the National War Front. But I do not see how it can be suggested for a moment that the National War Front organisation was being utilised for purposes of propaganda in favour of or for the collection of funds for the Zemindara League.

Certain quotations have been cited by my Hon'ble friend, the Deputy Leader of the Muslim League Party. I could also come with hundreds of quotations of that kind from papers supporting a different organisation. There is such a controversy going on between the different sections of the people there that I think the House would be well advised not to attach the slightest importance to these quotations. Quotations from the *Zemindar*, I say with great respect to my Hon'ble friend, the Deputy Leader, and also to the owner of that paper when he comes to support this motion, cannot be of much value as there are other people who know the position of that particular paper. It is a party paper and as such is bound to support that party and the party will support it. I have no doubt that the language which has been used here by my Hon'ble friend, Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, might have been used in some of the articles there; but that will not in any way influence the members of this House to accept this motion.

Now, it is true that the Unionist Party is entirely for war efforts; and the Zemindara League also is entirely for war efforts.

MAULANA ZAFAR ALI KHAN: Sir, on a point of personal explanation . . .

SIR SULTAN AHMED: I am not giving way, the time at my disposal is short.

The National War Front is of course cent per cent for war efforts but there are other things in the Zemindara League and the other Leagues which do not find a place in the National War Front organisation. And therefore it has been pointed out to me on the authority of the Punjab Government that some people who were members of the National War Front left it and went over to the Zemindara League. That shows that the two bodies are absolutely separate and one has nothing to do with the other except that the aims and objects, so far as the war efforts go, are the same. But there are so many other things which you find in the other organisation which are not covered by the National War Front.

I submit, Sir, that the fact that addresses from different organisations were presented to him at a meeting where an address was presented to him as Leader of the National War Front will not in any way militate against his acting as Premier so far as the other organisations are concerned. I therefore submit to the House that the House will take a dispassionate view of this matter and not be influenced by the party troubles that have unfortunately arisen in that province, and I do submit that the House will answer this motion by rejecting it.

INCOME-TAX NOTICES

A New Ordinance

A Press communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on October 2 stated:

By a recent decision the Bombay High Court, differing from the Lahore and Allahabad High Courts, held certain notices issued under the Indian Income-tax Act to be invalid on the ground that the time for furnishing returns allowed under those notices fell short by a day of the time required by Law to be given. As a result of the decision a large number of assessments made in pursuance of such notices were exposed to challenge involving serious loss of revenue.

An Ordinance has therefore been promulgated to cure the technical defect which according to the Bombay High Court existed in the notices. The Ordinance validates all such notices published or issued under the Income-tax Act or the Excess Profits Tax Act whether before or after the commencement of the Ordinance and provides further that no such notices shall be called in question in any proceedings, criminal or otherwise, on the ground merely that a period insufficient in law was given by such notices.

PLENARY SESSION OF TRIPARTITE LABOUR CONFERENCE

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar's Address

PRESIDING over the sixth plenary session of the Tripartite Labour Conference which began in New Delhi on October 27, the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, suggested changes in the constitution of the Conference to remove organisational weaknesses discovered during its two years' existence.

He suggested that the subjects coming within the purview of the Conference should be divided into two lists: List 1 to contain all general subjects, such as terms and conditions of employment, labour legislation and questions relating to social security, and List 2 to include all concrete questions relating to labour welfare and administration of labour laws.

Here is the full text of Dr. Ambedkar's speech:

"It would be a very easy and very pleasant task indeed for a Chairman if his opening address was to be nothing more than a word of welcome and a word of gratitude to the delegates assembled Convention requires that a Chairman must say something more than that. For a Chairman of a Labour Conference such as ours, it is not an easy matter to select his theme. This is not a Conference of philosophers. He cannot therefore play the part of the pedant and get over without committing himself to anything by indulging in intellectual acrobatics which have no social import. This is not a Conference for the reconstruction of society, and the Chairman cannot fill his opening address with a disquisition on capitalism, socialism, communism and other ideologies

"This Conference is not a meeting of an ethical society, and the Chairman cannot choke it up with appeals to righteousness to stir up emotions. I do not know what is the best pattern for an opening address by a Chairman to the Labour Conference. For the purposes of this session I propose to get over the difficulty by using this opportunity of addressing you on matters of practical importance. I feel sure that you will not regard it as inappropriate.

"There were two matters in particular which I wanted to cover which must be of interest to members of the Conference. Firstly, to give you a survey of the action taken by the Government on various questions which have been discussed by the Conference and the Standing Labour Committee and secondly, to refer to the



Dr. B. R Ambedkar.

defects in the constitution and procedure of the Tripartite organisation.

"The first subject proved too large for this address. It would have taken a good lot of your time which having regard to your Agenda, you could ill-afford to give. I therefore thought of presenting you a separate Memorandum (See Page 595) on the subject. You are already in possession of that Memorandum. It may be taken as part of my address.

Tripartite Organisation

"There remains the other subject for me to deal with, namely, the question regarding the organisation and procedure of this Conference. We have had two years' experience of the working of the Plenary Conference and the Standing Labour Committee. That experience cannot be called long. But short as it is it has revealed some weaknesses in the organisation we have set up. The following appear to me rather serious:

(1) There is no clear cut division of functions between the Conference and the Standing Labour Committee. It is not that one is a deliberative body and the other is an executive body. Both are deliberative.

(2) There is overlapping in the work they do. The subjects discussed by both are of the same nature.

(3) There being no clear cut distinction between general questions and concrete problems the discussions in the Conference as well as in the Committee become too general to be of much use, even concrete problems are treated as though they were general.

(4) There is no machinery to undertake the task of examining special problems and reporting upon them. It is an important function and there must be some machinery charged with such a function.

(5) There is no machinery to study and advise on problems of labour welfare, industry by industry.

Separate Secretariat

"A second weakness in the organisation has also been pointed out by some members of the Conference. It relates to the non-existence of a separate Secretariat for the Labour Conference. It is suggested that there should be a separate Secretariat to take over the following functions namely:—

(a) Preparation for meetings (i.e., circulation of papers, informing members of the dates fixed, agenda, etc.);

(b) Preparation of records of the proceedings;

(c) Propaganda by issue of leaflets and tours;

(d) Financial administration such as payment to staff and T.A. bills of non-Government members attending the Conference;

(e) Research and collection of information to serve as a basis of discussion and recommendation; and

(f) Check-up of the action taken by Government.

"There are two other matters which have given ground for complaint. One of these relates to the preparation of the Agenda of the Labour Conference and the Standing Labour Committee. The existing procedure in the matter of the Agenda is said to be defective in two respects. First, members of the Conference and the Committee are not entitled to have matters in which they are interested placed on the Agenda at their will. The second defect is that the Memoranda which accompany the Agenda reach members so late that they have no time to study and be prepared to make their contribution to the discussion of the subject.

"Another matter which has given rise to complaint relates to the representation of the different parties on the Conference and on the Standing Labour Committee. The employers have stated that it is objectionable on the part of Government to reserve three seats for employers to be nominated by Government. It is their contention that the Employers' Federation of India and the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers are fully representative of the employer class in India and that therefore the provision for appointing more employers' representatives by nomination is unnecessary. The method of representation of labour is also said to suffer from one defect, namely, that among those who represent labour there is none who belongs actually to the labouring classes.

"You would naturally want me to tell you what action Government is prepared to take in this connection. I am anxious on my part to do whatever is possible to see that the Labour Conference functions properly and does not suffer in its working by reason of any serious fault in its mechanism. You will, however, realise that these are matters which require exploration and examination before any definite conclusion can be arrived at. Of these weaknesses some have been examined by Government and decisions have been arrived at. There are some which have not been examined as yet. I will first refer to those about which Government have after consideration come to a decision. They include the question of separate Secretariat, Agenda and Representation.

Only an Advisory Body

"The demand for a separate Secretariat for the Labour Conference is, I think, based on the analogy of the I.L.O. Government think that there is a fundamental difference between the I.L.O. and our Tripartite Organisation. It lies in the fact that the I.L.O. is an independent organisation created by the Peace Treaty of Versailles. Its conventions and recommendations place definite obligations on all State-Members and failure to fulfill those obligations involves certain definite international liabilities. It is regulated by its own constitution and it is not subject to any outside authority. In addition to this the I.L.O. has its own finances and is not dependent upon any other State or Department for meeting its liabilities when it chooses to undertake any new function.

"Our Tripartite organisation is not independent in the same sense as the I.L.O. is. It has no independent finances and it cannot have any. It is only an advisory body which is constituted to advise the Government of India on such matters as are referred to it for advice. It cannot take decisions. To allow it to do so would be to permit it to usurp the functions of the Legislature. Having regard to these differences, it is obvious that an independent Secretariat for the Labour Conference will create friction between Government and the Conference.

"It is true that the efficiency of the I.L.O. is derived largely from its Secretariat and its capacity to turn out good material. Nonetheless the Government of India feel that all the functions of that Secretariat with the exception of 'Research and Information' are such as can be discharged efficiently by the Labour Secretariat of the Government of India. As regards 'Research and Information' the Labour Department have certain proposals under consideration for reorganizing its activities which *inter alia* will set up necessary machinery for research and collection of information on labour and allied questions. For those reasons the Government of India do not at present favour the idea of a separate Secretariat for the Tripartite Organisation.

Right To Fix Agenda

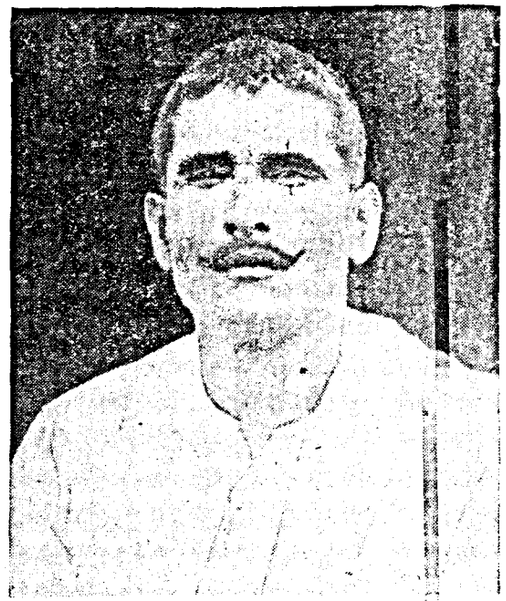
"On the question of the Agenda, Government have considered the matter. The decision of the Government is that they cannot surrender the right to fix the Agenda of the Conference. The Conference is not a Legislature. It is an advisory body and Government must determine what are the matters on which they need advice.

"There is another reason why Government cannot surrender the right to frame the Agenda for the Conference. It is not possible for Government to accept an obligation to place a subject on the Agenda unless Government are in a position to furnish the Conference factual statements which would help and guide members in their deliberations and have had time to examine the matter sufficiently enough to be able to express their own view. It is not possible for Government to be ready with such statements without sufficient notice. But, subject to their right to frame the Agenda, Government are prepared to revise the procedure.

"According to present procedure the Labour Department invites suggestions from Governments, and Employers and Workers Associations after the conclusion of a meeting from which



Kulada Bibi, who has been nominated to the Coalmines Labour Welfare Advisory Committee by the Government of India.



Rama Dhar Singh, 25-year-old miner from C.P., has also been nominated by the Government of India to represent workers on the Coalmines Labour Welfare Advisory Committee.

items are selected for an Agenda for the next meeting. There is no consultation between Government and the Conference or Committee before a decision is taken by Government in selecting items for the Agenda. Under the revised procedure Government will be ready to receive suggestions for the Agenda whenever Government, and Employers and Workers Associations may desire to send them in. In case they fail, Government will invite suggestions from delegates at each meeting.

"The other change which Government are prepared to make is that while the final decision will be that of the Government all suggestions received for the framing of the Agenda will be placed for discussion at each meeting. This will give Government the opportunity to consult the wishes of the members and the members will have the opportunity to express their preference. I am sure you will agree that this is a great improvement on the present position.

"On the question of the composition of the Conference I admit that there is much force in the suggestions which have been made. If the two employers' organisations are fully representative, as they claim to be, obviously there is no justification for nominating employers. In the same way, it is necessary to see that the working classes should have not only their problems of employment and welfare considered but that they should be trained to do their things for themselves. This can be done by allowing working men and working women to participate in all Labour Conferences. You must have been aware of the fact that recently when the Coalmines Welfare Committee was organised Government took the step of appointing one working man and one working woman in the coalmines to represent the working classes on the Committee.

Constitution: Some Suggestions

"Government are therefore not averse to making appropriate changes in the composition of the Conference. At the same time, Government feel that matters relating to changes in the composition of the Conference are not very urgent and we could well afford to postpone their consideration for a while. As I said in the course of the first Tripartite Conference, we must not keep on pulling out the plant every now and then to see whether it has taken any roots. This is a way to kill the plant.

"I will now turn to the weaknesses in the constitution of the Conference. This is a weakness which Government admit is a serious one and must be remedied. But Government had not arrived at any conclusion. Government would welcome any suggestions that you may like to make. May I place before you my views on the matter? I would suggest the following changes in the constitution:

(1) To divide the subjects which come within the scope of the conference into two lists. List I will contain all general subjects such as (a) terms and conditions of employment; (b) labour legislation; and (c) questions relating to social security. List II will include all concrete questions (a) relating to labour welfare and (b) relating to the administration of labour Laws. Subjects in List I will be assigned to the Plenary Conference, which I would propose should be called by the simple name Labour Conference dropping the words 'Plenary and Tripartite' which has made the name too mouthful.

(2) To create a new body to be called Labour Welfare Committee and assign to it subjects following in List II.

(3) The composition of the Labour Welfare Committee will be as follows: (a) members elected by the Standing Labour Committees; (b) one representative of the Employer and one representative of the Employees drawn from organised industries and municipal and other bodies employing labour; (c) persons nominated by Government from non-officials; (d) persons representing Indian States; and (e) representatives of Provincial Governments.

(4) There will be no change in the Standing Labour Committee so far as its composition is concerned. Only there will be a change in its function. It will not be a deliberative body. It will be the agent of the Conference and will perform such of the duties assigned to it by the Conference from time to time.

"Under this arrangement there will be three organs: the Conference, the Standing Committee and the Welfare Committee.

"The functions and powers of the Conference will be as follows:

(1) To make recommendations to Government on matters relating to terms and conditions of employment and



A worker's child being examined by a nurse at a clinic run by a South Indian cotton mill.

all questions of social security which might be placed on the Agenda.

(2) To refer any such matter or any part of such matter to the Standing Labour Committee with a direction: (a) to make a report back to the Conference, or (b) make a recommendation to the Government.

(3) To appoint an *ad hoc* committee to consider any matter on the agenda with a direction to report: (a) to the Conference; (b) to the Standing Labour Committee with a view to making recommendation to Government and making a further report to the Conference.

"The functions and powers of the Standing Labour Committee will be such as may be conferred upon it by the Conference. It will be an agency of the Conference and will derive its authority from the Conference and will, with the exception mentioned below, conduct no business other than that which has been delegated to it by the Conference. It will, however, be open to Government to refer a matter on which they want an early opinion direct to the Standing Labour Committee for report either to the Conference or the Government. But ordinarily any report or recommendation of the Standing Labour Committee should be made to the Conference.

"The powers of the Standing Labour Committee will be:

(i) to make recommendations or reports to the Conference on matters referred to it by the Conference;

(ii) to make recommendations to Government in a case in which the Conference has directed the Standing Labour Committee to report to Government; and

(iii) to appoint *ad hoc* Committees to consider any matter on the Agenda with directions to report to the Standing Labour Committee.

Labour Welfare Committee

"The functions of the Labour Welfare Committee will be confined to matters relating to Labour Welfare and administration of Labour Legislation. Its powers will be to consider all such matters placed before it and to make recommendations to Government.

"These are my proposals for removing the organisational weaknesses that have been discovered. They are put before you in my personal capacity as a Member of this Conference. No greater weight attaches to them though the approach, if I may say so, seems to me to be sound. I propose to have these proposals examined departmentally in the Government of India. If they are found to be workable the conclusions of Government will be placed before you for your deliberation. This organisational grievance I regard as a very serious matter and I promise to treat it as a matter of urgency.

"I have said all that need be said on matters relating to the Conference, reconstituting the various bodies which form parts of it, recasting its procedure and reforming its personnel. I hope you will agree that Government are keen on improving its efficiency and enhancing its utility.

Labour Legislation

"There are two other matters to which I would like to make a reference. The Legislative Programme of the Labour Department for the coming session of the Assembly comprises three Bills: Factories Amendment Bill, otherwise known as Bill for Holidays with Pay: Trade Unions Amendment Act which seeks to provide for the recognition of Trade Unions; and Payment of Wages Amendment Bill. The first two have been considered by the Conference. The third Bill is a new Bill and is, according to our procedure, laid before you for discussion.

"As you are aware the 26th Session of the International Labour Conference was held at Philadelphia in U.S.A. in April last. There was an Indian Delegation which attended the Session. It was led by Sir Samuel Runganadhan, High Commissioner for India in London. The Government of India were represented by the Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Prior, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Labour Department. Mr. D. G. Mulherkar represented the Employers and Messrs. Jamnadas Mehta, M.L.A., Mr. Aftab Ali and Mr. R. R. Bhole represented the Employees. You will, I am sure, join with me in recognizing publicly the splendid part that they played and the great work they did at the Conference. The delegation has made a report which is placed before you. I am sure you will find it both interesting and instructive.

"There is nothing that I can usefully add. I will therefore conclude with thanks for your having given me a patient hearing. Let us begin the work which is awaiting us."

DR. AMBEDKAR'S MEMORANDUM

An indication of the action taken by the Central Government subsequent to the discussions at the Tripartite Labour Conference and its Standing Labour Committee is given by Dr. Ambedkar, in the Memorandum placed before the Labour Conference. Among the subjects covered by the Memorandum are: Settlement of trade disputes, Labour welfare, Food supplies to industrial labour, Fair wage clause in Government contracts, Labour Officers in industrial undertakings, Employment exchanges, Industrial statistics, Involuntary unemployment, Labour representation, Social Security, Dearness Allowance and Industrial canteens.

The consensus of opinion at the third meeting of the Standing Labour Committee in May, 1943 was that the Government of India should proceed with the establishment of employment exchanges. A proposal to prohibit advertising for technical personnel was also put forward by the Central Government and was generally approved. Both these proposals have been given effect to. Exchanges have been opened at a number of centres to provide employment to technical personnel.

General opinion at this meeting was also in favour of (1) a certain degree of continuity being maintained in the adjudication machinery, and (2) the whole policy regarding trade disputes being laid down *de novo* and a new Act being enacted in place of the existing Trade Disputes Act, 1929, encouraging internal conciliation. While proposals for fresh legislation are under consideration the Central Government have brought item (1) to the notice of the Provincial Governments who have, as far as possible, maintained continuity. Government have under consideration proposals for fresh legislation on the question of trade disputes.

Bevin Training Scheme

Another question which arose out of this meeting was that organised labour should be associated with National Service Labour Tribunals for selecting Bevin trainees and that Tribunals should consult prominent Trade Unions in their area at the time of selection of candidates. This method of selection is under consideration for selecting trainees. On the labour welfare side the Committee's suggestion that the Welfare Fund should be built up for housing, education, etc., is under Government's consideration, but, the Memorandum says, there are great difficulties in devising any practical scheme.

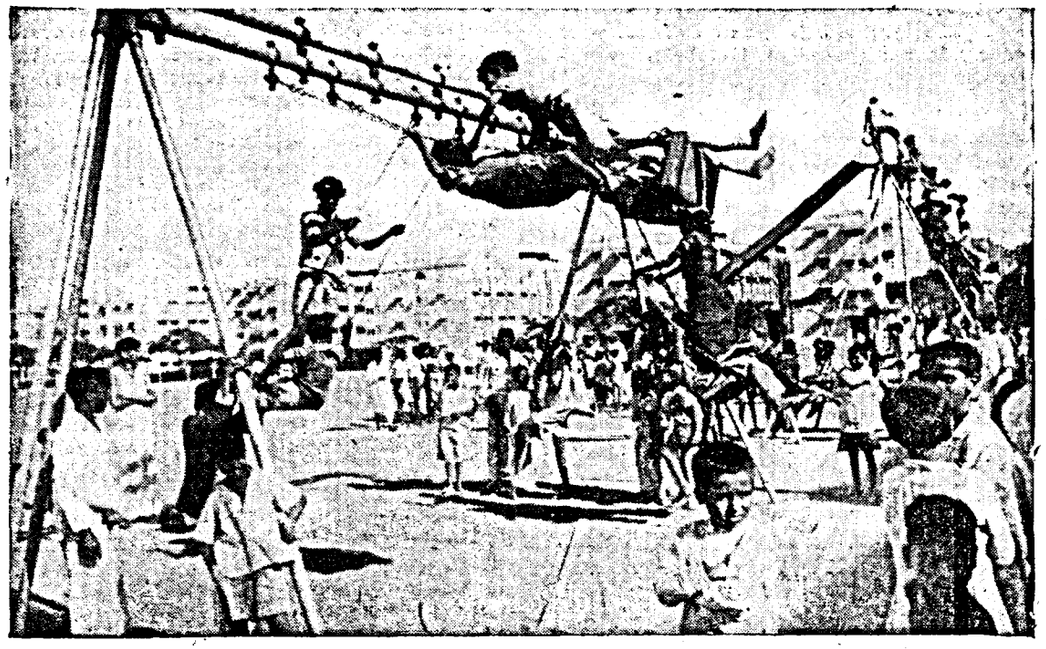
At the second meeting of the Standing Labour Committee in January, 1943, a resolution was adopted recommending distribution of food supplies to industrial labour through employers' grain shops, associations of approved and recognised trade unions or other representatives of employees in the working of such shops, encouragement of co-operative grain shops to industrial labour, etc., etc. These recommendations are brought to the notice of the appropriate authorities. With the introduction of rationing in large cities and towns, and its gradual extension to smaller towns, the measures recommended are now out of date. But the rationing authorities use the agency of the employers' grain shops as much as possible.

Fair Wage Clause

The Memorandum further refers to a fair measure of agreement reached at the third Standing Labour Committee meeting in May, 1943, on the provisions of fair wage clause in Government contracts. It is stated that the Central Government have already "a fair wage" clause in the Central P.W.D. contracts.

In their own undertakings, the Central Government are giving effect to the recommendation that labour officers should be appointed as far as possible for all large industrial undertakings. Provincial and State Governments and private employers have also been requested to do so and, according to a report received from the Indian Mining Association, they have appointed personnel officers.

The Committee's suggestion that matters under dispute should be specified in the order referring dispute to adjudication, and the Defence



A playground among the workers' tenements in Bombay—a very live place out of school hours.

of India Rule 81 (a) has been amended accordingly. The attention of the Provincial Governments has been drawn to the desirability of making a provision in the adjudication order that workers whose conduct is under investigation or who are immediately connected with the dispute shall not be discharged by the employer except for misconduct unconnected with the dispute or with the approval of the adjudicator or other prescribed authority. The question of collecting statistics of wages and earnings and hours of work for selected industries on an all-India basis is under active consideration.

Involuntary Unemployment

The fifth Labour Conference at its session in September, 1943, unanimously agreed that some kind of relief was necessary for cases of involuntary unemployment of workers due to shortage of coal, raw materials, etc. The Central Government have issued a circular letter to Provincial Governments advocating the adoption of principles set out therein, for grant of relief, and this letter has also been brought to the notice of the States concerned. At this session Labour had put in a strong plea for adequate representation in legislatures, local bodies and statutory committees, etc. The matter is under consideration and the Memorandum points out that labour is represented on "Central" official committees such as the Reconstruction Policy Committees, Central Health Survey and Development Committee and Central Food Advisory Committee.

Wages and Earnings

This session adopted a resolution for the setting up of a machinery to investigate the question of wages and earnings, employment and housing and social conditions generally with a view to providing adequate materials on which to plan a policy of social security for labour. In pursuance of this resolution a Labour Investigation Committee has been constituted and its report is expected to be received by the middle of 1945.

The Memorandum points out that Provincial Governments and States, and employers and workers associations were consulted about introduction of standing orders in industrial concerns employing 250 or more persons, and that there was general opposition to take statutory powers under the Defence of India Rules. It is proposed to enact permanent legislation on the subject at an early date. In the meantime the two all-India bodies of employers have been requested to frame standing orders forthwith without waiting for legislation to be completed. A memorandum

designed to be of assistance to the employer in framing the Standing Orders has also been circulated.

The discussions of Statutory Wage Control at the fourth Standing Labour Committee meeting resulted in a fair measure of agreement regarding the form of machinery for the regulation of wages. The question as to what industries may be covered by legislation was on the agenda of the present session of labour conference.

Industrial Canteens

Committees have been set up in four Provinces, *i.e.*, Bombay, the United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar, to investigate the question of standardisation of definitions of trades and the recommendations of these committees are awaited. As suggested at this meeting representatives of labour are associated with the Central Exchange through the Employment Committees constituted for advising National Service Labour Tribunals in regard to the administration of Employment Exchanges.

The Memorandum further refers to the steps taken by the Central Government to encourage workers' canteens in industrial concerns. They have sanctioned rent-free accommodation and free furniture and cooking utsensils in canteens run by Government or by the workers or by both jointly and, under certain conditions, even in the canteens run by contractors. Supply of rationed foodstuffs to canteens outside the rations has also been sanctioned.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSIONS

The organisation of employment services in the transition from war to peace and the participation by Governments in a health insurance scheme (given below) for industrial workers were among the important subjects discussed by the Labour Conference.

The Health Insurance Scheme costing Rs. 2½ crores per annum and intended to provide security of income during sickness and cure and prevention of disease to industrial workers in India, was submitted by Prof. B. P. Adarkar, Officer on Special Duty in the Labour Department, and Member, Labour Investigation Committee, Government of India.

The scheme, which has been published in the form of a report, is both compulsory and contributory, and applies, in the first instance, to three groups of factory industries, viz., textiles, engineering and minerals and metals—covering nearly 60 per cent of factory workers. In due course, it will be extended to other industries. There will be some "scheduled exceptions" where the scheme will not apply. The employer's contribution will be Rs. 1-4 per month per worker, while the worker's contribution will be respectively annas 12, 8 and 4, according as the worker belongs to the category of Permanent, Temporary or Casual.

Although in pursuance of earlier decisions of Labour Conferences and Governments, the contribution is bipartite, Prof. Adarkar has made out a strong case for Government participation in the scheme and made an alternative recommendation that the State in India should contribute annas 8 per worker towards which the Government of India should contribute annas 2 and Provincial Governments annas 6. Correspondingly, he has suggested a relief of annas 6 for employers and annas 2 for workers in each category.

Total Budget

The total cost to Governments, if they contribute, will be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 72 lakhs per annum (on the basis of 12 lakhs of workers) of which the Central Government will have to pay Rs. 18 lakhs per annum, while Provinces will have to pay the balance of Rs. 54 lakhs on a *pro rata* basis, according to the number of insured workers. The total budget of the scheme is expected to be about Rs. 252 lakhs per annum.

The employer will collect his own and the worker's contribution and for this purpose the "stamped card system" prevalent in other countries will be adopted. As regards benefits, medical benefit, including free medical attendance and treatment, almost without limit, will be given. Cash benefit will be subject to certain conditions regarding "qualifying" and "waiting" periods. Additional benefits will be available at a later stage, when the scheme is stabilised.

On the financial and actuarial side, the scheme will be centralised so as to facilitate "pooling of risks". The Budgetary Method, which is simpler, more economical and administratively easier to manage than the Capitalisation Method will be followed. There will be a Government "guarantee" in the event of deficits arising. There will be two reserve funds, viz., the Contingency Reserve Fund, to meet occasional fluctuations in budgets, and the Epidemic Reserve Fund to meet the special contingency of epidemics. The author of the report has also recommended periodical actuarial valuations to feel the pulse of the scheme from time to time.

The administrative machinery will consist of a Statutory Corporation with a Central Board, a number of Regional-Provincial Boards, and a network of Local Committees in industrial centres,

with functions appropriate to each body. The medical organisation will be based mainly on the principle of a salaried Medical Service, although the Panel System will prevail in certain limited number of cases.

It is recommended that the medical organisation should be largely independent so as to meet the special requirements of industrial workers and that to prevent laxity in certification there should be medical supervision and sick-visitation. To deal with disputes and offences, a judicial machinery has also been proposed in the report.

The report recommends that in view of the comparative failure of the Maternity Benefit Acts and of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and also in view of their great financial bearing upon Health Insurance, Maternity Benefit should be provided on an insurance basis in conjunction with Health Insurance, and the Workmen's Compensation Act should be scrapped and replaced by a scheme of insurance against industrial disability.

According to Prof. Adarkar, "Health Insurance is traditionally as well as organically the most important measure of Social Insurance. It attacks the twin Giants of Want and Disease from amongst the Five Giants mentioned by Sir William Beveridge in his monumental report (the other three Giants being Ignorance, Squalor and Idleness). In India, where all these Giants flourish unabatedly, the beginnings of social insurance date from the passing of the Workmen's Compensation Act and the various Maternity Benefit Acts; but both these measures fall short of the true ideal of social insurance. Of all the occupational and social risks covered by social insurance, that of sickness undoubtedly possesses the greatest social interest. And yet, in India, unfortunately, the proposal of health insurance has had a long and somewhat chequered history."

Historical Background

Referring to the appointment of the Health Survey and Development Committee by the Government of India for preparing a nationwide programme of health, the author says that it adds interest to the question whether health insurance is the best method of tackling the problem of industrial health. "It is clear," he says, "that it is not merely a matter of providing medical treatment, but that some mechanism is necessary to secure the worker against Want during spells of sickness. The function of health insurance is stated to be threefold: Restoration, Compensation and Prevention."

The Royal Commission on Labour had strongly emphasised the need for a scheme for providing medical care and income security during sickness to industrial workers.

Prof. Adarkar was appointed to prepare the scheme in pursuance of the decisions of a series of Ministerial Labour Conferences and the Tripartite Labour Conference. The author was assisted in his task by a Panel of Advisers representing employers' and workers' associations and consisting of Sir Shri Ram, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Mr. J. C. Lancashire, Mr. J. M. Garrie, Mr. A. H. Bishop, Mr. S. C. Joshi, Mr. S. S. Mirajkar, Mr. V. M. Tarkunde and Mr. G. Lobo. He was also assisted by an Actuarial Advisory Committee consisting of Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan (Chairman), Mr. S. N. Vaidya and Mr. B. K. Shah.

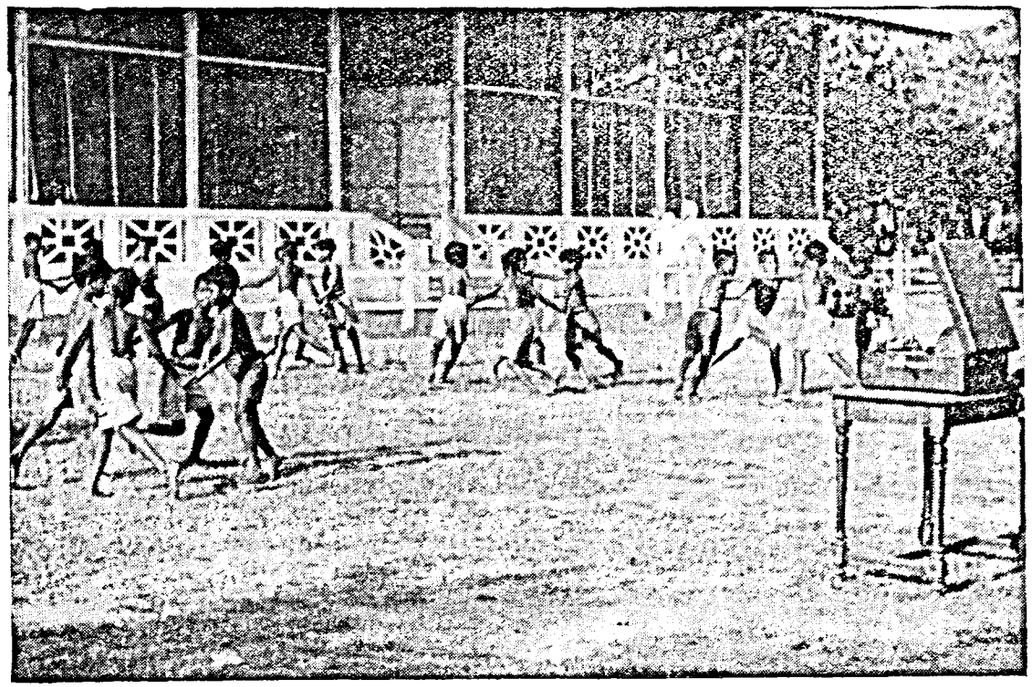
Tribute to Prof. Adarkar

The Conference paid a tribute to Prof. B. P. Adarkar for his able and comprehensive report. The Conference discussed only one question arising from the scheme, namely, that of State contributions to the Insurance Fund. As stated above Prof. Adarkar has recommended a State contribution of annas 8 per worker per month towards which he proposes that the Provincial Government should contribute annas 6 and the Central Government annas 2. The contribution from the employer will be annas 14 per month, while the worker will contribute annas 10, 6 and 2 depending on whether he is a permanent, temporary or a casual worker.

The employers and workers' representatives supported the proposals of Prof. B. P. Adarkar though the exact amounts will have to serve as a basis for further detailed discussion. Objections have been put by Governments to State contribution to a scheme in favour of a section only of the population and also because the State has already undertaken to provide medical facilities for the whole population. At the Conference, however, there was general agreement that Prof. Adarkar had put forward points against this view which demanded careful attention.

The Conference considered that problems of employment in the transition from war to peace were of great importance and must be handled speedily. The question of increasing total employment was distinct from that of providing an adequate employment service though its importance was emphasised by some speakers. The Government of India have already established some 10 exchanges for technical personnel but more were necessary. The Conference desired that the scope of the exchanges should be widened to cover other classes of workers.

On the subject of revision of the Trade Disputes Act, opinion in the Conferenee was not



Drill-games in progress at a school run by a South Indian cotton mill—the gramophone provides music.

unanimous on all the proposals placed for discussion. There was agreement that the services of conciliation should be extended but employers' representatives and some representatives of workers were opposed to compulsory arbitration. Some opposition was voiced as to the propriety of amending the Act, particularly to provide for prohibition of strikes and for compulsory arbitration and to an increase in the present list of public utilities in which notice of strike was required even before the war.

Workmen's Compensation

Government representatives generally considered the machinery of adjudication provided in Defence of India Rule 81-A to have been extremely useful.

It was also generally agreed that provision for the making of standing orders in industries should be made in legislation.

Another question of social security which the Conference considered related to workmen's compensation. The proposal discussed was of compulsory insurance of the employers' liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Employers doubted the need for such a proposal but would not object if it was accepted.

They would, however, prefer insurance to be left to commercial companies or employers' mutual societies. The workers and Government representatives considered that in view of the unsatisfactory position with regard to the meeting of claims by the small employers, compulsion to insurance was necessary. There was a general preference on their part for a State insurance scheme.

The Conference also discussed again the question of minimum wage fixing machinery and its composition, function and the method of deciding as to what industries it should apply. Non-official opinion was in favour of having employers' and workers' representatives as members of a trade board rather than serving as assessors to independent members. They were also in favour of the conclusions of the Board being mandatory.

NEW AUDITOR GENERAL OF INDIA

H.M. the King has been pleased to appoint Sir Bertie Munro Staig, C.S.I., I.C.S., to succeed Sir Cameron Badenoch, K.C.I.E., I.C.S., as Auditor General of India when the latter vacates office with effect from April 10, 1945, said a communique issued from the Viceroy's House, New Delhi on October 13.

HOLIDAYS WITH PAY FOR FACTORY WORKERS

Labour Member Explains Bill to Amend Factories Act

IN the Central Legislative Assembly, the Hon'ble Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, moving that the Bill further to amend the Factories Act, 1943, (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee, said:

The provisions of the Bill fall into two parts and I think it will be desirable from the point of view of simplicity in the matter of presentation if I explained to the House the provisions of the Bill in two separate forms.

Part I of the Bill deals with compensatory holidays for the loss of compulsory holidays. Members will realise that in Section 35 of the Factories Act it is obligatory upon the owner or manager of the factory to give one compulsory holiday to every adult worker in the factory. This provision which is contained in Section 35 is subject to the provisions contained in Sections 43 and 44. Sections 43 and 44 provide that the Inspector of Factories may permit exemptions being granted to the manager of the factory or factory owner from the obligations imposed by Section 35. The view that is taken is this, that when such exemptions are granted, they ought to be compensated by other holidays, equivalent in number. The health and efficiency of the worker require that he should have the requisite number of holidays which are prescribed by law.

The Act, as it stands, makes no such provision for compensatory holidays. Consequently, Clause 2 of the Bill has been introduced for the purpose of removing this lacuna. It will now be open for the Provincial Governments to make rules subject to certain adjustments that wherever exemptions have been granted under Section 35, compensatory holidays of the equivalent amount shall be granted to the workmen. This is the first part of the provisions of the Bill.

Labour Convention

Coming to the second part of the Bill, the provisions contained therein deal with the question of holidays with pay. It might be desirable at the outset to state to the House the origin of this part of the Bill. Many members of the House will recall that in 1936 the International Labour Conference passed a convention relating to holidays with pay. The Government of India, which was represented at that International Labour Conference, was not prepared to accept the convention and to ratify it. A Government Resolution was moved in the Assembly on July 26, 1937, proposing the non-acceptance of the convention.

The Resolution was carried. But while the Government did not find itself in a position to ratify the convention, the Member in charge of the Resolution said that the Government would explore and examine the possibilities of giving effect to the convention, if not wholly at any rate in part, and undertook to have consultation with the Provincial Governments and all the Associations representing the employers and employees to find out to what extent there was general agreement in the matter of this convention. Part II of the provisions which relate to holidays with pay are the result of this examination and exchange of views which have been going on over a considerable number of years.

Perennial Factories

Turning to the Bill itself, it will be seen that the Bill applies to factories and it applies not to all the factories, but to perennial factories only. The Bill undoubtedly is limited in its scope as compared to the provisions contained in the convention which was adopted in 1936. While it is limited, I think it is a beginning which should be welcome. With regard to the other provisions, I think it will be better if I divide my observations on four different points which need legislation dealing with holidays that pay must cover: length of holiday; qualifying conditions for a right to a holiday; limiting conditions; pay during holiday.

With regard to the first point, namely, length of a holiday, this is a matter which is dealt with in the new Section 49-B which the Bill proposes to add to the Factories Act. According to this section, the total holiday is to be on seven consecutive days for a worker who has put in continuous service for one year. It might be asked as to why we have taken seven days and not more. The reply to that is that in fixing this period of seven days, we have followed the provisions contained in the Geneva Convention of 1936 which laid down six days as the limit of the holiday. To that we have added a seventh day which is a compulsory weekly rest granted to a worker under Section 35 of the Factories Act.

With regard to the question of qualifying conditions laying down as to when a worker will be entitled to claim a seven days' holiday, the provisions contained in the Bill are as follows. As a matter of fact, there is really only one condition and that is that the worker must have put in a period of twelve months' continuous service. There is no other condition. With regard to the question as to what is continuous service of twelve months, the Bill provides for what are called interruptions and declares that certain interruptions shall not invalidate the claim for holidays with pay. The interruptions which are mentioned in the Bill are interruptions arising out of sickness, accident, authorised leave, lock-out period and a strike period, provided the strike is legal.

Involuntary Unemployment

There is also another provision in the Bill which relates to the same subject and that is the question of involuntary unemployment caused by the desire of the factory owner to close the factory. We have limited that to a period of 30 days. If the involuntary unemployment caused by the factory manager does not extend beyond 30 days, then that would not invalidate the claim of the worker for his right to holidays with pay.

It might be necessary perhaps to mention why we have prescribed only 30 days. The explanation is this. Holidays with pay must necessarily take into account the ability of the manager or the factory owner to pay and the view that is taken in the Bill is that if the manager or the factory owner is obliged to close his factory for more than 30 days, then I think it is legitimate to presume that he has really not been prospering as well as he ought to and that he is therefore not in a position to pay the cost for holidays with pay. But if the involuntary period does not exceed 30 days then the presumption is that he is still able to bear the cost and should bear it. The Bill also provides for limited conditions with regard to holidays with pay, and those limited conditions relate to the question of accumulation of holidays. The Bill provides that a worker who has been qualified to earn his holidays may be entitled to accumulate holidays for two years and that is for a total period of 14 days.

Pay during Holidays

Coming to the question of pay during holidays, there are several points to which I should like to draw the attention of the House. The first is that although the total period of the holiday is seven days, only six are declared to be paid holidays. The seventh, as I said, is really a day of weekly rest provided under Section 35. With regard to the seventh day, the Bill does not make it obligatory upon the employer to pay for it. But at the same time the Bill does not take away the right of the employee to demand payment, if as a matter of fact as a result of his contract of service that holiday was due to him as a paid holiday. It is really left to be governed by the contract of service.

The third point is with regard to the payment to be made for these six holidays. The rule that we have adopted in the Bill is a rough, and I believe an equitable, rule and it is this; that a worker is to be paid at a rate equivalent to the average of his earnings during the three preceding months barring overtime. I believe that is an equitable principle. The Bill also provides that in order to enable a workman to take his holiday, some facilities should be given in order to enable him to have some cash with him on the day on which he proposes to start on his holiday. Consequently provision is made in the Bill that half the dues which are to be paid to the workman going on holiday shall be paid to him at the start.

Another matter which is relevant to this and is also important is this. The Bill proposes to exempt certain factories from its operation if it is found that a factory has a system of holidays with pay which is substantially similar to the one provided in the Bill and about whose satisfactory character the provincial Government is able to certify. The object underlying this clause is that if there is a voluntary arrangement between the employer and the worker whereby the worker is given the same privilege which we are providing in the law, the view taken by the Bill is that in so amicable an arrangement it is unnecessary for the law to enter.

Sir, these are the main provisions of the Bill. There are two other matters to which I should like to make a reference before I sit down. The first is the question of a discharge of a workman by the employer to prevent him from earning his holiday. The second question is the employer inducing a workman not to take his holiday although he has earned it. These are questions which I frankly admit are not being provided for in the Bill. Not that Government are not aware that such questions may arise, but the view of Government is that at the present stage, at any rate, there is no reason to suppose that such contingencies will arise. If experience shows that such cases do become usual it would be time then to amend the Act to stop their recurrence. For the moment the view I hold is that the provisions of the Bill are sufficient for the purposes which it has in view, namely, to grant holidays with pay to factory workers.

MR. H.C. PRIOR ON FACTORY INSPECTION IN INDIA

Address to New Delhi Conference

"In India, which we all hope is going to become increasingly industrial, the work of factory inspection is going to become increasingly important and our ideal is to make sure that factory inspection and the rules and laws under which it operates, give the best opportunity of enabling that work to be done, and done efficiently," observed the Hon'ble Mr. H. C. Prior, Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, addressing the Conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories which opened in New Delhi on October 24.

"Perhaps during this war, in India as in all other countries," he continued, "there is a very large increase in the work of factory inspection, and that increase has made me realise far more than I have ever realised before what I may call the human side of factory inspection.

"The task of checking that the provisions of the Act are properly carried out may appear to an outsider to be a rather mechanical and methodical type of work, but those who have had experience of factory inspection will realise that if factory inspection is properly carried out, how powerful, good and efficient such factory inspection can be not only in the protection of the worker but also in the interest of production.

Inspection in U.K.

"I want just to say a word about U.K. and its factory inspection which I saw a little last year, and about which probably many of you know a good deal more than I do. You know how during this war, factory inspection in U.K. has been transferred temporarily from the Home Office to the control of the Ministry of Labour and Air Force services. Mr. Bevin said regarding this transfer that it took place in order to develop a wider scheme for the welfare of the workers during the war in the widest possible sense. I think he meant to imply, and I think that is the method which we adopt in India, that factory inspection is not a peace function but largely a welfare and production function. It is a welfare function, having all the welfare functions prominently in mind, but it is also of considerable assistance to the production of the country.

"I met the Chief Inspector of Factories in U.K. and I was impressed—and I think everybody who has met him and has read his reports would be impressed—with the enthusiasm that fires him in his work. He impressed on me, and his reports impress on everybody who reads them, how important he thinks that his factory inspectors should work as a team, examining every aspect of factory inspection, having experts on every aspect of the Act to whom they can refer, a team in the district, a team in the region, a team in the whole country, the people in the district assisting each other and all having the right to refer to experts at the top.

"It is something on that line that we in India have got to develop. We all of us are executively responsible, whether it be to the Province or to the Centre, to work together. We have got to pool our experience; we have got to be sure that each of us knows what the other is doing, and that all work on similar lines getting down to the real business of factory inspection, not only concerned to see that meticulous examination of a particular rule is properly carried out, but making certain that the rule is the right rule, making sure that the principle underlying that rule is properly understood and getting ahead with the real business of factory inspection.

"I want factory inspectors in the Provinces to be increased so that they are able to handle increased work. We would like the staff in the Provinces to work as a team. I want factory inspectors wherever they may be, in the Provinces or in the Centre, each supplementing the other. I can assure you that whatever is possible for the Centre to do in this regard, we will do. We have certain plans under consideration, but because we believe in this pooling of experience and of our ideas that we have called this conference. We want to get together to discuss all of them, and we, at the Centre, would welcome your advice and pay the most careful attention to it."

MR. W. H. KIRBY'S ADDRESS

Mr. W. H. Kirby, Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, speaking on industrial canteens, said:

"It is a pleasure to come here and talk with you because I feel so very convinced that we in India are starting to enter a new era of feeding. As you know a year ago there was only one town in India that was rationed—that was Bombay. Today there are 460 towns, representing approximately 42 millions of people —who are either firmly rationed or are about to be. In a period of twelve months that is really quite an imposing achievement; and we are now in a state when the people themselves are asking to be rationed because they have learned that they get a fixed quantity of essential foodgrains and the price also is fixed. In other words, it has brought into their lives a certain sense of security which they did not have before. That represents the essential basic rationing of the food of the people in the Department of Food; and in that larger aspect of feeding the people the question of feeding the worker is very prominent.

The Calory Intake

"For some time past we have been gathering all the knowledge available on the nutritional aspect of the masses of the people in India. How can you, gentlemen, connected with industry and the leaders of industry expect to get the best from their workers if they are half starved? The way we measure that half-starved state is from scientifically knowing what is the calory intake. The calory intake for a heavy worker should be 4,000 calories a day. The calory intake from a basic ration of one pound of foodgrains a day is only 1,600. Therefore when we give them—and can only give them because of the present food position—an extra 50 per cent for heavy workers, they are then getting only 2,400 calories, which you see is only just about half of what they should have. We have also learnt from the nutritional point of view that it is no good trying to pump in 2 to 2½ pounds a day of foodgrains—rice or wheat: if you try to do that you are doing much more damage.

"The whole of our endeavour is going to be to change the diet and make it more balanced and in this we are getting a very interesting lead from the army. The recruits in the Indian army today are taking 4,000 and more calories a day; but they are not pumping all that in one or two meals but in three or four—a snack with tea and biscuits in the morning followed by a big meal in the evening. We can therefore learn a good deal from the way they are treating the army recruits, because the army today has so many ways and means of measuring the physical fitness of the recruits and their capacity to learn quickly with modern arms and equipment their brains have to be brought up to a pitch of efficiency and alertness which they never had before.

Angle of Nutrition

"Therefore we are now beginning to look at all these food problems—the health of the people, the intelligence of the people, the adaptability of the people, entirely through the angle of nutrition. What is the easiest way for us to do that? The easiest way is to commence with the food of the children by feeding them in schools—cheap milk schemes and all that—and then through the factory workers. I have been told during the last 14 or 15 months that you should not have canteens in industry. But it is wrong. We have got to a stage now when India has got to play a leading part in this side of the world; and if India's products are going to stand up to the competition from America, from England, from Germany and from Australia and other highly industrialised countries and if India is going to capture that trade which she never ought to have allowed to pass into the hands of the Japanese, the standard of efficiency in industrial and manufacturing concerns in this country has got to be raised if it is going to survive; and you cannot turn out a first class article with blunt tools and indifferent workers.

"From the food point of view therefore we say that the workers must take in those calories and they must be raised physically and mentally if they are going to be the bulwark of industry in India, as they must be. So, the old ideas that it does not matter how they live or whether they live and if they feed at all, have got to be thrown overboard.

Canteens Abroad

"The leading countries in the world have made all round progress in improving the amenities of workers, especially the food of the workers in factories. In the U.S.A. and a few European countries they have been feeding the workers at their place of work. In the U.K. every employer of labour of 250 persons and above must put in canteens if they are working in shifts and meals must be available to workers. We have gone further there and ensured that agricultural workers and workers away from factories get a special allotment of cheese—a hunk of bread and cheese and a tankard of beer is the standard ration for workers in England. We also encourage groups of farms in agricultural industries to put down their own canteens; we have also started sandwich centres in the rural areas—either fixed or in mobile canteens."

Referring to the steps taken by the Departments of Food and Labour to encourage the canteen institution, Mr. Kirby said, "That is a very big matter of policy and principle which we have been able to get across, because the big objection from the industrialists themselves is that it is no good putting in the industrial canteen because we cannot get the rationed foodstuffs and that as the control of rationing is getting tighter the availability of alternative foods is decreasing.

"There was also the objection that it was quite impossible to ask the industrial worker who is already getting 50 per cent extra on the basic ration to part with that 50 per cent or a portion of it to the employer to start the canteen. We have got over all those difficulties through our food control. We can now measure how much the provinces can give us of their surplus food. The point of allowing the industrialists to draw rationed foods over and above the quantity the individual may have is a very big definite step forward. It sweeps away with one stroke of the hand a good deal of the opposition that is put up from the other side."

Speaking on the letter recently issued by the Labour Department to the Employers' Federation and the All India Organisation of Industrial Employers, Mr. Kirby said, "It is an extremely positive and action-minded letter which should go a long way to bring the industrialists into line with the rest of their colleagues throughout the world who have realised that their finest asset is the health and efficiency of the worker.

Communal Feeding

"We know the difficulties about communal feeding but that should not be made an excuse for not doing the job. You know how the difficulties can be surmounted. The great lesson for us is the army and while the distinctions, where they exist must be given due importance, I feel that the time has come when we should break down any unreasonable difficulties that have been raised from the communal side about mass feeding.

"There are a few essential points in a canteen. It must be a place where you and I can enjoy a meal. Nobody wants to go to a place which is dirty and full of smoke. If you are going to live in an atmosphere of smoke and dirt, you cannot keep the place clean. It is not easy to keep fly-traps and swinging doors and to keep the kitchen clean by flushing it with hose pipes and to keep the place free from microbes and other disgusting things. If we are going to raise the standard of the people and their feeding and nutrition, we ought to pay sufficient attention to the hygienic and medical side.

"There is a big surge forward from the people themselves to see that they are properly fed. It is gathering momentum in the villages and the rural parts. I hope you are as enthusiastic as ourselves in improving the lot of the worker."

TOWN PLANNING IN INDIA

The Health Survey and Development Committee have apointed Mr. B. R. Kagal, Administrative Officer, Jamshedpur, to make a rapid survey of town planning and housing in different parts of India.

To collect comprehensive data on the subject Mr. Kagal went on an all-India tour beginning on October 12, to contact the Provincial and State Governments concerned and their technical advisers as well as representatives of organisations such as Improvement Trusts, Co-operative Building Societies and Local Bodies.

The material collected by Mr. Kagal will be the basis on which the Health Survey and Development Committee will make its recommendations as regards the principles on which land development and housing should be carried out.

MEETING OF CONSUMERS' COUNCIL

The second meeting of the Consumers' Council, at which the Hon'ble Sir Azizul Haque, Member for Industries and Civil Supplies Department, presided, was held in Delhi on October 30, 1944.

The Council discussed the developments which had taken place in the supply position and controls on various commodities since the last meeting. It was generally felt that there had been an improvement in the consumer goods situation but some specific suggestions for the development of controls were made by members of the Council. A certain degree of public apathy about controls was also remarked on and members of the Consumers' Council undertook to spread knowledge and interest in control schemes to the widest extent possible.

COMPENSATION FOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY BOMBAY EXPLOSIONS

A Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on October 24 stated:

In response to representations received from the Mayor of Bombay, the Indian Merchants' Chamber, the Grain Merchants' Association and others, the last date for submission of applications for compensation for damage or injuries caused by the Bombay explosion is being extended from October 31, 1944, to November 30, 1944, with power in exceptional cases to admit applications even after that date up to October 31, 1945. An amending Ordinance is accordingly being promulgated to-day.

SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA REVIEWS FOOD POSITION

Speech in Central Assembly

INITIATING the Food Debate in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 2, the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member to the Government of India, announced that 650,000 tons of foodgrains had already been received, 95,000 tons had been shipped and an additional 300,000 tons had been promised for the quarter ending December 31, 1944. "The Government of India are acutely conscious of the need for securing adequate amount of wheat imports for successfully handling the food problem of the country," he said, "and I can assure the House that we shall spare no efforts to urge upon His Majesty's Government the need for their taking appropriate measures for giving us the imports we require."



Sir J. P. Srivastava.

Bengal Situation

The Hon'ble Member also informed the House of his proposal to set up in the Food Department a Food Planning Section, the main purpose of which would be to study the whole question of a long range food policy and a planned development of food economy in India, so that in post-war India, the people of this country could look forward to having more food, better food and balanced food.

Here is the full text of Sir J. P. Srivastava's speech:

It is now nearly a year since I made my last statement in this House on the food situation in India and I have no doubt that Hon'ble Members would like to have from me an up-to-date review of the position since then.

It would perhaps be best if I were to give the House a brief review of conditions in the main deficit areas. I shall begin with Bengal. As Hon'ble Members are aware, Bengal was in the grip of famine conditions last year. It is not necessary for me to repeat an account of the causes that led to this distressing situation, nor give a statement of the steps taken by the Government of India last year to remedy the situation.

Lack of Confidence

The end of last year saw the appearance of perhaps the biggest harvest that the province of Bengal had ever seen; nature was evidently being merciful, after the devastation she had caused in the preceding harvest. But conditions of confidence were lacking in the province. The public had not yet recovered from the shocks that they had sustained in the preceding months, and some urgent action was necessary to restore public confidence and help the Government of Bengal to procure a substantial portion of the new harvest and make it available to its deficit districts at reasonable rates. That was why the Government of India undertook to feed Calcutta for a period of 12 months and thus relieve the Bengal Government from the strain of having to procure food supplies for Calcutta.

Food Supplies to Bengal

As originally estimated, this undertaking was calculated to involve a total quantity of 646,000 tons of foodgrains, of which 246,000 tons were in the form of rice and 340,000 tons in the form of wheat. I may add that up to date, a total quantity of 475,000 tons has been moved to Calcutta, of which 223,000 tons consist of wheat and 174,000 tons of rice. In the meanwhile, the Bengal Government went ahead with the scheme of their local procurement. They anticipated being able to procure a total of 700,000 tons and I am glad to say that the quantity they have so far succeeded in procuring is well in excess of that amount.

I admit that in spite of their local procurement scheme and the arrangements they had made for feeding their deficit districts and in spite of their having been relieved of the strain of feeding Calcutta, acute local scarcities were experienced in the earlier stages in some of the deficit districts like Chittagong, Tippera and

Dacca, and this was reflected in a level of the prices in those areas considerably above not only their own statutory maxima but also over the rates prevailing in the rest of Bengal. For example, at one time, the price of rice in Chittagong ranged from Rs. 30 to Rs. 35 while in Dacca at one time it was quoted in the region of Rs. 20.

The main causes for these local shortages were the slowness of procurement operations in the earlier part of the year and, even more, difficulties of transporting rice from the surplus districts to the deficit districts. But the House must not forget that slow procurement was a part of our deliberate policy in the beginning, as we did not want to disturb the restoration of confidence by hasty and ill-planned purchases in the rural markets. We know that if the crop was a bumper one, as we thought it was, procurement was bound to become easier in the later part of the year, and the results have justified our expectations.

Rice Position Easy

The food situation as far as rice is concerned is now easy over practically all the areas of Bengal, and the sub-divisional average of rice prices in Bengal to-day is in the neighbourhood of Rs. 13 per maund, as against the level of Rs. 15 it had reached in the first half of March, 1944. The average of rice prices in the 9 deficit districts is now Rs. 13-12, prices in Chittagong ranging from Rs 13 to Rs. 14. If Hon'ble Members want, I am prepared to lay on the table a statement showing the latest rice prices in the different districts of Bengal as reported to us by the Government of that Province.

The stock position has also improved. Stocks of foodgrains in Calcutta total 87,000 tons (on October 21, 1944), in the deficit districts 182,000 tons (on October 1) and in the surplus districts 100,000 tons (on October 1), and it is expected that at the end of the calendar year, the Bengal Government will be left with substantial reserves. As you know, the Aman crop will come to be harvested in the next two months and, from reports received so far, the condition of the crop seems to be normal, though not up to the bumper level it had reached last year. On the whole, therefore I think, I would be justified in claiming that as far as Bengal is concerned, the policy which we and the Provincial Government adopted has been justified and that we have sound cause to look to the future with confidence.

Travancore and Cochin

There are two other major deficit areas to which I would like now to draw attention. The first is Travancore-Cochin. Hon'ble Members are aware how these two States used, on the average, to import nearly 446,000 tons of rice in the pre-war period, most of which came from Burma. The cutting off of this fruitful source of supply has placed these States in the most difficult position by depriving them of more than 50 per cent of their annual requirements.

The Food Department allotted to these areas a total quantity of 283,000 tons of foodgrains under the Kharif Plan of 1943-44 and 32,000 tons of foodgrains under the Rabi Plan of 1944-45, making a total of 315,000 tons of foodgrains. Of this quantity, 239,000 tons were rice, 33,000 tons were millets and 32,000 tons were wheat. The States in their turn undertook the most comprehensive measures both for mobilising their domestic resources and for providing for an equitable distribution of the total supplies they obtained both from within and without.

Hon'ble Members are aware that in both these States, there is monopoly procurement and State-wide rationing. I have myself but recently visited these two States and I must place on record my admiration of the efficient manner in which the Governments of these two States have tackled their food situation and prevented the occurrence of starvation deaths in spite of a shortage in their domestic output of more than 50 per cent of their annual requirements. The ration in those two States today is 13 oz. per day in Travancore and 12 oz. per day in Cochin. Of this ration, however, only 8 oz. of rice is available per day in Travancore and up till some time ago, only 5½ oz. of rice per day was given as ration in Cochin State. The rest of the ration was made up with other grains like wheat and millets.

Rice Ration

On my recent visit to Cochin, I asked the Cochin State to raise their rice ration to the neighbouring level of 8 oz., and promised to place the necessary supplies at their disposal. The Cochin Durbar have accordingly raised their rice ration from 5½ oz. to 6¾ oz. and will, I hope, presently be able to raise it to 8 oz. a day. I must confess quite frankly that I am not satisfied even with a ration of 8 oz. of rice. I know that Travancore and Cochin are predominantly rice-eating areas and it is not easy to change age-long habits within the course of a few months. I would very much like to see the rice ration in these areas raised to at least 12 oz. but my difficulty is of getting the rice.

It is possible to import wheat and I am now able to do so in increasing quantities, but rice is just not available. I have, therefore, to continue to ask the people of Travancore and Cochin to supplement their rice ration with wheat, which grain, I am glad to say, is gradually becoming popular in those areas, thanks to the active and vigorous propaganda undertaken by their Administrations to popularise its use.

I may add that I shall constantly bear in mind the desirability of helping the Governments of Travancore and Cochin to raise the rice constituent of their ration to a higher level. My ability to assist them will of course depend on the supplies placed at my disposal by other producing areas. In this connection, I should like to make a public appeal to the Governments and to the peoples of those areas in which rice is in the nature of a luxury rather than an essential article of diet that they should limit to the maximum extent possible their own consumption of rice and thus set free stocks to serve the needs of the predominantly rice-eating people of the South.

Conditions in Bombay

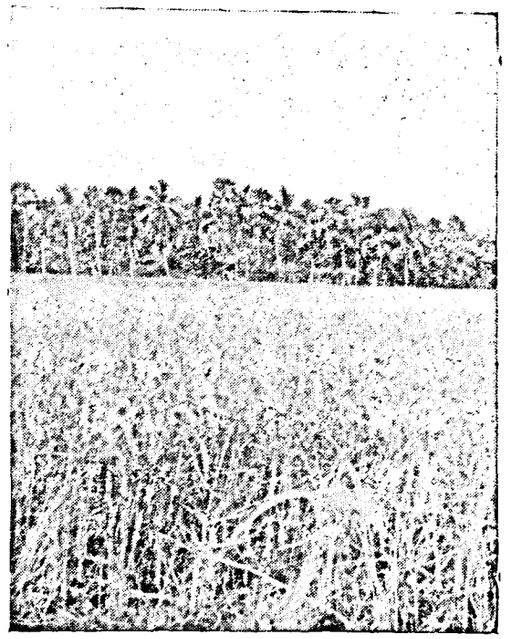
Bombay used to import on an average 532,000 tons of foodgrains in the pre-war period, of which 143,000 tons consisted of wheat, 50,000 tons of millets and 294,000 tons of rice. We were able to allot them 227,000 tons of foodgrains under the Kharif Plan of 1943-44 and 257,000 tons under the Rabi Plan of 1944-45, of which 129,000 tons was in rice, 98,000 tons in millets and 210,000 tons in wheat. Of this quantity, 349,000 tons have already been moved to Bombay, of which 114,000 tons is in rice, 78,000 tons in millets and 157,000 tons in wheat.

It will be noticed that in the case of Bombay as well, we were not able to meet their requirements of rice in full, and we have tried to make up the balance to some extent by giving them other foodgrains. Bombay also is a deficit area which has tried its best to help itself, both in the matter of procurement and equitable distribution of total available supplies.

Hon'ble Members may be aware that Bombay has put through a scheme of a graded compulsory levy of foodgrains and has also instituted a system of monopoly purchase for the balance of the cultivator's marketable surplus. Indeed, they have gone further and enacted legislation for the compulsory maintenance of their existing area under food crops, and for the compulsory diversion to food crops of a part of the area under non-food crops.

Provisioning Scheme

They have not only extended the scheme of rationing to practically their entire urban area but have also undertaken a system of provisioning for all the inadequate producers and non-producers in their rural areas as well. The population involved in this provisioning scheme is estimated at 4 millions. The ration allowed at present is 28 lbs. per month per adult. With the stocks in their actual possession at present together with the quantities expected to be procured by them from the last year's crop and the balance awaiting despatch from the rest of India, the Bombay Government expect to be in a position to meet their requirements till the end of December and



Paddy ripe for harvesting.

still hold one month's reserve. I am confident that with these stocks, the allotment that we hope to make to them for the next year and the quantities they will themselves procure from their own domestic production, the Bombay Government will be able to handle their food problem successfully during the coming year as well.

Position in Madras

I now turn to another area which perhaps is prominently present in the minds of some Hon'ble Members. I refer to the province of Madras. Madras has been more or less self-sufficient in the matter of food supplies and we had been informed by the Madras Government that they were confident about their ability to meet their own requirements.

As Hon'ble Members may be aware, rationing in urban areas has been most extended in the province of Madras. The Madras Government have also had a very efficient system of procurement of food supplies from their surplus districts which they utilise for feeding their rationed area as well as supplying the balance of the requirements of their deficit districts. Sometime during the year, however, our attention was drawn to the presence of acute distress in Malabar; my Director General of Food paid an immediate visit to the South and held discussions with the Government of Madras and obtained the assurance that

they would keep the district of Malabar sufficiently supplied with foodgrains. We also recommended to them the advisability of introducing district-wide rationing in Malabar and I am glad to say that the Government of Madras have now introduced district-wide rationing in the major part of Malabar.

This is the first experiment of its kind in British India and I am most anxious that it should succeed I have recently been to Malabar and seen for myself the conditions in that district and I have no doubt that the introduction of district-wide rationing was the correct course to adopt. As a result of my observations and in order to assist the Government of Madras, the Government of India have recently made a special allotment to Madras Government of 22,000 tons of rice and 8,000 tons of wheat for the purpose of easing the food situation in Malabar and facilitating the successful introduction of district-wide rationing in that area. If this experiment succeeds in Malabar, it may well prove a pointer to other deficit areas in British India, particularly in regard to their deficit pockets.

I am not happy about the size of the ration contemplated for Malabar. The ration proposed is 12 oz. and of it only 10 oz. is to be available in the form of rice. I wish it had been possible for the Government of India to make available to the Madras Government additional supplies of rice which would have helped them to raise this ration. But, as I have already stated, rice is in very short supply and I can't import it. We hope, however, to make available sufficient supplies of wheat to the Madras Government by which they may be able to raise the ration in all cereals in Malabar to a total of one lb. a day.

Government's Price Policy

The other district in Madras Presidency about which we have recently been hearing reports of some distress is Vizagapatam. While I was last in Madras, I particularly drew the attention of the Madras Government to the reported situation in Vizagapatam district and I was assured that the Madras Government were in close touch with the situation there and were taking appropriate steps to meet it. The Government of India have recently made a special allotment of 5,000 tons of rice to the Madras Government for the use of the Vizagapatam district and. I hope, this will go some way to meet the shortage which particularly prevails in these pre-harvest months. I shall watch with interest whether the Madras Government will also apply the principle of district-wide rationing to Vizagapatam.

I have now dealt with the main deficit areas and would like to pass on to a review of certain general matters relating to food control and food policy during the last 12 months. During this period statutory price control was instituted for wheat, gram, barley, bajra, jowar and maize. The basis for the statutory maximum price for wheat was taken at Rs. 9-8 per maund in the main producing markets of the Punjab and that for bajra and jowar at Rs. 7-8 and Rs. 7 per maund respectively. In order to protect the producer if the prices fall, Government gave an undertaking to purchase any quantity of wheat offered at Rs. 7-8; a similar guarantee was given in respect of bajra and jowar at the rates of Rs. 6 and Rs. 5-8 per maund respectively.

As regards rice, an all-India statutory price was not fixed, partly owing to the absence of a homogeneous market and partly because of the difficult periods through which Governments in the rice producing Eastern Region were passing during the beginning of the current year. But the Provincial Governments concerned have themselves imposed statutory maxima of rice prices and the House will be glad to know that in the Eastern Region, the statutory maxima themselves have been steadily brought down during the course of the year under review.

Present Position in Bengal

The position at present is—for Bengal, the statutory maximum producer's price is Rs. 12-12 per maund in surplus districts, and Rs. 14 per maund in deficit districts; for Bihar Rs. 11 per maund, for Orissa Rs. 9 per maund, for Assam Rs 14-8 per maund and for Sind Rs. 8-8 per maund. Rice prices in Madras have been generally kept below Rs. 10 per maund, while for the U.P. and the Punjab, the Government of India fixed the statutory maximum at Rs. 13-8 per maund.

The House will see, therefore, that the last 12 months have witnessed considerable development in the realm of statutory fixation of foodgrain prices and it is happy to record that, by and large, market prices have kept well within the statutory maxima. There have been some local exceptions to this general statement, such as, for example, Chittagong and Dacca. But the situation in those places has also now been brought under control and I would be correct in saying that foodgrain prices today are within the maxima limits set by Government.

I may also inform the House that the Food Department is most acutely conscious of the need for having the prices of foodgrains at levels which will be within the reach of the vast majority of our poorer consumers, but the House must not forget that the interests of the producers have also got to be taken into account and we cannot take any action unduly to bring down producer's prices, especially when we are so actively seeking his co-operation in the "Grow More Food" campaign. A just and reasonable compromise has, therefore, to be arrived at between the interests



Winnowing wheat in a Punjab village.

of the producers as well as of the consumers in fixing the prices of foodgrains, but I can assure the House that the most careful attention will be paid to the point of view of the consumer in the fixation of the prices with which he is most concerned, viz., retail prices.

Another important development has been in the field of rationing. The principle of rationing which was not so popular when it was first introduced has now proved its worth by experience and even the surplus Administrations have now fallen into line and Government's declared policy of bringing all the major urban areas under rationing is now more or less completely enforced. To-day, the number of towns rationed is 460 and the population affected is 42 million. In addition, rationing has been introduced in rural areas in places like Travancore, Cochin, Bombay Province and now Malabar.

This extension of rationing has brought to the front important problems of administration which may necessitate an expansion of the Rationing Branch in order to make more readily available to the Provincial and State Administrations the pooled experience of the Government of India in this matter and also in order to secure within reasonable limits uniformity of standards.

In this respect, it is the set policy of the Government of India to try their best to see that the statutory ration all over the country does not fall below one lb. a day, but the successful execution of this policy depends upon two factors, viz., the willingness of the surplus Administrations to fall into line and the willingness of the deficit Administrations to accustom their people, if necessary, to the use of foodgrains other than those to which they had been normally accustomed. I can see visible signs of progress in both these directions. As regards the former, the ration allowed in the newly rationed cities in the Punjab has been fixed at one lb., while with regard to the latter, Travancore and Cochin have led the way and after long and sustained effort accustomed their people to the partial use of wheat. Now the Madras Government have, mainly at my instance, agreed to try the experiment of introducing a small quota of wheat in the cereal ration in their urban areas.

I know that it is not an easy thing to turn over from one grain to another, nor am I suggesting that there should be a complete replacement of one grain by another. But the fact remains that we are in short supply regarding

rice, and recent events tend to make me feel optimistic that it would be possible to make up the deficit, to some extent, by wheat. If that is so, the realities of the situation demand that the rice eating peoples of the country should, to some extent, be induced to supplement their rice rations with wheat, so that their over-all ration in cereals may not fall below the limits set by nutritional standards.

Moreover, I am informed that the introduction of the element of wheat in the rice-eater's diet would be a definite factor in the way of securing a better balance in his diet. I would like, therefore, to take this opportunity of urging the Administrations of the rice-eating areas in India to make every effort to popularise the use of wheat and to see that it is introduced to some extent in the diet of their people, rather than allow them to stick only to rice and suffer a ration which is considerably less than the minimum of one lb. a day recommended by the Foodgrains Policy Committee.

Problems of Storage

There is another matter on which I know grave concern is being felt, and rightly felt, by Members of this House; and that is the deterioration and wastage taking place in foodgrains during storage. I would quite frankly admit that losses have taken place of foodgrains during storage. But I would like the House not to forget that this country has always had a substantial incidence of loss of foodgrains through deterioration and wastage during storage. In fact, the loss suffered on this account in the prewar period has been estimated at as high a figure as one million tons. But the incidence of this loss used to be spread over a large number of small stocks and was therefore not so prominent before the public as it has now come to be, when bulk storage of large quantities has had to be undertaken in connection with the operation of the Basic Plans.

Moreover, facilities had not previously existed in the country for storing grain in such large quantities and at such places, as had to be done during the last two years, and it was unavoidable that a certain amount of loss should have occurred during such storage. I would like to assure the House that I am not trying to defend or gloss over the losses which have taken place. On the contrary, we have been seriously perturbed over their occurrence and the whole problem of prevention of losses during storage has been engaging the most serious attention of my Department in the last few months.

We have been able to secure, on a temporary basis, the services of a specialist with experience of storage conditions in the Middle East and this officer has personally toured round the main surplus and deficit areas and given advice to Provincial and State Governments in the matter of scientific storage. A number of advisory notes on the general fundamental principles relating to storage has been issued by the Department, and training courses have been arranged in Delhi to be held during the first fortnight of this month which will be attended by selected officers from Provinces and States all over India.

The House will be glad to know that this storage training course is definitely practical in bias and technical procedures have been avoided as far as possible. The present temporary Director of Storage has also put up a scheme for the establishment of a permanent Directorate of Storage which will operate largely in an advisory and technical capacity and help the Provincial and State Administrations to minimise, if not altogether eliminate, the losses that were hitherto arising out of insufficient attention having been paid to proper storage conditions.

In addition, the Government of India have drawn up an extensive programme for the construction of new storage godowns, or the improvement of the existing godowns, both to contain grain imported from overseas and grain procured in surplus areas and awaiting transport to deficit areas. A senior officer of this Department has been placed on special duty to expedite this programme which is expected to be completed within 4 or 5 months.

Emergency Allotments

There is another matter relating to the working of the Food Department to which I would like specially to allude. The Department exercises constant vigilance over what is going on in the Provinces and the States. Our Regional Food Commissioners are in constant touch with the Governments of their Regions in matters relating to food. They bring to our notice cases of reported shortage within their Regions and they draw our attention to difficulties in movement and they also constitute the channel through which the difficulties of the Provincial Governments are brought to the notice of the Central Government and the guidance of the Central Government is transmitted to the Provincial Governments.

I may inform the House that during the preceding 12 months several cases of local food shortages or action requiring emergency allotments were brought to the notice of the Central Government and every time the Centre took prompt action and made emergency allotments which saved the situation and prevented the emergence of acute distress. Thus, for example, the foodgrains lost as a result of the Bombay explosions were immediately replaced by a special allotment; and an extra allotment of 80,000 tons of wheat was made to the Bombay Government following their urgent representations in August.

Another instance was the acute food shortage in the Deccan States reported at the end of April; emergency quotas to the extent of 17,500 tons were immediately arranged and a very high priority was ordered for the movement of foodgrains to these areas. More than 30,000 tons of foodgrains were moved to the Deccan States during three months and by the end of August the food situation in the Deccan States had been brought under control. The position at present is that substantial reserves have been built up by these areas and they can face the next year without diffidence.

To give another example. Towards the end of July, 1944, the U.P. Government reported the emergence of difficult conditions regarding wheat supplies and asked for an immediate allotment of 50,000 tons of wheat. Immediate action was taken by the Food Department on this request and by now, a total of 50,000 tons of wheat, 18,500 tons of wheat products and 5,000 tons of rice have been allotted to the U.P., which action has materially helped the Government of the Province in handling their food situation.

Another instance which I may quote would be the North-Western Frontier Province, where in the middle of April, 1944, a shortage of wheat supply was reported and assistance was asked for. An immediate special allotment of 8,000 tons of wheat was made, and recently with a view to assisting that Province with their rationing schemes, the Food Department have given them a special allotment of 22,360 tons of wheat and wheat products.

As regards Madras, I have already told you that as a result of representations made by the Government of Madras and my recent visit to the South, a special allotment of 22,000 tons of rice and 8,000 tons of wheat was made for Malabar and 5,000 tons of rice for Vizagapatam.

Question of Imports

Following my recent visit to Mysore and my discussions with the Mysore Government, we have recently given them an extra allotment of 7,000 tons of rice. By the citing of these details, it is not my object to express a feeling of self-satisfaction. All that I want to do is to draw the attention of the House to the fact that my Department tries to keep itself in touch with the changing needs of the Food situation in different parts of the country and, within the means at its command, to take the necessary action to prevent the emergence of scarcity conditions in any part of the country.

Finally, I come to the topic which I have no doubt looms large in the minds of many Hon'ble Members and that is the question of imports. The Foodgrains Policy Committee recommended that one million tons of wheat should be imported every year till the restoration of normal conditions and that an extra import of 500,000 tons should be arranged for building up a central reserve.

I have repeatedly stated in public, and the House is aware, that the Government of India have been making the most insistent and urgent representations to His Majesty's Government regarding the urgent need to implement this recommendation. The matter has been not only one of constant concern to me personally, but I must acknowledge the steadfast encouragement and support which I have received from H.E. the Viceroy and my colleagues in the Executive Council. His Majesty's Government, however, have had their own very real and serious difficulties and we were not for some considerable time able to secure assurances that satisfied us.

Sir Henry French's Visit

Negotiations on such a subject conducted by means of telegraphic correspondence have their inherent limitations and it was for that reason that I welcomed very heartily the suggestion that Sir Henry French should pay a visit to India to see for himself the realities of the situation and report on them to His Majesty's Government. I have no doubt that his recent visit has helped to impress upon His Majesty's Government the imperative necessity of enabling an import of a million tons by this country and our thanks are due to him for the frank assessment of the Indian food situation which he no doubt must have presented to his own Government.

The present position is that from October, 1943, to the end of September, 1944, an import of 800,000 tons of grains was promised by His Majesty's Government. Of this quantity, 650,000 tons have already been received and 95,000 tons have been shipped. An additional import of 300,000 tons has been promised for the three months ending December this year, and His Majesty's Government have promised further to review the position in November. These supplies of imports have been of the utmost value to the Government of India not only in meeting the food shortage in the country but also in facilitating their measures of price control.

I would like to assure the House that the position at present is that we are able to meet the wheat demands of the different Provincial and State Administrations to the full; the excess of supplies we are getting over the amount required for this purpose is being utilised by us partly for supplementing the rice deficiency of the deficit regions in the South and in Bombay Province, and partly for making up the deficiency caused by the shortage of millets in some parts

of the country. We also intend to hold a part of the wheat imports expected to arrive in the next few months as a working reserve.

I have no doubt that with the easing of the war situation in the West, more shipping would become available and it may be possible perhaps to obtain as much wheat as we require during the coming calendar year. In any case, the Government of India are acutely conscious of the need for securing an adequate amount of wheat imports for successfully handling the food problem of the country, and I can assure the House that we shall spare no effort to urge upon His Majesty's Government the need for their taking appropriate measures for giving us the imports we require.

Prospects for Coming Year

So far I have been talking on the food position in the last 12 months. Hon'ble Members may like to have some idea of the prospects for the next year. No indication can be available at the moment of the prospects of the Rabi harvest of 1945, but we have some information about the Kharif prospect of this year. I believe I would be right in saying that while we cannot expect a bumper harvest of either rice or millets in any part of the country, taking the country as a whole, the Kharif crops would be about average perhaps a little less in some areas and a little more in other areas. Even this statement can only be made with great caution, as much will depend upon weather conditions in the next two months. But enough is known to make us emphasise the need for care and caution in the administration of the food policy in the coming 12 months.

The silver lining in the situation is the more optimistic position regarding imports and if that position is maintained, I think we should be able to go through next year without having to face any calamity of a major magnitude. But much will turn upon the efficiency and successful conduct of procurement operations, both in the deficit and the surplus regions, the continued, and if possible increased, willingness of surplus Administrations to share in the all-India food burden, the further extension of rationing, the availability of imports, the maintenance of price control, the easing of transport conditions, the vigilance of the Department, and above all the understanding and co-operation of leaders of non-official opinion. I trust that all these will be forthcoming and will enable the Government of India successfully to handle the food situation during the next year.

Before I conclude, I would like to, if I may, touch upon some problems relating to the future. For some time to come, even after the termination of the war, I do not think it would be possible for this country to have restored its normal pre-war sources of rice supply. There is also the fact to be faced that in a sense the food problem has always been with us inasmuch as the country has not had sufficient food to enable every one of its citizens to get the minimum quantity considered necessary on nutritional grounds. It has also been a fact that a large majority of the population of this country has not been having a balanced diet; in particular the supply of protective foods has always fallen very short of basic requirements, and even such supplies as were available have not been equitably distributed.

In fact, vulnerable classes like children, nursing mothers and pregnant mothers, and specially those belonging to the lower income groups have had all too poor a share of the basic protective foods. In the meanwhile, the population of this country has been increasing and is continuing to increase. The House needs no indication from me that the food requirements of the people from the long range point of view must be studied and definite plans regarding production, procurement, price control and distribution of both the cereal foodgrains and the protective foods should be drawn up, so that in post-war India, at least, the people of this country can look forward to having more food, better food and balanced food.

All this requires careful study and involves the collaboration not only of the Provincial and State Governments but also of the Departments of Food, Agriculture and Planning. The first step in this direction has been the formation of a Food Committee of the Viceroy's Council, the principal object of which is the co-ordination of policy on a high level of all matters relating to food to whichever department they may pertain.

Post-War Food Planning

I am proposing to set up very shortly in my Department a Food Planning Section, the main purpose of which will be in the first instance to study the whole question of a long range food policy and a planned development of the food economy in India. I know that nothing spectacular can be achieved in this matter within a short period. But I am sure, the House will welcome the attempt which we are now planning at assessing the long range food requirements of India and devising ways and means not only of setting targets for the requisite supplies but also of taking the necessary steps for their equitable distribution I intend, therefore, to place on special duty one of the senior officers of my Department to study this question and submit a preliminary report on the subject of Food Planning in the post-war period.

This is just a bare recital of the main achievements of the Department of Food during my stewardship of it of a little over a year and I leave it to the House to judge how far we have advanced since the appalling days of 1943.

I may summarise what I consider we have been able to achieve during the past year. Broadly speaking I claim we have been able to do four things.

Firstly, we have secured the recognition and adoption of an All-India policy steadily pursued with a common direction and a common aim. In spite of constitutional and other difficulties—to overcome which a good deal of tact and patience was required—we have been able to secure the acceptance of the broad fact that those who have, must share their surplus with those who have not.

Secondly, we have controlled prices.

Thirdly, we have been able to prevent the occurrence of serious local shortages and improved the stocks of grain in the hands of Governments and administrations all over India.

Proof of Returning Confidence

Fourthly—and I attach the greatest importance to this—we have been able to restore confidence in the ability of Government to control the situation. Confidence is perhaps best reflected in prices. The steady downward movement of prices of the principal foodgrains is to my mind proof positive of the returning confidence. In saying this I may be accused of complacency and a desire to advertise my own achievements. I wish to assure the House that I am neither complacent nor do I desire self-advertisement. Whatever we at the Centre have been able to do has been achieved through the hard work, self-sacrifice and steady determination of the people of the country and the Administrations of the Provinces and States co-operating in the general plan. I am indebted to all, and particularly to the members of this House for much help, guidance and encouragement, without which, I am free to confess, it would not have been possible for me to cope with the situation as I found it last year.

An Appeal

While food has clearly demonstrated the need for Central direction, it has, if anything, more clearly demonstrated the economic unity of the country, the interdependence of the Provinces and States and the need and capacity for common effort in a common cause. Nothing can be achieved if food is regarded as something which really does not matter or as something which can be made the spoil of private or political profit or privilege. We can only succeed if the nation as a whole is determined as if it believes in the possibility of success. As already stated by me our work is really laying the foundation stone of a new India. I appeal to the members of this House to give a great lead in a great cause.

RATIONING IN INDIA



Mr. W. H. Kirby's Lecture

Addressing a public meeting held at the Hardinge Library, Delhi, on October 20, Mr. W. H. Kirby, Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, emphasised the policy of the Food Department of the Government of India to bring in uniformity in the size of ration, and uniformity as far as possible in the prices and quality of the foodgrains rationed. He said:

The title of this lecture is "Rationing in India"—these three words at the present moment mean that 405 towns and approximately 40 million people of India are putting up—cheerfully I hope—with all the restrictions upon their liberties as regards their essential foods.

Such a regimentation has never taken place before, consequently it might be advisable for us at this moment to consider quite briefly, why it has been necessary to introduce food rationing into India.

What is Rationing?

I said quite briefly, because rationing is a large subject which impinges upon and is closely linked up with the whole organisation of Food Control, commencing with the grain purchasing in small quantities from 50 million or more cultivators, transport of all kinds, storage in large quantities and then distribution through thousands of retail shops to the consumer.

So, briefly then, what is rationing? It provides:

(a) A yardstick for measuring consumption,
(b) Reducing consumption, when necessary,
(c) Ensures equitable distribution,

(d) Prevents a "run" on a commodity in short supply,
(e) Prevents hoarding,
(f) Prevents profiteering,
(g) Releases surplus quantities for deficit areas,
(h) Enables an Authority to build up reserves on a mathematically correct basis,
(i) Controls prices,
(j) Gives employment,
(k) Raises efficiency of administration,
(l) Restores confidence in the people,
(m) Allays suspicions of the hardly pressed cities that their more fortunate brethren are not exploiting a national calamity.

A Year Ago

A year ago, food rationing was functioning in the first of India's big cities—Bombay—Cochin had already inaugurated a food control scheme, and the rest of the country was in the midst of a feeling of apprehension as to what calamity was going to befall Bengal and Eastern India and other areas. The "deficit" Provinces and States were wondering if starvation was going to be their lot and the "surplus" Provinces and States were rapidly surveying all their resources to ascertain exactly what was their position.

We all know too well the doubts and fears as regards the availability or otherwise of the essential foods of the people that have been experienced during the past 12 months; so what do we find to-day? Is confidence restored to-day or is'nt it? There is no doubt that the answer is an emphatic "yes," it is restored.

But, if another question is asked, 'Is the Government of India, Department of Food, so satisfied with the position of to-day as compared with a year ago that there is no necessity for further effort for maintaining their pressure of improving existing operations', the answer would be an emphatic "no".

The food ship has been held, and steadied on a tempestuous sea, surrounded by innumerable perils, but we can now clearly see all the rocks and can sail ahead into a well chartered future, provided one vital factor holds firm.

And that factor, ladies and gentlemen, is the goodwill and co-operation of the people themselves. I will not weary you with the details of rationing especially since I notice on the hand bills that I am going to be called upon to answer "pertinent" questions, but I would like to say a few words on our policy—on an All-India basis—for the future of rationing. Our policy in the Department of Food now is to bring in uniformity—uniformity in the size of ration, uniformity as regards supplementary rations to heavy workers, and then of course on the other side, namely the procurement and supply side, uniformity as far as possible regarding price, and uniformity as regards quality.

We have heard a great deal all over India about the bad quality of foodgrains which are "on the ration". In all Provinces a drive is being made to see that the cultivator produces the right stuff, the right quantity and linked up with that of course will be the real type of true quality, and that he sends in a good quality of foodgrains which have not been admixed deliberately. I suppose the question of quality, adulteration, mixing sand, bricks and all kinds of ancillary materials is probably the biggest blot on the cultivator in India to-day. I must qualify that. It is not always the cultivator. It is often the intermediate person who does these things, and until we have been able to instil a spirit of pride and honesty of purpose among everybody who touches in the early stages—and in all stages—of the people's food, we shall not be very proud of what we are doing to give to the consumer, who has no choice, a real sound article of food.

The consumer under rationing has no choice. He is regimented, he has to obey laws, and, therefore, it is our responsibility, the responsibility of the Government of India, also the Administration of Delhi, also the Provincial Governments, in fact, all of us—including the cultivator and the merchant—to see that the consumer, who is helpless in the matter, gets first class quality in his foodgrains and all rationed foods.

The Caloric Intake

To-day there are as I have already said 405 towns in India under rationing and 40 million people, and it is still going on, and we have now got to the stage where people themselves are asking to be rationed. They want to know that they will get all they need on a basis of equality and they want to be able to know what the fixed price is. We know that a pound of foodgrains per day per person is the bare minimum. It only gives 1,600 calories. An ordinary person wants at least 2,500 calories, a semi-heavy worker needs 3,000 calories and a heavy worker wants 4,000 calories. But what a large number of critical persons overlook when stating that an adult cannot live on the rationed quantity is that there are other foods to be had which will help to increase the caloric intake.

I want to talk for a moment on the principal subject which is occupying most of my time at present—it is milk. We all know that the milk position in most of the towns of India is deteriorating at an alarming rate. We also know through educational, medical authorities and especially a very much alive Nutritional Advisory Council, that milk is a perfect food, and it must be maintained as a perfect food with a high standard of purity,

also it must be given in priority—as well as in adequate quantities—to those who need it most, I refer to the expectant and nursing mothers and children.

Milk for Children

In fact I heard a senior official the other day make a remark which I shall not forget for some time. He said, "the best investment for India is to put milk into babies". He was quite right, and I took the trouble last night to find out what other countries of the world were doing about giving milk to children and making a first class national investment for the future.

One or two rather remarkable pieces of information came out of my research. Germany has gone all out to see that milk is given to the children from birth to 3 years and gives them 184 ozs. of milk a week against 140 ozs. a week that are given in England. The figures for various countries of Europe are as follows:—

Belgium	184 ozs. a week.
France, Baltic States and Netherlands	184 ozs. a week.
Italy	7 ozs. a week.
Norway	184 ozs. a week.
Sweden	Entirely unrestricted.
Switzerland	184 ozs. a week.

Switzerland also gives heavy workers 150 ozs. and in all countries other than England and Switzerland, no allocation is given whatsoever as an entitlement to an adult person. That is rather significant. You see, in all these countries which have been through extremely difficult and devastating times during this Second World War during which there have been heavy casualties, their Governments have settled on a policy in order to ensure that the leaders in 25 or 30 years' time are going to be physically and, therefore, mentally fit.

Future Food Control

What is the milk policy of the Government of India? It arose out of the Foodgrains (Gregory) Committee where, after dealing primarily with foodgrains, they dealt with milk, and therefore, it is very gratifying to know that the Government is concentrating on the subject of milk, and actively engaged in consultations with the Provinces to work out ways and means of improving quality and quantity.

It is time that I should end, so I want to end up by dealing with the matter of future food control. After having made a careful investigation into the food position as a whole, I do not see any likelihood of control of the essential food commodities for the people being relaxed under a minimum period of possibly five years. From what we know of the other countries of the world, the production of all foodgrains and all foods is deteriorating at an accelerated rate. The need from the consumer end is increasing also at an accelerated rate. There are millions upon millions of people in the world on the starvation level.

There are millions upon millions of people in India who have never had a proper quantity of food, not even 1,600 calories a day and, therefore, taking all these factors into consideration, there is no reason to believe that control, as we know it to-day in India, will let us—it may increase—in order to ensure that everyone gets a fair share of essential foods. That gives the answer to those cultivators who are not quite sure whether they are going to have a fixed economic price paid to them. It is reasonable to think that they will, in fact they must. You cannot have a fixed distribution price at the consumer end and the costs at your production end left in the skies subject to boons and depressions.

There is so much more to say on the absorbing subject of the peoples' food, but time is running short.

I wanted to talk more about nutrition, feeding of children in schools, milk on a priority basis for young children, expectant and nursing mothers, feeding the worker in industrial canteens etc. etc. —all these worthwhile acts of social welfare can be brought into being by the new era created by the rationing organisations now stretching throughout the length and breadth of this vast country of India.

None of this can be achieved without goodwill and fullest co-operation and real hard work from everyone. I firmly believe that through all the controls and restrictions, aimed at equality of sacrifice, a new and advanced order of social life will emerge for the ultimate benefit of everyone.

IMPORT OF MILK POWDER

One thousand tons of skimmed milk powder imported on Government account for famine relief are expected to arrive in India shortly. Of this quantity 250 tons have been earmarked for Travancore, Cochin and Malabar and the balance is likely to be supplied to Bengal, Bihar and other needy areas.

It is reported that the Indian Red Cross Society, in co-operation with the Friends Ambulance Unit, has already established 300 centres in Malabar for distribution of milk powder donated by charitable organisations.

More than 45,000 tons of wheat from overseas arrived in India during the week ended October 24. This is the largest consignment of foodgrains to have arrived in India during the last two years.

ADEQUATE STORAGE AND IMPROVED SUPERVISION OF FOODGRAINS

Mr. B. R. Sen Explains Government Policy

"IT is hoped that we shall be in a position before long to reduce losses in storage and transit such as have occurred last year and this year, and save food for hundreds of thousands of our people who are suffering from short supply and high prices," said the Hon'ble Mr. B. R. Sen, Director-General, Food, addressing over 100 Provincial and States officers who attended the instructional course on storage which commenced in New Delhi on October 30.

Here is the full text of Mr. B. R. Sen's speech:

The problem of storage is now one of the most important and fundamental problems which is facing the authorities in charge of food administration at the Centre and in the provinces and States today. I should like to put to you the problem as we view it as a whole so that you can understand the part that you, as technical inspectors and supervisors of storage, will have to take. In normal times when the internal trade functions without any form of State control, the grain is held by hundreds of thousands of small producers and traders who bring it to the market in small or large quantities according to the demand. As ordinarily there is enough supply to meet the demand the overall deficit of the country being met by imports, the responsibility for ensuring quality of the grain and therefore of its proper storage is firmly fixed on the seller all along the chain till the grain reaches the consumer. The even flow of supply according to the demand is assisted by an abundance of transport, which dispenses with any need to build up reserve stocks even at the risk of deterioration.

Basic Plan

In the conditions created by the war, however, the problem of food supply and along with this the problem of storage have taken an entirely different shape. To ensure an equitable distribution, according to comparative needs, the Government of India have had to evolve a Basic Plan for controlled distribution of surpluses of foodgrains available to deficit areas. This has necessitated stoppage of inter-provincial free trade based on the law of supply and demand and the Provincial and State Governments have had to take over an increasingly large share of the traders' function.

Even in normal times in the case of a grain like wheat, losses due to bad storage have been estimated at 3 per cent of the total crop or 300,000 tons out of a total average production of 10,000,000 tons. Under the present conditions when Government have to procure through official machinery normally quite unaccustomed to trading practices, and with practically no trade background, when owing to severely restricted or complete cessation of imports the demand for foodgrains far outstrips the supply and Governments have to procure whatever they can during the peak of the season *i.e.*, three or four months after the harvest so as to prevent the marketed surplus from getting into the hands of hoarders, when these Governments have to store these foodgrains pending their despatch according to the Basic Plan, when owing to movements connected with the War a comparatively limited amount of transport is available to meet civil needs, when at the receiving end also the Provincial and State Governments have to accept stocks as they arrive and store them as best as they can without adequate facilities for building new storages or repairing old ones, the losses due to deterioration must now have greatly increased. While losses are to a certain extent inevitable when large quantities of grains have to be handled, it is clear that if India is to deal with her wartime food problem satisfactorily, one of the first things she must attend to is to try and reduce losses due to bad storage as far as practicable.

Progress of Schemes

Viewed against this background the problem of storage seems to fall into the following two main parts:—

(1) Provision of adequate and satisfactory storage accommodation, and

(2) Improved technical supervision of grains in storage.

So far as the first is concerned, the Food Department have for some time past been pressing on the Provinces and States the very great urgency of the problem and it can be said that the Provinces and States are now fully conscious of their responsibilities in the matter.

Some progress has already been made in some of the provinces and states. Central Provinces, for instance, have constructed 18,000 tons of storage, Madras 10,900 tons, Bombay, 30,000 tons, Travancore, 5,000 tons, and Hyderabad 15,000 tons. The Food Department have also formulated a scheme for the construction of storage for 200,000 tons at various "strategic" points in the major surplus areas to facilitate procurement and ensure an even flow of rail movement throughout the year. The capital cost is to be advanced on a 50 : 50 basis by the province and the Centre.

Construction under this scheme has already been taken up in several provinces and it is hoped that a substantial part of this accommodation would be ready to take in the rice crop which will come into the market in January and February. We are going ahead with another scheme of storage construction at the main ports and consuming centres for holding a portion of the Central Government Reserve to be built of the wheat imports. It is expected that about 140,000 tons of storage accommodation under this scheme would be ready by January or February.

Apart from these schemes of construction we have taken steps in some of the main producing areas to hire accommodation on a large scale. This accommodation is primarily intended to be the basis of the scheme of purchase on storage delivery terms which fixes the responsibility for quality on the seller till the grain is finally made over to Government. It is estimated that at certain times of the year as much as 300,000 tons of space would be available for hire.

Grain Storage Depot, Karachi

In addition to all these, we have established a Grain Storage Depot in Karachi capable of dealing with 250,000 tons. This depot in Karachi is under the expert management of two old established firms of international repute and stocks passing through the depot are handled under strictly commercial conditions. The in-coming grain is checked for quality and weight by an independent trade authority. It is then stacked and protected with dunnage by methods evolved from long practical experience. How successful these methods have proved to be at the Karachi Depot is demonstrated by the fact that despite a phenomenally heavy rainfall this year the loss caused to the Depot stocks has been insignificant. It is hoped that by all these methods we shall be in a position before long to reduce losses in storage and transit such as have occurred last year and this year and save food for hundreds of thousands of our people who are suffering from short supply and high prices as a result of it.

Dr. Coyne's Reports

The second part of the problem is the one relating to losses to foodgrains for lack of technical supervision over storage. The urgency of this matter led the Government of India a few months ago to bring out from England an expert with experience not only in the United Kingdom but also in the Middle East. Within the short time that Dr. Coyne has been here, he has toured most of the major provinces and some of the States and has submitted valuable reports for improvement of storage. It is clear that though valuable work has been done by our scientists in laboratories, the application of their research on any scale has not yet been attempted anywhere in India. The trade of foodgrains having been in the hands of professional traders, the problems connected with storage, unlike in other countries, had been left to be dealt with according to their traditional methods and practices

The large scale handling of foodgrains by Government machinery since the last two years, however, has accentuated the defects in our system and demonstrated the necessity of urgent action to remedy the defects. The work of this section can roughly be divided into two parts *viz*, inspection of goods on arrival and scientific storage. Last year, grains had to be poured into some areas to meet acute scarcity and distress. The lack of any adequate organisation to inspect the in-coming supplies for grade condition, dirt content, foreign grains, insect damage etc. led to losses of which none who can help would like to see a recurrence. This lack of organised inspection on arrival naturally led to large losses while the grains were placed in storage. Heavily infested grain was placed side by side with grain free from infestation. For lack of proper storage, the goods were so stacked that they did not admit of regular inspection and infestation spread without any check. Except in one or two provinces, there were hardly any arrangements for fumigation or other scientific treatment to check or destroy infestation.

Storage Section

I mention these facts not in a spirit of criticism of the provinces and states—we at the Centre must also take a share in the blame—but to place the facts squarely before us and the provinces and states so that we may realise the dimension and character of the problem before us and bend our energies to place the whole matter on a sound basis within the shortest possible time. To do that, provinces and states will have to organise and give an important place to a storage section in their food organisation. The storage section should have an adequate personnel recruited from candidates having knowledge of general science and if possible agriculture. Training classes will have to be opened for officers of this Department for training in pest control and practical instruction regarding storage.

There should be no stinting of men or money in this organisation as whatever is invested in the organisation will be repaid in the saving of food for millions of our people. You will, therefore, see from what I have stated what an important responsibility you, as technical inspectors and supervisors of storage, will have in the scheme of preservation of food in the country.

FAMINE INQUIRY COMMISSION RETURN TO DELHI

A PRESS Note issued by the Famine Inquiry Commission on November 2 stated:

The Famine Inquiry Commission on their return to New Delhi to-day made the following statement:

Since leaving Delhi about the middle of August we have visited several provinces and States and have now returned in order to collate the information we have collected and write our report. We spent nearly six weeks in Bengal and during our stay in the province heard the evidence of a large number of witnesses, official and non-official, including ministers and ex-ministers, and made a detailed inquiry into the causes of the famine and the present food administration in Bengal.

While in Calcutta we also heard the representatives of the Governments of Bihar, Orissa and Assam. We then visited Bombay, Madras, Cochin, Travancore and C.P. and during our tours in those provinces and States made ourselves acquainted with the steps taken to deal with the food situation as it developed in 1943, the present system of food administration and the difficulties they are now experiencing. Among the questions with which we have been concerned are those of protective and supplementary foods and the repercussions of the food situation on health.

Preliminary Report on Bengal

In accordance with the terms of the Ordinance by which we were appointed, we intend to submit to the Government of India in advance of our final report a preliminary report on Bengal. The Commission may also make recommendations in regard to matters relating to the food situation in the country requiring attention in the immediate future.

The final report will also deal with long-term measures for prevention of food shortage and for improvement of the diet of the people. The Commission is awaiting replies from the Provinces to the questionnaire that has been issued.

FOODGRAINS FOR BENGAL

Reports received up to September 9, 1944, indicate that the Central Food Department has already supplied 5,15,000 tons of foodgrains to Bengal. This works out to over 80 per cent of the quota promised for the year ending December 31, 1944.

SIR HENRY FRENCH ON INDIA'S FOOD PROBLEM

"Food control in the United Kingdom is child's play compared with India, with its variety of conditions and requirements of the people," said Sir Henry French at a meeting in London recently.

"The whole crux of the problem" he continued, according to a report "is the loss of Burma rice, representing a margin not great in comparison with India's total consumption, but one that made all the difference between security and insecurity. The tragedy is that anyone who knows the world position in rice knows that the loss cannot be made up from India, inside or outside India. It just is 'not in the world'."

The main problem according to Sir Henry French was to get the people to eat foods other than rice. One method adopted was a chain of Government subsidised restaurants in Cochin which served cheap non-rice meals.

Sir Henry French returned to England early this month after an extensive tour of India, during which he met the Viceroy and Governors of every province in India.

LECTURES ON RATIONING IN BOMBAY

Reiterating his view that there was little likelihood of control of the essential food commodities being relaxed under a minimum period of possibly five years, Mr. W. H. Kirby, Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, initiated the lectures on food control and rationing in Bombay on October 30.

He emphasised that the increase in India's population and difficulties of producing more food at the required speed, necessitated continued food control and planning if we were to avoid the famine and calamities that we had been through recently. "We have now got to the stage," he continued, "where people themselves are asking to be rationed. They want to know that they will get all they need on the basis of equality and they want to be able to know what the fixed price is. It is the responsibility of the Government to see that the consumer gets first class quality in his foodgrains and all rationed foods."

The lectures were attended by representatives of Provinces and States and lasted for a week.

THE RAILWAYS GET YOU THERE SOMEHOW

Sir Edward Benthall's Broadcast

"TRANSPORT in War—the Task and the Achievement", was the subject of a talk by the Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India, broadcast from the Delhi Station of All India Radio on October 20. Sir Edward said:

In wartime the problem of the transport authorities is to move not only the military traffic but also the greatly increased traffic of a civil or semi-military nature which arises out of the boom conditions created by war. All transport organisations are, therefore, submitted in wartime to a stress which is both acute and sustained, and the stress is complicated by the fact that the character of the goods to be carried is entirely different to that of peacetime, for example, heavy and awkward military machines and weapons have to be handled in place of bag cargo, and very often the heaviest traffic has to be moved over routes which were not designed for the purpose.



Sir Edward Benthall.

Movement of Military Personnel

The public naturally feels most the difficulties of passenger travel. The aim in passenger traffic must be to move without fail all the soldiers who have to be moved under military necessity and then to make the best possible arrangements to meet the vastly increased travel by civil passengers which is partly necessitated by wartime activities.

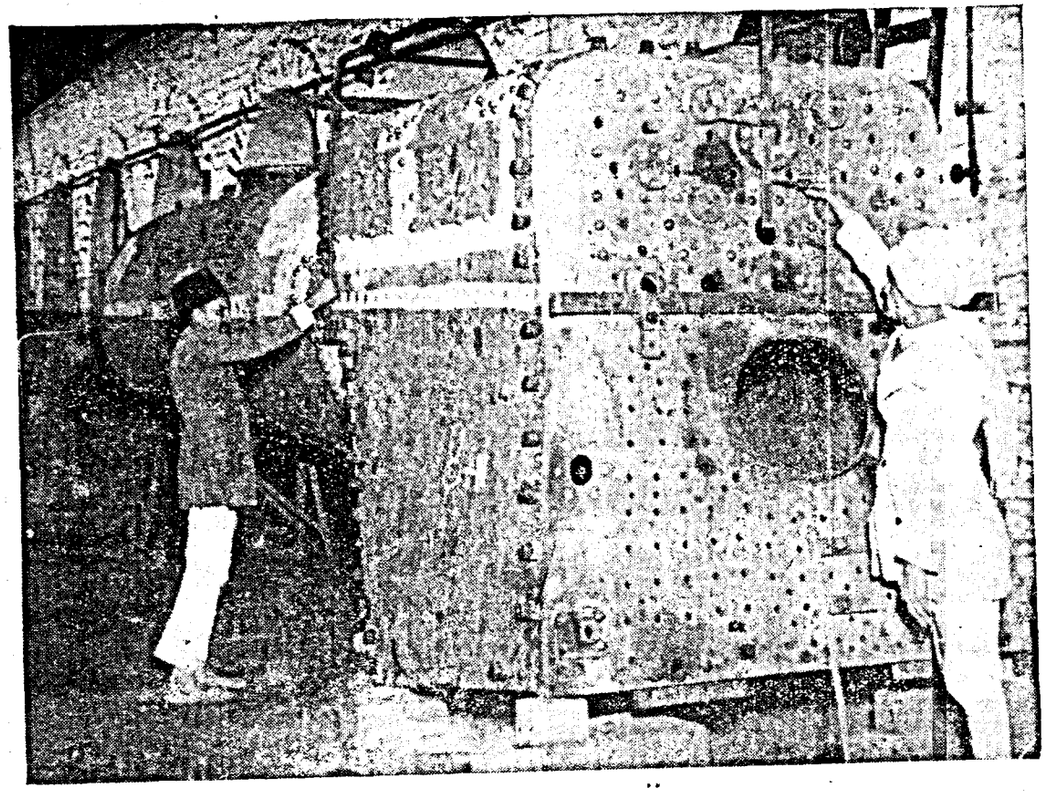
The movements of military personnel are, as General Russell pointed out in his broadcast in this series, either for direct operational purposes or for movement of troops to fresh training grounds or for leave. We are always in close collaboration with the War Department to restrict military travel, but if military functions are to be properly carried out, a steadily increasing military personnel traffic is bound to accrue until the climax is reached and the war moves away from India. The organised movement of military passengers by rail has doubled between January and July, excluding altogether the special traffic which has taken place on the lines of communication to the Burma Front and the movement of individual soldiers. Personal contact does not lead me to believe that military passengers actually enjoy their travels on the railways, but thanks to the close co-operation of the military transportation authorities and the Railway Department, it can be said that the bulk of these organised movements has gone like clock work.

I am often asked whether it is not possible to restrict passenger traffic, at least in the upper classes, to those who must travel and to bring in a system of priority for this purpose. It is not; no practical system has been devised, not even in Germany under Gestapo methods. Who can determine on any rational grounds whether it is more important that a military officer should travel on leave, a businessman to keep the economic machine in operation or a husband to visit a sick wife? And if it were possible to determine this, it would not be possible to set up the machinery to adjudicate on all claims even in the upper classes. As regards lower class travel, money is flowing and with money in their pockets the people will travel.

Latest Passenger Statistics

The latest passenger statistics show that between April 1939 and May 1944 the number of passengers travelling monthly has increased by 30,000,000. The increase in passengers in May 1944 was nearly 71 per cent in excess of the pre-war monthly average.

There is, however, no question yet, I am afraid, of increasing the number of passenger trains to ease the situation. Military demands on coaching stock are heavy and so far from there being any alleviation during the war there will undoubtedly



A locomotive boiler under construction in an Indian railway workshop.

be periods, I hope, of short duration, when passenger traffic may have to be restricted on military grounds still further. All I can promise is that a very determined effort will be made to improve the conditions of travel on Indian railways so that they will be more comfortable after the war than they were before, and to do whatever is possible meanwhile. Nevertheless in spite of the distressing conditions of travel, the railways get you there and they get you back somehow, and from all accounts India is no exception to the general rule of congestion, for I am told that many people in London preferred to take their chance from the flying bombs rather than travel on the English railways which they regarded as an experience worse than the risk of death.

As regards goods, the aim is to move as much traffic as possible, but at least to move the essential traffic. Of the essential traffic some 40 per cent (in ton miles) is represented by coal. The fluctuation in the demand for coal wagons, therefore, has an immediate and inescapable effect on the ability of the railways to move other traffic. Military operational moves must come first and coal and Government food programmes must be moved in very high priority.

The priority of other traffic is regulated by the War Transport Department. It is the railways' job to move the maximum possible overall tonnage; but it is the War Transport Department's job to make the best use of the rolling stock and to say what is to be moved, where, in what quantities, and what must wait. There is an incompatibility about these two functions, for the restrictions which the War Transport Department place on movements may have a detrimental effect on the total tonnage which the railways can move. Wagons which could be loaded at one station with non-essential goods have often to be hurried away elsewhere empty in order to pick up essential traffic, for example, to clear the ports, and the normal economical distribution of available stock is liable to be upset.

But I say without hesitation that the system of priority control of movements, which I found in operation when I took over my post, has been

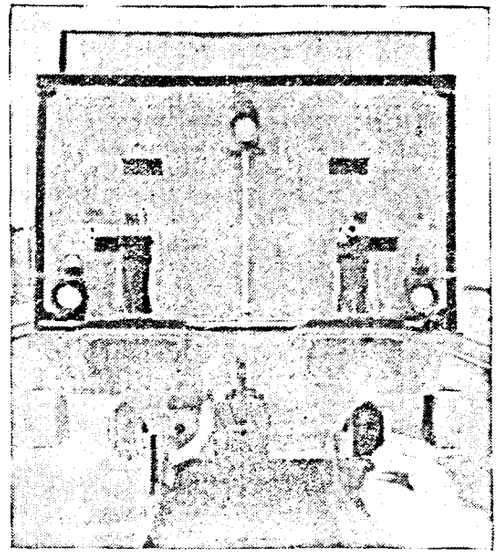
one of the successes of wartime control. It has not had much publicity, but it is a key organisation and the life of the country could not have been maintained without it. Mr. Brown's broadcast will have told you how Controllers of Railway Priorities face their problems. In spite of the firm attitude which duty sometimes necessitates their taking, they fully realise the difficulties of the public and do their best to help them. The numerous and changing regulations are difficult to follow, but I can assure listeners that if they have problems of goods movements they will receive all possible assistance, compatible with the public interest, if only they will represent their cases to the Regional Controllers of Priorities.

How far have the Transport authorities achieved their aims? It can be said at once that on the whole the military programmes have moved with reasonable punctuality, often over immense distances, at very short notice, and with minimum inconvenience to the public. Nothing was heard, for instance, of the success of the railways in rushing troops across India in the nick of time to meet the spring offensive of the Japanese for the simple reason that the movement went smoothly.

As regards civil movements we watch with great care at all stations the arrears of wagon loads of goods awaiting transport for more than a few days. During the last few months there has been a satisfactory reduction in arrears and although we do not expect this improvement to continue, owing to the increased demands for coal and other priority movements, the accumulations of traffic awaiting movement are at the moment, with some important exceptions, not as serious as they have been at times in the past. This position is, however, only achieved at high tension and causes the authorities increasing anxiety.

And we have not yet reached our peak. Coal and other goods movements are going to increase and the military movements will also steadily grow until they reach a peak comparable to that which was faced by the railways in the United Nations overseas when they were launching the recent great offensives. To meet this we have increased the line capacity on many of the key sections by doubling and quadrupling lines and adding loops and sidings of various descriptions, and we have undertaken many other works and introduced improved and more effective methods, all with the object of generally increasing operating efficiency. We hope to have put into service by the end of March next some 420 new broad-gauge and 530 new metre-gauge locomotives and the continuous flow of broad-gauge locomotives from overseas should steadily ease the position thereafter.

The wagon position is not so happy. We hope that we shall have put into operation by the end of March next about 24,000 new metre-gauge



Rear view of an engine tender built in India: it has a capacity of 3,000 gallons of water and 7½ tons of coal.

wagons (in terms of four wheelers), a satisfactory figure. But as regards the broad-gauge wagons, it is a different story. Out of some 38,000 broad-gauge wagons for which orders have been placed since the beginning of the war we shall only have received some 12,000 odd by March 1945 so that we shall not get any adequate alleviation on the broad-gauge until the latter part of next year.

The importation of large numbers of motor vehicles will be of material assistance. Improved road transport is a vital necessity but can only be an auxiliary in solving the main problem of long distance bulk goods and passenger movements.

By the end of next year, however, it is hoped that increased line capacity, accretions of rolling stock and the benefits of improved methods will lead to a materially easier goods traffic position, which will enable us to meet all demands both for wartime purposes and later for post-war development, railway plans for which have been elaborated in Sir Lakshmipati Misra's broadcast. Passenger traffic will continue difficult as long as the numbers travelling remain so large and until we can bring into operation new coaching stock. Let me try to sum up the position.

Demands for passenger and goods traffic have enormously increased. Improved organisation and efficiency has met some of this increase, but until more rolling stock is available restrictions on the less essential traffic are necessary. In

this process, naturally, the ordinary civilian and his needs have to take the second place to military requirements, but by and large the officials concerned can claim that they have been not too unsuccessful in meeting the essential civil needs.

We have for a long while been making determined efforts to increase our power and wagon position in view of the greater loads which are likely to be placed upon us in the coming year. But as the military demand for rolling stock may well grow quicker than our ability to obtain delivery of new stock, there may be periods during which civil movements generally will be subjected to even greater interference than in the past. The public have been very patient and it will be necessary to ask for their indulgence a little longer. The price of victory is sacrifice, but it will be the endeavour of all concerned to see that whatever sacrifices are required are not continued a day longer than is necessary. I have every confidence that the end of 1945 will see a mitigation of our transport difficulties and that there will be a steady improvement thereafter.

MIDNAPORE-BANKURA LINE DOUBLED

Sixty-four miles of railway line between Midnapore and Bankura have recently been doubled, involving the use of well over 7,500 trucks of materials including 10,000 tons of rails. Some of the earthwork was in hard laterite, and as blasting was impossible due to an open line running alongside, all excavation in hard laterite had to be done with chisels. More than a hundred sets of points and crossings had to be laid, and five miles of telegraph line shifted. As most of the bridges were constructed more than 40 years ago, considerable repairs and strengthening with reinforced concrete were undertaken. Several items of signal equipment, including cabins and signals, were manufactured departmentally by the signal staff engaged on the work.

Earthwork was started at the beginning of February and the linking on the Midnapore-Garbeta section, a distance of 29 miles, was completed by the end of June; work on the remaining length of track was completed about a month later. During April, May and June traffic was exceptionally heavy, due largely to the transportation of vast quantities of material for certain other works, and resulted in difficulty and delay in obtaining materials.

As the doubling had to be opened during the monsoon it was necessary initially to impose a speed restriction of 10 miles an hour on the new track. It is expected that full double-line working will be introduced with a speed restriction of 35 miles per hour by December 1.

TRAVELLING BLOOD BANK

New Use for Railway Tourist Car

Improvisation is one of the familiar techniques adopted by the fighting services, but little is known of the extent to which it is employed by Indian railways. A notable instance is the transformation of a tourist car into a blood transfusion coach. To meet the needs of a blood bank a tourist car released by the South Indian Railway has been converted for use by the Army Transfusion Service who will tour the country and collect blood from voluntary donors.

In one of the compartments, a refrigerating unit of the frigidaire type has been fitted, as well as a cabinet, built in India, to hold 480 pints of blood. The refrigerating unit is worked on the brine circulation principle. The circulation of brine and air through the cooling cabinet has been arranged under thermostatic control, so as to maintain an even temperature of round about 40 degrees F. The unit has been designed and constructed by a well-known firm of engineers in India.

One compartment has been left intact for use as a bed room for the Medical Officer by night and as a rest room for blood donors by day. At the other end, there is a small store room and a well-fitted laboratory. To provide the power required for the refrigerating equipment, a mobile generating van is attached to this coach.

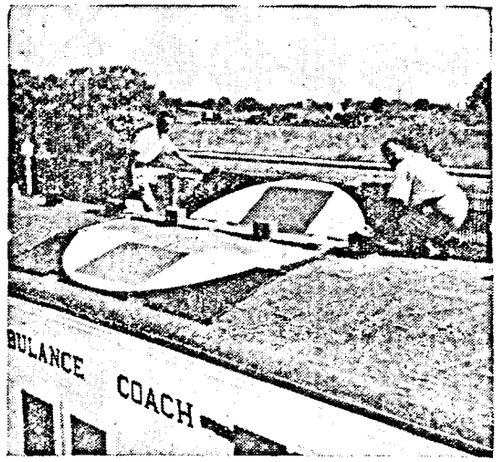
Officers of the Army Medical Directorate who inspected this travelling blood bank expressed appreciation of this latest work of the railways for the war effort.

100 MAUNDS OF STORES MOVED EVERY MINUTE

In modern war railways play an important part in moving armies to the scene of land operations and ports of embarkation, and in maintaining them.

To sustain the war in North-Eastern India, the Bengal and Assam Railway performs a vital task. Day in and day out the thousands of articles required for the successful prosecution of war are moving up the lines of communication by rail.

In a recent month nearly 100 maunds of stores of all descriptions were moved every minute throughout the 24 hours, an achievement that reflects credit on the railwaymen of India and our American allies who work a large portion of this important artery.



Reversible Red Cross sign on the roof of the coach.

DUAL PURPOSE RAILWAY COACH

India's railway engineers have built a coach which can be used either on ordinary trains or on ambulance trains, as may be necessary.

According to the Geneva Convention, a coach marked with the Red Cross cannot be attached to an ordinary passenger, goods or military trains, as these are considered as military objectives which can be bombed.



Reversible Red Cross sign on the side panel of the coach.

The newly built coach, however, can be used for a dual purpose by a simple device known as "Red Cross Mask", which enables the Red Cross to be obliterated when the carriage is attached to ordinary trains. If, however, it is to be attached to an ambulance train to convey wounded men, these Masks, which are hinged, are moved to permit the appearance of a huge Red Cross on the roof, and a smaller one on either side of the carriage.

BENGAL AND ASSAM RAILWAY'S PART IN EASTERN WAR

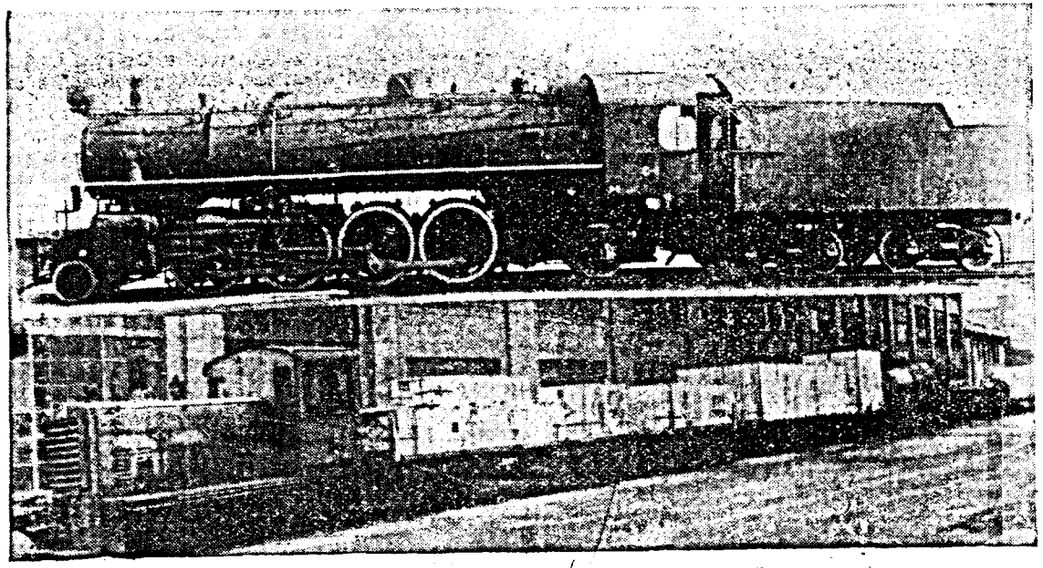
The almost overnight metamorphosis of the Bengal and Assam Railway from a relatively unimportant communication line into one of the most vital threads in the pattern of the Eastern war is a tribute to the way in which India's railwaymen have taken on an increasingly heavy burden.

First the Railway was confronted with the mass evacuation of an army and thousands of civilian refugees from Burma; this it carried out successfully. Then came a reversal of the direction of traffic for the build-up of defence, and later of victorious attack, by the Army. This was accomplished while the Railway was carrying thousands of tons of stores for transport over the "hump" to China and while it was embarking on a programme of development works the like of which, it would be safe to say, no railway in the world has undertaken before. Wagon miles in 1943-44 were 64.4 per cent higher than in the previous year, and passenger miles 28 per cent higher.

Increasing Military Traffic

In the beginning of 1944, owing to increasing military traffic, it was found necessary to step up the capacity of the Railway to its maximum. As, however, all other railways were also hard pressed, the staff was not available in India, and it had to be brought from America, which was the only country that could spare the necessary skilled personnel. This move has had the desired effect; more supervision can be provided and, using Indian railway methods, the capacity of the Railway has been increased.

Civilian requirements of other Indian railways have, however, had to suffer to some extent; for, until new rolling stock could be gathered in sufficient quantities, large numbers of locomotives and wagons have had to be transferred from those railways so that military operational traffic can be carried.



(Top half) A Canadian locomotive built for Indian State Railways. (Lower half) The same locomotive dismantled and packed in 17 crates for shipment.

NORTH AMERICAN LOCOMOTIVES GIVING GOOD SERVICE

THE arrival in India of appreciable numbers of heavy goods locomotives from North America during the last few months has strengthened materially the capacity of Indian railways for traffic over the trunk routes. Compared with the locomotives already in service in this country, those from North America are giving efficient service and favourable results. In fact they are able to exert greater power than the older types in service before the war and they have enabled loads to be stepped up and speeds to be increased, resulting in increased capacity over important steep sections and a corresponding increase in the tonnage of important military stores that the railways have moved. The new locomotives are operating in the western, central and eastern parts of the country, and as further supplies reach India, their use will be extended to the northern and southern areas.

"Austerity" Design

To simplify maintenance problems, the types of locomotives demanded have corresponded to types already in service in India. Supply problems, however, prevented complete adherence to the designs to which locomotives here were constructed, and the North American machines have throughout been built to an "austerity" design. As a result, they do not include certain fitments to which Indian operating staff have become accustomed. Initially this has presented some difficulties but the staff responsible for handling these valuable machines have readily adapted themselves to the altered conditions.

Although numbers of these locomotives are in process of supply, they can all be absorbed without detriment to the post-war position. India at the outbreak of war had in use a considerable number of locomotives approaching the age when their removal from service would have become economic. Under war conditions their retention in service past their economic life has been unavoidable and the locomotives which North America is now supplying will be used to some extent to replace these units when traffic conditions become easier and withdrawal from service of the old engines becomes possible.

The importation of these locomotives is, however, solely dictated by the war situation and the flow will not continue once the war need has been met. In the post-war period imports of locomotives from abroad will be restricted to the numbers required after allowing for those which India's locomotive building capacity can produce. The speed with which this capacity can be built up will determine the numbers which must be imported.

INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE IN BURMA

Standing Finance Committee Approves Proposal

A PICTURE of the problems that will arise when Burma is recovered was drawn before the Standing Finance Committee, which met in New Delhi on October 31 under the presidentship of Sir Jeremy Raisman (Finance Member, Government of India) when its approval was sought for the appointment of an Indian Representative in Burma.

It is estimated that there are still 600,000 Indians in Burma and that there are in India about 500,000 Indian refugees from Burma. There are many who have claims to settle with the Government of Burma. Those still there will wish to establish communication as quickly as possible with India and will also require special protection during the interval between the expulsion of the Japanese and the establishment of normal government.

The refugees in India want to get back to Burma In the political sphere problems will arise, both internal and external, owing to the various kinds of assistance that Burma will need from India. The question of Indian immigration will have to be reopened. In view of all these factors, it was urged, it is necessary to appoint a Representative of India in Burma, who while in India will prepare the ground for his work in Burma. The Committee accepted the proposal.

Regional Publicity Organisations

The Committee agreed to the grant of war allowances to Central Government servants drawing salaries above the limit of dearness allowance.

It approved of the setting up of the Industrial Adviser's Organisation for initiating schemes for post-war planning and development. It gave its consent to a proposal to open regional publicity organisations in Bombay, Madras and Lahore to educate the public on the food position. In view of the criticisms made in the Assembly about the broadcasting service and the pressure of work on the staff of All India Radio, it was agreed to sanction additional staff.

The provision of funds for the Health Survey and Development Committee was approved. The examination of emergency irrigation schemes projected in pursuance of the Grow More Food campaign has shown the need for a pooling of experience if much time and effort are not to be wasted on independent experiments in the several Provinces and States. Staff with a knowledge of the problems involved is not everywhere available and there are many difficulties to be overcome in procuring the necessary equipment in the open market, especially in war conditions. These considerations point to the necessity for some central co-ordination and the Committee accepted a proposal to start a Sub-Soil Water Section under the Deputy Irrigation Adviser.

As a result of a review of the Grow More Food campaign, it has been found necessary to strengthen the Agriculture Section of the Education, Health and Lands Department with experts in different branches of agriculture and animal husbandry who will be available to help the Central and Provincial Governments in the preparation of plans for food production. The Committee agreed to the provision of funds for the reorganisation of the Agriculture and Food Production Sections for this purpose. It also approved of the extension of the temporary Locust Warning Organisation to deal with the locust menace to India.

Labour Administration

A scheme for co-ordinating the recruitment and employment of unskilled labour by the establishment of provincial and regional Labour Supply Committees and Labour Supply Depots was introduced in February last. With the progress of the war and the continued deterioration in the unskilled labour supply position, the need for further co-ordination has arisen. It is also expected that the coalfields will have imported by the end of the year about 40,000 men. In addition, Labour Department has undertaken to recruit a certain number of labour units for the Army. The Committee agreed to the establishment of an Unskilled Labour Supply Directorate to do this work, as also to a proposal to depute Central and Provincial Government Labour Department officers to the United Kingdom for training in aspects of labour administration of immediate importance to India.

The establishment of a Central Technical Power Board to plan electric power development on an all-India basis in consultation with the Provincial and State Governments was agreed to.

CHOLERA DEATHS IN BIHAR

The situation in North Bihar was not alarming but disturbing, said the Governor of Bihar at a Press conference held in Patna early in September last. He said 68,000 persons died from cholera, according to the revised figure. One lakh and twenty thousand persons died due to fever including malaria. Two lakhs and twenty-eight thousand died from all causes between January 1 and July 31, 1944.

HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR INDIA IN SOUTH AFRICA



Mr. R. M. Deshmukh

MR. RAMRAO MADHAVRAO DESHMUKH Bar-at-Law, at present Finance Minister in Gwalior State and Member, National Defence Council, has been selected for appointment as High Commissioner for India in the Union of South Africa in succession to Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan whose term of office expires in November, 1944, said a Press Communique issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on October 22.

It added: Mr. Deshmukh is expected to assume his duties in South Africa in January 1945. Sir Shafaat Ahmed Khan's term has been extended until Mr. Deshmukh arrives in South Africa.

LT.-COL. C. P. HANCOCK

With effect from November 5, 1944, the Western Indian States and the Baroda and Gujarat States Agencies have been amalgamated.

Lt.-Col. C. P. Hancock, C.I.E., O.B.E., M.C., has been appointed Resident of this combined Agency and will be designated "Resident at Baroda and for the States of Western India and Gujarat."

INDIA'S REPRESENTATIVE WITH BURMA GOVERNMENT



Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta

MR JAMNADAS M. MEHTA has been appointed Representative of the Government of India with the Government of Burma. Mr. Mehta assumed charge of his office on October 30, 1944, said a Press Communique issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on November 1.

A lawyer by profession, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta has devoted the greater part of his life to politics and labour welfare, and he is fond of describing himself as a socialist in outlook and by conviction. He has an intense admiration for Tilak and Pherozshah Mehta.

He started life with an adventure which nearly cost him his life. At the age of five Mr. Mehta was shipwrecked in the Gulf of Cutch but was rescued. Shortly afterwards he was put to school at Jamnagar. He took his M.A. degree at Bombay in 1911, and was called to the Bar in 1914. Returning to Bombay where he set up practice, Mr. Mehta was elected to the Bombay Municipal Corporation in 1922 and has been a Member for over 20 years. For ten years from 1921 to 1931 he

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 629)

COMMONWEALTH CIVIL AVIATION CONFERENCE

A PRESS Note issued by the Posts and Air Department, Government of India, on October 31 stated:

Conversations at the Commonwealth Civil Aviation Conference at Montreal between representatives of the United Kingdom, the Dominions and India have concluded, and the following agreed press statement was issued at the close of the Conference on October 28:

"Conversations have just been concluded by officials representing Australia, Canada, India, Newfoundland, New Zealand, South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and the United Kingdom covering a wide range of subjects.

"There was unanimity of view regarding the paramount importance of joining with the other nations of the world in the immediate creation of an effective International Air Authority through the medium of a permanent International Air Convention designed in the interests of peace, security and air development. Nothing done at this Commonwealth Conference impairs the freedom of action of the respective Governments at the forthcoming Chicago conference.

Air Services

"There was also unanimity of view regarding the desirability of establishing air services on routes connecting different parts of the Commonwealth and Empire which would provide a complete system of air communications. Charts were prepared of routes which the Commonwealth countries might wish to operate. There was agreement on the desirability of establishing a Standing Commonwealth Air Transport Council to provide for consultation and exchange of information among members of the Commonwealth and Empire.

"Following the first plenary session at which general policies were discussed, committees were set up to examine technical questions of common interest. Among these were wartime routes, commercial routes, methods of operation, ground facilities, air navigation, radio facilities, meteorology air worthiness, equipment, standard practices and standardisation. Reports from these committees were submitted to the final plenary session on October 27 and were unanimously adopted; they therefore go to the respective Governments for study and review, bearing the complete endorsement of this Conference.

"All delegations are agreed that the conversations have been a success and of the greatest benefit. They have provided an opportunity for the examination of the problems which arise in establishing air services and the routes between different parts of the Commonwealth, and by a full exchange of views have contributed to their solution.

"The conversations have proceeded throughout on the basis of a common desire among the British Commonwealth countries to make the maximum contribution to an international system of economical and efficient air services."

INDIANS IN EAST AFRICA

Entry Permits for bona fide Residents

Restrictions under the Defence Regulations on the entry of non-natives into East Africa as affecting Indians in that country have been engaging the close and continuous attention of the Government of India, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on October 28.

It added: As a result of their representations the Colonial Government has now given an unequivocal assurance that normal and *bona fide* residents will be granted entry permits even though they may have been absent from the territory for more than two years. The Government of India have further been assured through His Majesty's Government as well as direct from the Colonial Government that the Regulations are for meeting wartime conditions and are not intended to be permanent.

Withdrawal of Regulations Urged

Steps have been taken to impress on the Colonial Government that permission should be granted as a matter of course for the entry of fresh personnel to replace or reinforce the staff of business concerns. In one or two instances in which difficulties were brought to their notice the Government of India have been able to secure necessary permits for such personnel.

Further representations have been made urging that normal residents should be completely exempted from the scope of the Regulations and should not be required to submit to the necessity of obtaining permits. It has also been represented that the regulations should be withdrawn as soon as possible.

CHIEF OF KHARAN'S GIFT

The Chief of Kharan, a small State in the west of Baluchistan, has contributed Rs. 10,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.



The cutting of mica to the required shapes is done mostly by women and children.

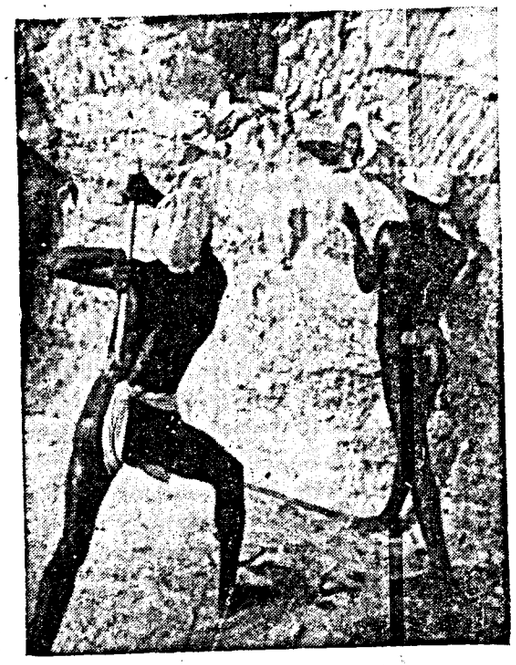
DEVELOPMENT OF MICA MINING INDUSTRY

Enquiry Committee Appointed

A PRESS Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India, on October 24 stated:

The Central Government have appointed a Mica Enquiry Committee to enquire into the immediate as well as the long term problems of mica mining industry. With the Hon'ble Mr. Justice D. E. Reuben, I.C.S., of the Patna High Court, as Chairman, the Committee consists of Lala Guru Sharan Lall, and Mr. Muhammad Ismail Sahib. Rai Bahadur Rai Hardatta Prasad has been appointed Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee will be assisted in their investigations by assessors from the mica trade and industry and by technical advisers from the Geological Survey of India and the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research. Rai Sahib Pradhan Suryavarti Prashad, Inspector of Mica Accounts, Kodarma, representing Bihar Government, Mr. E. Watson and Mr. Chand Lal, representing Bihar mica miners and dealers, Mr. S. Y. Krishnaswami, representing the Government of Madras, Mr. D. Narayana Reddi, representing Madras mica trade, Mr. Ram Kumar Agarwala, representing Rajputana mica trade and Mr. Chapal Bhattacharya, representing mica labour, have been appointed as assessors, The Directors of the Geological Survey of India and the Board



Mica miners at work.

of Scientific and Industrial Research will be technical advisers to the Committee.

While the Committee will generally enquire into and report on all problems relating to the mica industry and its present and future developments they will specifically examine and report on immediate problems relating to the Mica Control Order, 1940, both in regard to war production and long term policy, and the review of any orders that may have been passed by Government in connection with that Order; the present system of marketing—both inland and abroad; standardisation of quality; the extent to which alternative sources of supply may have jeopardised or are likely to jeopardise the position of India as the principal supplier of muscovite mica; the extent to which other materials, that may be used as substitutes for mica, may have displaced or are likely to displace mica from its uses in the industry; increased utilisation of mica in India for the manufacture of finished goods; methods of development with special reference to research, conservation, mining, processing, marketing and meeting competition; and the desirability of setting up a suitable machinery whether by the appointment of a Central Mica Committee or otherwise to watch the interests of the mica trade and industry.

The Committee will have its headquarters at Patna and will tour in mica mining areas to take evidence on the spot. The Committee will assemble early in November and report to the Government of India at the earliest possible date.

MR. JAMNADAS MEHTA

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 626)

was a member of the All-India Congress Committee and for one year, in 1926, member of the Working Committee. In 1936 he was elected Mayor of Bombay.

Mr. Mehta's connection with the Central Legislative Assembly dates from 1923; he was a member of this House till 1930 and was again returned in 1941. A Member of the Bombay Legislative Assembly (1937-1941) he served as Minister of Finance and Revenue of the Provincial Government in 1937. But Mr. Mehta is better known as a labour leader. He has been President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation since 1931 and represented India as Labour Delegate at the International Labour Conference in Geneva in 1934. He was nominated a member of the National Defence Council in 1941.

Mr. Mehta is 60 years old. He is a Sanatani Hindu and his home life is intensely religious. If asked to describe his hobbies, he gives three, playing with children up to seven years of age, walking on seashore and travel.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN POST-WAR INDIA

A scientific discussion of the post-war industrial development of India is a feature of the September issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*. The scientific aspects of post-war reconstruction, which demand the attention of the Government and the country at large, include a survey of our material resources, formulation of operative plans for the promotion of basic and subsidiary industries, the nature and scope of co-ordination with foreign countries and the question of priorities, technical training and employment and exchange of foreign and Indian experts.

The article includes a set of charts showing the industries based on agricultural produce, animal products and minerals. A special chart gives a list of the industries which depend on coal as a raw material. The charts indicate, at a glance, the industrial potential of India.

Regarding the question of priorities the article declares that the power industry deserves the pride of place. Plastics and non-ferrous metal industries should be given a high degree of priority. Basic chemicals and dyestuffs, heavy industries including machine-tool industry, biochemical and fermentation industries, building and structural engneering industries and the like should be developed.

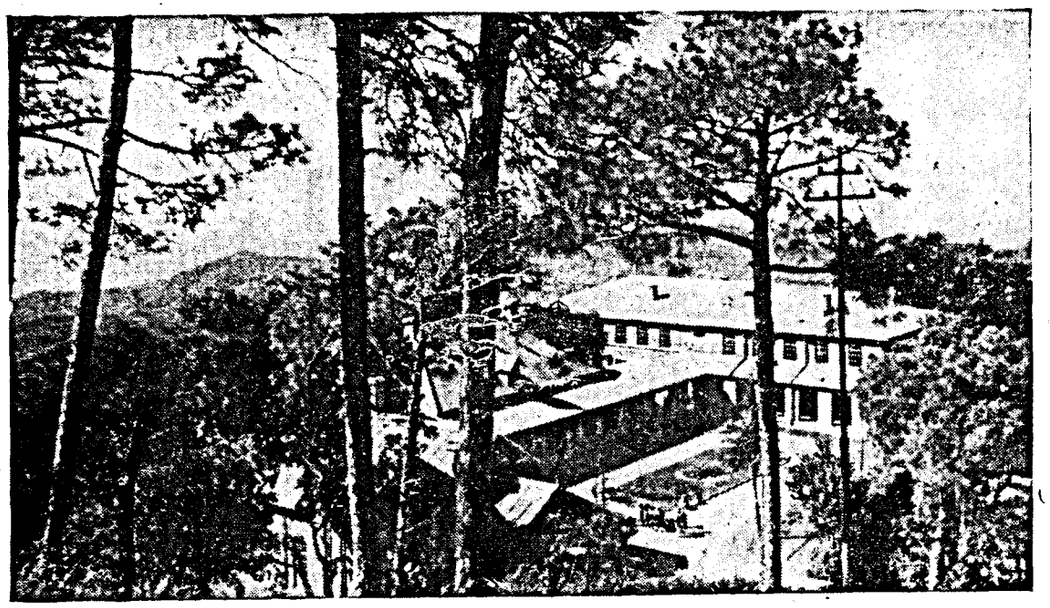
Another article gives data essential for the manufacture of a valuable group of intermediates, derived from the nitration products of chlorobenzene, for the dyestuff, and pharmaceutical industries and for synthetic drugs and photographic developers.

Steel Sheets

The results of elaborate studies made in the research laboratories of the Tata Iron and Steel Co. regarding the conditions governing the development of steel sheets required in the manufacture of transformers, motors and dynamos, are also reported in the Journal.

A commercial process for the production of soluble barium salts from barytes, adopted by the Mettur Chemical and Industrial Corporation and developed in the laboratories of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, is also explained.

Other contributions deal with the production of citric acid from lemons, manufacture of glandular products and the future of the natural rubber industry.



A view of the Lady Linlithgow Sanatorium, Kasauli (Simla Hills). The scent of pine trees and fresh mountain air play their part in the healing of tuberculosis patients.

TUBERCULOSIS IS ONE OF MAJOR ENEMIES OF MANKIND

Major-Gen. Paton's Address to Health Visitors

"TUBERCULOSIS is one of the major enemies of mankind and the Tuberculosis Health Visitors play the part of scouts and front-line troops in fighting this deadly foe," said Major-General W. C. Paton, Director General, I.M.S., and Chairman of the Tuberculosis Association of India, opening the Tuberculosis Health Visitors' Course under the auspices of the Tuberculosis Association of India, in the New Delhi Tuberculosis Clinic on October 17. There was a distinguished gathering of the medical profession.

Toll of Tuberculosis

General Paton said: The ordinary Health Visitor in India deals mainly with what is called "maternity and child welfare". Why is it necessary to have special Health Visitors to deal with tuberculosis? The reasons are mainly two: (i) Tuberculosis is one of the major enemies of mankind, and (ii) the Health Visitors play the part of scouts and front-line troops in fighting this deadly foe.

It is estimated that every year over five lakhs of people die in India from tuberculosis, and I should imagine that this is an underestimate. For every one who dies, at least five are sick of this disease; so there must be at least 25 lakhs of sufferers from the disease in the country, and the number is increasing. It was the knowledge of this fact which led to the formation of the Tuberculosis Association of India, which, during the five years of its existence, has been planning the war against tuberculosis in India. The pivotal institution in all anti-tuberculosis work is the Clinic of which the building in which we meet today is a model. The Tuberculosis Health Visitor works in connection with a clinic. So he or she must understand what the clinic is trying to do. The Clinic seeks to diagnose cases of the disease, both the early cases which can be treated with good hope of success, and the late, open and ineffective cases, which are such a source of danger to the public, and particularly to those with whom they live. The Clinic tries to collect information regarding the spread of the disease in its neighbourhood, to discover the causes which are favouring its spread, and to discover sources of infection and to deal with them. It also seeks to get in touch with those who may have been infected and tries to prevent disease arising as a result of infection. It has to educate the people

The healthy have to be taught how tuberculosis may be avoided. This applies particularly to healthy people living in the same house as a tuberculous patient, and who are consequently dangerously exposed to infection. These are the people whom we call "contacts".

Those who are ailing have to be taught to pay attention to early symptoms and to make use of the Clinic for diagnosis.

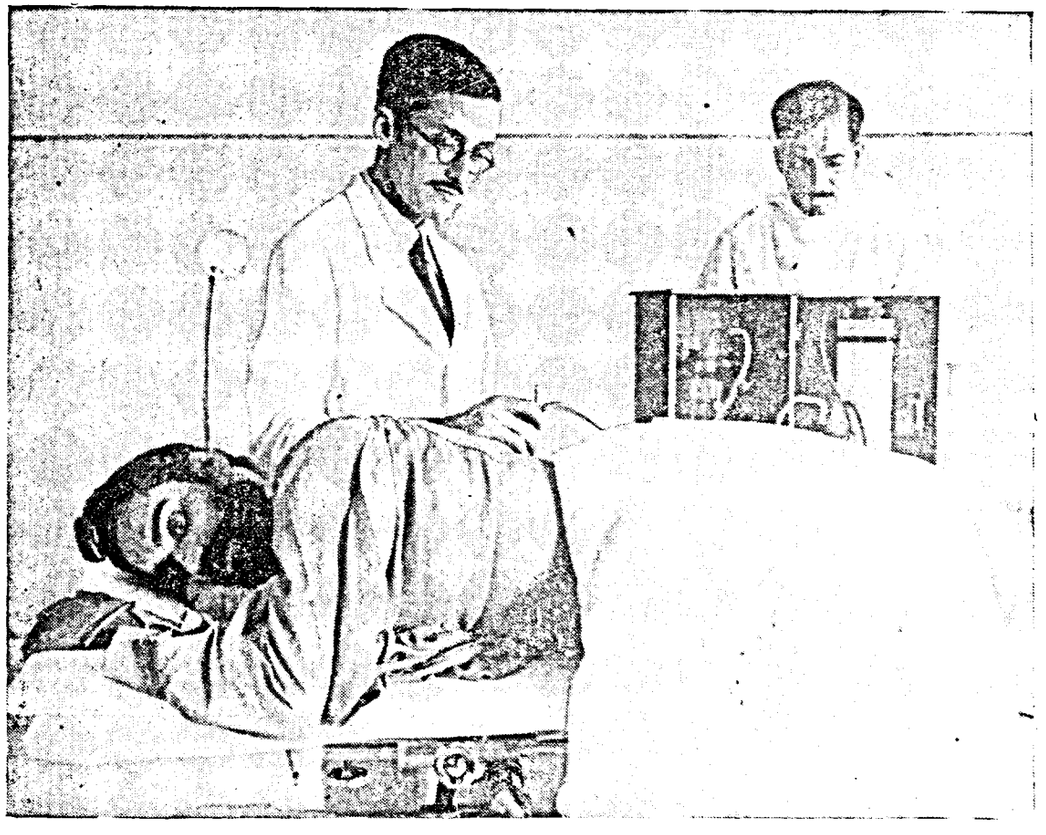
Infective Cases

Infective cases have to be taught how they must behave so as to diminish the risk that they may infect healthy people with whom they come in contact.

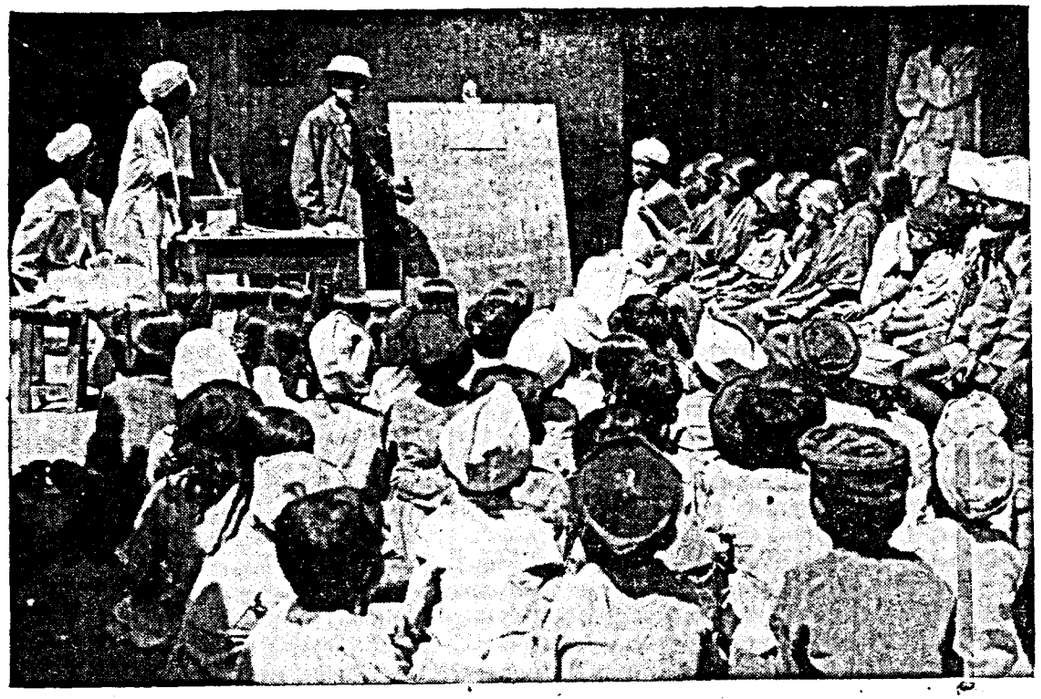
Then, the Clinic gives treatment to all who can benefit by treatment at the Clinic and in their homes, and gives them advice about food, rest, fresh air, etc., and it arranges when possible for treatment in a sanatorium or hospital for those who require it, and it also keeps an eye on and arranges after-treatment for those patients who have been discharged from a tuberculosis hospital or sanatorium, and who live in the neighbourhood of the Clinic.

Health Visitor's Work

One of the most important workers in the Clinic is the Tuberculosis Health Visitor. She helps in the work at the Clinic, and helps to prepare and maintain patients' records. She visits the houses of all patients. There she has to see that the doctor's instructions are carried out, and that the best possible conditions are maintained in the house in regard to food, cleanliness, fresh air, etc. She has to see that the patient and the people living in the house do everything possible to prevent the spread of infection, and also she has been taught to realise that other people living in the patient's house may have been infected, but may not show any very definite symptoms of tuberculosis, and she has to induce these people to come to the Clinic and be examined by the expert doctor, and probably be



Most modern methods of treatment are used at the Kasauli Sanatorium. Here, air is being introduced between the lung and the chest wall of a patient to keep the diseased lung collapsed, and so facilitate healing.



Children in a village school listen to a lecture on health given by a member of a touring Health Unit.

X-rayed, so that, if they are suffering from the disease, it may be detected at an early and curable stage.

From what I have said you will understand that during your course of training you will have to learn many facts about tuberculosis and its natural history. But you will also have to learn a good deal about economic conditions and how they affect the incidence and spread of the disease, because two of the most important pre-disposing causes of tuberculosis are poverty and overcrowding. But your work will demand of you much more than the sort of technical knowledge which I have mentioned, because you will have to learn how to deal with people who are ill with a chronic and dreaded disease, and with their anxious and often ignorant relatives. To do this you will have to acquire a sympathetic understanding of their mental outlook without which you will not be able to handle them successfully. You will have to become both understanding, sympathetic and firm in your attitude, and at the same time, you will have to be cheerful, optimistic and helpful in every practical way open to you.

You will not be a success in this work if you are undertaking it merely as a means of earning a living. You will require a certain idealism and sense of mission. I trust that you possess or will acquire these, and I wish you every success both in the course of training and in your future work.

BOMBAY CITY LEADS IN ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS WORK

For the second successive year the Silver Challenge Shield awarded by the Tuberculosis Association of India for the best anti-tuberculosis work has been won by the Bombay Municipality.

The Bombay Municipality has a well co-ordinated plan of preventive and curative measures. There are three tuberculosis clinics, a hospital and a sanatorium and a public tuberculosis museum. Co-operation between tuberculosis officers and general practitioners is well maintained and house visiting and contact examinations are carried out in an organised and systematic manner. Intensive propaganda is done through leaflets and public health exhibitions, and tuberculosis is a compulsorily notifiable

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 633)

SURVEY OF HEALTH CONDITIONS

Foreign Experts to Visit India

Six medical experts from Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States of America have accepted the invitation of the Central Government to visit India and assist the Health Survey and Development Committee which has been appointed to make a survey of health conditions in India and to make recommendations for future developments, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on October 19.

It added: The Government of India have also extended an invitation to an expert from Russia and a reply is awaited from the Russian authorities.

Personnel of the Party

The party consists of Dr. J. H. L. Cumpston, Director-General of Health, Commonwealth of Australia, Sir Weldon Dalrymple-Champneys, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Ministry of Health in U.K., Prof. J. A. Ryle, Professor of Social Medicine, Oxford University, Dr. Janet M. Vaughan, Member of the Goodenough Committee for Medical Schools in the U.K., Dr. J. W. Mountin, Medical Director in the United States Public Health Service, and Prof. H. E. Sigerist, Professor and Director, Institute, History of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore.

The party is expected to arrive in India early in November. Before commencing their discussions with the members of the Health Survey and Development Committee they will undertake a brief tour of Delhi, U.P., Bengal, Orissa, Madras, Bombay and the Punjab.

BOMBAY MUNICIPALITY'S DISTINCTION

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 632)

disease. The present annual expenditure on anti-tuberculosis work in Bombay city is Rs. 1,90,341.

The Shield is the gift of Sir Hassan Suhrawardy and commemorates the death of his only son at the age of 17. This year 11 entries were received and the second best entry was from the Rai Bahadur Rattan Chand Anti-Tuberculosis Clinic, Amritsar.

PROMOTION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Calcutta Institute's Work

A NUMBER of training courses on malaria and water purification for military personnel and a four-week course for Chinese medical officers deputed to India by the National Health Administration, Chungking, were arranged by the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health, accordng to its report for the period July 1942 to June 1943.

The Institute also collaborated with both the British and the United States armies in carrying out laboratory examinations of blood, water etc. Among other references from the Army authorities was the examination of 28 samples of ice-cream from various hotels and restaurants frequented by the troops in and around Calcutta.

The anti-malaria and water purification training courses lasting from a week to 10 days were given to five units of Royal Air Force N.C.O.s and one unit of Army Malaria Inspectors.

The Institute participated in a six-month course for labour officers in jute mills which was arranged by the Calcutta University. The course has become the nucleus of a permanent department of social welfare.

An experimental rural practice field for the students of the Institute was inaugurated in the year under review. The scheme is connected with the remodelling of the Singur health unit in the Serampore Sub-Division. This will provide the Institute with a field for promoting medical research by developing the most efficient and practicable methods of scientific medical protection through organised community effort. The experiment would provide technical advice and direction in the development of the health programme in the area and would help students to obtain the optimum field training during their public health course. The instruction of public health students during the year under review included training at Singur where a mock epidemic outbreak of typhoid was arranged for the investigation of the problem.

The Institute runs a blood bank which was started in February, 1942. In little over a year 45,000 donations had been processed.

Among the researches carried out by the Institute were systematic tuberculosis surveys in a rural and an urban area; analysis of records of dysentery cases from 1936-41 in the Carmichael Hospital for tropical diseases; and analysis of data on the cards of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre of the Institute.

SALE OF ELECTRIC BULBS, GRAMOPHONE SPARE PARTS, CROCKERY, CIGARETTES AND THERMOSES

HERE are the latest notifications issued by the Government of India under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance relating to the sale of electric bulbs, gramophone spare parts, domestic crockery, certain specified types of cigarettes, clocks and other articles.

Electric Bulbs

The Controller General of Civil Supplies has authorised an importer or producer of electric bulbs to refuse to sell bulbs except to a retail dealer who was the previous customer of such importer or producer or a dealer approved in this behalf by the Controller General. Retail dealers may refuse to sell a bulb to a consumer unless the intending purchaser returns the bulb or bulbs in replacement of which he wishes to purchase the new bulb or bulbs; or unless the intending purchaser produces a special permit from the District Magistrate of the district or from the Deputy Controller General of Civil Supplies of the region in which the retail dealer is carrying on his business.

*

Gramophones

All accredited distributors of, or authorised dealers in, gramophone mainsprings, soundboxes and spare parts of a particular make have been authorised to refuse to sell any spare parts of that make if the spare parts are required otherwise than for servicing a gramophone of that make; or if the intending purchaser does not, on a request being made in that behalf, furnish correct information as to the model for servicing which the spare parts are required and the name of its owner.

Accredited distributors of gramophones of a particular make may refuse to sell spare parts of that make to a person other than an authorised dealer therein or a dealer approved in this behalf by the Controller General of Civil Supplies.

Retail dealers may also refuse to sell spare parts of a gramophone unless the intending purchaser returns the spare parts in replacement of which he wishes to purchase the new parts.

*

Crockery

All dealers in domestic crockery have been directed to mark all articles of crockery exposed or intended for sale with the sale prices. Where the articles are intended for sale individually, the marking shall be done either by stamping or by pasting to each article a slip of paper bearing its price in ink. Where the articles are sold or intended to be sold by sets, any one piece of the set shall be stamped or pasted as directed above with the price of the whole set and the number of pieces in the set shall be stated thereon.

*

Cigarettes

The maximum prices which may be charged by a dealer or producer in respect of certain specified brands of cigarettes have been revised. Where cigarettes are subject to any local or provincial taxation, the dealers of that locality may charge a price in excess of the maximum which will be just sufficient to cover the tax.

The wholesale price of "Refyl" (Golden Tobacco Company, Bombay) is Rs. 18-12 per thousand and the retail selling price is 3 annas per packet of ten. The wholesale prices (F.O.R. retailers' destination) of M. James Caterbury's brands have been fixed between Rs. 13-5-6 and Rs. 24-4 per thousand and consumers' price between 2¼ annas per packet of ten (Army Specials 10's) and Rs. 1-6 per tin of 50 (Astor Deluxe-Mag.-50's). The retail price of Vazir Sultan Company's (Hyderabad—Deccan) brands is 1¼ annas per packet of ten. The price of Carlton's Special Magnums is 6 annas per packet of ten and Rs. 33-8 per thousand.

The maximum retail selling prices chargeable by a dealer or producer in respect of Diamond Indian Goldflake and Ela brands of cigarettes of Messrs. Golden Tobacco Company have been reduced to 0|1|3 and 0|2|6 per packet of ten respectively.

All wholesale and retail dealers in cigarettes have been directed to exhibit prominently in their shops the above prices in English or the local language of the district.

*

Clocks

The Central Government have fixed the maximum retail selling price chargeable by a distributor or a dealer in respect of Westclox Canada "American" model clocks. The retail selling price has been fixed at Rs. 12 per clock. The distributor's prices to wholesalers and retailers have been fixed at Rs. 8-2 and Rs. 8-11 respectively.

All dealers in these clocks have been directed to exhibit prominently in their shops the retail prices as fixed above in English or the local language of the district.

Fountain Pens

The maximum retail selling price chargeable by a dealer in respect of the Indian made "Master" fountain pens, Junior size and Baby size, has been fixed at Rs. 5 and Rs. 3-8 per piece respectively. A discount of 20 per cent by manufacturers to wholesalers and 10 per cent by wholesalers to retail dealers, local and upcountry, should be allowed on the above prices.

All dealers in "Master" fountain pens have been directed to exhibit prominently in their shops the above prices.

*

Thermoses

The Central Government have fixed the maximum selling prices, wholesale and retail, chargeable by a dealer in respect of Eagle brand imported Thermoses of various descriptions such as "narrow-mouth" "widemouth" and "foodjar". The retail selling price of a two-pint widemouth Eagle brand thermos has been fixed at Rs. 6. The retail selling prices of Eagle brand "foodjar" thermoses of sizes ½ to 8 pints range from Rs. 4-3-6 to Rs. 25-14 respectively.

A discount of 12½ per cent on the retail selling prices has to be allowed to wholesalers and the freight and packing charges have to be borne by the importers.

All dealers in thermoses and thermos flasks have been directed to exhibit prominently in their shops these wholesale and retail prices in English or the local language of the district.

*

Razor Blades

The maximum selling prices, wholesale and retail chargeable by a dealer in respect of Rubie blades have been fixed at Rs. 5 per carton of 100 blades as importer's issue price to wholesalers, at Rs. 5-4 per carton of 100 blades as wholesalers' issue price to retailers, and at 12 annas per box of ten as the retail selling price.

All dealers in Rubie blades have been directed to exhibit prominently in their shops, price lists showing clearly the above prices, in English or the local language of the district.

CEILING PRICES FOR CHILDREN'S FOOTWEAR

By an amendment to the Footwear Control Order, published in the *Gazette of India* dated October 14, the Central Government have fixed the ceiling prices for children's footwear of sizes 0 to 5 and have also revised the ceiling prices of footwear of type No. 5. Pies have been eliminated from all calculations. Permission has also been granted for marking in indelible ink instead of impressing the footwear in certain circumstances.

WORKING OF RUBBER BONUS SCHEME

DETAILS are now available of the figures fixed by the Central Government for deliveries of rubber under the Scheme for giving production bonuses ranging from Rs. 11-1-9 to Rs. 33-5-3 per 100 lbs. over the existing purchasing prices based on production achieved during each quarter.

The annual basic tonnage has been fixed at 16,000 tons and is divided into quarterly quotas of 4,640 tons, 3,360 tons, 2,880 tons and 5,120 tons. According to calculations the producers and dealers had in hand surplus stock to the extent of 2,363 tons at the time of the introduction of the Scheme.

Dealers and producers are required to deliver to the Central Government a minimum tonnage of rubber at various dates to earn minimum or maximum bonus on deliveries in the succeeding quarter. Deliveries required from April 1944 to September 1944 to secure bonus on deliveries in the period October-December were fixed at 8,916 tons for minimum bonus and 9,540 tons for maximum bonus. Deliveries required in the period April to December 1944 to earn minimum bonus on deliveries in the quarter January to March 1945 are 14,292 tons and for maximum bonus 15,428 tons. Similarly the tonnage for deliveries in the period April 1944 to March 1945 is 19,164 tons for minimum bonus and 20,763 tons for maximum bonus payable on deliveries in the second quarter of 1945.

Under the Scheme increase of over 5 per cent and up to 10 per cent on the cumulative quarterly quotas earn a bonus of Rs. 11-1-9 per 100 lbs. on rubber delivered in the succeeding quarter. Similarly increases in excess of 10 per cent and up to 15 per cent qualify for bonus payments of Rs. 22-3-6, and increases in excess of 15 per cent qualify for bonus payments of Rs. 33-5-3.

The working of the Scheme has shown that deliveries to Government from April 1, 1944, to September 30, 1944, have exceeded the required 8,916 tons and a bonus of Rs. 11-1-9 per 100 lbs. has accordingly been declared payable on all rubber delivered to the Central Government during the quarter October to Decembr 1944.

The Seventeenth Session of the National Defence Council will be held at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on January 8, 9 and 10, 1945. His Excellency the Viceroy will preside.

TELEPHONE "FAMINE" IN DELHI

THE Posts and Telegraphs Department have recently been obliged to give notice to a number of telephone subscribers in Delhi of cancellation of their telephone connections. This step has been taken as a last resort to prevent dislocation of the system, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on October 13, 1944.

It added: The war has resulted in a very large increase in the demand for telephone connections for national work, particularly from the War Department and the offices under it. The spare capacity of the telephone exchanges in the New Delhi area was soon taken up. In spite of the Department's best efforts during the last four years to obtain additional equipment and in spite of their securing high priority for it, none has been forthcoming owing to war conditions in the United Kingdom.

Meanwhile, in order to avoid inconvenience to existing subscribers, the Department tried to meet the additional demands by installing manual exchanges, through which nearly 1,000 additional telephones were given. Moreover various offices have their own independent exchanges, but in all such cases junction lines have to be provided with the main automatic exchanges. The demand for Governmental connections has now become so urgent, however, that there is no alternative except to disconnect less essential subscribers. The selection of these was made by a Committee which included representatives of the Supply, Labour and War Departments, the Chief Commissioner of Delhi and the public. Although the selection was made some time ago, the Department refrained from "cutting off" these subscribers until the demand from Government became very urgent and there was no other way of meeting it.

It is with the greatest regret that Government have had to give notice of disconnection to about 100 subscribers. It is fully realised that many of these are very old clients and that the disconnection will cause not only serious inconvenience and discomfort but probably some loss of business. If there was any way of avoiding this, Government would not have hesitated to take it; unfortunately there was none.

This telephone "famine", however, is only temporary. Additional equipment for the Delhi automatic telephone exchanges is now on its way and it is hoped to instal this in the near future. When it becomes available, Government will see to the restoration of the telephone connections of the subscribers who have lost them.

RATION YOUR TELEPHONE CALLS

EVERY telephone exchange of any importance keeps a graph showing the number of calls per hour and the shape of every graph is like a huge "M" with the two peaks at 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. showing the calls rising from an easy load. Thus on a certain 3,000-line manual exchange (that is, an exchange handled by operators and not by automatic machinery) the load increases from 1,500 calls an hour at 8 a.m. to 2,700 at 11 o'clock, dropping to 1,900 per hour round about 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. The curve again rises steeply until 5 p.m. and drops to about 1,000 at 8 p.m. This particular exchange not only deals with local calls but has to connect 2,000 calls to neighbouring exchanges during its busiest hours, one of which is 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

How can the telephone subscriber help to reduce the congestion, which will immediately have the effect of giving him, and everyone else, a better service?

200 Calls per Hour per Operator

Manual exchanges are built to handle 200 calls per hour per operator. Obviously, the operator is not concerned with the length of time each subscriber holds the line, as her work is done when the connection is given, until once again the lamp glows to show that the conversation is ended, whereupon the connection is cut off.

During the time two persons have been conversing, say for three minutes, the operator has said "number please" and taken action perhaps 20 or 30 times, and she is often heard to say:

"I am sorry, the number is engaged."

"I am ringing" (when no reply is received).

"I am sorry, there is no reply."

"Sorry, all junctions are engaged" (when another exchange is wanted).

This is brought about by conversations being prolonged or by people telephoning in the busiest hours of the day. If every subscriber on a 6,000-line exchange telephoned twice in the busy hours, there would be 12,000 calls. Of these 12,000 calls (taking for example, an exchange in Eastern India), 3,000 would be for an exchange in the north of the city, 1,000 to the south, 1,300 to the east and 750 to an exchange across the river.

The facilities for joining up are bound to be strained, in fact, the facilities, which are merely plugs that go into what are termed "Jacks," are not enough to serve everyone. What happens? Everyone is telephoning frantically, many are engaged in conversation already, so that often 26 out of every 100 calls get a reply "Number (or Junction) is engaged" or "There is no reply."

Private Branch Exchanges

Private branch exchanges with adequate connections to the local exchange go a long way to remedy this state of affairs. The private branch exchange has an operator who helps to improve the telephone service and, when certain difficulties arise, the management of the telephone service will advise whether a private branch exchange will help.

On a local call, over a junction, or direct to another person, try and complete the conversation before a period that has been predetermined by yourself. One often telephones to ask how a certain train is running. The answer usually comes pat—"Right Time." The enquiry operator at the railway station only listens for the word "Frontier Mail," knowing he will hear the same inquiry dozens of times. He has his answer ready.

Why not emulate the "railway inquiry" method—give a brief answer and hang up. If 26 per cent of the calls made were merely a case of "question and answer," 26 per cent of calls made during the day would not be ineffective, as they frequently are. There would be 26 per cent more facilities in the way of "plugs" in the hands of the operator, who obviously has no more "plugs" than what can be placed within easy reach of his hands to enable him to answer a call, and also to complete it.

Ration Your Calls

Then try and ration yourself to a call an hour or less. Make out a memo slip and write "Phone Mr. A at lunch time or 5 p.m." (not at 11 a.m.).

This is all about manually operated exchanges. Picture the activity on an automatic exchange where the only medium for a subscriber is that complicated piece of mechanism called the "Final Selector."

All switches and selectors perform a function known as "hunting" and if one visits an automatic exchange one can tell by the noises during a busy hour what is meant by that term, whereas at 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. one hears little noise, yet people are telephoning as usual.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY AIRGRAPH SERVICE

PHOTOGRAPHS cannot at present be affixed to airgraph forms, but arrangements are now being made to allow transmission by airgraph service of purely personal and domestic photographs which are produced directly on a sensitised replica of the official airgraph form now in use, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on October 28.

It added: Selection of the *bona fide* professional photographers, who are prepared to cater to the public for the production of portraits for transmission overseas by the airgraph service is being made in all large cities. The actual date of introduction of the service and the selected professional photographers will be notified shortly.

After the introduction of the service, photographs will be accepted by all post offices in India for transmission by "airgraph," provided they are produced directly on sensitised paper upon which is also printed a replica of the official airgraph form. The approved photographers have been fully instructed with regard to the preparation of the replica of the airgraph form. The instructions which appear on the back of the official form now in use will not, however, be reproduced.

Approved Professional Photographers

The approved professional photographers have been authorised to indent for special supplies of materials for this work. Members of the public or the Forces wishing to send their portraits by "airgraph" are requested to co-operate with the approved photographers undertaking this work by signing in their names and filling up the following form, which those photographers are required to maintain and submit before they can obtain replacements of the photographic materials used.

Date; Name (in block letters) of the sender; Address (for civilians only); Rank, No. and Service, (for Naval, Military and Air Force Personnel); Correct Postal Address of Addressee; Signature.

R.A.F. personnel should give the following particulars only in the above form: Name, Rank, No. and "R.A.F. India." R.I.N. personnel

should give the following particulars only in the above form:

Officers: Name, Rank and Service (i.e., R.N., R.I.N., R.I.N.V.R., etc.).

Ratings: Name, Rating and Official No.

"Airgraph Portraits" Forms

Postage stamps should be affixed on the back of "Air-Portraits" form (at the top of right hand corner) which may then be handed in at any post office for disposal in exactly the same way as ordinary airgraph letters. As the photographs are liable to suffer damage if the forms are folded before being filmed for onward transmission, the public are requested to hand over the "Airgraph Portraits" forms unfolded at large post offices or send them direct, suitably protected, to the "Airgraph Section, G.P.O., Bombay or Calcutta," as the case may be. The Naval, Military and Air Force personnel should, however, dispose of their "Air Portraits" forms in accordance with the existing Naval, Military or Air Force Regulations on the subject.

The rates of postage for transmission of the "Airgraph Portraits" are the same as for ordinary "Airgraphs."

POSTAL SERVICE TO FRANCE

A Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, Government of India, on October 26 stated:

Postal service to liberated France has now been extended to the whole of France *except* the following areas:

The Departments of Morbihan, Loire Inferieure, Charente Inferieure, Meuse, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Vosges, Haute Saone, Doubs, Moselle, Bas Rhin, Haut Rhin and the territory of Belfort.

The service continues to be restricted to non-illustrated post cards containing messages of a purely personal and family nature.

MAILS FROM U.K. TO INDIA

Air mails which left U.K. after July 10, 1944, and up to August 3, 1944, have been delivered in India, says a Press Note.

Seaborne mails which left U.K. after June 19, 1944, and up to August 19, 1944, have been delivered in India.

Airgraphs which left U.K. after August 12, 1944, and up to September 24, 1944, have been received in India.

FACILITIES FOR HAJ PILGRIMS

Haj pilgrims are permitted to take with them, without a permit, wearing clothes, footwear, bedding, suit cases or trunks, watches, carpets which have been in their use at the time of departure from their homes, said a Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on October 26.

It added: They can also take for use during the voyage toilet articles worth Rs. 25, drugs and medicines valued at Rs. 20, a fountain pen, a pencil, writing pad and envelopes.

As a special case Haj pilgrims have been allowed to carry the following articles if they so desire:

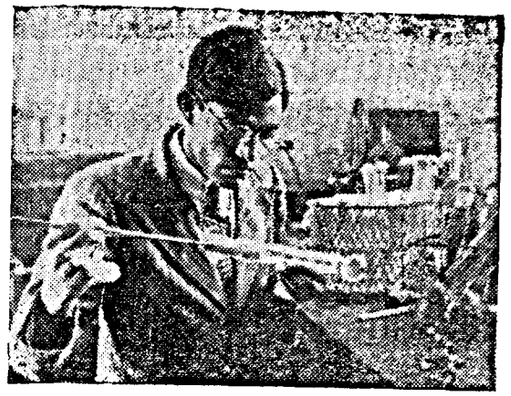
Religious books, 30 yards of shrouding cloth, 12 yards of *Ahram* cloth or 4 new large sized towels, one new woollen or pashmina sheet, one pair of new shoes or sandals, two bottles of hair oil (Indian manufacture), 3 seers of tobacco for Hookah, half a seer of chewing tobacco, 300 cigars, 500 cigarettes, 600 bidis, six match boxes, one new trunk or suit case, one canvas holdall or a gunny bag to store miscellaneous articles, eight new shirts, eight new pyjamas, one new cap, one new turban, one umbrella, one walking stick, one lantern, one torch, cooking utensils according to requirements, 4 cakes of bath soap, two seers of washing soap, *Ittar*, scents, antimony and other miscellaneous articles required for *Ahram*, Haj and I'd ceremonies, one knife, one pair of scissors, six needles, thread, two lbs. of tea, 5 seers of sugar, 4 seers of ghee, spice (*Masalah*) for cooking food and ingredients of pan in reasonable quantities.

PILGRIMS MAY CARRY MORE SOVEREIGNS WITH THEM

Another Press Note issued on October 28 stated:

The concession to Haj pilgrims in respect of sovereigns and currency notes that they may take with them has been made more liberal. Previously each pilgrim could take with him 12 or 15 gold sovereigns and Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 in currency notes for charity.

It has now been decided that pilgrims travelling by first class may take with them 15 sovereigns plus Rs. 2,000, half in sovereigns and half in notes; deck pilgrims (who propose to travel by bus in Hedjaz) 15 sovereigns plus Rs. 1,000, half in sovereigns and half in notes; and deck pilgrims (who propose to travel by camel in Hedjaz) 12 sovereigns plus Rs. 1,000, half in sovereigns and half in notes.



Experiment to identify timber specimens.

PROTECTION OF TIMBER FROM BORERS

TWO methods to protect timber against the attack of powder-post beetles are suggested in a leaflet published recently by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun.

A mixture of creosote and fuel oil applied externally prevents attack for at least nine months, and probably for much longer.

A coating of lime wash gives complete protection over a period of three months when liability to attack is serious. Provided the coating is kept intact, it is expected that the protection would become permanent. This is, however, suitable for timber protected from rain. The addition of some sticking agent to lime wash will make the treatment effective for external structures.



Determining toxic value of wood preservatives.



Specimens of diseased timber being examined.

The Institute claims that the treatment suggested would give at least temporary protection in cases where the standard treatment—impregnation with preservatives—cannot be applied. The treatment, however, must be given within a short period of cutting or sawing.

MEETING OF INDUSTRIES POLICY COMMITTEE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 582)

Among those who attended the meeting were: Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas, Sir Padamaji Ginwala, Mr. Kasturabhai Lalbhai, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Dr. John Mathai, Mr. J. R. D. Tata, Sir Padampat Singhania, Sir Shri Ram, Mr. G. D. Birla, Mr. N. R. Sarker, Dewan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliar, Mr. Dwarka Basi, Mr. Bishen Das Basil, Mr. R. A. Khedgikar, the President of the Associated Chambers of Commerce; the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, and representatives of the Commerce, Finance, Planning and Development, and Industries and Civil Supplies Departments, Provincial Governments and Indian States.

"HELP YOUR COUNTRY TO WORK OUT ITS DESTINY"

Lady Carlisle's Appeal to Women of India

"THE W.A.C. (I) needs you to help to end the war against Japan quickly; and no country that is engaged, totally or partially, in war can be free to work out its own destiny. But also—and I now speak particularly to the women of India—I say that by joining the W.A.C. (I) you will be helping your country to work out its destiny. It is my firm belief that unless the women of a country are prepared to take their place beside men, and to share in the problems and responsibilities of modern life, that country will not advance," said Chief Commander the Countess of Carlisle in a recent broadcast from All India Radio, New Delhi. Lady Carlisle continued:

I am convinced that any woman who joins this Corps should ultimately leave it a freer and more important individual. To mix freely with other women whose outlook and background are different from her own is bound to develop her poise and self confidence. More important still, it will widen her outlook and will deepen and strengthen her character.

Those things are for herself, and will be of infinite value throughout life. But what we hope



The Countess of Carlisle.



Naval W.A.C. (I)s are keen to learn everything about the ship and ask many questions of the Naval Officer.



O.C. Moneeka Chukerborti who is commanding a platoon of W.A.C. (I)s in Calcutta.

to hold before her also are the idea of responsibility, and the vision of Service. The supreme value of service to others, once accepted, is not forgotten; and we hope that some, at any rate, of the women of India who have joined the W.A.C. (I.), and accepted new—and often heavy—responsibilities will not lay them aside when they eventually leave the Corps.

Farsighted Social Experiment

The Women's Auxiliary Corps, apart from its important place in the immediate war effort, is a gallant and farsighted social experiment, the effects of which may stretch far into the future of India. The success or failure of this experiment rests largely in the hands of the women of India. On your breadth or narrowness of vision not only the present but the future may depend.

My reason for wishing to speak to you tonight is our need for more recruits, a need as urgent as ever, as we are continually receiving fresh demands for more and more W.A.C. (I)s, which I

reel is a great tribute to the good work of those already in the Corps. To meet these demands, and to produce the highest standard possible, we are opening four training centres, where all general service recruits, and we hope as many as possible of those on local service terms, will be given a month's general training before they are sent to take up their duties.

Not only are we urgently in need of recruits to fill the continual new demands, but also of officers for certain special types of work. The demand for these officers is greater than we can meet from within the ranks of the W.A.C. (I.), in view of the many officers that we have to produce for administrative and staff duties. We are therefore opening certain types of work to candidates for direct commissions from civil life.

Signal Officers

You may like to know what are these particular types of work. One is naval communications work, which offers interesting and progressive employment. Whether you have a flair for bookwork, routine administration or machine



Changing a wheel is no trouble to Sgt. Henley Simpson, a W.A.C. (I) from Bangalore. She transports supplies from a Southern Army's workshop.



W.A.C. (I)s attached to a North Western Army arsenal learn about guns.

work, the Communications Branch of the R.I.N. can make valuable use of your services.

In the busy Signal Offices at the Indian ports and in New Delhi, the women of the Naval Wing are employed in coding and cyphering messages to ships at sea, the Admiralty in London and to the great naval bases throughout the world. They receive signals by wireless, cable and teleprinter and convert the seeming meaningless rows of figures and letters into intelligible messages which are the life-blood of the Fleet. Women of high integrity are needed for this work.

The second type of work for which we invite applicants for direct commissions is catering, principally in hospitals. I do not need to stress the importance of well-planned and well-cooked food in a hospital, the recovery of soldiers who have been wounded or sick depends so much upon it. W.A.C. (I.) officers will have the privilege of becoming catering supervisors in hospitals, and of being responsible for this vital part of the hospital's work, in many cases in hospitals in the forward areas.

If passed for a commission by the Selection Board, candidates for catering work will be carefully trained at the Army School of Cookery, and at a hospital, in British or Indian Cookery, according to the kind of food with which they will be dealing. For this work we need women with some knowledge of and interest in catering or housekeeping, organising ability, and, of course, considerable tact and patience.

W.A.C.(I.)s AT R.I.A.S.C. CENTRE

During her recent tour of North India, the Chief Commander, W.A.C. (I.), the Countess of Carlisle, visited the largest R.I.A.S.C. mechanical transport reinforcement centre in the country. This unit is unique in so far as W.A.C. (I) officers and warrant officers are each in sole charge of their particular branch. They are regarded as full members of the unit and are honorary members of the men's mess.

Their responsibilities are heavy. The Senior Commander, assistant in charge of administration, responsible for the administration of a unit many thousands strong. Handling several lakhs of rupees every month another W.A.C. (I) officer, a Junior Commander, is responsible for all the accounts of the centre.

A W.A.C. (I) officer is also in charge of the despatch of reinforcements which pass through the centre and handles thousands of arrivals and departures each month.

1939-43 STAR PRESENTED TO W.A.C.(I)s

Girls who were in Burma during the Japanese invasion and suffered many hardships in the course of their evacuation were among the 20 members of the Army Delhi Company of the W.A.C. (I) who were presented with their 1939-43 Star ribbons at a parade in New Delhi recently.

The presentation was made by Deputy Chief Commander M. E. Douglas at the W.A.C. (I) hostel in Jantar Mantar Road. In a short speech, Mrs Douglas congratulated the girls on the excellent work they had done. Those who had come from Burma were among the first to be enrolled in the Corps, which was formed in April, 1942.

Among those present were Regional Commandant E. M. Dennys, Senior Commanders Woodhouse and Hoy, and Junior Commander Boger, A.T.S.



W.C. (I) F. Sheridon adjusting the newly awarded ribbon (1939-43 Star) of W.O (I) I. Metcalfe.



Sgt. Guatee Tan.

FIRST CHINESE W.A.C.(I)

CONTROLLING the Army Signals Exchange in District Headquarters, Quetta, is a Chinese girl, Sgt. Guatee Tan, the first W.A.C. (I.) to serve in Baluchistan and the first Chinese girl to join the Corps when it was formed in 1942

When Japan entered the war and attacked Malaya she was working as a telephone operator in Kuala Lumpur where she lived with her parents. Kuala Lumpur was frequently bombed and one by one the exchange staff left until only she and one other remained. Finally the Japs were reported on the outskirts of the town and a police officer sent the two south to Singapore by car.

There Sgt. Guatee Tan went into the army exchange at Military Headquarters in Fort Canning. Two days before the capitulation the staff were hurried to the docks, where they boarded the ill-fated *Empire Star*. Three times they were hit by bombs and 34 people were killed but the ship managed to make for Batavia.

Sgt. Guatee Tan then went to R.A.F. H.Q. at Bandoeng. Then it was realised that Java could not be held and once more she was put aboard the ship, this time for evacuation to Ceylon and on to Bombay. She never heard what happened to her parents.



Emir Sarikin Katsina Alhaji Osman Nagogo, Emir of Katsina, Northern Nigeria, talking to Brig. H. V. Richards, Delhi Area Commander, shortly after his arrival by air.

EMIR OF KATSINA VISITS AFRICAN TROOPS IN INDIA

DIRECT descendant of a famous warrior, who 600 years ago overthrew an African king in personal combat and gained his kingdom, Sarikin Katsina Alhaji Osman Nagogo, Emir of Katsina, Northern Nigeria, arrived in India recently to visit West African troops.

The Emir was met at a Delhi airport by representatives of the Commander-in-Chief, India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, and by West African staff officers. He had flown from Nigeria to India via Cairo. By air, rail and road he will now undertake a 3,000-mile tour of India and the Arakan, visiting West African units.

When the Emir succeeded his father three months ago he received ancient tokens of office —a drum, a short sword and a pot, which have been handed down from ruler to ruler over 900 years. A thousand horsemen galloped past him with their hands raised in homage after he had taken the Oath of Allegiance.

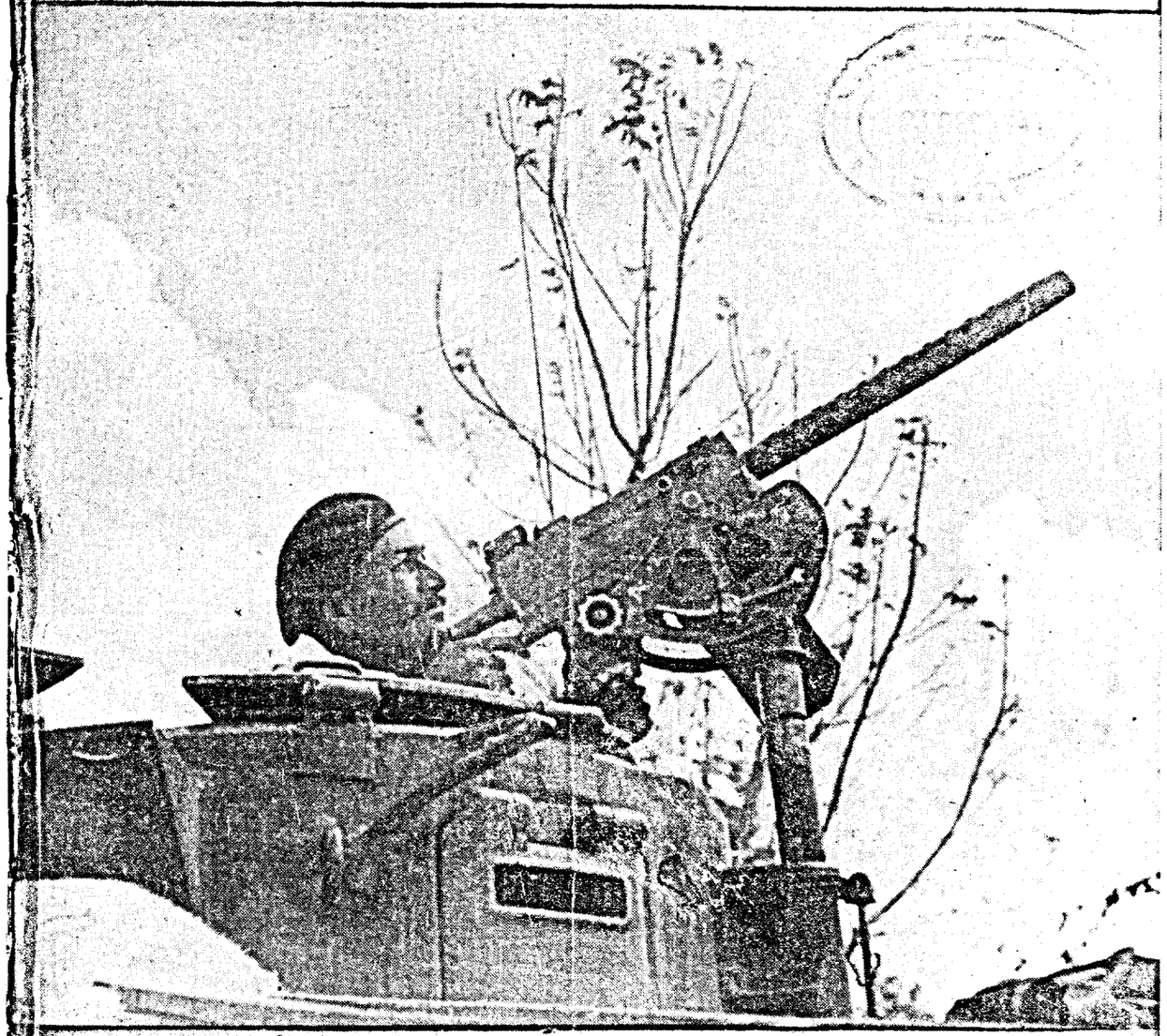
Katsina is one of the five original Hausa states. It was occupied by the migratory peoples from the north and north-east 1,000 years ago. It has always been a centre of learning and culture, and the Katsina dialect is considered to be the Hausa language in its purest form. Many Hausa words bear a striking similarity to Hindustani. In the towns there are still wards bearing the names of the great ancient West African nations such as Nelle and Songai, from which representatives would go to Katsina to learn at the feet of illustrious teachers.

The present dynasty is one of the most famous in West Africa and relics of the warrior usurper Korau are still preserved in Katsina.

The Emir, who is in his early thirties, is educated in English and Arabic, and is a keen student of empire and colonial affairs. He is a first-class polo player and on his last visit to England played at Hurlingham. His father trained him carefully in his State duties and for a period before his succession the Emir-to-be, as part of the process of his education in State affairs was chief of police in the Katsina Native Administration.

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INDIAN INFORMATION



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● FOOD POSITION IN INDIA—SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA'S STATEMENT IN THE CENTRAL ASSEMBLY



The Earl of Munster, Under-Secretary of State for India, who recently came to India to investigate servicemen's welfare, visited troops' canteens and rest centres in the country. Picture shows Lord Munster talking to B.O.R.'s in the Allied Forces' Club, New Delhi.

Vol. 15, No. 150. INDIAN INFORMATION DEC. 1, 1944

AIMS :—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

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FORMAT :—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading, but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

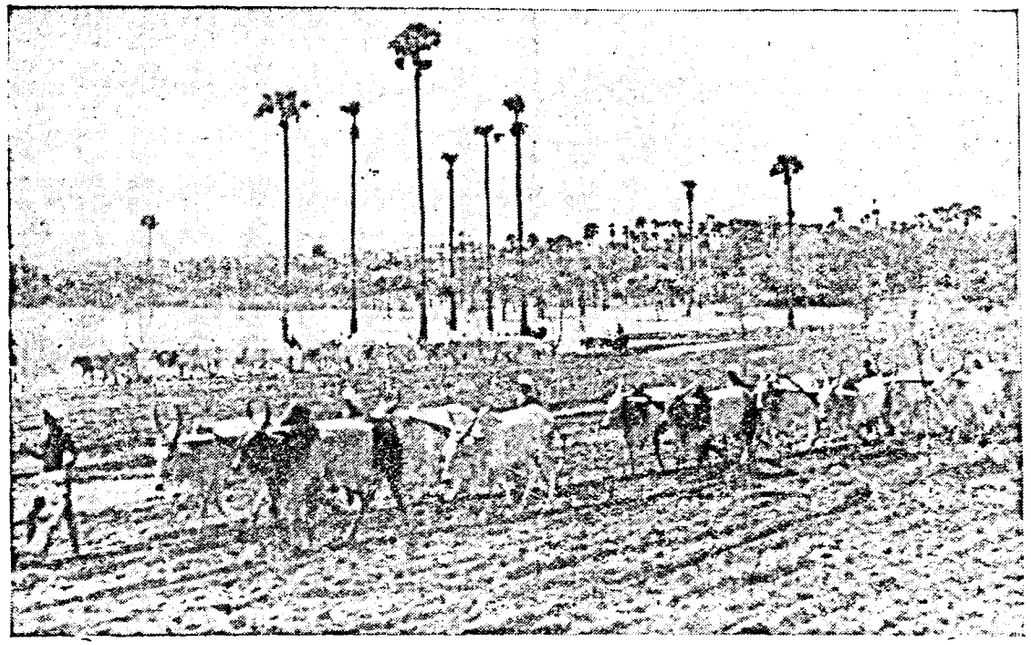
CONTRIBUTIONS :—Many MSS are submitted to us which we regretfully return since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source. It follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

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Associate Editor : P. D. Murti.

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COVER PICTURE: An air sentry on the Burma Front keeps a keen watch from the turret of a Stuart tank.



A South Indian village scene: a big field comes under the plough for paddy cultivation.

FOOD FOR ALL IS OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE

Sir J. P. Srivastava's Speech in Central Assembly

"WHATEVER may be our differences in matters of detail, our main objective is one and common—Food for all, on which the life of the community depends. Whatever Government may be in power, it cannot have any other objective. Politics as such are entirely outside this sacred sphere. So let us bend our energies to real, honest constructive work for the common good"—with this appeal, the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, concluded his reply to the food debate in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 9.

Referring to rationing, the Hon'ble Member said he could not accept the suggestion that it should be confined to towns with a population of 150,000 and over. "Our policy, first of all, is to extend rationing to all towns with a population of 100,000 and over and then to extend it, where necessary, to smaller towns. My information is that wherever rationing has been introduced, in spite of complaints which we have received on certain aspects of rationing, there is developing a general public demand not only for the extension of rationing so far as food is concerned but for its extension to other commodities outside the range of food, pure and simple."

Here is the full text of Sir J. P. Srivastava's reply:

Sir, one of the principles which I have adopted in replying to debates of this kind is that truth must be told and faults must be owned, and I am going to answer to this debate on those lines.

Sir, I am happy to say that although bouquets and cocoanuts have both been thrown at me during this debate, nobody has thrown rotten eggs at me.

MR. ABDUL QAIYUM: They are very expensive; five annas per egg.

SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA: I was going to say that, perhaps, because eggs have become too expensive, I do not say that the charges which have been made against us have stunned me or even dazed me. In fact, I feel that my main speech at the opening of

the debate holds the field. I have not heard one definite criticism of the policy which I enunciated in that speech. There has been a great deal of criticism in matters of detail, but the policy remains unassailed and I am happy to say that the House as a whole recognises—I feel that way, I may be wrong—that the policy which the Government is now following is the right one.

Co-operation from all Sections

I am very sorry to say that politics have been imported into this debate. I have kept food out of politics all the time that I have been in charge of the Department. I have been very anxious that no political considerations should be brought into food and I think I have succeeded to a large extent. I have received in places co-operation from all sections of the people, people belonging even to the political institutions to which my friends over there belong. I have congratulated myself on this fact and I would expect this Assembly, which consists of the chosen representatives of the people, to follow that example.

Now, Sir, I will deal with some of the main charges that have been made against us. The first charge which has been made is that the war caught us napping and that we were not prepared before the war broke out, or soon after, to deal with the food situation as it might have arisen. I have been in charge of the Food Department for only a little over 15 months, but I have looked up some of the records and I would like to give to the House some facts as to what happened in the beginning of the war.

Price Control Opposed

The Government of India, soon after the declaration of war, that is to say, in September 1939, decided to impose price restrictions on all primary commodities. The Provinces were delegated with emergency powers in this regard. In October 1939, a Conference was called by the Government of India to discuss this matter, especially with reference to food prices. This Conference was attended by the representatives of the Provincial Governments and the States, and amongst those attending the Conference were the representatives of the Provinces where Congress Ministries functioned.

This Conference unanimously opposed the imposition of any restriction on food, either price control or anything else. The Congress, in those days, thought that the agriculturist must be allowed to make the most out of foodgrains and there should be no restriction on foodgrain prices. The Congress were very definite in their views. In my own Province of the United Provinces, as an employer of labour, I myself approached the Congress Ministry to think of the future when there may be shortage of foodstuffs, but they sent me away saying that I had some ulterior motive in asking for restrictions to be imposed on foodgrains. They thought, quite rightly, at that time that there was no necessity to check the prices of foodgrains, like my friend, Professor Ranga, who is of the same view still.

The Congress, who could have started price control in the beginning of the war, did not do it deliberately. It was their belief that any restriction imposed on prices would not be in the best interests of the country. I do not blame them for that. Nobody could foresee the circumstances which arose later, and I am sure that even if the Congress were in power for the next 12 months or 2 years, they would have continued that policy. They were convinced that in the interests of the cultivators no lowering of prices and no restriction of prices of foodgrains was desirable. Therefore, I say that we were all caught napping.

Second Food Conference

The Government of India again called another Food Conference in January 1940. That was about four months after the declaration of war and that Conference also unanimously resolved not to impose any price control on foodgrains.

AN HON'BLE MEMBER: Was the Congress there?

SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA: I am unable to say so. It is a pity they disappeared all too soon. What happened actually was that the price of foodgrains rose sharply soon after the declaration of war. Then because of the course which the war had taken, prices became stabilised and then they started falling actually and they fell very nearly to the pre-war level.

Nobody could have thought of imposing price control of foodgrains until actually the war situation became much worse and that was in December 1941, when Japan declared war. The real trouble in India, so far as the food situation goes, arose after the entry of Japan into the war. This contingency, I submit, could not have been foreseen by anybody, whether it were this Government or it were the Congress Government or the Muslim League Government. However, I do not think it is much use crying over spilt milk. As I say, none of us was an astrologer, and the course of the war could have been foreseen only perhaps by Nazi astrologers or the mad men of Tokyo. You and I could not have foreseen it.

That being so, what did the Government of India do? As soon as the war against Japan was declared, and when we foresaw that there was a chance of our losing Burma rice, we called a conference and we imposed price control, and ever since then we have been working to get the better of the food problem in the country. We have made mistakes, I am free to confess. But so would you have, if you were doing the job. Perhaps you would have made worse mistakes. Anybody tackling a problem of that kind and of that magnitude is bound to make mistakes. The wonder is that we have not made more mistakes. I think, Sir, that on the whole, we have done extraordinarily well.

I remember, Sir, last year this time when there was a food debate, nobody talked of chickens, poultry and eggs or even of cabbages. They only talked of rice and wheat. The fact that they have forgotten these cereals now and are today talking of protective foods such as poultry, eggs, chicken and milk—I admit my Hon'ble friends are more interested in those things which provide vitamins for their arduous work—shows that really the food situation of India has vastly improved.

There is no special shortage of foodgrains. I admitted in my original speech that there were local shortages in some parts, but I think I have dealt comprehensively with the main deficit areas and the steps we have taken to relieve those shortages. But there is no major catastrophe anywhere howsoever you may like to misrepresent things. Sir, the proof of the success of our policy is that prices have fallen all round. Wheat and rice are the two main staple grains. As I told the House in my initial review, the prices of both are rapidly coming down.

A MEMBER: With what rapidity?

Situation Much Better

SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA: If the Hon'ble Member will read my original speech, he will find the figures. I do not want to repeat them and thus take up the time of the House. It is gratifying that prices have gone down as they have done. There is no doubt about it that the situation in the country is much better. I do not say there is no room for further lowering of prices and I am in full sympathy with one clause of one of the amendments.

At the same time, I would like Hon'ble Members of the House to decide among themselves as to the right course to be adopted in regard to prices. Some of the Hon'ble Members have impressed upon me that we are trying to ruin the growers. Another group of Hon'ble Members has said that prices are still too high. Now, Sir, judging from the speeches made this afternoon and yesterday in the House, I have a feeling that we are somewhere in the right. In any case, I wish to assure the House that the Food Department are most anxious to fix prices which will be within the reach of the poorest consumer and will at the same time be not unfair to the producer, leaving him with a reasonable margin of profit.

We realise and sympathise with those who stand up for the cultivator. We know he is the backbone of the country, but at the same time we must remember that there are poorer people in India than the cultivator who must be fed and it is the duty of the Food Department to feed them.

"Grow More Vegetables" Drive

Sir, I will now turn to some remarks made by my very old friend, Mr. Griffiths. I was very glad to hear his eloquent speech but I felt somehow that he mistook the forum; he thought he was speaking in the Bengal Legislative Assembly and that he was not Mr. Griffiths but Mr. Fazlul Huq. Anyhow we have made a note of many of the points raised by him and I wish to assure him that though they are mostly provincial there is no difference of opinion between us and him in regard to them.

The only point that I should like to enlighten him on is in connection with the "Grow More Vegetables" work which is being done by the Government of India. My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Tyson, has given you an account of what his department is doing in this direction. I am not going to enlarge on that, but I should like to say that in the matter of control of prices of these articles my department is exercising every vigilance. Of course, I admit that we started a little late on this, for the simple reason that all our energies were absorbed in the matter of foodgrains. We took first things first and we are now devoting our attention to the other things in right earnest, and I should like to tell the House of what is being done by the Government of India.

We fully realise their importance and we consider that the shortage and high prices are due very largely not so much to the army demand, as to other contributory factors which exist at the present moment. Sir, the main difficulty in controlling the prices of these articles is the difficulty of securing control of production and stocks. They are not like foodgrains where we can procure large quantities and keep against a rise in the market.

What the Government of India have done is that they have stimulated action by the Provincial Governments in close collaboration with the military authorities to take certain basic steps such as, to survey and ascertain local resources, to increase, and co-ordinate local production, divide the resources available, to allocate them to priority consumers, co-ordinate the demands and, above all, reduce or eliminate the element of competitive purchasing.

Co-ordination Committees

For this purpose, we have formed area and provincial co-ordination committees on which the Centre, the Provinces and the Defence forces are represented. In addition, in Southern India we have formed in consultation with the Education, Health and Lands Department a special committee to deal with cattle movement.

Apart from these measures, whenever the Government of India receive information of the imposition of a ban which involves other provinces or States we inquire into the merits of the case and endeavour to secure the necessary co-ordination of supplies by discussion and agreement. Finally, we are in constant correspondence with the provinces and States as to the importance of securing the distribution of non-cereal foods to those sections of the population which most need them. I am glad to say that I believe provincial Governments are now fully alive to these problems.

The case of Calcutta appears to be a special one. It is a pity that the Government of Bengal did not move in the matter early enough, but I wish to assure the House that they have now got down to the job and I hope the situation in Calcutta will soon be relieved. In addition, the House is probably aware that the Government of India have imported large quantities of tinned milk which has come as a boon to many places where women and children have been suffering from malnutrition.

DR. P. N. BANERJEE: A mere drop in the ocean.

SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA: No, it is a fair quantity. I admit it is not sufficient but still it is very useful. I have seen this milk distributed in areas of Cochin and Travancore with very good results.

Sir, I wish to assure the House that so far as protective foods are concerned, they are now our main anxiety and I hope this time next year Hon'ble Members will move on to something else and not take up protective foods.

The next thing I should like to talk about is this question of feeding Calcutta. I know many Hon'ble Members are keenly interested in this problem but they are aware that last year we agreed to feed Calcutta in very special circumstances. There is an over-all shortage of rice in the country; there is not enough rice to go round and the needs of other parts of India have to be taken into account. Last year on account of the famine we decided that we should take Calcutta out of the hands of Bengal in order to restore confidence, and I am glad to say that we have done this successfully.

The time is not yet ripe for announcing any definite decision on this matter because we are still collecting the figures. But my present feeling is that once we have received all the surplus and deficit figures from the provinces we should treat Bengal and Calcutta in the same way as any other province for the purposes of the basic plan, that is to say, if it is found that Bengal, including Calcutta, is deficit in any particular grain, we shall accept the debit. If it is surplus it is up to the Provincial Government to get grain from within its own boundaries. That is my personal inclination.

A Mis-statement

I do not say this because I have got anything against Bengal or Calcutta—that has been our main concern during the last twelve months —but I find that the needs of other parts of India are far greater. They have been neglected in the past because we had Bengal on our hands. I think it is time now that we did something for them. When I say this, I would like to correct a mis-statement by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Bhulabhai Desai. He thought that the total scale of ration in Travancore or Cochin was six ounces That is not so.

MR. BHULABHAI J. DESAI: I took it from my friend, Mr. Sait, who belongs to Malabar.

SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA: It is not so. The ration there is 12 ounces, out of which six ounces is rice. It has always been so.

MAULANA ZAFAR ALI KHAN: Do you think that 12 ounces are sufficient?

SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA: I am not saying anything of the kind. That is why I am appealing to Bengal and to other parts of India to give us more rice to increase the ration of Travancore, Cochin and Malabar. I have just been there and I feel that the people have undergone terrible strain during the last three years and now it is time that we gave them more rice. The difficulty is that people in those areas will not eat either millets or even wheat. They are used only to rice, and so it is necessary for us to find rice for them and as the Hon'ble Members would realise the resources of the Government of India in rice are meagre.



Women farm workers harvesting paddy.



Threshing the crop.

Another matter which has been dwelt upon is the question of rural areas. Last year, people were anxious that even cities should not be rationed. Why cities have been chosen for rationing first is not because of any military or imperialistic reasons, but for the simple reason that cities don't grow foodgrains and the people there have got to get foodgrains from villages. In conditions of scarcity the cities starved. That is the only simple reason why we started with the idea of rationing cities, and I am glad we have very largely succeeded. We have now under rationing 42 millions of people and I think the number of towns is 420 as I said in my speech. This is no mean achievement for 12 months, because at one time people were all opposed to rationing. They thought it was an imposition which they did not want to tolerate. I am glad now that people are asking for an extension of rationing.

Rural Rationing

About rural rationing, as I have told the House, we are starting an experiment in Malabar. It is a very complicated and difficult matter. It is accompanied by compulsory rural procurement. The district which imposes rationing has got also to procure all the available supplies within the district, and then if there is a deficit it has got to arrange additional supplies from outside. Malabar is the first district in British India where rural rationing is being started. I am watching the experiment with great interest and if it succeeds, as I hope it will, then I think it ought to be extended to other deficit areas. I have already suggested that Vizagapatam should be taken next.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: How long will it take?

SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA: In these things you cannot go too fast. It depends on the people themselves; it does not rest with the Government at all. The people have got to get used to it, and we have got to learn by experience what pitfalls we have to avoid. I do not wish to say more on this subject beyond assuring the House that the Food Department is alive to the needs of the rural areas and is doing whatever it can.

Another matter which has been prominently dealt with in the debate is the question of corruption of Government officials. I am not aware to what extent corruption is rampant but that there is some corruption I have no manner of doubt, but the House knows how very difficult it is to eradicate corruption in such matters. The Government are most anxious to catch out all misdoers and I would ask for the assistance of the Members of this House in eradicating corruption. As Mr. Griffiths pointed out, it takes two to make corruption, the giver and the recipient are both to blame. And I am sure the Members of this House will assist us in encouraging the giver to come to us and tell us of any such cases.

I have only one point more to deal with. Mr. Griffiths said that the performance of Great Britain in the matter of food had been so much better than that of India. I entirely agree with him, but what are the comparative circumstances? They started on food administration



The village rice goes to market.

there seven years ago. We started off in right earnest on a co-ordinated policy 18 months ago or even less than that. Great Britain has got to cater for 40 millions of people. We have to cater for ten times that number. Great Britain has the advantage of organised trade channels for distribution. We have not got that advantage. Great Britain's problems of procurement are nothing; they get all the stuff supplied to them in convenient parcels which come from overseas, whereas we have to secure our supplies from millions of small producers.

Transport Problem

Then, Sir, take into consideration the transport problem. The distances in Great Britain are nothing as compared to those in India. Still these considerations have not made us lose heart. We have gone on and done whatever we could. Sir, I am glad to be able to say that Sir Henry French when he visited this country paid us a great compliment on what we had been able to achieve within fifteen months. Sir, he came as an impartial critic. His opinion is worth something.

I think I have dealt with many of the points which were raised in the debate which called for a reply from me. There is one point left in the speech of Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan when he referred to Nepal paddy purchases. I think he has got his facts all upside down. He had better verify them. It is not correct to say that the agent who bought the rice bought it at a price above that arranged for by the Bengal Government. He did not do it. He bought at a rate below the price fixed by the Bengal Government. That is the main basic fact. As regards loss by deterioration the assertions are over-exaggerated. There is no question of not holding the agent to the terms of his contract. That again is not correct.

Someone raised the question of Canadian wheat not being fit for human consumption. I do not know whether he has tried it.

MR. MANU SUBEDAR: I have tried it and I have suffered by it.

SIR JWALA PRASAD SRIVASTAVA: But palates differ. I have tried it and I like it. It is very nice. In any case, I tell you, a sample of this wheat was approved by the Bombay Provincial Advisory Committee who, I believe, tested it. They must have cooked it and eaten it and they were quite satisfied with it and I have the authority to say that Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas found it absolutely

right. My friend, Mr. Manu Subedar, might make further enquiries into the matter.

A number of amendments have been moved, and I will now deal with them. The trend of the speeches has not traversed my main statements with regard to the policy and achievements of the Department of Food, and yet it is thought fit to condemn us for a number of things of which we are not guilty on the admission of the other side of the House. Not a word has been said about the inadequacy of transport. I am glad to say that there is complete understanding between the Food Department and the War Transport Department and, thanks to my colleague on my left, things are working very well indeed. No Member had one word to say against the War Transport Department and yet in one of the amendments that Department has been brought in.

Army's Contribution

First of all I will deal with the amendment of Dr. Ziauddin. I regret that Government cannot accept the amendment as it stands. They must vote against it although some of the points which the mover has advocated already form part of the Government policy. On the specific points raised by the Hon'ble Member the attitude of the Government of India is as follows: The Government do not admit that no effective measures for growing more rice have been adopted. Production is a matter for the Education, Health and Lands Department who have already dealt with the details of the 'Grow More Food' campaign, particularly the question of increasing the production of rice. The House is, however, aware that a great deal has been done by the Army already in order to reduce its demands on the stocks available for the civil population in the establishment of poultry, cattle and vegetable farms.

The Food Department particularly agree with the Hon'ble Member in his advocacy of steps to utilise the resources of Assam for growing more rice and this is one of the things which I have been chasing, for some time. This problem is under active consideration between the Food Department and the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and certain proposals will shortly be made to the Government of Assam.

Now, with regard to the control of prices and the black market. The Food Department is at one with the Hon'ble Member in believing that the control of stocks is an essential feature for the control of prices. The aim which Government have effected in their procurement machinery in the past year, combined



Rice hulling is mostly done by machinery but 'hand hulling' with wooden pestle is still common in many parts of India.

with the assurance which they have had of imports, has enabled the Provincial Governments to build up stocks with the result, as has been amply shown, that confidence has been restored and prices, particularly in the Eastern Region, have shown a marked and continued fall. I take note of the particular methods which the Hon'ble Member has advocated for the control of individual stocks.

I may say that it is the policy of the Government of India to stimulate Provincial Governments and Administrations to improve both the procurement machinery and their administration of the Foodgrains Control Order to the stage, where they have both effective knowledge of the location of stocks and the means of controlling or acquiring those stocks if required. That also deals with the objection raised by my friend, Mr. Griffiths.

Statistics

As regards statistics, I agree with the Hon'ble Member that the improvement of statistical information is an essential part of the improvement of food control. We have already a scheme for distribution from surplus to deficit areas on the lines advocated by the Hon'ble Member. No foodgrain can move except on Government account and Government's

view is that the necessary priorities for the transport of foodgrains already exist. We are, however, constantly watching the situation in consultation with the War Transport Department and wherever we find that the priorities allotted are insufficient, we shall not hesitate to press for such higher priorities as many be necessary.

It is already the policy to fix maximum prices for the whole of India by statute. We have proceeded a very long way towards this goal. In the case of rice we have not yet been able to realise an all-India maximum on a single all-India basis. We hope to be able to do so in the course of the next twelve months.

We fully agree with the Hon'ble Member in the desire to associate non-official members of the Legislature with the Food Administration at every stage. So far as the Centre is concerned the House realises that I have established a Central Food Advisory Committee and Price Advisory Committee in addition to the Standing Committee of the Legislature, whose assistance and advice I have constantly sought and gratefully acknowledged.

Policy of Rationing

As for rationing, I am afraid that I cannot agree with the Hon'ble Member that rationing should be confined to towns with a population of 150,000 or over. Our policy, first of all, is to extend rationing to all towns with a population of 100,000 and then to extend it where necessary to smaller towns. My information is that wherever rationing has been introduced, in spite of complaints which we have received on certain aspects of rationing, there is developing a general public demand not only for the extension of rationing so far as food is concerned but for its extension to other commodities outside the range of food, pure and simple.

I agree with the Hon'ble Member in deploring wastage of food wherever it has occurred and which could have been prevented. At the same time, we must acknowledge the great difficulties which Provincial Governments have to face in setting up the organisation necessary to prevent this wastage. Sir, this is as far as Dr. Ziauddin Ahmed's amendment goes.

As regards Prof. Ranga's amendment, I am unable to accept it as it stands, although I have very considerable sympathy with many of the points which the Mover seeks to make. These points are already engaging our attention and I will not give the detailed facts, which I have already stated in my speech.

Then, Sir, there is an amendment moved by my friend, Mr. Essak Sait. Government do not accept this amendment and must oppose it The Food Department does not accept that the defects pointed out by the Mover exist in the working of the Food Department at the Centre. I have stated the true facts in my speech and I cannot accept a censure of that kind. In fact that censure is not justified at all by the speeches made in this House or by the Mover of the amendment himself. His speech was appreciative of the work which has been done by the Food Department. That being so, I think it is a little hard that an amendment of that kind should be moved.

Sir, as regards Mr. Chattopadhyaya's amendment, we are in general sympathy with its object, but we cannot accept it as it stands. The facts show that a very considerable improvement has been effected in the Bengal situation and the Bengal Government is already taking advantage of co-operative societies.

As regards Mr. Avinashilingam Chettiar's amendment, I have considerable sympathy with many of the points which the Mover seeks to make, but I am unable to accept the amendment.

Before I sit down I would like to thank my friends, the non-official members of this House, for the many valuable suggestions that they have made. As was assured by Dr. Rao, we shall examine every one of them and give our best consideration to them. In fact what I detected was that many of the criticisms were levelled not so much against the Centre as against certain acts of omission and commission of the Provinces.

Food for All—The Aim

I take this opportunity of acknowledging once again the continued guidance and constructive suggestions which I have received from the Hon'ble Members. Whatever may be our differences in matters of detail our main objective is one and common—Food for all, on which the life of the community depends. Whatever Government may be in power, it cannot have any other objective. Politics as such are entirely outside this sacred sphere. So let us bend our energies to real, honest and constructive work for the common good. Without your support, the support of the chosen representatives of people like yourselves, my Department cannot achieve anything worth while. With your help nothing is impossible. I am quite aware of that. We have been set a great and noble task in an hour of unprecedented crisis in the history of our nation. Let that task be not marred by political rivalries. That is my wish and fervent appeal.

PROGRESS OF "GROW MORE FOOD" DRIVE

Mr. J. D. Tyson's Review

THE progress of the "Grow More Food" Campaign was reviewed by Mr. J. D. Tyson (Secretary, Education, Health and Lands Department) in his speech during the food debate in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 9. He said:

Sir, rising first after the Hon'ble Food Member spoke, my Hon'ble friend Prof. Ranga said: "We have heard from time to time about more land being brought under cultivation, but how much more food has been produced?" I welcome that question and that is what I propose, in the time at my disposal this morning, to tell the House. In doing so I shall answer my Hon'ble friend Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi also, who said that "Grow More Food" is a complete failure: Mr. Nauman, who said that "Grow More Food" has received only lip sympathy and Government have made no effort to give financial aid to the cultivators or to the let them have seed: Mr. Hegde who said that "Grow More Food" has "achieved nothing," Mr. Gupta who said that "Grow More Food" was "bunkum"; and even my Hon'ble friend and erstwhile colleague Mr. Griffiths, who was nearer the truth when he said that it has "achieved something" but who finished by damning it with pretty faint praise. I will bombard the House with figures as little as I can, but I must give some.

Increased Acreage under Rice

On the basis of the average of the three pre-war years, which I take deliberately because the year immediately preceding the inauguration of the Grow More Food campaign was a year below the average and I do not want to make any unfair claims, in the immediate pre-war period the average acreage under *rice* in India was 73.8 million acres, or practically 74 million acres. After one year of Grow More Food the area under rice was 75 million acres. Last year, the area under rice was practically 30 million acres, that is, 6¼ million acres over the immediately pre-war average of 73.8 million acres. And though the first rice forecast is not yet published, I am happy to be in a position to inform the House that the indications at the moment are very strongly that the area under rice this year will be fully maintained, if not perhaps a little increased. I do not say the yield will be the same as last year's bumper crop, but the area is going to be no less.

SIR COWASJI JEHANGIR (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): How much more rice has been produced?

MR. J. D. TYSON: I am coming to that. Now, take the case of wheat. The area under wheat in the three years' average before the war was 34.7 million acres. We have not been able to increase the area under wheat.

The next figure that I will give the House is the total area under all foodgrains. The total acreage under all foodgrains in the three years before the war was 195 million acres. After one year of Grow More Food campaign the figure was 204.5 million acres and last year it was 206.3 million acres. Thus there is an increase of six per cent of land under cultivation.

Foodgrains Production

Now, I come to the production of foodgrains. The production of rice in the three years before the war was 26¼ million tons. In the first year of the Grow More Food campaign it was 24.8 million tons. Now, I would like the House to notice that though the area had increased by over a million acres, the crop actually decreased owing to natural calamities and the ravages, in Bengal, of a pest called Helminthosporium. Last year, with still greater acreage and with a bounteous harvest, the crop was 36.6 million tons. So, from 26.5 million tons, the pre-war average, it went up to 36.0 million tons. This is the highest on record. It is 4 million tons over the production of the pre-war period and it is twice the figure we used to import from Burma.

We got an increased crop of wheat in the first year of Grow More Food but we did not get such a large crop last year, it was below the pre-war average. Now, for all foodgrains the pre-war average was 55½ million tons. After one year of Grow More Food it was 57½ million tons and last year it was practically 61 million tons, an increase of 5½ million tons over the pre-war period.

Now, my point in mentioning these figures is *not* that this is enough: this is only a beginning. I could give the House, if I had time, many reasons why in the existing circumstances we are worse off now in India with this increased production than we were in the pre-war period and why we still want imports from outside. But what I am concerned with at the moment is to meet the suggestion that Grow More Food has "achieved nothing".

Now, Sir, I know I will be told that my statistics are not to be relied upon. But we must take them as they are and we are trying to improve them. Nearly all the provinces have got on hand schemes for improving their statistics. We had a very interesting sampling test

on mathematically approved lines in the Punjab and the United Provinces this last summer. I have not seen the U.P. results but certainly as regards the Punjab it proved conclusively the accuracy, this year at all events, of the provincial figures of yield.

MR. MANU SUBEDAR: Have the Provinces accepted these figures?

MR. TYSON: I am sorry I cannot give way because the time at my disposal is very short.

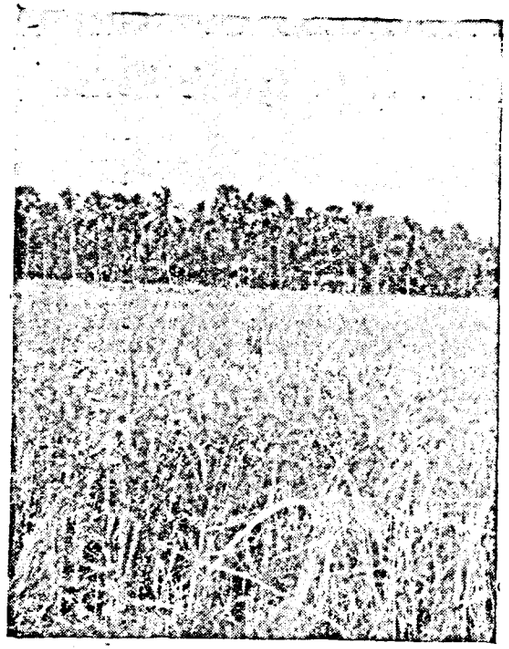
Sir, when I was a Sub-Divisional Officer—that is a long time ago—we used to collect income-tax for the Government of India in the provinces. One day I was unsporting enough to compare the returns put in under income-tax with the returns put in by the same gentleman in applying for gun and revolver licences and I was shocked, but not altogether surprised, to find that the property for the protection of which they wanted the use of a revolver or a gun was considerably greater than the property which was mentioned in the income-tax returns.

Applying the same test here—if it is suggested that in order to placate my own Hon'ble Chief here the provinces are inclined to "cook" their figures and show a bigger area under crops or a bigger off-take than really they have achieved, they would be on very dangerous ground for immediately they would be jumped upon by my Hon'ble friend, the Food Member, for a bigger quota to his "basic plan". There is no reason, therefore, why we should suspect that the figures have been "cooked." As I said, our statistics are improving. In some parts they are reasonably good and they will be better soon even in permanently settled areas like Bengal.

The Bumper Crop of 1943-44

It may also be said that the bumber crop of 1943-44 was an accident, and a gift of Providence it certainly was, but it was no accident. The high prices obtaining for rice, especially in Bengal, had led the cultivators to be willing to increase cultivation under rice and that applies, I suppose, all over India. Certainly as regards Bengal, that crop had to be sown at the beginning of the famine and we were told that the cultivators had, under the influence of high prices, sold their paddy and even their paddy seed with the result that although there was the willingness to sow on a very great scale, there was no seed.

The Bengal Government very largely financed the distribution of seed for the Aus crop but they asked us to help them in financing the distribution of the seed from the Aman crop and we did this to the tune of Rs. 4½ lakhs in



The Aman paddy crop.

the shape of grants and Rs. 33½ lakhs in the shape of loans to Bengal alone

For that particular crop all over India, we gave Rs. 8½ lakhs grants and Rs. 50 lakhs loans for the distribution of seed, and that is, by the way, my answer to Mr. Muhammad Nauman, who I regret to see is not in the House at present.

We also gave large sums for reclaiming waste lands in Orissa and Bombay, for irrigation of various kinds, chiefly for rice, in Assam and Bihar, the U.P. and the C.P. It was therefore no accident that there was a good harvest that year, though I agree that without a bounteous monsoon, much of our help would have gone for nothing. That is one of our difficulties. It is one that can only be overcome by long-term extension of irrigation. But I venture to say that even if the monsoon is patchy and the return per acre for the whole of India is poor, it is better to have an eight-anna crop off 80 million acres than off 70 million. So, we go on trying to increase the area under foodgrains.

During the current year we are spending even more in helping to distribute seed. We have undertaken a considerable liability—I have no time to give the figures—to help the Provinces in the matter of irrigation—excavating tanks, re-excavating tanks and digging wells. These are particularly long-term—I may say they are

permanent—improvements and they should mean a permanent addition in normal years to our food supply. Over and above that, the power-operated schemes for irrigation associated with the name of Sir William Stampe are just beginning to take effect with the rabi crop that is being sown now and there will be much more effect next year.

Protective Foods

There has been—rightly, if I may say so—considerable reference in this debate to "protective foods" and we also have had them in mind right from the beginning of the campaign. We had to go for first things first, and the first thing that was brought home to us very forcibly was the shortage of cereals, especially of rice. But we have had this matter of vegetables in the forefront of our campaign right through. Of course, there are two kinds of vegetables; there is the country vegetable, and the position as regards country vegetables has not, I think, been difficult. We have had no complaints regarding them and we have left the matter to the Provincial Governments. The seeds for country vegetables are produced locally, and it is not much good trying to grow in Bengal the kind of country vegetables that grows in the Punjab. What I want to speak about, however, is the European type of vegetables which are consumed by people of all races in the cities and by the armed forces. Now, Sir, the supply of seed for these was very largely imported from abroad right up to 1941. We have been faced simultaneously with the cutting off of these supplies and with the increase, owing to the war, in our ordinary urban population and by the influx—and I do not hesitate to say that at the time it came, it was a very welcome influx—of armed forces from overseas.

Where Bombay Leads

In 1942, we started organising vegetable production by Provincial Governments to take up the demand of the armed forces for fresh vegetables and the demand of the Supply Department for dehydration. This was to be a separate production by an agency quite different from those which ordinarily supply the towns, the idea being to take over the supply to the army to a great extent, which would mean that the existing supplies would continue to be available in the towns. Bombay led the way in 1941-42. Madras, Bihar and the U.P. followed. Now most of the Provinces are growing vegetables separately for the army.

We have been told that the price of vegetables in Calcutta has gone very high. Calcutta has had no relief from this scheme because unfortunately the Bengal Government did not get their vegetable scheme going and they could not take up the potato scheme for which we offered them assistance. But Bengal is trying again, and if it can succeed in growing vegetables for the Army, that will *pro tanto* assist the position in Calcutta.

Some Provinces are now growing vegetables under similar arrangements for the civil population, and, again, Bombay is leading the way. The army themselves are growing vegetables and other protective foods to an ever greater extent.

Vegetable Seed Position

Reference was made to the vegetable seed position by my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Griffiths, yesterday. Now, Sir, when outside supplies failed, we had to organise an almost entirely new industry, and mainly through the Agricultural Departments of the Kashmir State and of Baluchistan we got a large acreage put under vegetables for seed production. I am free to confess that there were difficulties of supply the first year. The growers up there were mainly private growers and they dealt to a great extent direct with seedsmen down here, and a large number of seedsmen were caught out by the loss of their foreign sources of supply. They did not get a sufficient supply and there was also a certain amount of adulteration of seeds, and high prices were charged. Some seedsmen did not get seeds at all.

In the upshot, I am not sure whether there was actual over-all shortage, but undoubtedly there was some difficulty in getting hold of seeds in some areas. That is a point, which, in the language current at the moment, I must "concede" to my Hon'ble friend Mr. Griffiths. This year, we have tightened up the whole thing; seeds are collected in bulk in bonded warehouses in Baluchistan and Kashmir and they are issued from there only wholesale to seedsmen and to Directors of Agriculture and to the army, after germination tests, and they are issued at fixed prices. There is no shortage of seeds this year. In fact, of some vegetables, we have got a surplus of seeds, including cabbages, which, I understood yesterday were particularly the food of Americans!

I have to make some short reference to medical supplies.

MR. K. C. NEOGY: What about milk supply?

MR. TYSON: I hope I have said enough to show that we have not failed to achieve something in our Grow More Food Campaign and I hope that when my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Gupta, sees the transcript of his speech in which he has described it as "bunkum", he will eat it!

I have very little time left to deal with other subjects. There has been, naturally enough, reference to the epidemic situation. I should like briefly to refer to that as it is a matter which has been causing grave concern in this House. Since the last session, the epidemic position in Bengal which was then still causing us grave anxiety has shown progressive improvement. The cholera mortality which, in January, was 3,000 a week had declined to 700 a week in April and to 286 and 232 in the first two weeks of October. The mortality is now considerably below average. Since April when the number of deaths from smallpox was over 2,000 a week there has been a steady improvement but the numbers though low are still rather higher than the normal.

What I really want to say here is this, and I hope the House will be interested to hear it, that the Bengal Government have been going on with their campaign against these two diseases and they have been carrying out inoculations on a vast scale. In one year, since November, 1943, the cholera inoculations in Bengal have totalled 18 million; vaccinations totalled 32 million. That is a colossal piece of work. Thirteen thousand tube-wells have been renovated or new ones have been sunk. I need hardly stress the importance of that from the cholera point of view. Twenty thousand beds have been provided in 572 emergency hospitals.

In 1943-44, the malaria situation in Bengal was bad and it is of course bad this year, because unfortunately in malaria one bad year trends to lead to another bad year. The Bengal Government have received for dealing with the malaria situation 100,000 lbs. of quinine and febrifuge and 179,000 tablets of quinine substitutes. The two together afford about 21 million treatments.

In Bihar

In Bihar—and I think within the time left to me I shall have to finish with Bihar—the last six months have seen a very severe epidemic of cholera—in North Bihar. It began to develop in April and May; it reached its peak in June with over 6,000 deaths in one week. Since then the figures have shown a considerable improvement and for the last two weeks of October they are 597 and 744.

But since the cholera mortality began to decline malaria has given cause for anxiety there. Now the military medical authorities have come to the help of the provincial Government. They have supplied 22 military medical officers for emergency duties and they have

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 659)

FOODGRAIN PRICES
Government Examining Subsidy Question

DR. V. K. R. V. Rao, Director of Statistics, Food Department, speaking during the food debate in the Legislative Assembly on November 9, said:

I have been listening most carefully to the speeches which have been made from the other side of the House and it appears to me that the main substance of the speeches falls under two categories, a review of what the Government of India have done so far in the matter of food policy and food administration, and a recital of what should be done in extension of their existing food policy. It is not my purpose, Sir, to answer the charges which have been made against the administration of the Government's food policy as it exists at present and as was decided largely by the Foodgrains Policy Committee, which, I may remind the House, pertained very largely to the supply of foodgrains and related mainly to the urban areas.

An Assurance

There have been, Sir, a number of detailed complaints about the administration of food in the various regions from which Hon'ble Members come and whose interests they represent in this House. It is obviously not possible for me within the short space of time that I have at my disposal, to deal with those complaints, but I would like to assure the House that every one of those complaints is now under the active examination of the Food Department and if any Hon'ble Member has got any detailed matter on which he would require urgent inquiry and action to be taken by the Government in the Department of Food, I am authorised to give him an assurance on behalf of the Food Department that if only he will let me have the facts at the end of this debate or some time later, we in the Food Department shall take the most immediate steps to have them attended to.

During the debate, a number of points have been raised regarding extension of the food policy; if I may say so, this concern with new matters perhaps implies that the House is not now so much concerned with the criticism of the food policy as it was formulated last year which pertained mainly to foodgrains in urban areas, but that the House is now passing on to further problems which have been raised by the comparative success of the existing food policy of the Government of India.

The new problems to which reference has been made are things like the extension of rationing in rural areas, the effect of procurement on producers, the question of Government monopoly purchase, the question of the basic protective foods and non-cereal foodgrains, and also the question of subsidy.

Monopoly Purchase

As regards procurement Government monopoly procurement is only now being extended in considerable parts of British India. The Department has already appointed a special officer, who is an expert in the grains trade, to visit all the provinces where a Government monopoly purchase system prevails, particularly to examine the manner in which the grain is being procured from the producer, the price that the producer obtains, the amount that is left to be retained by the producer and the effect of such procurement on rural areas. The report is now in the possession of the Food Department and copies of it are being printed and will be sent to all the Provincial Governments. This report is now under the active consideration of the Department of Food.

Mr. N. M. JOSHI: Circulate it to all the Members.

Dr. V. K. R. V. RAO: I shall convey that suggestion to the Department. As soon as the Department has considered the report and obtained the views of the Provincial Governments, I am sure the Hon'ble Food Member would be able to come forward before this House and tell them what we intend to do regarding a number of problems such as those which my Hon'ble friend Prof. Ranga, who represents the Kisans, is particularly interested in.

Subsidisation of Food

Then, Sir, a very much larger question has been raised in this House, the question of subsidy. There have been two voices on the subject of the price of foodgrains. There have been some Members who have been saying that the prices of foodgrains are not particularly high at present and they should at least be permitted to be retained at their existing levels, otherwise the producer will not produce, there will be no incentive to grow more food and there will be distress among the producing and agricultural classes.

On the other hand, voices have also been raised in this House to the effect that the prices of foodgrains are high and it is not possible for many persons to purchase such quantities of foodgrains as are required for their nutritional requirements on account of the high prices of foodgrains, and that something effective should be done to bring down the prices of foodgrains.

As a kind of compromise and as a way of reconciling these two opposite points of view—high prices for the producer and low prices for the consumer—a suggestion has been made in this House that Government should examine the principle of subsidy as far as the prices of foodgrains are concerned. I would like to tell the House that this principle of subsidy is under the active examination of the Food Department and it has been under their examination for some time past.

A Complicated Subject

It is not possible for Government to come to a decision on a complicated subject like that of subsidy without due consideration nor, I am sure, will the House expect from me any declaration of decision on the part of the Government as regards subsidy. But I think perhaps the House may be interested to hear from me a brief account of some of the enormous complications which arise from this question of subsidy, and I shall do so not only from the point of view of giving information but also in the hope that subsequent speakers who shall follow me will take up this point and let the Government of India have some idea of how they themselves feel on these complicated problems.

It is important to realise—I know one Hon'ble Member in particular waxed eloquent on the subject of the analogy of the United Kingdom and I have not got the time to answer him here but shall be glad to do so outside this House—that the analogy of England giving a subsidy of £150 to 200 million is all very good, but we must remember that we are not dealing with England but with India, a country even whose total national income is lower than that of the United Kingdom. Now that we have reached the stage when the prices of foodgrain are already high, the question whether subsidy will have an anti-inflationary effect will very much depend upon how it is going to be financed.

What is going to be the amount of subsidy that the House would like to give? I would just give an illustration. If the idea is to introduce a subsidy and if the idea is to bring back the prices of foodgrains to what they were before the war—and the difference between the prices now prevailing and those before the war is Rs. 3 to Rs. 5 per maund of foodgrain, it

must mean that the amount which will be required will run into hundreds of crores. I do not want to stagger the House with figures, but the amount will really run into hundreds of crores.

And I should like to ask the House to consider how that money is going to be raised. If it is going to be raised by means other than taxation, it is not going to be of the slightest help as far as the bringing down of the prices of commodities in general and the cost of living are concerned. If it is to be obtained by methods of taxation, the House will consider on whom the incidence of taxation will fall, and how far the incidence of this tax will leave the cultivator unaffected.

Benefit of Subsidy

Then, again, my friend Prof. Ranga will say that the subsidy should be such that the benefit goes to the producer and that it is not taken away by the middleman. I entirely agree with him that the benefit of the subsidy is for the producer, but what is going to be the technique that we are going to have for this purpose? If there is a Government monopoly purchase system where the Government buy grain directly from the producer—and I am very glad the Hon'ble the Deputy Leader of the Congress Party has lent his support to this and this is also the policy of the Food Department—then it would be possible to institute this system of subsidy. But the House knows that, excepting in some parts of the country, the crop is not directly purchased from the producer by the Government. And what is going to be the machinery which is going to be devised for the purpose of seeing that the subsidy reaches the producer and is not intercepted on the way?

Then, Sir, there is also the question, if you are going to institute a subsidy, what are going to be the grains which will be subsidized? Are we going to subsidise only the cereals, such as, wheat, rice, barley, bajra, maize or are we also going to subsidize milk and milk products, vegetables, poultry, eggs and other foodstuffs? I am not saying that they should not be subsidized, but I just want to say that these are problems which require consideration and which cannot be answered on the spur of the moment. They have already been under the examination of the Food Department and they require very long and exhaustive examination before it is possible for the Government to have a firm policy on the subject of subsidy.

Then there is also the question of the consumer. As my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Joshi, pointed out, and quite rightly, because he represents the working classes, the benefit of the subsidy should be such that the consumer today is able to get foodgrains or other commodities at prices lower than what he is having to pay at present. Here, again, there are a number of complicated questions which have got to be answered.

When we talk of the consumer, should the subsidy be given to all consumers or should it be given only to a certain class of consumers? And if it is going to be restricted to a certain class of consumers only and not to all consumers, then what is going to be the principle of restriction? Is it going to be on the basis of income or is it going to be on some other basis? If it is going to be on the basis of income, what should be the levels of income at which the subsidy should stop? What should be the position regarding industrial workers? As my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Joshi, knows, quite a large number of industrial workers are getting dearness allowance which is based on the existing cost of living.

If the Government of India decide to have a policy of subsidized foodgrains for industrial workers and give them food at lower prices, will my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Joshi, be prepared to advise his friends to accept a reduction in the dearness allowance which is based on the cost of living and which is based on the present high prices of foodgrains? I am not saying that he should, but I am only showing that that is a difficulty. The question as to what is going to be the position of industrial workers and all those consumers who have had the benefit of a higher income directly as a consequence of the rise in prices has got to be considered.

Position of Rural Population

I do not know why my Hon'ble friend, Prof. Ranga, did not make an interjection and say: "What about the rural people? Are you going to confine the benefit of the subsidy only to urban workers?" During the debate in this House I gathered the impression that the House has been very much concerned with the interests of the rural people. What, then, should be the position of the rural masses in a scheme of subsidy? What about particularly the classes with which I have the greatest sympathy and to which my Hon'ble friend, Rao Bahadur Siva Raj, referred, the landless labouring class, the class which has borne the strain of every economic stress in India? What is going to be its position in a scheme of subsidy? What is going to be the position of the non-producers in rural areas and what is going to be the position of the inadequate producers in rural areas in a scheme of subsidy? What is going to be the position of producers who produce non-food crops? There are many complications.

Dr. G. V. DESHMUKH: (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Therefore the solution is to do nothing in the matter.

Dr. V. K. R. V. RAO: I can assure the Hon'ble Member that I am stating these facts for his consideration and not with a view to showing the impossibility of anything being done in the matter of subsidy. It is only to show that the problem is vast and complicated, it has got all sorts of implications, and financial implications are the biggest of all.

Apart from the question of the amount that a scheme of subsidy of any reasonable character will cost, there is the question of who is going to bear the subsidy? Is it going to be the Central or Provincial Government? If the subsidy is going to be met by taxation, then on whom should the incidence of taxation fall?

The Difficulties

My only point is that the whole question of subsidy is one that bristles with difficulties. It is not that the Food Department is oblivious of the fact that there are large classes of people in this country who do not get as much food as they should get. The Food Department is anxious that not only should the price of foodgrains be brought down and adequate supplies rushed to places where there is scarcity but also that the people who are in need of food do actually get it. That is why we are investigating this question of subsidy.

Apart from the question of income groups, rural groups, urban groups, etc. what is to be the position of the vulnerable sections of the community, the nursing mothers and children? Would it be possible to have free or subsidised milk canteens all over the country? Is it desirable to have a system of subsidy on the basis of industrial canteens for the benefit of industrial workers?

Dr. G. V. DESHMUKH: May I ask the Hon'ble Member to tell me either inside or outside the House how this question has been solved in other countries.

Dr. V. K. R. V. RAO: The Hon'ble Member knows that I am entirely at his disposal outside this House, though I may not be within the precincts of this building. I have very little time left. All that I want to say is this. We, in the Food Department, have been considering this question of subsidy. It is under our most active examination. As soon as we come to a stage when it is possible to put forward any concrete suggestion, we may have to refer it to an inter-departmental committee consisting of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, a representative of the Finance Department, of the Food Department and of the Department of Education, Health and Lands, for the purpose of going into greater detail into this question of subsidy. This question of subsidy will also be one of the problems which will be immediately investigated by the planning section of the Food Department to which the Hon'ble Food Member referred in his opening speech.

I should like to conclude my speech by saying one thing. A number of suggestions have been made on the floor of the House, some by way of detailed criticism of the food administration of the country. On all these matters any information given to the Food Department will be immediately investigated and whatever the Government of India can do by way of communicating to the Provincial Governments will be done.

In the matter of new suggestions regarding policy which have been made, almost all of them, if I may say so, are suggestions which are well known already, which have been under the examination of the Food Department for a considerably long time and on which I hope the Food Department would be able to come forward before this House within a reasonable measure of time with concrete suggestions and policies. In the meanwhile, if Hon'ble Members opposite will forgive me, I do very much wish that some little credit had been given to the Food Department for the work that they have done in managing the food problem, at least as far as cereals and foodgrains are concerned.

MR. TYSON'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 656)

released an I.M.S. officer with public health experience to be Additional Director of Public Health for North Bihar.

The Bihar Government have appointed an Additional Commissioner for relief work in the Tirhut Division. They have got adequate supplies of vaccines and anti-malaria drugs! 28 million tablets of quinine substitutes have been supplied to them; they have made arrangements for the distribution of anti-malaria drugs through malaria centres, district dispensaries, village headmen and other village agencies.

Voluntary relief organisations are being organised and allotted compact areas and are being supplied with anti-malaria drugs free. The great difficulty that the Bihar Government are having is to get the additional medical staff which they require.

BASIC PLAN, PROCUREMENT, PRICES AND RATIONING

Mr. B. R. Sen on Government's Food Policy

INITIATING the food debate in the Council of State on November 14, the Hon'ble Mr. B. R. Sen, Director-General, Food, announced that Bengal's supplies for 1945 will be determined on the same basis as supply for other parts of India.

He stated: "The reasonable needs of the Government of Bengal will be reviewed in the light of all the relevant facts and allocations will be made as necessary from stocks available for the purpose. Due regard will be had to any special circumstances in Bengal, especially such as may arise from its proximity to the scene of active operations, as well as to the special need of other parts of India."

Here is the full text of Mr. Sen's speech:

It is now just over a year ago that the Hon'ble the Food Member announced at the 4th Food Conference held in New Delhi that the policy of the Government of India henceforth would be not merely to attempt to evolve a common price policy and to co-ordinate the necessary measures that might be taken by the Provinces to meet the exigencies of the war situation, so far as that could be done through understanding and agreement, but to take direct responsibility for the mobilisation of the food resources of India as a whole, and in the discharge of that responsibility to exercise whatever degree of superintendence and control at every stage might be necessary or for invoking whatever powers were essential to ensure success. The House would probably like that I should briefly state the progress made during the last 12 months in the implementation of that all-India policy.

Basic Plan

The four main Heads under which the Food Department announced their policy in the light of the recommendations of the Policy Committee were Basic Plan, Procurement, Prices and Rationing. The House will probably remember that the first attempt that was ever made by the Government of India to deal with the food problem on an all-India basis, was when they drew up their Basic Plan early in 1943. The Plan called upon Provinces and States to declare surpluses and deficits with the object of finding out as far as possible what foodgrains were available and distributing them to the best advantage in places where they were most needed.

The target figures of surpluses and deficits received from the Provinces disclosed that the deficits were four times the surpluses. The Food Department had little time to carry out statistical investigation and therefore finalised the Plan by applying a formula based on statistics of production and rail and river-borne movements for the three pre-war years and selecting the lowest consumption figure of those areas as a yard-stick with which to ensure a common element of austerity for all. The Plan, however, failed as most of the Provinces which were regarded as surplus refused to accept the surplus as ascribed to them.

At the 4th Food Conference in October, 1943, the Government of India announced a new procedure for preparing the Basic Plan. The Plan was to be in two stages. The first, a preliminary plan based on declared surpluses calculated on the best information available, movements to begin in accordance with the allocations of this plan and the second, a revision of the plan by discussion with local Governments, when closer estimates of crop production would be available.

Statistical Information

The formula for ascertaining the surpluses and deficits was to be as follows. Requirements of each Province and State should be taken to mean average production plus average net imports or minus net exports for the five-year period ending 1941-42. The estimates of the production should be compared with the requirements so calculated and the difference should be treated as the surplus or deficit which should be the target at which the Province or State concerned should aim. The final decision in regard to the determination of surplus or deficit should remain with the Central Government.

The Plan, based on the new procedure, has now worked for over 12 months. One of the facts which have increasingly been borne upon those who are responsible for working the Plan during this period has been that unless more active and urgent steps are taken to improve statistical information regarding acreage and production, no Plan based on a formula such as adopted can be fully satisfactory. The House will probably like to know what steps have been taken by the Central Government to improve statistical information.

Till last year we had practically no information regarding agricultural statistics in the Indian States. The States were asked, through the Political Department, to furnish figures of acreage and production since 1935-36, and most of the States have made the information available. So far as the permanently settled tracts in British India are concerned, there had been very little objective checks on the estimates of acreage. The estimates of yield were also based on an inadequate number of crop-cutting experiments usually conducted by revenue staff without sound sampling techniques. Definite attempts have been made since last year to improve the position.

In Bengal, a sample survey of the area under *Aus* and *Aman* crops of 1943-44 was conducted under the technical supervision of Professor Mahalanobis. For the year 1944-45, the Government of Bengal have outlined a detailed scheme for a complete plot-to-plot enumeration of the area under *Aus* and *Aman* Paddy supplemented by a sample census.

The Bihar Government have also drawn up a scheme of crop surveys extending over a five-year period. The first survey under this scheme was conducted in 1943-44. Statistical information in the temporarily settled areas was already superior but technical crop-cutting experiments were also conducted for wheat in the Punjab and U.P. for the *Rabi* year 1943-44, as a check on normal methods with very encouraging results. Similar experiments will be repeated in the main wheat grown areas in future. The question of publishing all-India forecasts for major foodgrains other than wheat and rice is now receiving the attention of the Education, Health and Lands Department.

Another Aspect

I may mention another aspect of the working of the Basic Plan. The experience last year has been that few Provinces and States are willing to revise their figures till they are assured of the prospects of the next crops. As a result, as in the previous year, large surpluses which should have been declared at the second stage were declared and released only at the end of the year, with consequent hardship to the deficit areas in need of assistance and also concentrated strain on transport. To make the Basic Plan more realistic even at the first stage, it was decided this year, before the preparation of the *Kharif* Plan for 1944-45, to hold conferences with the main supplying and receiving Provinces and States and examine with them their figures of production and consumption and, in the case of deficit Provinces and States, their experience based on their deficits last year and the quotas they received under the Basic Plan. This procedure is proposed to be repeated in future whenever a plan for a new crop year is undertaken.

Reviewing the position generally, I am in a position to say that the last 12 months' working of the Basic Plan gives us the feeling that at both the Centre and in the Provinces we have now a much clearer idea of the minimum needs of the deficit areas and we can hope that in no area in future should we be taken completely by surprise unless there are any unforeseen developments or any unpredictable natural calamities.

Procurement, Government Monopoly

The success of any Basic Plan such as the one formulated by the Government of India must clearly be dependent very largely on an adequate system of procurement. The problem of procurement, however, is one which is much bigger than mere extraction of grains for export under the Basic Plan. Though a few provinces have surpluses of all the major foodgrains, in other cases a province may be surplus in one foodgrain and deficit in all others, or deficit in one and surplus in all others. Again, though a province may be self-sufficient on balance, some of its districts may be surplus and others again deficit, so that inter-district procurement may be of the utmost importance to that province.

The essence of the problems is thus not moving of supplies from a surplus province to deficit areas but of acquiring from the cultivator the maximum amount to be obtained from every part of India. The only completely satisfactory solution of the problem of procurement from the standpoint of principle, according to the Foodgrains Policy Committee, therefore, was a central foodgrains monopoly, but as the problems of organisation and administration involved are so great, they could not recommend its adoption immediately.

The Committee also observed that while it was probably not desirable to create a completely uniform procurement machinery in every part of India, the Food Department should undertake a careful study of the whole problem, province by province, in order to determine which on balance was the most suitable machinery for recommendation in a particular region.

During the last 12 months, the most outstanding feature in the field of procurement monopoly has been the steady and progressive development of Government monopoly both in British India and in the Indian States. Most areas have started with comparatively simple



During his recent 5-day tour of the Punjab, H.E. the Viceroy visited Okara, a granary of the province, where he inspected stores of wheat, paddy, cotton seed and barley. (Right) Lord Wavell examining wheat.

schemes and as experience has been gained, have developed the schemes further and further towards complete monopoly. When it is remembered that the more Government limits private trading by an extension of monopoly procurement the greater is the necessity for assumption of responsibility by Government for distribution, the anxiety of local Governments to build up and train the necessary staff and increase their practical experience before extending monopoly procurement can easily be understood.

Monopoly Schemes

The monopoly schemes vary from a complete monopoly, as in Malabar where the entire surplus from each holding after deduction of seed and consumption requirements of the cultivator and his family is taken over by Government, to a semi-monopoly as in Orissa where no attempt is made to assess surpluses on the basis of seed and consumption requirements of the cultivator and his family, and private trade is permitted up to quantities of 10 maunds in each transaction.

In some Provinces and States the attempt to procure the producer's surplus has taken the shape of a levy. The basis of assessment for the levy has varied from a completely arbitrary levy such as has been in force for millets in Madras till recently to a complete physical assessment of the production as is proposed in Kolhapur and the Deccan States. Probably under complete Government monopoly coordination and directional control will be all that will be necessary from the Centre. On this question, I would value the opinion of the Hon'ble Members of the House. For the last 4 or 5 months, a senior officer of the Department has been on special duty to study and correlate the procurement systems all over India. His report which has just been submitted is now under examination in the Food Department.

Speaking generally, I may say that the idea of a Government monopoly for procurement of the entire surplus of the producer from as near the threshing floor as possible has over the last 12 months taken a firm root in Provinces and States, and that the Government of India are following the policy they have laid down for themselves and exercising a close watch over the systems which are developing in different parts of the country. The Centre's most useful contribution to the extension of the principle is to make available to all administrations as full a knowledge as possible of what has been done and how it has been done by other areas, and this the Centre is doing.

The question has been raised why it is that surpluses declared under the Basic Plan by the Provinces and States do not immediately reflect increased production as reported under the "Grow More Food" campaign.

It must be admitted, that there is a marked difference between the estimated increase in food production as a result of the "Grow More Food" campaign and the food surpluses which are being declared by the Provinces to the Food Department for the purposes of the Basic Plan. The net increase in surpluses declared to the Food Department over the pre-war average of 19 lakh tons was about 7 lakh tons in 1942-43 and 2 lakh tons in 1943-44 as against the reported increase in production of 32 lakh tons and 73 lakh tons respectively over the pre-war average. The difference between the estimated increase in production and the surpluses declared to the Food Department during 1943-44, however, was particularly striking.

Problems of Storage and Movement

It seems clear that close co-ordination is necessary both at the Centre and in the Provinces between the production on the one side and procurement on the other. The question of a closer co-ordination of production and procurement has been under discussion in the Government of India for some time past and has resulted not only in much closer working of the two Departments concerned but also to the formation of a Food Committee of the Viceroy's Council for co-ordination of policy at the highest level on all matters of food to whichever department they may pertain.

With the problem of procurement are allied two other problems which are of equal and fundamental importance, *viz.* storage and movement. A few days ago I had an occasion to visit the Pusa Agricultural Institute in connection with the inauguration of a course of lectures to selected representatives of provinces and States on technical supervision of foodgrains, in storage. In the laboratory of the Institute, I found a poster with the following information:—

Total annual production of foodgrains and pulses in India, 67.5 million tons;

Total annual wastage at 5 p.c., 3.35 million tons;

Valued at flat rate of Rs 10 per maund, the total annual loss over 90 crores of rupees.

The quantity wasted—sufficient to feed 7 million persons.

Perhaps for the purpose of a poster there is a deliberate overstatement in these figures, but even in the Report on Marketing of Wheat in India, we find that the normal annual wheat losses due to bad storage at 3 per cent of the total crop have been estimated at 300,000 tons. These figures reveal the enormity of the problem of storage in this country.

If such is the scale of losses in normal times when the responsibility for quality is distributed among hundreds of thousands of small producers and traders who hold the grain and the even flow of supply according to demand is assisted by an abundance of transport, it is all the more important that they be minimised now when procurement and movement are largely in the hands of Government machinery; when owing to severely restricted movements Government have to procure whatever they can during the peak of the season and store them pending despatch according to the Basic Plan; when at the receiving ends also Governments have to accept stocks as they are offered and store them as best as they can without adequate facilities for building new storages or repairing old ones?

The problems of storage seems to fall into two main parts:

(1) Provision of adequate and satisfactory storage accommodation, and

(2) improved technical supervision of grains in storage.

So far as the first is concerned, the Food Department have for some time past been pressing on the provinces and States the great urgency of the problem and it can be said that the provinces are now fully conscious of their responsibility in the matter.

New Storage Accommodation

Apart from the new storage accommodation which has been constructed by several provinces at their own initiative, the Food Department have formulated a scheme of construction of storage at various strategic points in the major surplus areas with a view to facilitate procurement and ensure an even flow of rail movement throughout the year. The capital cost is to be advanced on a 50:50 basis by the provinces and the Centre.

The Government of India have undertaken another scheme of construction of storage at the main port and consuming centres for holding a portion of the Central Government Reserve to be built out of the wheat imports. It is expected that about 140,000 tons of storage accommodation under the scheme would be ready

before long. In addition to these new constructions, godowns are also being hired and it is estimated that at certain periods of the year, space for as much as 300,000 tons would be available for hire.

As regards improved technical supervision, the urgency of the matter led the Government of India a few months ago to bring out from England an expert with experience not only in the United Kingdom but also in the Middle East. Within the short time that this officer has been here, he has toured most of the major provinces and some of the States and has submitted valuable reports for improvement of storage. It is clear that though considerable work has been done by our scientists in laboratories, the application of their research to every day practice on any scale has not yet been attempted anywhere in India.

Foodgrains Trade

The trade of foodgrains had in the past been in the hands of professional traders, and the problems connected with storage, unlike in other countries, had been left to be dealt with according to their traditional methods and practices. The large scale handling of foodgrains by Government machinery since the last two years, however, has accentuated the defects in our system and demonstrated the necessity of urgent action to remedy the defects. Last year grains had to be poured into some areas to meet acute scarcity and distress. The lack of adequate technical organisation for inspection of the incoming supplies for grade condition, dirt content, foreign grains, insect damage, etc. and for storing the grain in a scientific way led to losses of which none who can help would like to see a recurrence. I may say, however, that some progress has already been made in the matter since then. Many of the provinces and States have organised or are organising a special storage section to deal with the problem.

The Food Department lately held a course of lectures on technical supervision for selected representatives of provinces and States. It is hoped that now that the provinces and States have been made to see the problem in its true character and perspective, the foundation will be laid in India of a new endeavour to place storage, whether in the hands of the trade or of Government agencies, on a more scientific basis.

The problem of movement is again, as I have said, another aspect of procurement on the success of which the success of procurement largely depends. Till the end of last year, provision of transport was left largely in the hands of sellers or those locally responsible for despatch. There was no system of consolidated advance programmes of despatch drawn up in consultation and with the approval of the transport authorities and consequently no certainty of regular and continuous despatch. There were frequent hold-ups either due to non-arrival of supplies at the stations of despatch or of railway wagons in sufficient numbers, which did not come to the notice of the authorities at the higher levels till the hold-ups had assumed considerable proportions.

To remove these difficulties and to place movement on a planned basis, a Directorate of Movement was created in the Department at the end of the year with an experienced railway official at the head. The functions of this Directorate are—to assist in the preparation of basic plans so that allocations are made from surplus to deficit provinces with strict regard to ease of movement operations and economy of transport; to place the planned demands for transport on the War Transport Department and the Railway Department responsible for finding transport and to obtain their assistance from time to time where necessary. This has assisted greatly in the preparation of rational programmes so as to avoid unnecessary long hauls or cross movements keeping in view at the same time the various limiting factors on different transport routes.

Periodical Analysis of Movements

Periodical analysis is now made of the progress of movements in order to ascertain if there have been difficulties of transport and to take action in co-operation with the War Transport Department, wherever necessary. For instance, in the case of movements from the north to the south, experience showed that without the assistance of additional shipping, the prospects of meeting the full requirements of the deficit areas in the South were poor, and it has now been possible to arrange an increased programme of shipping *via* Karachi.

Occasions have arisen in recent months when special measures were necessary to rush supplies and the transport services rose fully to the occasion. Special mention may be made in this connection of emergency help to Bombay after the Explosions and to the Deccan States which at one time developed symptoms of famine conditions; emergency supplies to N.-W.F.P. where the failure of the maize crop and the introduction of rationing in large towns necessitated the movement of substantial stocks within a short period.

Amongst other directions in which improvement has been effected are preparation of

programmes of despatches by supplying provinces on correct lines; establishment of a proper procedure to secure appropriate priorities for movements of foodgrains on Government account.

In short, I may say that the strenuous efforts made during the last 12 months to place movement on rational and planned basis have met with a substantial measure of success.

Price Control

The last 12 months have also witnessed considerable progress in the policy of the Government of India with regard to price control. The policy that was announced was that the Government of India would build up price control, in respect of all major foodgrains, first on a provincial and then on a regional basis, that the prices fixed should ensure a fair return to the cultivator as well as bring foodgrains within the reach of the vast majority of the poorer consumers, that the Government of India would co-ordinate statutory price control throughout India with a view to an eventual building up of an all-India price control.

During the year statutory price control was instituted for wheat, gram, barley, *bajra, jowar* and maize. The statutory maximum price of wheat was fixed at Rs. 9-8 per maund in the main producing markets of the Punjab and those for *bajra* and *jowar* at Rs. 7-8 and Rs. 7 per maund respectively. In order to protect the producer if prices fell Government gave an undertaking to purchase any quantity of wheat offered at Rs. 7-8 and of *bajra* and *jowar* at Rs. 6 and Rs. 5-8 per maund respectively.

As regards rice, an all-India statutory price was not fixed partly owing to the absence of a homogeneous market and partly because of the difficult period through which the Provincial Governments in the Eastern Region were passing. The Provincial Governments themselves imposed statutory maximum of rice prices and steadily brought the prices down during the course of the year. The present position in the rice producing areas is this: The statutory maximum producers' price in Bengal is Rs. 12-12 per maund in the surplus districts and Rs. 14 per maund in deficit districts. In Bihar, Orissa, Assam and Sind, it is Rs. 11, Rs. 9, Rs. 14 and Rs. 8-8 per maund respectively. Rice prices in Madras have been generally kept below Rs. 10 per maund while in the U.P. and the Punjab the statutory maximum fixed by the Government of India is Rs. 13-8 per maund.

When these figures are viewed against the fantastic levels reached in certain parts of India last year, there seems to be solid reason for satisfaction in the way that price control has developed. In



A village farmer.

fact a stage has been reached when the whole question of the level of prices has to be carefully watched from the producer's point of view as well as that of the consumer. The other day, in another place, two amendments to a motion on food were carried within a few minutes of each other by the same voters in one of which it was stated that the prices were beyond the means of the mass of the poor in this country and should therefore be further brought down and in the other that prices were inadequate and should be revised

Subsidisation of Prices

The Government of India have already set up a Price Advisory Committee consisting of experts who are constantly bringing the level of prices in different foodgrains under their review. The Government of India adhere to the policy that the prices fixed from time to time for the foodgrains should represent a just and reasonable compromise between the interests of the producers and the interests of the consumers.

The question arises what is to be done with regard to these classes of consumers who find the present level of prices beyond their reach; in other words, to what extent the Government are prepared to pursue the question of subsidy. I may

say, that subsidised prices for the poorer classes of the population is not an entirely new proposal. Already several Provincial Governments have adopted schemes of subsidy. In Orissa, for instance, the scheme of subsidised sales is on the following lines. In rural areas, families of persons belonging to the landless classes and in urban areas families of persons whose income does not exceed Rs. 40 per month, are entitled to purchase at a retail rate of 4½ seers of rice to the rupee or Rs. 8-7 per maund and 8 seers of paddy to the rupee or Rs. 5 per maund. These subsidised sales are to be allowed in areas in which there was distress last year, areas which are normally deficit and such areas as may in future give indications of distress.

In some provinces again, subsidised sales have taken the form of reduced prices for the coarser varieties of a foodgrain, the loss being off-set by an increase on the finer varieties. While in others, loss incurred in the reduced price in one commodity is sometimes recouped from the higher price charged for another commodity. The question of subsidy, however, is one of immense complexity and its financial implications are far-reaching. The whole question is now under the examination of the Department and, if necessary, will be pursued in an inter-departmental committee consisting of the Economic Adviser and Representatives of the Food, Finance, and Education, Health and Lands Departments.

Progress of Rationing

In announcing their policy on rationing last year, the Government of India stated that they regarded introduction of full urban rationing as fundamental to a co-ordinated food plan. It is a matter for satisfaction that the number of towns rationed or about to be rationed is now 460 with an approximate population of 42 millions. Rationing has also been introduced in rural areas throughout Travancore and Cochin, for non-producers and inadequate producers throughout the Bombay Presidency. It is shortly to be introduced throughout the district of Malabar.

When it is seen that the population covered by rationing is now nearly equal to the population in Great Britain the progress made during the last 12 months can be regarded as quite satisfactory. In the actual administration of rationing, however, the standard has varied from area to area.

In the initial stages of rationing the Government of India have been prepared to allow considerable latitude to the Provincial Governments in their organisation and working. In some areas rationing has taken the form of provisioning certain classes of the population in towns and cities leaving the rest of the population in those towns and cities to buy their needs without restriction as to quantity in the open market. Whatever justification there might have been for these provisioning schemes when they were first introduced, there can be no doubt that these provisioning schemes cannot be regarded as permanent substitutes for full rationing. Such provisioning schemes do not serve the main purpose of rationing *viz.*, distribution of the overall shortage on an equal and equitable basis, and also keep up prices in the open market by allowing the comparatively well-to-do section of the population to buy as they please. Experience and force of circumstances are now combining with the Government of India to persuade the Provincial Governments to agree to take steps to change over to full rationing in accordance with the principles laid down by the Government of India.

Disparity in Rationing Scales

Another striking feature in the administration of rationing has been the disparity in rationing scales in different parts of the country. Though the policy of the Government of India has been to try to maintain a minimum ration of 1 lb. for adults daily all over the country, the successful execution of this policy has depended on two factors, *viz.*, the willingness of the surplus Administrations to spare their maximum surplus and the willingness of deficit Administrations to accustom their people to use all foodgrains other than those to which they are normally accustomed.

Lately the Central Food Advisory Council at its meeting held in New Delhi passed a resolution to say that the existing disparity of ration scales should be removed and the basic ration per head should be fixed uniformly at 1 lb. per adult per day. The Government of India have brought this resolution to the notice of all Provincial and State Administrations and have stated that until the Government of India can ensure sufficient supplies to the deficit areas to enable them to sustain a basic ration of 1 lb. the size of the basic ration in surplus areas should not exceed that quantity. In this connection the Government of India have further pointed out the necessity of industrial canteens for supplying cooked food to heavy manual workers and promised to make available the additional supplies that may be necessary for working the industrial canteens.

Though originally it was not in the contemplation of the Government of India to introduce full scale rationing in rural areas the situation in certain rural areas led the Government of India early in the year to re-examine the whole policy. On the experience of Travancore and Cochin where district-wide rationing in a most difficult situation helped to restore confidence among the people, the Government of India accepted it as a definite policy that where any area was highly deficit, whether a taluk, a subdivision or a district, full scale rationing was the only effective remedy and should be pressed.

As early as March this year the Government of India, therefore, suggested full scale rationing for the entire district of Malabar and later full scale rationing for the district of Vizagapatam. Full scale rationing in rural areas, however, involves complete Government monopoly of procurement of the surpluses of individual producers. The pace in introducing rationing in rural areas, therefore, cannot be as fast as in urban areas. After months of study the Madras Government have now decided to introduce district-wide rationing in Malabar. Full scale rationing with complete Government monopoly of procurement in Malabar is the first experiment of its kind in British India. Its progress will therefore be watched with special interest all over India.

While progress in the extension of rationing throughout the country has been rapid, we are not satisfied with one aspect of our organisation. I refer to the machinery for the scientific improvement of individual diets by controlled food issues under rationing schemes.

Scientific Adviser's Section in Britain

In Great Britain, difficulties created by the war in food supplies have not only been overcome by scientific planning but the standard of health of the people is claimed to have been raised by a more balanced diet. The problem is of course infinitely simpler in Great Britain. They have only one-tenth of our population and they have to deal with a homogeneous people who all eat more or less the same kinds of foods and there are no complications of local variation in their reaction to Government's suggestion and plans. Moreover, a much higher percentage of the population is non-producing and so susceptible to food control by rationing. Finally, since so large a portion of Great Britain's food is imported, Government is able to secure full and easy control, in fact actual ownership, of all important ingredients at some stage or other before distribution. This is the real problem. It is however a fact that special steps have been taken in Great Britain in the matter.

In the Ministry of Food in Great Britain there is a Scientific Adviser's Section to advise the Ministry as to the correlation of nutritional plans for feeding the Nation with plans for the import and production of food, for communal feeding, factory canteens etc., and for the feeding of special categories such as children, infants, expectant mothers and invalids. There is no such section in the Food Department though considerable research is being carried on by nutrition authorities under the E.H. and Lands Department.

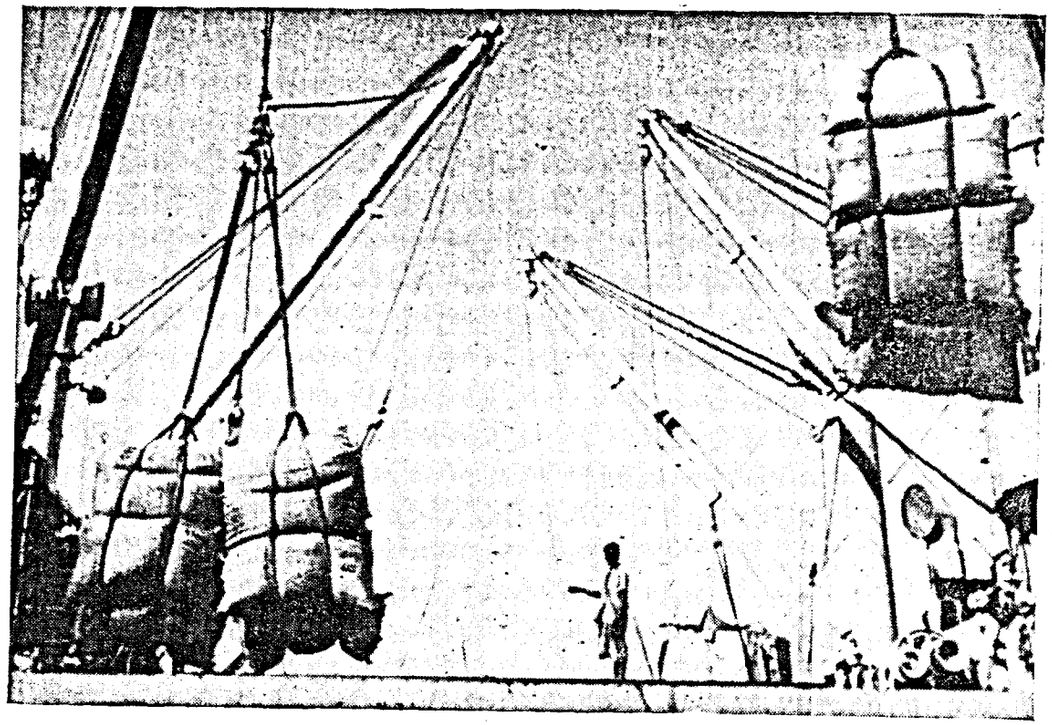
Under the Basic Plan, the Food Department mobilise the foodgrains all over India and distribute them on an equitable basis to the deficit areas, but in making the allocations the Food Department have insufficient scientific data before them about the state of nutrition in the deficit areas. For instance, we know that in Travancore and Cochin the staple food, that is rice, is available only in half of the quantity normally consumed by the people. In the present shortage of rice it is not possible for us to increase this rice ration to any extent. We should, therefore, know the extent of their malnutrition so that we may try to provide what is missing through other foodgrains and foodstuffs which are readily available. This whole question of linking up nutrition with allocation of supplies is now under examination in the Food Department.

On the question of export of foodgrains from India, the policy of the Government of India is that India must cease to be an exporter of foodgrains. The only exception which would be permitted to this policy is the export of small quantities for provisioning ships sailing from Indian ports and for the use of Indian Seamen of the Merchant Navy within the confines of the Indian Ocean. Small quantities will also be allowed to be exported for the use of vital personnel on our Air Lines of communication in countries adjacent to India and for a few isolated communities mostly Indian in neighbouring countries which cannot obtain sustenance except from India. This policy was adhered to during the past 12 months. On one occasion we supplied 5,000 tons of rice to Ceylon but on the definite assurance that the quantity would be replaced later in the year.

Imports

We have, however, lately allotted 25,000 tons of gram to Ceylon but this allotment has been made in very special circumstances. There is an excess of gram in the country for which there is practically no demand from the deficit areas. If this gram was not allotted to Ceylon, a very considerable proportion of it would have been wasted.

On the question of imports, the House is aware that the Government of India have been making most insistent and urgent representations to His Majesty's Government regarding the



Imported wheat being unloaded at an Indian port.

need for imports to the extent of one million tons a year for current consumption and 500,000 tons during the first year for the purpose of a Central Reserve. Lately, with our cordial agreement, Sir Henry French, Permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Food, paid a visit to India to see for himself the realities of the situation. We have little doubt that he has been convinced that our demand in this respect is genuine.

The total imports of foodgrains that we have received in October 1943 to March 1944 is 3.3 lakh tons, from April 1944 to date (11-11-44) is 3.7 lakh tons, Total 7 lakh tons. Out of the quantities promised the balance still to come is 4 lakh tons. His Majesty's Government have promised to review the position further in November.

I have stated the progress that we have made during the last 12 months in the implementation of our policy in its different aspects. I shall now pass on to a review of the conditions of some of the areas which have caused us anxiety during the past year.

The area which caused the greatest anxiety last year was Bengal. In my speech before this House during the Food Debate in March last year, I said that the situation in 1944 depended a good deal on my own province and its people, the people of Bengal.

A forecast of the rice crop had showed that out of the total all-India excess over normal of 4.1 million tons of rice in 1944, Bengal's share alone was 3.6 million tons. If that great volume of grain could have been brought in due proportion into the market it would not only have stabilised the position in Bengal but also in other deficit areas, which were suffering from the loss of Burma rice, such as Bombay, Travancore and Cochin. In view of the exceptional circumstances then prevailing and in spite of the heavy weight of the crop expected, however, the Government of India considered that there was a case for treating Bengal differently from any other part of India in distributing the surplus of rice available for 1944. That is to say that, without reference to the statistical position either in Bengal or the rest of India, we decided that Bengal must be supplied with quantities of foodgrains equivalent to the whole estimated requirements of Calcutta. This was

done to restore confidence, to enable the rationing of Calcutta to begin and to ensure the success of Bengal's own internal procurement arrangements as the year proceeded. The decision appears to us to have been justified by the results. It is true that there have been local shortages in Bengal. But that is a matter of internal distribution more than of supplies in the Province as a whole. In our view, so far as supplies of foodgrains are concerned, the position in Bengal has changed and changed very materially for the better.

Improvement in Supply Position

We have now to review our policy for 1945 with regard to Bengal. The improvement in the supply position owing to last year's exceptional rice crop, combined with the progress which has been made by the Government of Bengal in the development of their machinery for the purchase and distribution of grain, and the large stocks which they now hold, justifies the question of Bengal's supplies for 1945 being determined on the same basis as supplies for other parts of India. That is to say we can take stock of the position on its merits and determine what is essential that Bengal will have. We need not do as we did last year and say whatever the statistical position in Bengal, whatever the needs of the rest of India, we will undertake the whole responsibility for Calcutta. Wheat of course they must have in any case and necessary allotments will be made. So far as rice and other grains are concerned, I assure the House that the reasonable needs of the Government of Bengal will be reviewed in the light of all the relevant facts at appropriate intervals by the two Governments in consultation, and allocations will be made as necessary by the Government of India, from stocks, available for the purpose, at their disposal. In deciding the amounts to be allocated due regard will be had to any special circumstances in Bengal, especially such as may arise from its proximity to the scene of active operations as well as to the special need of other parts of India.

The other areas which have had to pass through difficult times, are Travancore-Cochin, Malabar and Vizagapatam. In Travancore-Cochin, the ration is still 13 and 12 ounces per day respectively, of which 8 ounces and 6¾ ounces is rice. In Mysore, the ration is 11 ounces per day of which 9¾ ounces is rice. The rationing in Malabar has varied from 3 to 4 ounces of rice in certain areas to 12 ounces of rice and other foodgrains in others. In the coastal areas of the Vizagapatam district also, people have had to undergo considerable hardship.

The Hon'ble the Food Member paid a visit to some of these areas in a recent tour. I myself visited these areas towards the end of August. The Food Member returned from his tour with the feeling that every possible endeavour must be made during the coming year to place the ration in these areas on a more satisfactory basis. Unfortunately, the total rice surpluses declared for the *Kharif* Plan of 1944-45 are hardly adequate to ensure a higher ration than 8 to 10 ounces in any of these areas, even if the rice supply to Bengal from outside is severely curtailed. In the circumstances the Food Department see no other alternative than to make up the balance of one pound ration by wheat and other foodgrains.

The Food Member discussed this matter with the authorities in these areas and found them willing to try and introduce wheat to make up the balance of the ration. The people of these areas are, however, not used to wheat and if wheat is to be made a major part of the ration, special steps must be taken to popularise wheat. I may bring to the notice of the House in this connection the efforts made by the Government of Cochin in the matter. Government restaurants have been opened in different parts of the State where special cooks have been engaged to prepare special inexpensive palatable dishes out of wheat and other grains. The demand in these areas, however, is for a preparation of wheat which approximates rice after it is boiled. It is possible, we understand, to prepare wheat in this way—by first breaking the grain and frying it lightly and then boiling it like rice.

Wheat as Substitute for Rice

We are asking the Provinces and States in South India to take all possible steps for having wheat accepted by the people. It is only in recent months after arrivals of large quantities of wheat from overseas that we have been able to press on the Provinces and States in Southern India to make up the ration of one pound. It is hoped that the scarcity of rice which makes the acceptance of wheat by the people in the South essential, would pave the way for placing the diet of the people of the South on a more balanced and nutritive basis for the future.

I have so far dealt with the implementation of the policy of the Government of India in the matter of foodgrains. The food problem in

recent months has, however, become acute all over the country, more in foodstuffs other than foodgrains, such as fish, vegetables, eggs, poultry and milk. The production of these foodstuffs is the concern of the Education, Health and Lands Department and if the House desires detailed information on the production of any of these foodstuffs, I have no doubt that the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Education, Health and Lands Department will be pleased to give the information.

The Food Department is concerned with the distribution of what is available, and I may say a few words about the activities of the Food Department in the matter. The complaint that the Army were taking an undue share of these foodstuffs in certain areas came to the notice of the Food Department last year, and the Food Department, with the co-operation of the War Department, set up Co-ordination Committees at all Command Headquarters composed of representatives of the Army and of the Provincial Governments and States. These Committees have since split up into Provincial, regional and functional sub-committees. About 40 such committees and sub-committees are working at present.

These committees secure a unified and co-ordinated system of procurement paying particular attention to the requirements of civilians as well as the necessity for conservation of stocks for breeding and for seed purposes. The main objective is that the requirements of the Army are met with the minimum disturbance in the market and every effort is made to increase production by the Army units so that the Army offtake from the available supplies is reduced to the minimum.

Milk Position

In the matter of milk, side by side with the activities of the Education, Health and Lands Department for increased production, the Food Department are taking necessary steps to get the Provincial Governments to control the use of milk in industry for purposes other than food, to control the supply of milk to confectioners, hotels, restaurants and canteens and its use for such purposes as ice-cream, cream cakes and sweets and to co-ordinate and control the supply of fresh milk to the Defence Services by local purchases. It has been impressed on the Provincial Governments that in the present state of short supply of milk, it is of the utmost importance that necessary steps should be taken to ensure supply of pure milk at reasonable prices to priority consumers like children, hospitals, schools and maternity welfare centres. Some Provinces have already made some progress in the matter. In Bombay, a scheme estimated to cost Rs. 17 lakhs has been enforced for supplying half a pound of milk per day to every child at subsidised rates on milk cards.

In several other places export and slaughter of useful cattle have been prohibited and other measures taken to stop the use of milk for non-essential purposes. A good deal of work, however, remains to be done in this field both for increased production and for better distribution, and I can assure the House that the Departments concerned are fully alive to their responsibilities in the matter.

Prospects of Coming Year

The House will probably like me to say a few words about the prospects of the coming year. From all reports, the *Kharif* crop this year on an overall estimate would be about normal.

Last year, the rice crop was phenomenal. But as I have said out of an estimated total yield of 4.1 million tons, the share of Bengal alone was 3.6 million tons and Bengal needed a good proportion of this surplus to make up the yearly carryover which she had lost during the famine. While, the position in rice in 1945 is likely to be better stabilised in the North-Eastern region as a whole than in the past year, difficulties in South India due to the loss of imports will remain undiminished. The position on the whole, therefore, in rice will remain at the best delicately balanced in 1945 and will call for the utmost vigilance and care on the part of the Administrations in the deficit areas and sustained efforts on the part of the Administrations in surplus areas to procure whatever surplus they can.

The position in millets is slightly less favourable than last year; but even last year great difficulties were experienced in procuring millets declared under the Basic Plan. The difficulties were to some extent due to artificial reasons, such as lack of despatching instructions in time and consequent slowness in procurement during the height of the season. Steps are being taken to see that these artificial reasons do not impede procurement this year. We have also the hope that the large acreage which has been released from short-staple cotton in Hyderabad State this year will be brought under Rabi *jowar* in 1945 and will give us a substantial surplus for export to deficit areas.

The silver lining in the whole situation as the Hon'ble the Food Member said in the Lower House is the more optimistic position regarding imports and if that position is maintained, we should be able to go through the next year without having to face any calamity of a major magnitude. We are utilising the imports not only to meet the wheat demands of the deficit areas to the full but also to supplement the rice deficiency of the deficit areas in the South and millets deficiency in the Bombay Presidency and some other areas.

I have so far dealt with what the Food Department are doing to meet the immediate problems relating to food in the country. But the food problem in this country is not one of solution of crises from day to day only. It has also a long range aspect. Even in normal times a large majority of the population of this country do not have a balanced diet while the supply of protective food for children, pregnant women and nursing mothers of the poorer classes has always been all too inadequate.

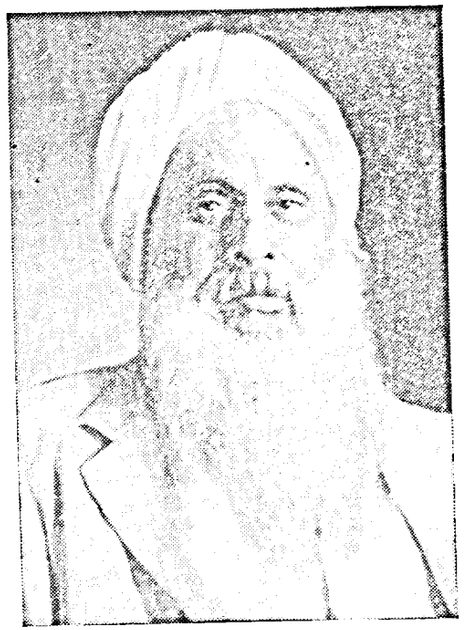
Long-Term Planning

It has not been possible to undertake any long range planning so far, as we have had all our energies concentrated on preventing local shortages and keeping the country going at least on its pre-war consumption levels; nor did we have so far the control over the food distribution machinery so necessary for effecting any permanent improvement in the country's food economy. Now that food rationing has been extended to 42 million persons and is still being extended, and now that procurement is approaching a monopoly basis in most of the deficit areas, we think that time has come for an assessment of requirements on a proper nutritional basis, an examination of existing supplies and prevailing food habits, particularly in the deficit regions, on the basis of these requirements and with special reference to the vulnerable classes, and finally the formulation of a policy that will effectively secure for the people of the country, at least in the post-war period, a decent standard of food consumption. For this purpose, we propose immediately to appoint a Planning Adviser who will be a whole-time officer working on these problems, collecting and analysing data and formulating preliminary proposals for the evolution of a planned food economy in India.

I have no doubt that the House will welcome the fact that the Government of India are no longer satisfied with pre-war consumption levels in the country but have set up before themselves the task of permanently raising those levels to the desired nutritional extent and thus

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"GROW MORE FOOD"



Sir Jogendra Singh

Sir Jogendra Singh Gives Some Facts and Figures

IN a speech during the food debate in the Council of State on November 15, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, outlined the 15-year agricultural programme, gave facts and figures about the "Grow More Food" campaign and briefly referred to the steps taken to improve the production of protective foods.

He said: The Hon'ble Mr. Sen in his lucid speech has explained the procurement and distribution policy of the Government of India, its present and future aims and its final objective, to ascertain the nutritive needs of our growing population and to plan to provide a balanced diet.

I speak with some diffidence of our agricultural programme. Agriculture is a long-term business. A single crop experiment takes a year; the requirements of crops in the matter of irrigation and manure require time and money and leadership which is wanting in our 7 lakh villages. We have, however, worked out a programme which, if carried out in 15 years, promises to substantially increase both the cereals and the protective foods, such as milk, fish, eggs, vegetables, fruits etc.

Our Hon'ble friend, Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar, has taken upon himself to lay down the lines how a Land Utilisation Commission should proceed so that all the available land may be utilised by growing crops, trees, grass, etc.

Now, coming to the situation which arose immediately after the war broke out, I must confess that we were without technical personnel and other equipment which was available in some of the Western countries.

I wish to acknowledge freely the debt we owe to our sturdy peasantry whose unremitting labours have enabled the country to feed itself and to a merciful Providence for the bumper crop we harvested in the year 1943-44. I have heard it said that the Grow More Food campaign has achieved little. I would do no more but to let the figures speak for themselves.

In Pre-War Period

In the immediate pre-war period the average acreage under rice in India was 73.8 million acres.

After one year of Grow More Food campaign the area under rice rose to nearly 75 million acres.

Last year (1943-44) the acreage was practically 80 million acres, i.e., nearly 6½ million acres over the immediately pre-war acreage of 73.8 million.

Take the case of the area under all the major foodgrains:

The total average acreage under all the major foodgrains in the 3 years before the war was about 195 million acres.

After one year of Grow More Food campaign the figure was 204.5 million acres and last year (1943-44) it was 206.3 million acres. Thus there is an increase of 6 per cent of land under cultivation.

These figures relate to all those areas which report the statistics. There are some areas in India which do not report statistics of acreage and production, but the figures supplied are comparable with reference to the same tract in the pre-war period.

I may straightaway say that the increased production is primarily due to the bounties of Providence. No matter what we plan and project, agriculture in India depends on unpredictable and uncontrollable weather conditions. The Hon'ble Mr. Sen and the Hon'ble Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru found some difficulty in reconciling production estimates with procurement figures. The fact is that ⅞ths of the population lives in the villages and has to meet its own consumption needs. The people in Bengal were without any carryover from the last crop, but from the new crop have met all their needs and now rice is finding its way into the market. I trust the need of the largest consuming population carrying some reserves would be recognised.

Regarding protective foods, there have been unprecedented demands on the resources of the country, but thanks to the efforts made particularly in respect of vegetables, there has been a considerable increase in the acreage under vegetable production. At a time when unprecedented demands arose, this country found itself cut off from all sources of vegetable seed supply from abroad. Thanks to our efforts, we are now producing all the vegetable seeds that we need in this country. There are numerous schemes running in all the provinces of the country for the supply of vegetables to the Army, so that the weight of the supplies to the Army may be taken off from the civilian markets.

Regarding fish, the country was badly prepared for developing its fish resources, but we have now got a number of schemes going in all the provinces. Arrangements are being made for the stocking of ponds with fry and fingerlings and we are making arrangements for the procurement of diesel engines which will be fitted in country-made crafts for the quick transport of fish along the coastal belt to the consuming centres from areas suitable for fishing.

We have asked for a large measure of assistance in respect of cold storage accommodation at consuming centres. Our main difficulty is about the shortage of trained personnel. We have made arrangements for the training of personnel also. The effect of these measures will be visible in the course of time.

Milk Schemes

Regarding milk, we have a number of schemes under consideration. The problem of augmenting milk supply in the towns, as the House will realise, is not a very easy matter to handle. We are making arrangements for the importing of dairy machinery. Here again gradually we hope to ease the situation though it is extremely unlikely that during the war, we shall be able to say that we have completely met the demands of the situation. For some years we shall have to popularise the use of oil, fats, and crush all the oil seed in the country itself to produce the fats.

I should like to mention that we are making attempts to procure about 1,700 tractors for the reclamation of waste land. We shall have schemes in U.P., in Bombay and in certain other areas where by means of tractor ploughing under Government supervision and with expert staff deep rooted seeds will be controlled. This will, as the schemes develop, gradually bring large tracts under cultivation and they will lead to augmenting the food resources of the country permanently.

The Hon'ble Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru asked as to the financial assistance which we have given to the provinces. I have not been able to put together detailed information, but I will lay it on the table as early as possible. We have been assisting in the shape of loans, grants from Central Revenues, and grant from Cotton Fund for the following purposes, and so far we have assisted the provinces by giving nearly 5½ crores of rupees:—

1. Irrigation facilities, *e.g.*, tube wells, tanks, wells, etc., and drainage schemes.

2. Land clearance and improvement.

3. Distribution of manures at concessional rates.

4. Encouragement of the production and utilisation of compost from village waste and town refuse.

5. Seed multiplication schemes.

6. Distribution of improved seeds at concessional rates.

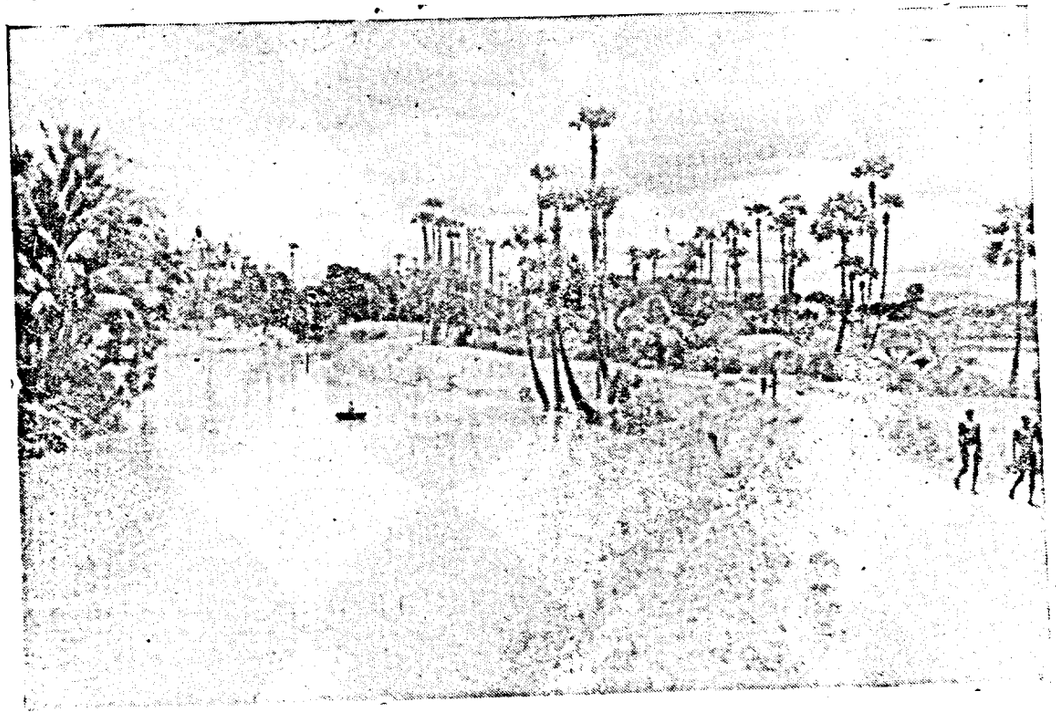
7. Bonus to cultivators for growing food crops instead of cotton.

8. Other miscellaneous schemes, e.g., opening of seed stores, construction of field embankment etc.

9. Fish production schemes.

Pandit H. N. Kunzru rightly laid stress on processing millets to make them palatable to people not accustomed to their use. I had a gur cake made at the Food Laboratory, Kasauli, composed of roasted gram, groundnut and gur. It cost about Rs. 11 a maund and contained about 2,000 calories. I am now making experiments with mixtures of millets, wheat and rice and gur to be made available in a form which would be readily acceptable to rice-eating people. I may say that food to feed our population was and is available. I also wish to say that I do not wish to depend on exports in the matter of food. India is in a position and can produce all the food that it needs within the country itself.

Take the problem of land and its development. Less than one acre per head of population is under cultivation and this one acre has to feed not only the cultivator himself but his bullocks and his cow. There is however urgent need to find industrial occupation for at least 30 per cent of our population. In ancient India



An irrigation canal of the Cauvery-Mettur Irrigation System in South India.

there was a balanced economy and the whole of the population did not depend on land. India has been wrongly called an agricultural country. It became purely agricultural with the advent of the machine age when our cottage industries died out. Take any village even now and you will find that the population is divided between agricultural workers and non-agricultural artisans. The proportion may be fixed roughly at 70 to 30 per cent.

In old days every village was a self-governing economic unit and imported very little from outside; the women spun, the weaver wove, the village tanner cured the hides and the cobbler made them into shoes, the village artisans were engaged in manufacturing and catering for all the needs of the village. They shared with the village all that it produced. The wages were paid in kind. The commodities were cheap but the economy of the country rested more on barter than on money transactions. There was no paper money and the values were not at the mercy of money changers. My point is that Government is now preparing plans both for the development of agriculture and industry to improve the living standard.

Health Problem

Then our most important and urgent need is to improve the physical and mental health of our men, so that they could double production and make the best use of opportunities.

We have with us to advise us on health matters experts who are now going round the provinces and will meet the Health Survey Committee next month and give it the advantage of their knowledge and their experience.

Their names are:—

Sir Weldon Dalrymple Champneys, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, British Ministry of Health;

Dr. Janet M. Vaughan, Member of the Goodenough Committee;

Prof. J. A. Ryle, Professor of Social Medicine, Oxford;

Dr. Joseph W. Mountin, Medical Director in the U.S. Public Health Service;

Dr. Henry F. Sigerist, Professor and Director, Institute of the History of Medicine, John Hopkins, Baltimore;

Dr. John Howard Lidgett Cumpston, Director-General of Health in Australia.

I wish our newspapers devoted 3 to 4 columns a month to problems of health, education, agriculture and industry and secured contributions from those with knowledge of these subjects, and our Legislature devoted at least a day each to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 675)

PURCHASE OF NEPAL RICE

An Allegation Refuted

Refuting the allegation that in the matter of purchases of Nepal rice, the Government of India bought at a higher price than had been arranged by the Bengal Government, the Hon'ble Mr. B. R. Sen made the following statement in the Council of State during the food debate on November 15:

In April 1943, the Nepal Government placed an embargo on the export of rice|paddy from their territory as in view of the difficult rice situation in North-east India they apprehended depletion of their stocks. In October 1943, H.H. the Maharaja kindly offered to release certain quantities of rice|paddy from that year's crop for relief of distress in Bengal. Arrangements were made for the Bengal Government to appoint an Agent, to procure these stocks, who negotiated prices at Rs. 8 and Rs. 14 *minimum* and Rs 10 and Rs. 17 *maximum* for paddy and rice respectively.

While these negotiations were in progress H.H. the Maharaja offered to release 100,000 tons in terms of rice from 1944 crop. The Bengal Agent being on the spot negotiated prices for this offer and the Government of Nepal fixed Rs. 6-8 and Rs. 12 *minimum* for paddy and rice respectively with the condition that the prevailing market rate across the border in Bihar would be fixed if it happened to be higher than the minimum.

The Maharaja, however, preferred that the procurement should be made by an Agent of the Government of India. Moreover, the three neighbouring Provinces had conflicting claims to the Nepal rice and procurement by the Agent of any one of these Provinces would have resulted in sharp differences between them. In addition to this, the normal milling centres for the bulk of the Nepal paddy being in Bihar, inter-provincial complications were bound to arise if the procurement had been made by Bengal's Agent. To meet the Maharaja's wishes and to reconcile the conflicting interests of the Provinces, the Government of India decided that procurement should be made through an Agent appointed by them. Accordingly after consulting the U.P. and Bihar Governments on whose borders the purchases were to be made a prominent trader of Bihar, who was at the same time Trade Adviser to the Bihar Government, was appointed as Agent for this purpose on the recommendation of the Bihar Government.

In view of the minimum prices already negotiated and fixed, and in view of the demand for rice in Bengal, we agreed to accept the Nepal terms in respect of price and instructed the Agent to start purchase operations immediately at the minimum prices agreed to by the Nepal Government. He was told that if at any stage purchases became impossible at the minimum prices he should refer to the Food Department for instructions. The Agent was unable to make much purchases at the minimum rates stated above. At the close of the third week of March 1944, we were informed by the Agent that the Government of Nepal had, by beat of drum, asked the cultivators to sell paddy at Rs. 8 per maund and as a result of this he had made considerable purchases during the last few days and hoped to buy further large quantities at this rate. The average price of his total purchases of paddy and rice comes to Rs. 7-14 and Rs. 13-14 per maund respectively.

Incorrect Statement

It has been alleged that the Government of India made purchases at "a higher price than had been arranged by the Bengal Government," resulting in a loss of Rs. 40 lakhs. This statement is incorrect and misleading. Bengal Government's Agent had not arranged to purchase *at a certain price*. He had only bound the Bengal Government to pay a particular *minimum* and had further bound them to pay the market price prevailing across the border if that happened to be higher. About the time when Bengal's Agent agreed to these terms the prices in Bengal ranged from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 per maund for paddy and Rs. 20 to Rs. 32 per maund for rice. With the prices in Bengal at this level and Nepal being entitled to ask for the prevailing market rate with no maximum limit, it is evident that Bengal's Agent would have procured at a higher rate than that paid by Government of India's Agent. The alleged loss is therefore imaginary.

Some stocks purchased by the Government of India's Agent were damaged by exposure to rains. It has been alleged that this wastage amounted to about Rs. 30 lakhs and the Government of India are trying to say that this loss is not to be borne by the Agent. So far about 2,500 maunds of damaged paddy have been buried as they were not fit for any purpose and an equal quantity has been disposed of for brewing local beer as it was not fit for consumption as food. The price of these quantities would not be more than Rs. 40,000. Approximately another 34,000 maunds in terms of rice are also involved in such damage, the price of which would be about Rs. 4,50,000.

In normal times the procurement of the Nepal surplus and its movement to the milling centres would have been spread over 12 months with hundreds of purchasers operating for its procurement. We were required to complete the operation in two months. The procurement operations were fraught with various difficulties of transport, storage and milling capacity. The performance of the Government of India's procurement arrangements must be judged with this background. As for the Agent's liability in the matter, I can assure the House that he will be held to the terms of his contract.

FURTHER DROP IN RICE PRICES IN BENGAL

Officials of the Central Food Department ascribe the further fall in rice prices in Bengal, to an improvement in the supply position owing to last year's favourable *aman* crop, which is now beginning to make its weight felt, and to the improvement which the Bengal Government have been able to effect in their procurement and distribution arrangements.

Latest reports indicate that the level of wholesale prices in Comilla, one of the deficit districts, has fallen to Rs. 7 per maund as against Rs. 15 a month ago. This is about the lowest quotation for rice prices in India.

Similar reductions in rice prices are reported from Dacca and Barisal where present prices are Rs. 9-8 and Rs. 10-8 as against last month's Rs. 15 and Rs. 13 respectively. In the heavily deficit district of Chittagong, the present wholesale prices range from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 a maund as against Rs. 15 to Rs. 20 a month ago.

"GROW MORE FOOD" CAMPAIGN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 674)

discuss problems of health, education and agriculture, not to condemn but to make constructive proposals to improve the living standard, to bring the day of self-government nearer, and to raise India, politically, economically and socially to a position of equality with the other countries of the world. Need I assure my friend, Hon'ble Pandit H. N. Kunzru, who has travelled from one end of India to the other that we have a common objective and that we need thousands of unselfish workers inspired by a missionary spirit to preach the gospel of education and health and of making every clod productive.

FOOD AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANISATION

United Nations to Tackle Long-Term Problems

THE Government of India have accepted the constitution of the permanent Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations drawn up by the United Nations Interim Commission appointed in July, 1943, to prepare for submission to Governments a specific plan for a permanent International Organisation for Food and Agriculture as recommended by the Hot Springs Conference.

The Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, already known as the "FAO," will probably be the first permanent international body evolved by the United and Associated Nations to carry into peace the collaboration that has been so successful in war. The U.N.R.R.A.—the relief organisation—is a short-term organisation to deal with urgent but short-term problems in the liberated areas. The organisation now proposed to be set up will have permanent responsibilities in relation to long-term problems throughout the world and will come into being when 20 nations have formally accepted the constitution which has been unanimously recommended by representatives of 44 Governments, including India, who were members of the Interim Commission.

Broad Objectives

The broad objectives of the "FAO", as set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution, are (1) to raise the levels of nutrition and standards of living among the peoples of the world, (2) to secure improvements in the efficiency of the production and distribution of all food and agricultural products, (3) to better the condition of rural populations, and (4) to contribute by these means towards an expanding world economy. The member nations undertake to report to one another through the "FAO" on the measures taken and the progress achieved in these fields of action.

The methods to be employed by the "FAO" are indicated in Article I of the Constitution, which outlines the functions of the Organisation:

1. The Organisation shall collect, analyse, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture.

2. The Organisation shall promote and, where appropriate, shall recommend national and international action with respect to

(a) the scientific, technological, social, and economic research relating to nutrition, food and agriculture;

(b) the improvement of education and administration relating to nutrition, food and agriculture, and the spread of public knowledge of nutritional and agricultural science and practice;

(c) the conservation of natural resources and the adoption of improved methods of agricultural production;

(d) the improvement of the processing, marketing, and distribution of food and agricultural products;

(e) the adoption of policies for the provision of adequate agricultural credit, national and international;

(f) the adoption of international policies with respect to agricultural commodity arrangements.

3. It shall be the function of the Organisation

(a) to furnish such technical assistance as governments may request;

(b) to organise, in co-operation with governments concerned, such missions as may be needed to assist them to fulfil the obligations arising from their acceptance of the recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Food and Agriculture; and

(c) generally to take all necessary and appropriate action to implement the purposes of the Organisation as set forth in the Preamble.

Forestry and Fisheries

The Food and Agriculture Organisation will include in its scope forestry and fisheries as well as agriculture. It will be concerned not only with food but with non-food agricultural products, such as fibres and oils, and with the primary products of forests. Nutrition as well as the production, processing, and marketing of foods will lie within its field of activity.

The Constitution provides for close working relationships with other international bodies in related fields, such as any that exist or may be set up to deal with international credit, commodity arrangements, or public health problems. It also lays down a procedure by which the Organisation shall become part of any general world organisation set up to maintain world peace and to provide for international co-operation in the various fields.

The governing body will be a general conference which will meet at least once a year. Each member nation will have one voting representative in this conference, and all will have equal voting rights. The Constitution provides for an Executive Committee of 9 to 15 members and for standing advisory committees in major fields of the Organisation's work. The administration will consist of a Director-General, who will be the responsible head of the Organisation, and an international staff selected for technical competence in various branches of the work.

Direct contact with the public, consumers and producers, will be maintained through conferences, which may be convened at any time, with representatives of national and international bodies—for example, scientific organisations, co-operatives, and farm organisations—concerned with nutrition, food, agriculture, forestry, and fisheries Such conferences may be general, technical, regional, or concerned with some special phase of a subject.

Operating Cost

Notwithstanding the broad scope of its work, the operating costs of the "FAO" are expected to be moderate. The Interim Commission estimates the budget at only $5,000,000 a year for the first five years, with half that amount needed for the first year. The principal reason for so modest an estimate is that the "FAO", being an international body, must seek to achieve its objectives largely through action taken by the member nations themselves and will be able to draw on expert personnel from various countries in setting up committees and commissions to supplement its own staff.

An annex to the Constitution specifies that the United States is to bear 25 per cent of the cost of the first year's budget of $2,500,000, the United Kingdom 15 per cent, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics 8 per cent, China 6½ per cent, and other countries smaller proportions down to .05 per cent. India's share has been assessed at 4.25 per cent. The hardships borne by many countries as a result of war and enemy occupation were taken into account in determining the first-year quotas. Contributions already made towards the expenses of the Interim Commission will be credited against a nation's assessment for the first year.

REFRESHER COURSE IN TUBERCULOSIS

The Tuberculosis Association of India with the co-operation of the Provincial Tuberculosis Association of the Punjab is organising a post-graduate Refresher Course for one month from January 15 to February 15, 1945.

The Technical Adviser of the Association and other tuberculosis specialists will deliver lectures on various aspects of tuberculosis in addition to practical demonstrations.

NEW FOOD DEAL FOR THE CIVILIAN

Work of Co-ordination Committees

DISCUSSIONS round the table between military and civil authorities on food questions are resulting in a better deal all round. The Co-ordination Committees set up recently in collaboration with the Food Department of the Government of India co-ordinate procurement for direct military purchases, as well as purchases through the Food Department. Their object is to check price inflation and competitive buying, determine sources of supply, regulate consumption and divert supply to deficit areas with special regard to civilian requirements and the need for conserving seed and breeding stock, and to take suitable action to secure increased production and larger imports.

Originally only four committees were constituted, one in each Command Army, but in the light of experience, decentralisation has been considered necessary. The North West Army Committee has formed four district and ten area sub-committees; the Central Command Committee, three Provincial Committees; the Southern Army Committee, four Provincial and States Committees. In addition, sub-committees have been constituted mainly for fixing prices.

Production Plans

The formation of these Committees has given an impetus to the execution of production plans undertaken by the military as well as Provincial Governments. They provide a clearing house of information and an authoritative forum for solving difficulties and for the expression of the viewpoint of civil administrations and States. At a number of meetings it was found, for instance, that the demands of the military were not so large as they had been thought to be.

At a Bihar Committee meeting, the anxiety expressed at the opening of the discussions over the supply of goats was allayed when the Army representative announced that their total requirements were much lower than what had been reported. In another case, the Army agreed to make every effort to enforce the Government of India's ban on the slaughter of certain classes of cattle.

MORE WHEAT ARRIVES

Nearly 52,000 tons of wheat arrived in India from overseas during the fortnight ended November 7, 1944.

POST-WAR IRRIGATION AND HYDEL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Sir William Stampe on "Planning for Plenty"

ADDRESSING the Institution of Engineers (India), on November 10, in New Delhi on "Planning for Plenty," Flt.|Lt. Sir William Stampe, Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India, outlined a post-war plan of irrigation and hydel development which he considered "vital to the relief of India's scarcity."

By means of new irrigation (aided by artificial fertilisers) and improved methods of agriculture, he said, India had to grow 7 million tons of additional foodgrains to nourish the 5 million who were born every year and to raise the standard of nutrition. He fixed the irrigation target at 5 million tons of foodgrains yearly and estimated that to achieve this 20 million acres should be brought under irrigation.

The object of a well-planned irrigation system, Sir William explained, was to ensure a yield from "dry" ground and an increased yield from ground already watered by either intermittent rain or other inadequate means. This could be achieved by providing water in the right place in the right quantity at the right time.

"Stable" Canals

Discussing the various methods of expanding irrigation, Sir William Stampe said that projects for new gravity canal systems must take several years to prepare and then could not be in operation for several more years. Therefore, they did not provide an immediate solution of the problem. But the existing canal systems could be extended. Storage reservoirs might be constructed in the river catchments to conserve the surplus monsoon water which could be released at suitable times. This would "stabilise" the canals fed by the rivers concerned and the canal power stations could be operated at full capacity throughout the year. Not only would this cheap power directly increase prosperity through irrigation but it could foster the development of village industries thus raising the rural standard of living and providing employment.

For example, the proposed dam on a tributary of the Ganges comprising a reservoir to hold 35,000 million cubic feet would enable the Upper Ganges Canal, which at present fluctuates between full and half supply, to run at full capacity throughout the *rabi* months thereby ensuring an additional million acres of irrigation as well as greater security to existing crops. The dam would also enable the existing canal power stations to be operated at full capacity throughout the year besides contributing a further 15,000 KW continuously to the grid. Similar projects, he said, were under investigation in the Punjab and elsewhere. In briefly describing these, the value of air surveys both for preliminary reconnaissance and for expediting the preparation of contour maps of reservoir basins, was emphasised.

Tube-Well Feeders

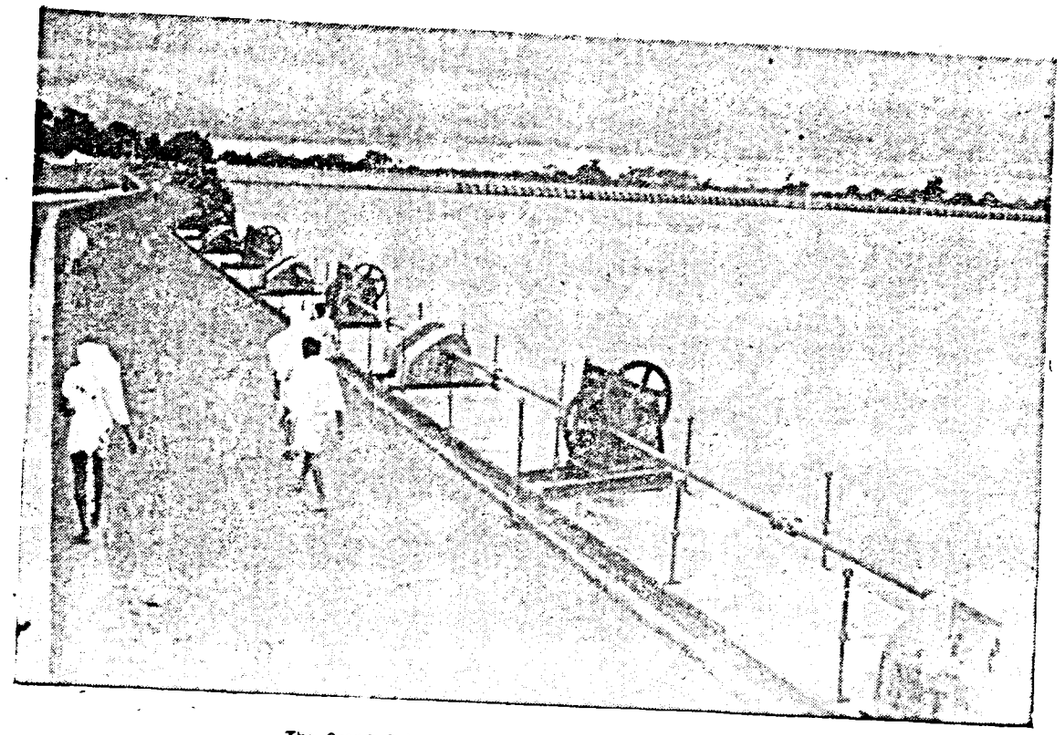
An increase of some 2 million acres could be effected within three years by tube-well feeders. Where canals passed through alluvial areas with high water table into tracts where ground water is not available, supplies could be supplemented in the upper reaches by power pumping from the sub-soil. Water could also be pumped from deep set rivers either directly into existing canals or on to new tracts.

Sir William also emphasised the need of increasing the efficiency of existing canal systems by (a) better distribution of water, and (b) reducing percolation losses by lining channels. An increase of 15 per cent of the existing canal irrigated areas could, he thought, be secured in this manner.

Sir William gave a brief account of the existing tube-well system in the United Provinces and said that where adequate underground supplies were available cheap power could be "broadcasted" over the area either from an existing grid or by creating an *ad hoc* supply, and a tube-well system thus established within three years. In the U.P., he said, 1,500 tube-wells, each irrigating 500 acres yearly, were constructed in the years 1935-37. This system is now being vigorously expanded by the U.P. Government with the aid of grants from Central funds.

Sir William emphasised the necessity for the early measures which had already been strongly recommended throughout India for preventing the loss of valuable land by erosion as well as the subtle deterioration of the river systems which was going on in the plains below. This deterioration affected not only the dry weather surface flow of the river but also the sub-soil seepage which was one of the main sources of supply of the tube-well system.

Improvements in open wells, contour bunds and small tanks for impounding the surplus monsoon run-off in undulating areas were further suggested. He said that mechanical pumping could be applied over parts of the 12½ million



The Grand Anicut of the Cauvery river (South India).

acres already irrigated by open wells throughout India. This would provide cheaper irrigation and at the same time relieve bullock power for increased ploughing, transport and other agricultural activities. Power could be economically obtained either from falls on canals or thermal stations.

Continuing, Sir William Stampe emphasised the value of large-scale reconnaissance schemes, quoting the T.V.A. as a criterion. He suggested, for instance, that the vast power resources of the Sone Valley now being examined should be exploited as a means of expanding irrigation, drainage and industries in the U.P., Western Bihar and North C.P. Hydel power was also to be used as an anti-waterlogging measure. He outlined a scheme prepared by the Punjab engineers for pumping 4,100 cusecs from the Ravi-Jhelum Canal tract in the Punjab. By means of hydel power to be generated at a 80 ft. fall on the Jhelum canal, he said, 2,050 tube-wells of 2 cusecs each were to be operated in pumping two-thirds of the percolation water back into the canals, thus (i) lowering the water table, (ii) saving many hundreds of thousands of acres of valuable land from deterioration due to alkalinity, and (iii) expanding irrigation by some 750,000 acres.

He further opined that some two million acres in Assam, Western Bihar and elsewhere could be brought under paddy cultivation by pumping with cheap power from land-locked basins, during and after the monsoon on to either (a) surrounding high lands for irrigation of paddy, or (b) into high level rivers by means of cheap hydel power.

Tribute to Indian Engineers

In paying a tribute to the work of the Indian engineers who under the guidance of a handful of experienced British engineers had carried out the pioneer schemes he had described, Sir William Stampe emphasised the need for adequate training facilities in India, especially in regard to the advanced design of modern hydro-electric works and transmission systems. Whilst he welcomed the suggestion to establish a large college in Southern India, he recommended that a number of federal colleges should be founded where civil and electrical engineers, who would have to execute these hydro-electric works, could be trained together.

SURVEY OF INDIA'S WATER RESOURCES

Central Irrigation Board's Annual Meeting

THE Central Board of Irrigation, at their annual meeting held in Simla in the first week of November, Mr. F. F. Haigh, Chief Engineer, and Secretary, Punjab Government and President of the Board presiding, supported the resolution passed by the Crops and Soils Wing of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry to the effect that regional surveys should be made of the latent water resources of India, and comprehensive plans prepared for the maximum utilisation of such water. They further supported that irrigation projects should be judged not merely on the basis of direct financial returns, but full account should be taken of indirect benefits derived by the people and the community as a whole.

The Board also adopted a resolution appreciating the work of Mr. C. C. Inglis, who is shortly retiring, in the furtherance of science of river engineering.

The technical part of the proceedings consisted of a review of research on irrigation and allied subjects carried out, during the year, under the Research Committee. The discussion on tube-wells touched on recent developments designed to increase yield. The Board also discussed the sampling of sand and silt carried by rivers and canals and decided to issue standard instructions on methods of sampling and on sampler types. Data are being collected of the quantity of rainfall run off from different catchments in order to supplement the available information on which irrigation projects are based.

Soil Erosion

The Board also discussed the evil effects of soil erosion and decided to collect data indicating areas which are badly eroding, rivers which are subject to floods due to excessive sand load and comparative runoff discharges from catchments having vegetable cover of different types.

The Board and its Research Committee recently discussed various aspects of soil mechanics, and it has now been decided to invite the co-operation of various authorities concerned in the standardisation of soil testing methods and apparatus.

Mr. F. H. Hutchinson, Chief Engineer, United Provinces was elected as President for the ensuing year and Mr. A. M. R. Montagu, Chief Engineer and Secretary to the Government of the Punjab, was elected Vice-President. Mr. J. M. MacIntyre was appointed Secretary of the Central Board of Irrigation from August 1945, when the tenure of the present Secretary, Mr. A. R. Thomas, expires. Arrangements will be made for Mr. MacIntyre who is an Executive Engineer of the Punjab, to visit England and America, before he assumes office.

The meeting was attended by Chief Engineers from a number of Provinces and States in India and Research Officers from the Punjab, the United Provinces, Sind and Bengal. Sir William Stampe, Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India, and Mr. C. C. Inglis, Director, Indian Waterways Experiment Station, were also present.

This was the first meeting of the Board at which representatives from Indian States attended as members, following the revision of the Board's constitution.

EXPORT OF FOODGRAINS TO THE HEDJAZ

The Government of India have decided to permit the export of 500 tons of foodgrains to the Hedjaz as a free gift from Indian Muslims. The grain will be consigned to the Committee of Charities in Saudi Arabia who will be in charge of its distribution, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on November 14.

It added: It will be recalled that the Government of India had received a number of requests from Indian Muslims for permission to export grain to the Hedjaz to relieve distress among the local population. In view of the declared policy of the Government to prohibit all exports of foodgrains from India this question was referred to the Standing Advisory Committee of the Central Legislature. Its recommendation was that the final decision should be taken by the Hon'ble the Food Member after he had satisfied himself that distress, sufficient to justify a departure from the declared policy actually existed.

The Government of India have caused careful inquiries to be made and are satisfied that they are justified in making an exception in this case to the strict embargo which has been imposed to the extent of allowing the export of this small amount as a token of sympathy and goodwill from Indian Muslims.

NICOTINE INSECTICIDES FROM TOBACCO WASTES

THE increasing demand for insecticides to control agricultural pests has led the G.H.Q. Supply Development Committee to develop a technical process for the production of nicotine insecticides from tobacco wastes. The material is available in abundance. Experiments carried out at the Ordnance Laboratories, Cawnpore, have led to the design of a plant with a daily output of 100 lbs. of nicotine sulphate.

The experimental work leading to this development is described in a recent issue of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research*. Both for agricultural and horticultural purposes, and for disinfecting warehouses for the storage of foodgrains, a dilute solution (one per cent) of nicotine sulphate, mixed with a wetting agent (*e.g.*, soap) can be effectively employed as a spray.

Plywood Industry

Among the industries based on the forest wealth of India, which have established themselves in recent years, one of the most outstanding is plywood manufacture. It dates back to 1918, when the Assam Saw Mills and Timber Company started operation, mainly with the object of manufacturing packing cases required for the Indian tea industry. By 1927 there were three factories, two in Assam and one in Bengal.

The increasing applications of plywood, *e.g.*, in the manufacture of packing cases, opium chests, travelling boxes and the like, where a combination of lightness and strength coupled with water resistance is required, have created a wide and rapidly expanding market for commercial plywood.

The industry has received considerable impetus during the present war and 35 factories distributed all over India are now engaged in producing utility products and high class decorative veneers. An article in the Journal describes the present status of the industry, the raw materials required, the manufacturing processes and scope for future development.

There is a tabulated statement (based on the investigations carried out at the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun) of the Indian timbers suitable for the manufacture of plywood, available supplies and the types of articles that can be produced from them.

The *Journal* also has articles on the manufacture of pituitary powder for clinical use and the production of organic chemicals.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF E.F.M. TELEGRAMS

As in 1943, the Government of India have reluctantly decided that it is essential to suspend temporarily the acceptance of E.F.M. telegrams in India from December 6 to December 25, 1944, inclusive, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on November 3.

It added: This is in conformity with a decision already reached in London to suspend the acceptance of all E.F.M. telegrams from and to the United Kingdom during the same period.

The other cheap classes of foreign telegrams, namely, the letter telegrams (D.L.T. N.L.T. and G.L.T.) will still be available in accordance with the usual regulations.

Special airgraph and air letter facilities for troops in connection with Christmas season have been arranged, of which details have been notified separately.

The general public also are urged to utilise as far as possible the airgraph and air mail service for sending Christmas and New Year greetings and to restrict telegrams to really urgent matters.

This suspension will apply to E.F.M. telegrams from India to all the countries with which that service is now in force.

MR. B. R. SEN'S SPEECH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 671)

bringing about a concrete rise in the standard of life of the people—an obligation on which, I am sure, there can be no disagreement between the Government and the people.

I have given to the House in barest outline the developments in food administration in the country during the past 12 months. It is, I claim, a record of steady, though not spectacular, progress, a record of single-minded endeavour on the part of the Food Department to implement the policy that they have placed before themselves. In carrying out this policy it has been the earnest desire of the Department to associate public opinion with their work, public opinion without which as has rightly been said more than once both in this and the other House, food administration in no country has the least chance of success. I hope this House of Elder Statesmen will judge our work with that spirit of detachment that is expected of it and guide us with useful and practical suggestions.

FIVE MORE INDIAN ARMY V.C.'s

THE Victoria Cross, the Empire's most coveted honour, has been awarded to five more men of the Indian Army—Naik Agansing Rai (5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, Frontier Force), Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa (5th Royal Gurkha Rifles), Capt. Michael Allmand and Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun (6th Gurkha Rifles) and Naik Yeshwant Ghadge (5th Mahratta Light Infantry). This brings the total V.C. awards to the Indian Army to 17.

GURKHA WHO KILLED 10 JAPS

Intrepid and aggressive leadership by an N.C.O. of the 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles (Frontier Force) culminated in his killing ten Japs and capturing three enemy strongpoints—a feat of arms which has earned for him the award of the Victoria Cross.

He is Naik Agansing Rai, of village Amsora, Tehsil No. 3 East District Okhaldunga, Nepal. He is the 13th member of the Indian Army and the fourth Gurkha to win this highest of honours in this war.

Naik Agansing Rai's company was ordered to recapture two enemy positions, Water Piquet and Mortar Bluff, which completely dominated the Bishenpur-Silchar track. The approach to them was up a slippery and precipitous ridge ending in 80 yards of open ground.

The Gurkha N.C.O.'s company went in to the attack on June 26, but came under heavy fire from a machine-gun on Mortar Bluff and a 37 mm. gun concealed in the jungle. Casualties mounted and the main attack faltered, but Naik Agansing dauntlessly led his section through withering fire across the open ground to the Jap post. His bren gunner killed one of the machine-gun crew and the N.C.O. himself liquidated the three remaining enemy.

Jap Gun Silenced

Inspired by this feat the company swept up to the position but their hold was precarious because of the 37 mm. gun which was now pounding them from close range.

Again, Naik Agansing took the initiative and led his section towards the gun position. When his tommy gun jammed he seized a bren gun, ran forward and killed three of the enemy. The rest were dealt with by his section and the Jap gun was silenced.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 683)



Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa, V.C.

"EPIC" BRAVERY OF FIFTH GURKHA V.C.

Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, of Rahu village, Bhirkot District, Tehsil No. 4 West, has been posthumously awarded the V.C. for gallantry on the Burma Front. He is the fifth Gurkha to win the V.C. in this war.

This is the 14th V.C. to be won by the Indian Army in this war. Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa showed valour and devotion to duty which, in the words of citation, "will remain an epic in the history of the regiment."

Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa held to the last an isolated position at Water Piquet, near Bishenpur, the possession of which was vital to the safety of a 14th Army base.

After the relief of Water Piquet, the Japs tried to retake the position in a determined attack supported by 37 mm. and 75 mm. guns. They poured shell after shell into it and their men advanced in wave after wave but the attack was repulsed with heavy losses owing mainly to the dauntless leadership of the Subedar, who moved from post to post encouraging the young N.C.O.s and riflemen of which his little garrison was largely composed.

That night the enemy launched a second attack but the ground was held until a section's machine-gun and tommy gun jammed and the Japs partially penetrated the position.

Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa and his runner went forward and while the runner was cutting Japs down with his kukri the Subedar was stemming any further advance with grenades. But two more of the garrison machine-guns stopped and the enemy made a fanatical attempt to break in, in which they were again partially successful.

The citation continues: "The situation was now critical. With more than half of his men casualties, ammunition desperately low and the enemy in possession of half his perimeter, Netrabahadur would have been justified in withdrawing. The thought was never further from his mind.

"In his next report to his commanding officer he stated that he intended holding on and asked for reinforcements and more ammunition. He conveyed his intention to his men and, in order to conserve ammunition, gave orders for sniping fire to be kept up on the positions occupied by the enemy.

"So efficient were his plans for defence and such was the fine example of this gallant Gurkha officer that not a man moved from his trench and not a yard of ground was gained by the enemy, despite their desperate attempts to do so."

The night passed with the tiny garrison still holding on. But dawn found the gallant Subedar, killed by bullet and grenade wounds, lying dead near the position, his kukri still in his hand. By his side was a dead Jap with his skull cleft.

The platoon Havildar, "inspired by the magnificent example and fighting spirit of his commander," fought on with only 12 out of 49 unwounded men but finally had to withdraw.

The citation concludes: "True to the traditions of the service and his race Subedar Netrabahadur Thapa had fought against overwhelming odds for eight hours before he was killed."

NAIK AGANSING RAI

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 682)

The Gurkha N.C.O. had already disposed of six Japs, but on rejoining his platoon found the assault on Water Piquet being hampered by strong opposition from a Jap bunker. So, grenade in one hand and tommy gun in the other, he advanced on the bunker and killed all four occupants.

"His qualities of gallantry and courage," says the citation, "are worthy of the fighting race to which he belongs and his outstanding devotion to duty is in accordance with the highest traditions of the Service."



Captain Michael Allmand, V.C.

POSTHUMOUS V.C. FOR CAPT. MICHAEL ALLMAND

For exceptional gallantry on three separate occasions Capt. Michael Allmand, 6th Gurkha Rifles, has been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross. He is the Indian Army's 15th V.C. of the war and the third British Officer to win the supreme award.

Ordered to attack the Pin Hmi road bridge near Mogaung, Capt. Allmand, who was commanding the forward platoon of his company, led his Gurkhas against Japs concealed in foxholes along the banks of the road leading to the bridge and in the surrounding jungle.

As the platoon came within 20 yards of the bridge, the enemy lashed out with a deadly hail of machine-gun and grenade fire inflicting severe losses on the platoon, which was forced to go to ground. Capt. Allmand charged forward alone, hurling grenades and killing three of the enemy on the bridge with his kukri. His men, inspired by this feat, immediately rose to his support and the objective was taken.

Two days later, in the first attack on Natiygon, Capt. Allmand took over command of a company of his battalion whose objective was a ridge of high ground running through the village.

Swept by heavy Jap fire his men dropped all around him but Capt. Allmand pushed on well ahead of his company, forced his way through long elephant grass and marshy ground and killed the enemy in their fox-holes as he found them. Those of his men still on their feet valiantly followed him and carried the day.

Third Exploit

Capt. Allmand's third exploit came ten days later when, back once more with his own platoon, he was engaged in the final advance on the railway line and bridge at Mogaung. Suffering badly from trench foot, he nevertheless pushed on with his Gurkhas through deep mud and shell holes in the half light of a dawn attack.

When an enemy machine-gun opened cut on his platoon, he charged the gun alone and fell mortally wounded.

"The superb gallantry, leadership and protracted selfless heroism of this officer can seldom have been surpassed," says the citation. "He was inspired by a burning devotion to duty, an inspiration which he communicated to anyone who came into contact with him."

DOUBLE V.C. HONOUR FOR GURKHA UNIT

Two Victoria Crosses in one engagement on the Burma Front have been won by a battalion of 6th Gurkha Rifles.

Capt. Michael Allmand of King's College, Strand, London, won the V.C. posthumously for "superb gallantry, ledership and protracted selfless heroism" during 6th Gurkha Rifles' attack on Mogaung railway bridge on June 23.

Today (November 9) it is announced that the V.C. has been awarded to Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun, who was in Capt. Allmand's company during the attack on June 23. Major J. M. Richie, of Babbacombe-road, Torquay, the company commander, is shown as a witness on both citations.

A lone charge in the face of shattering fire from enemy automatics which resulted in the capture of a heavily-bunkered Jap position won the V.C. for Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun. In a savage attack he killed three Japs, captured two light machine-guns and ammunition and put another five of the enemy to flight.

Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun comes from Banduk village, Gulni tehsil, 4,000 Parbat district, Nepal.



Rifleman Tulbahadur Pun, V.C.

He is the sixth Gurkha to win the V.C. and the Indian Army's 17th V.C. of the war.

While the battalion was attacking the railway bridge at Mogaung two platoons, in one of which Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun was serving, were pinned to the ground by intense cross fire from medium and light machine-guns close by. Most of Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun's section was wiped out.

Continued the Charge Alone

The section commander led the two remaining men in charge on the objective but he and another man were badly wounded.

Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun seized a bren gun and, firing from the hip, continued the charge alone over 30 yards of open ground which was ankle-deep in mud, pitted with shell holes and littered with logs and shattered trees.

With the dawn light behind him he presented a conspicuous target to the Japs, who fired at him remorselessly. But he ran on, reached the objective and gave accurate supporting fire from the bunker to his platoon, enabling them to gain the position.

"His savage courage and superb gallantry in the face of odds which meant certain death in 99 cases out of a hundred were most inspiring to all ranks and were beyond praise," says the citation.

How two Victoria Crosses were won in the same action and within a few minutes of each other by men of 6th Gurkha Rifles was described to me today by Major J. M. Ritchie, the men's Company Commander, writes an Indian Army Observer on November 10. They are Capt. Michael Allmand, who won the V.C. posthumously, and Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun, whose award was announced on November 9.

On two occasions less than a fortnight previously Capt. Allmand had distinguished himself by his utter fearlessness. On the third occasion, when Capt. Allmand was killed, Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun, only a few yards away, charged forward into the very jaws of death to win the supreme award.

Here is the story as described to me by Major Ritchie:—

An attack on Mogaung railway line and bridge was ordered for the early morning on June 23. 'B' Company, under my command, was to advance against a wooden building and a red brick house, 'Red House' as it came to be known, while 'C' Company on our right would make straight for the railway line and bridge.

Heavy Cross-Fire

At 4-30 a.m., after a heavy mortar bombardment of the Red House area, the attack went in. 'C' Company met with little opposition and soon gained its objectives but 'D' Company had a different story to tell.

I sent Capt. Allmand with one platoon against the wooden building on our left front, while another platoon, in which Rifleman Tulbahadur Pun was serving, went for the Red House on the right.

About 50 yards from the Red House, Rifleman Tulhabadur Pun's platoon ran into heavy cross-fire from both the Red House and the wooden building. Most of the platoon was pinned to the ground but I saw three men still advancing.

Suddenly one of them dropped, then the second, leaving one solitary figure doggedly pushing on. It was Rfn. Tulbahadur Pun. Firing a bren gun from the hip he charged forward through a shattering concentration of automatic fire and somehow reached the Red House, where I lost sight of him.

Meanwhile Capt. Allmand's platoon on the left had attacked the wooden building, which turned out to be a very powerful Jap bunker. I had moved my company H.Q. to a shell hole 15 yards short of the Red House when I saw Capt. Allmand coming towards me and supported by two of his Gurkhas.

He had a serious wound in his left arm and side and, though very white, was still conscious. I had him evacuated by stretcher; that evening he died.

It was decided to by-pass the bunker and the remnants of my company accordingly swept on. Shortly afterwards flame-throwers came up and the fate of the bunker was finally decided; the Japs were roasted alive and not a man survived.

INDIAN V.C. WHO CLUBBED GERMANS TO DEATH

India's 16th V.C. of the war has been awarded posthumously to Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, 5th Mahratta Light Infantry, for gallantry in Italy.

This is the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry's first V.C. of this war. Naik Yeshwant Ghadge is a Mahratta of Phalasgaon village, Kolaba District, Bombay Presidency.

The story of the award tells of one of the most dramatic individual engagements of the Italian campaign, a grim encounter in which Naik Yeshwant Ghadge, having no time to replenish his ammunition, clubbed two Germans to death with his tommy-gun.

The citation states: "On July 10, a company of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry attacked a position strongly defended by the enemy. During this attack a rifle section commanded by Naik Yeshwant Ghadge came under heavy machine-gun fire at close range which killed or wounded all members of the section except the commander.

Died in Post He Captured

"Without hesitation and well knowing that none were left to rescue him, Naik Yeshwant Ghadge rushed to the machine-gun post. He first threw a grenade, which knocked out the machine-gun and firer, and then shot one of the gun crew with his tommy-gun.

"Finally, having no time to change the magazine, he grasped the gun by the barrel and beat to death the remaining two men of the gun crew.

"Unfortunately Naik Yeshwant Ghadge was shot in the chest and back by enemy snipers and died in the post which he had captured single-handed. The courage, determination and devotion to duty of this Indian N.C.O., in a situation where he knew that the odds against him gave little chance of survival, were outstanding."

COMPLETE MASTERY OF BURMA SKIES

Allied Air Chief's Broadcast

IN a farewell broadcast on November 14, before handing over his command, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, South East Asia, declared that today we have complete mastery in the skies over Burma and a fine Allied Air Force ready to strike wherever the enemy shows his head.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse said:

I am very glad to have this opportunity of saying a few words of farewell to the Air Command of South East Asia, because in a few days now I shall hand over the command which I have held for nearly three years to Air Chief Marshal Sir Trafford Leigh-Mallory.

I have just completed a tour of the forward areas, and I have come back with a feeling of great pride and confidence in the squadrons, units and staffs who form there the spearhead of our Allied Air Forces in the Eastern Air Command. Everywhere there is a spirit of enthusiasm and a deep desire to get to grips with an enemy who shows little desire to face us in the open. This spirit is shared by American, Dominion, Indian and British aircrews in like measure. Gallantry and courage there always have been in plenty. This has been so fully shown in the hard fighting which has put us in a pre-eminent position in the air today.



Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse.

Protection of Shipping and Trade

It is no exaggeration to say that we have complete mastery in the skies above Burma, and more, we have a fine Allied Air Force poised and ready to strike wherever the enemy shows his head. It is an air force, too, which is ever willing and ready to give the fullest support it can to the Allied Armies fighting victoriously in the jungles of Burma; and we take great pride in having had a share in the victories of the 14th Army.

There is, however, another and little heard-of activity, but nonetheless a most important one, and that is the air defence and control of the great sea communications throughout the Indian Ocean. Day and night the reconnaissance squadrons based in Southern India, Ceylon, East Africa and Arabia, who form part of the South East Asia Air Command, are alert and scouring the seas in co-operation with the Eastern Fleet for the protection of our shipping and trade. Here in this work the Royal Air Force and Dominion Air Forces are proud to have units of the Netherlands Air Force working with them. It is a long and tedious job; but every now and then an enemy submarine falls victim to the vigilant aircraft, and so one more menace is removed and compensation and praise go to those who so tirelessly carry on this work.

A great air force does not, however, consist merely of squadrons fighting in the front line. To maintain these squadrons a vast organisation is required, and today we have this great organisation spread throughout India—maintenance depots, stores parks, training establishments, supply and medical organisations, signals, radar and meteorological establishments, and the like. The whole of this enormous system, which spreads all over India, is required both for the maintenance, repair, salvage and supply of the squadrons in the fighting line and also for their executive control, and, in the case of radar, for the defence of India against possible enemy attack.

There has also been considerable development of the internal air routes of India for the carriage of military supplies, in collaboration with India's Civil Aviation. All this is designed not solely for the purpose of building up those air forces required for the day-to-day fighting which has been going on ever since the invasion of Burma, but on a scale sufficient to meet the demands of the ever-increasing air forces which will arrive in India for the final drive against the enemy.

All this has required hard work, initiative and much vision, and I would particularly like to record my appreciation of the admirable work which has been done and the help which we have received from so many. In particular, my gratitude goes to the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, to his Staff, and to his Command, which has provided so much, and still provides so much, for the needs of the Air Forces in India. To the heads of those industrial concerns in India to whom we looked for assistance in building up our Civil Repair Organisation, I also offer my warmest thanks, and they go to their staffs as well.

Unfailing Co-operation

To keep squadrons fighting it is essential to maintain an adequate flow of reserves of all kinds. That the flow has been adequate in aircraft and engine repair speaks volumes for the untiring and wholehearted efforts of the civil and military personnel concerned. Again, to the Meteorological Department, to the Posts and Telegraphs, and to India's Civil Aviation, I offer my warm thanks. The burden that has been placed upon them due to the ever-growing needs of the air, I know to have been enormous. But I do record that a great development has been achieved and that unfailing co-operation has been ever present. There are other Government departments and individuals too numerous to mention here, but to them all I say, "Thank you."

When one flies round India and Ceylon today and sees the enormous number of great airfields which have come into being in the past 2½ years, and remembers that so short a time ago India was practically without air facilities at all, one appreciates the magnitude of the effort that has been made on all hands.

In March of 1942 you will recollect that British and Indian armies in Burma were desperately trying to stem the tide of the enemy's advance. The enemy was finally held on the Indian frontiers. But at that time he was aggressive, and elated with the victories that he had gained. In the air, in particular, he was strong, whereas at that time we were practically without any air forces wherewith to meet and defeat him.

It was a time of great anxiety, of desperate improvisation, a time when every resource on which we could lay hands had to be turned to account with the utmost despatch. You will remember also that Easter Sunday in 1942 when the enemy sent his battle fleet and aircraft carriers into the Bay of Bengal, sinking many thousands of tons of our merchant shipping, and sending bombers and fighters to raid Trincomalee and Colombo. Fortunately by that time we had built up in Ceylon sufficient air defence to meet him in the air, and to give him so well-merited a thrashing that he never repeated the experiment.

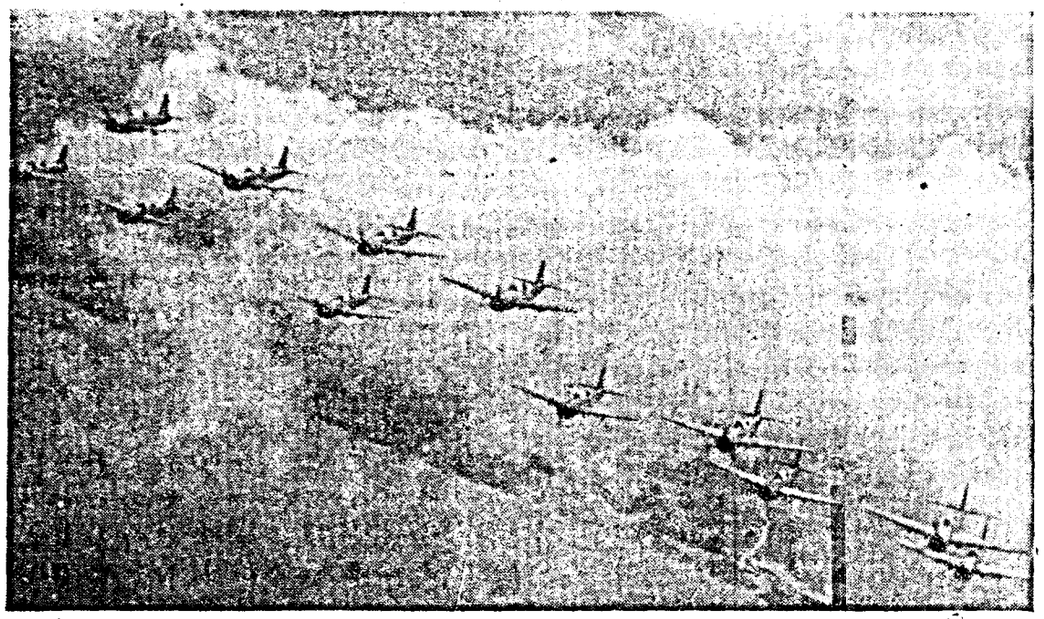
But this served only to increase the momentum of the build-up of our air defence. Soon, the development of our forward airfields along the frontier enabled us to move forward our fighter squadrons and wrest the initiative from the enemy. From that moment we were on the offensive in the air, and the initiative was ours. We have never lost it, and—monsoon or fine weather—we have continued to press him relentlessly, so that he dare not show his head, and can do no more than operate from far distant bases with the occasional tip-and-run tactics of an inferior air force.

Today the Eastern Air Command in Bengal stands firmly on its feet, confidently taking every opportunity to strike. It is a force invigorated by our American colleagues; a blended force, welded closely with American, Dominion, Indian and British ingredients, not only in its organisation, but by virtue of a deep respect and a real friendship which runs from top to bottom throughout the Command. To its gallant commander, Major-General George Stratemeyer, on whose broad shoulders lie great responsibilities, I say, 'Well done!'—for few are the men who could so successfully have carried through the task and been so fine an inspiration to Americans and British.

Indian Air Force

To the Indian Air Force, that youngest member of our brotherhood, I wish to say this special word. I have watched you grow and I have seen you fight. You have won your spurs, and the respect and confidence of all of us. The Indian Air Force squadrons of today are the foundation of the Indian Air Force of tomorrow. They are building up traditions of which India may well be proud.

In saying farewell, therefore, I pass on to my successor a fighting force, captained and manned by a company of men whose loyalty, resource and devotion to duty could not be exceeded. I leave them with very great regret, but with the utmost confidence that they will



A Vultee Vengeance Divebomber Squadron of the I.A.F. flying in formation over the Arakan.

not rest until our scores with the enemy are settled; until he is utterly destroyed. I shall watch their activities with the deepest interest, and carry away with me a great pride that it has been my good fortune to command so great a company, and to have had some share in the laying of the foundation-stone upon which their future victories will be built.

AIR CHIEF'S FAREWELL TOUR

Imphal, capital of Manipur State, besieged by the Japanese after they had launched their invasion of India early in the year, received in clear weather Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse. As he mentioned in his broadcast on November 14, he had come to say goodbye, wish good luck, and pay his last visit to units of Eastern Air Command and to the airmen who under his command had gained complete air superiority over the enemy in the Indo-Burma sky.

Sir Richard Peirse had come to see for the last time in his official capacity as Allied Air Commander the men who had protected, sustained, clothed and fed from the air men of the Fighting Fourteenth during the siege. With him was Air Marshal W. A. Coryton, Air Commander, Third Tactical Air Force.

The Air Chief Marshal was met by Air Vice Marshal S. F. Vincent, Air Officer Commanding an R.A.F. Group, and Group Capt. H. G. Goddard, Commanding Officer of a Wing Headquarters.

The Air Chief Marshal inspected on the airstrip a guard of honour provided by men of an R.A.F. Regiment field squadron. Many of these men had been in action against the enemy in the Palel area defending airfields. They formed a picturesque sight as they presented arms, wearing battle green and the blue berets.

The Allied Air Commander made a seven-hour tour of air force units and covered 90 miles by road. The first squadron he visited was an I.A.F. squadron. After chatting with some of the officers and airmen individually he addressed the men.

Tribute to S.Ldr. Arjan Singh

"Your squadron," he said, "has created a long and fine reputation. Yours was the first Indian Air Force squadron to go into action in Burma in 1942. I know that you have been adding to this reputation greatly since you have been operating here for the past ten months. You have done good work. I hope that you will add further laurels in the future, and set an example on which other I.A.F. squadrons



Squadron Leader Arjan Singh, D.F.C.

can model themselves. You have in your Commanding officer, Squadron-Leader Arjan Singh, a fine leader. I congratulate you."

Before leaving Group Headquarters for lunch, Sir Richard Peirse shook hands with Squadron-Leader Arjan Singh and said, "I may not see you again. I wish you the best of luck."

Sir Richard's tour took him from the Arakan, where he was accompanied by Air Commodore the Earl of Bandon, Air Officer Commanding a group, to Imphal and he saw thousands of British, Australian, New Zealand, Canadian and Indian airmen who have carried out in minute detail the vast and complicated schemes devised at his headquarters for the unique campaign, on a war front second only to the Russian in size.

In addition to meeting the men of the Hurribomber squadrons who have driven the Jap to the fringes of Kalemyo, he talked with crews of the British supply dropping Dakotas which fly side by side with American cargo aircraft to carry the many hundreds of tons of stores required by the rapidly advancing army.

The newly arrived Mosquito and Thunderbolt squadrons which have played an important part in the battle of the Rangoon airfields and the strafing of enemy lines of communication in the recently accelerated air effort, were also inspected by the Allied Air Commander.

There was little of the formal atmosphere of inspections about the tour. Sir Richard went out to talk to his men, pilot and armourer, Air Commodore and 'A.C.2' and travelled over 3,000 miles to express his thanks for their long and loyal service under the most trying conditions.

INDIAN TROOPS' "THANK YOU" TO I.A.F. SQUADRON

An Indian Air Force reconnaissance squadron has received a message of congratulation and thanks from Indian troops of the 5th Indian Division for its valuable aid in the recapture of Tiddim.

Led by Squadron Leader Arjan Singh, D.F.C., the squadron has been employed on tactical and photographic reconnaissance for the 4th Corps on the Assam Front. It has been operating since early February and its pilots have flown 3,360 sorties totalling 4,000 operational flying hours.

This is the squadron's second tour of operations over Burma. It fought in the 1942 campaign under the command of Squadron Leader K. Majumdar, D.F.C., who is now flying with an R.A.F. squadron over Western Europe.

SPECIAL ALLOWANCE FOR MISSING SOLDIERS' DEPENDANTS

Special family allowance payable to the dependants of servicemen reported missing is outlined in an Indian Army Order. The allowance will be paid even though the man has not been making a family allotment.

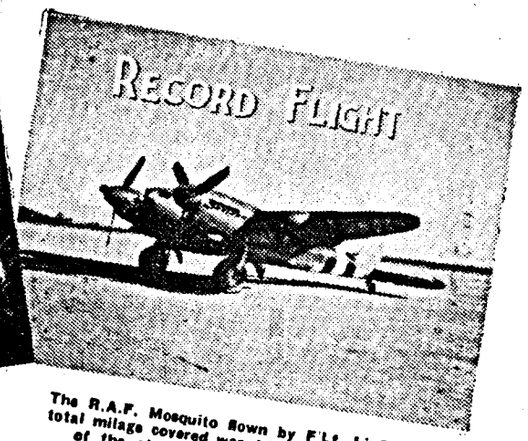
The serviceman's family will continue to be paid the usual allotment for seven months, after which it will receive a special family allowance until a pension is admitted.

Death is presumed nine months after the end of the month in which intimation was received in India by the unit or depot that the man was missing. Pay of a man reported missing will continue to be credited to his account for two months.

Mr. Ratilal V. Shah of Wadhwan Camp has generously contributed Rs. 1,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The gift has been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.



F/Lt. James Linton (right) pilot, and W. O. Edwin Joseph Goudie (navigator) photographed at Karachi after their record-breaking flight.



The R.A.F. Mosquito flown by F/Lt. Linton. The total milage covered was 4,566, the average speed of the aircraft being 315 miles per hour.

The Mosquito 'Behaved Like a Lady,' Says Navigator

FASTEST flight to date between England and India has just been made by a Mosquito aircraft flown by R.A.F. Transport Command pilot, Flight-Lieutenant James Linton, of Thornbury Cottage, Cookham Dean, Berkshire. His navigator was Warrant Officer Edwin Joseph Goudie, of Waltshamstow, London.

In a normal Service aircraft they covered the distance in an overall time, which included two stops for refuelling, of 16 hours and 46 minutes. Their flying time was only 14 hours and 37 minutes. The total mileage was 4,566 which was flown at an average speed of 315 miles an hour.

Warrant Officer Goudie said that the aircraft "behaved like a lady" throughout. The take-off was from an airfield in the Midlands at 03.25 hours G.M.T. on November 4. The weather was good and a course was set for the African coast. At 14.14 hours G.M.T. the aircraft put down at El Adem near Tobruk. It refuelled and 49 minutes later was off again.



Pilot and navigator being greeted by O.C. Group Captain H. N. G. R. Isherwood at Karachi.



Debriefing report to F/Lt. Robert Bywater, Chief Briefing Officer at R.A.F. station, Karachi.



On arrival at Karachi, the pilot and navigator had to check through quarantine—the pilot has his pulse taken by the M.O.



At Breakfast. Here, R.A.F. Officer (centre) eagerly scans one of the previous day's papers (published in England) brought by the crew.

Its next stop was at Shaibah on the Persian Gulf where the Mosquito landed at 19.50 hours G.M.T. The crew rested for one hour ten minutes and at 21.10 hours G.M.T. the aircraft left on the last leg of the journey. Four hours and one minute later it landed at Karachi—at 01.11 hours G.M.T. or 07.41 hours Indian Standard Time on November 5.

It came out of the moonlight still flooding the western sky, as dawn broke over the airfield. The dim shape quickly sharpened into a firm silhouette as the Mosquito streaked low over the control tower. It circled once and came to rest. The crew were welcomed by the Station Commander, Group Captain H. N. G. Ramsbottom-Isherwood, D.F.C., A.F.C., who commanded the first British Fighter Wing in Russia. He was handed a parcel, emphasising the significance of the flight—a selection of London and Provincial morning newspapers of the day before.

Pilot's Account

Describing the journey, F/Lt. Linton said: "We came along very comfortably. That was the idea. We wanted to show we could do the trip in the ordinary way, getting out this end feeling quite fresh."

Warrant Officer Goudie, whose first long flight this was with F/Lt. Linton, said they estimated that the journey would take 17 hours overall and 15 hours flying time. "So without forcing the pace, we have done better than expected," he added. "The old Mossie's cruising speed is fairly high and we kept it up all the way. Except in one or two places the weather was good all the time."

It is just over ten years ago, October 20, 1934, that the Mollisons broke the England-India record, landing at Karachi in an overall time of 22 hours and 13 minutes. This was an exceptional performance by an exceptional aircraft designed for speed only. The Mosquito which landed at Karachi on November 5 was a normal service aircraft, designed not only for speed but capable of operating as a day or night fighter, as a bomber or as a photographic reconnaissance aircraft. The journey to India was a routine flight to reinforce an operational squadron.

During his eight months with Transport Command, after two years service in Canada, F-Lt. Linton has delivered numerous reinforcement aircraft to distant parts of the world, has twice flown to India and five times to Cairo. Both he and the navigator have been chiefly engaged in high speed flying with Mosquitoes and Beaufighters.

Before leaving for India on his latest trip, Linton said: "These long distance reinforcement flights are fascinating work, especially with Mosquitoes which take you from one half of the earth to the other in a matter of hours. The aircraft we pilots ferry are standard operational jobs and must not be flown in a way which might cause loss of efficiency. But good navigation and good weather often make for good flying times."

The high speed capabilities of the Mosquito were first brought home to the public when a Mosquito crew had breakfast in England, lunch in Russia and were back home in time for dinner. This flight to Karachi shows that, travelling in the opposite direction, it is possible to leave India at two in the morning, Indian Standard Time, and sit down slightly late for lunch in England, just after a quarter-past-one, British Summer Time.



Madrassi anti-aircraft gunners on the Imphal plain look out for enemy raiders.

ACK-ACK DEFENCES OF INDIA AND CEYLON

WHEN the full story of the part played by British-Madrassi anti-aircraft regiments, heavy and light, in the defence of India and Ceylon can be told, it will be revealed as a scheme which, in the face of apparently insurmountable obstacles, achieved striking success and completely justified the high hopes of its sponsors, writes an Army Observer with the 14th Army.

In the early months of 1942, when the Japanese were advancing through Burma and occupying more and more bases from which they could launch bombing attacks on India and Ceylon, it was obvious that large numbers of anti-aircraft guns would be required to protect ports, airfields, military bases and installations, all of which were vital to the United Nations if the Japs were to be checked and eventually driven back. Britain herself, constantly threatened by the Luftwaffe, rushed out all the heavy and light anti-aircraft regiments she could spare but more and more were required if the "roof" were to provide even an adequate over-all cover. Manpower was the problem and the resources of Madras province were to provide the answer. Heavy and light anti-aircraft regiments were to be raised with British and Indian officers, V.C.O.s, British and Madrassi N.C.O.s and Madrassi gunners.

Difficulties were foreseen and first and foremost of these was the language problem. Not only was it extremely rare to find an officer who could speak or understand Tamil, Telugu or Malayalam—the main Dravidian tongues of South India—but among the Indians themselves the only connecting link between the three language groups was that a proportion of the Tamil and of the Malayalam speakers could understand one another.

Training Centres

Then there was the vast task of teaching the highly technical intricacies of modern anti-aircraft gunnery to Madrassi recruits, the majority of whom came to the training centres from village homes, "miles from anywhere". The keynote of the whole scheme had to be speeded up. Anti-aircraft gunners were urgently required. One Madrassi anti-aircraft training centres was started on July 1 by four officers, two V.C.O.s, a few havildars (mostly clerks) and a handful of Indian Other Ranks.

By mid-July, 1,000 Madrassis were under training. Four weeks later there were 2,500. It was soon found that the Madrassi was remarkably quick to learn and normally possessed extraordinarily keen eyesight. Aircraft identification presented no terrors for him. At the end of its six months' training period each regiment went to a firing camp. Then followed leave, after which the regiment was deployed in an operational role. A high percentage of the officers and British Other Ranks who had been with the Madrassis in training went off with each regiment, so there was a constant flow of new instructors as well as recruits passing into the training centre.

The total number of regiments produced by this scheme cannot yet be revealed but the bulk of anti-aircraft defence in India and Ceylon is now in the hands of these British-Madrassi regiments.

The Japanese air force has not given them many opportunities to show their skill but the few chances so far presented have been accepted with great success.

The Allies in South East Asia can go forward with the knowledge that their bases will be skilfully and vigorously defended against any air attack.



"Excellent. Keen as any gunners I have ever met." This was how the Madrassi gun-crew were described by their British sergeant. Nearest to the camera is Gnr. Raju from Arni, Madras.

INCREASED PAY FOR BRITISH ARMED FORCES

His Majesty's Government have announced the plans which they propose to implement for the release of personnel of the British Armed Forces who will not be required to continue serving after the cessation of hostilities in Europe. These plans are applicable to British personnel wherever serving.

His Majesty's Government have also announced certain increases in pay for the British Armed Forces. These proposals are being urgently examined by the Government of India with a view to deciding whether measures of a similar nature should be made applicable to the Indian Army, the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force.

INDIAN TROOPS IN ACTION IN GREECE

INDIAN troops are now operating in Greece, writes an Indian Army Observer. At Salonika and elsewhere they came ashore with British units and are now engaged in clearing the country of the last remnants of German influence.

From an R.A.F. 'plane I looked down upon the panorama which unfolded itself in Salonika Bay as a large convoy of landing ships and craft of all kinds crept through the narrow entrance to the Bay and swarms of men and machines landed along the seafront.

The Bay was as thick with mines as a village duckpond with weeds, and the ships had to keep to a narrow swept channel. They were preceded by minesweepers of the Royal Navy, a few hundred yards apart, clearing a passage for the convoy.

Unopposed Landing

As I watched for a few brief minutes, I saw mines being detonated by the sweepers. They were 2,000-lb. acoustic-magnetic mines and they went off with explosions that threw up plumes of water 300 feet high and shook the buildings on the seafront. Despite this, the shore was lined with citizens of Salonika who gave the disembarking soldiers a warm welcome.

This has been an unopposed landing. Our men were greeted with flowers and kisses instead of bullets. What impressed me most, when I landed and arrived on the scene a few hours later, was the splendid co-operation between a party of Sikhs and British parachutists as they rapidly unloaded supplies and munitions on the beach.

Stores were coming off the landing craft faster than lorries could take them away. All the time a Sikh Havildar was singing a chant in Punjabi which kept the paratroopers as well as the Sikhs working away to a fast tempo while they passed packages down the line.

GREEK PREMIER WELCOMES INDIAN TROOPS

Premier Papandreou welcomed the Indian troops to Greece with the following message:

"Ever since the beginning of this war troops of the Indian Army have never been absent from the battlefields. Indeed the courage, endurance and fighting spirit of the Indian soldier, renowned throughout the centuries of a long and glorious history, have proved equal to their great tradition.

"The Greek people recognise with gratitude that their liberation is partly due to the battles which the noble Indian troops have fought against the Italians in Eritrea, against the Italians and Germans in the Western Desert, Tunisia and Italy, and against the Japanese in Asia.

"May God grant to the Indian soldiers, whom in the name of the people of Greece I have the honour to welcome to-day (November 16) strength to enrich with new deeds the illustrious records of their ancient nation and, before returning to their homes, to forge new links of friendship and mutual understanding between our two peoples."

ARMY'S CAMPAIGN AGAINST LOCUSTS

In India's greatest desert, stretching for thousands of square miles across Rajputana and Sind, an Army unit is waging an unusual war against locusts.

Over 300 men and camels of the Bikaner Ganga Risala equipped with wireless sets are constantly on the move over this vast area locating and exterminating the swarms before they can destroy the crops in the surrounding agricultural country.

Working as completely self-contained units, these men carry on the nomad life of their ancestors, writes an Indian Army Observer who recently visited them in the desert. Parties of at least five *sowars*, mounted on their sturdy Bikaner camels and in touch by wireless with the mobile headquarters of their scattered detachments, keep a vigilant reconnaissance.

Locust-Control Operations

Their work consists chiefly in the location of "hoppers"—locusts which have not yet reached the flying stage. By spreading poisoned but non-arsenical bait over the affected area, the smaller swarms can be destroyed. When there are too many for this treatment, trenches are dug on the locusts' "line of march" into which they unsuspectingly hop and are speedily buried by earth or sand.

The area of these locust-control operations is perhaps the largest and most desolate covered by a single unit in the India Command. Bare and monotonous for the most part, and in some places never yet surveyed, it is typical desert country where the untrained man would be easily lost.

Indian State Forces' Part in War



Major-Gen. C. O. Harvey (left), accompanied by Captain H.H. the Maharaja of Jaipur (third from left) recently visited Indian State Forces serving in Iraq and Persia. Here, Major-Gen. Harvey listens while an officer gives orders for an advance to platoon officers in training.

Maj.-Gen. Harvey's Tribute to Splendid Work of I.S.F.

"SEPTEMBER 1939 saw demonstrations of renewed loyalty to the Crown on the part of the princes of India. Those units of the Indian States Forces which were earmarked for service outside the States were at once offered by the rulers, and the job of mobilising them began," said Maj.-General C. O. Harvey, Military Adviser-in-Chief, Indian States Forces, in a broadcast from All India Radio, on November 2, surveying the part played by troops of Indian States in this war.

Maj.-Gen. Harvey added: Soon the first troops went overseas headed by the Bikaner Camel Corps. The 1st Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Battery followed very quickly and had the honour of being the first I.S.F. unit to go into action. This battery was in action at Keren and later in Syria, and made a great name for itself.

By 1942, 17 infantry battalions and two sapper and miner field companies were also overseas, while in British India there were five cavalry regiments in the process of being mechanised and many other units of all arms under training or guarding lines of communication installations.

In addition, States had raised units which were taken over lock, stock and barrel by the Indian Army.

Units from the Punjab, Central India and Rajputana circles were serving in the Middle East, Eritrea and Somaliland while units from Hyderabad, Mysore, Bahawalpur, Jind and Kapurthala were in Malaya. The latter unfortunately were all captured, but these States have been quick to form new battalions in their places.

When the Jap threat to India became apparent, units were rushed to the frontiers of Assam. Among the first to reach there were the 1st Patiala Infantry under the command of Col. Balwant Singh. They arrived in time to



Lt.-Gen. H.H. Sir Hari Singh, Maharaja of Kashmir, talking to men of the 1st Punjab Regiment during his visit to Indian Divisions serving in Italy.

hold the frontier while the Burma Army passed through, amongst whom were the Malerkotla Field Company of Sappers and Miners, who had fought all the way from the Sittang River.

The Patialas stayed there until the Japs were finally driven from Assam this summer. Their speciality is patrolling, and many an unwary Jap has been slain by men of this magnificent Sikh battalion.

To the south of Assam lies Tripura, a State on the very borders of India. From here the Tripura Rifles went to keep the enemy from their homes. Organised mainly for patrol work, they fought magnificently in 1943 and again this year, and they have many dead Japs to their credit.

In the Thick of the Fight

In the Arakan, the Bikaner Bijay Mountain Battery, only recently organised from camels on to a mule pack basis, made a name for itself and later in the fighting round Imphal, whither it was moved by air, it has done its share in kicking out the Japs.

Here, too, the Hyderabad Field Battery has been in action for the first time. Sapper and miner field companies from Malerkotla, Sirmoor, Faridkot, Tehri Garhwal, and a Bridging Section from Suket, have also been in the thick of the fight against the Jap.

I have recently made a tour of the I.S.F. units in Italy, Middle East, and Paiforce. I have found them all in good heart and longing to get a chance at the Hun. I saw the Jodhpur Infantry who took part in the landings at Salerno and did very gallant work on the beaches. I saw two battalions from Jaipur, one of whom, together with a magnificent battalion from Nabha, has recently gone into battle in Italy; already very good reports are coming about them both.

I saw battalions from Bhopal, Mewar, Gwalior, Alwar and Rampur, all of whom have been overseas for a long time and have done very good work in keeping our lines of communication clear. In Persia and Iraq are units from Hyderabad, Indore, Bikaner, Jodhpur, Travancore, Kashmir and Kotah, who are being used to keep open the supply roads to Russia.



The Ruler of Bahawalpur State chatting with a patient in an Indian Military Hospital in Rome when he visited his Regiment, the Central India Horse, in Italy.

GALLANT SERVICE ON MANY FRONTS

Units of Indian States Forces are doing splendid work in the Mediterranean and Burma theatres of war as well as on the North-West Frontier of India. Both in actual fighting and in the dull but important work of guarding lines of communication and garrisoning towns, they have proved their worth.

Some 50 Indian States have their own forces and Major-General C. O. Harvey is their Military Adviser-in-Chief. Every one of these States answered the call in September 1939. They supplied units of all arms for service under the Crown. Most of them are infantry units, but there are also armoured corps, artilley, sapper and miner, signals and transport units.

With the 14th Army in their chase of the Japs into Burma are the 1st Patiala (Rajendra Sikh) Infantry, Tripura Rifles, Hyderabad and Bikaner Batteries and units from other States. They are eager to revenge the capture in Malaya of battalions from Mysore, Hyderabad, Kapurthala, Jind and Bahawalpur.

Using the Chindwin almost as their "boat-club", the 1st Patiala Infantry, commanded by Col. Balwant Singh, conducted daring fighting patrols deep into enemy-occupied country. On several occasions they routed the Japs in large scale encounters. Recently when they passed through Delhi on their well earned leave, there fluttered from the hand rails of their carriages 15 Jap flags captured by them.

Laying ambushes and patrolling during two campaigns in the Kaladan Valley, the Tripura Rifles accounted for 210 of the enemy in about 40 days. Their own losses during this period were only three killed and six injured. In one action L/Nk. Danbahadur Thapa and his party ambushed at point-blank range a Jap force of 50 shock troops and 100 heavily laden troops, killing 50 of them. The rest fled in disorder.

Moved by air together with the 5th Indian Division from Arakan to Imphal, the Bikaner Bijey Mountain Battery, commanded by Major

Kishen Singh, took part in the offensive-defence of Imphal. The Hyderabad Field Battery have also been in action on this front. The Jaipur Pony Company, Sapper and Miner Companies of Faridkot, Malerkotla and Tehri-Garhwal and the Suket Bridging Section are all helping in the rout of the Japs. Battalions from Baroda, Gwalior and Bhopal are doing garrison duty in this area.

Many units of Indian States Forces took part in the victorious campaigns of the Middle East. The first State unit to go overseas was the Bikaner Ganga Rasala—the famous camel corps. They did good work at Aden and in Iraq.

The Jodhpur Sardar Infantry was one of the first units to invade Europe and the gallant and efficient work of its men in taking munitions and supplies, under heavy enemy fire, to troops who were fighting to secure the Salerno beachheads was recognised in recently announced awards. Major Kunwar Ram Singh earned the D.S.O., Jem. Ganga Ram the M.B.E., Capt. Dungath Singh the M.C. and Hav. Bhuera, L|Nk. Kishor Singh and Nk. Shetan Singh, the M.M.

In the Middle East

Units from Jaipur, Nabha, Gwalior, Alwar, Mewar, Rampur and Bhopal are engaged in important duties in the Middle East. The 1st Jammu and Kashmir Mountain Battery was at Keren and took part in the Syrian campaign. It is now back in India, incorporated in the Indian Army as the 30th Jammu Mountain Battery.

Hyderabad, Indore, Jodhpur, Bikaner, Kotah, Travancore and Kashmir units are in the Palforce area.

There are in the Indian Army many units raised and reinforced by the Indian States. They comprise two field companies of sappers and miners, a garrison battalion, 18 garrison companies, eleven G.P.T. (M.T.) Companies, one mule company and two auxiliary pioneer companies. All these are doing excellent work.

Smaller States play their part by providing demonstration platoons or companies for Army schools in India. Nearly all units serving under the Crown have been officered under a scheme whereby State officers have been given emergency commissions superimposed on their State commissions. Inside the States reinforcements are being trained for the units which are serving elsewhere.

WHAT IS WAR SERVICE?

A Press Communique issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on November 14 stated:

An announcement was made in the Home Department Press Communique of July 14, 1942, as to what would be reckoned as "War Service" for purposes of recruitment to vacancies in the Civil Services which were being reserved to be filled after the war by suitable candidates with war service. It has since been found necessary to amplify the definition then given.

Revised Definition

The following revised definition, which will apply in the case of recruitment made in India to Secretary of State's and Central Services, is accordingly published for general information:

(a) Service of any kind in a unit or formation liable for service overseas or in any operational area:

(b) Service in India under military, munitions or stores authorities with a liability to serve overseas or in any operational area;

(c) All other service involving subjection to naval, military or air force law;

(d) A period of training with a military unit or formation involving liability to serve overseas or in any operational area;

(e) Service in any civil defence organisation specified in this behalf by the Central or the Provincial Government,

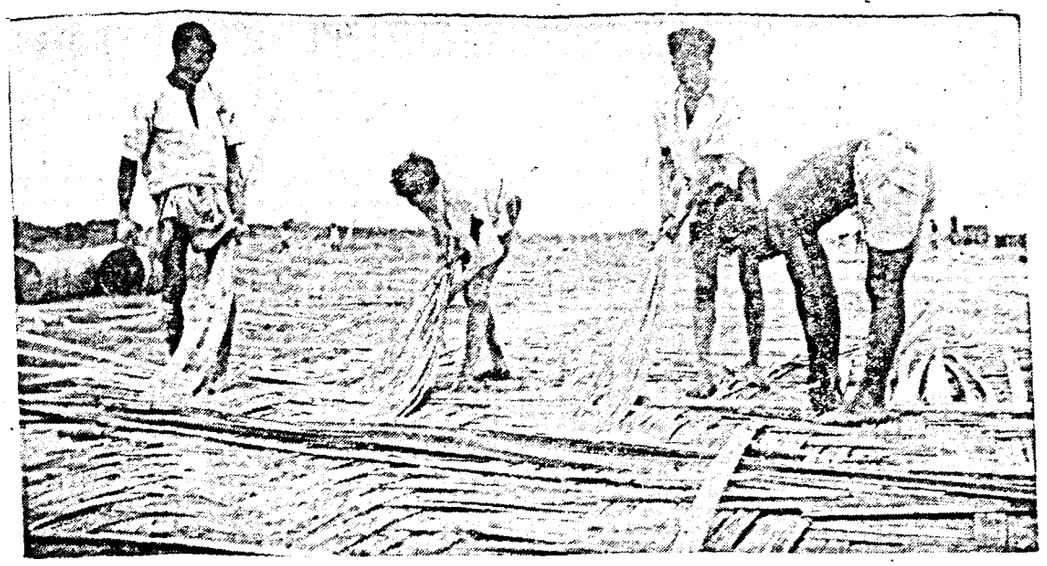
(f) (i) Any service connected with the prosecution of the war which a person is required to undertake by a competent authority under the provisions of any law for the time being in force; and

(ii) Such other service as may hereafter be declared as war service for the purpose of this definition.

Only *whole time* service of any of the kinds specified above will be recognised as war service.

HAJ PILGRIMAGE

As a result of representation made by the Commonwealth Relations Department of the Government of India, transport to Medina was arranged for the first batch of the Haj pilgrims. Similar arrangements are expected to be made for the second batch of pilgrims.



Much abused when growing in jungle, the bamboo has a thousand uses. It makes the foundation for parking of vehicles and aircraft during the monsoon in Assam.

HOW MONSOON AERODROMES ARE BUILT

WORKING with unskilled labour and without modern equipment, which could not be used because it was too heavy for the roads, Indian and British engineers, called in to build aerodromes in forward areas on the Burma front, have kept Allied 'planes flying. Their achievement ranks as one of the foremost of the Eastern War.

Working with forward army groups are experts from the Aerodrome Inspection Branch of the R.A.F. who site the new aerodromes. The branch includes British and Indian engineers.

The R.A.F. chooses the place where it wants a forward airfield. Army engineers consider the weather and geological aspects and data is collected from local tea planters, magistrates and district commissioners.

At one airfield now being built the site chosen was ideal provided there was no risk of flooding. Local inhabitants were consulted; they explained that the area became flooded only once in three years. The work was accordingly begun.

A British-American mission which toured the area considered it the most unsuitable in the world for airfield construction. But the engineers made rafts of 'bithess", a compound of hessian and bitumen, to provide a solid foundation for strips likely to be affected by



Aircraft Servicing goes on in an Assam airfield despite flooded bays and torrential rain.



An Assamese labourer. He helps to fill the rain-sodden patches on a monsoon airfield.

monsoon floods, on which the heaviest aircraft can now land.

American engineers have expressed the utmost admiration for the work.

Now, with modern equipment available, the engineers are following up the advancing troops even more speedily. The new construction machines will release thousands of labourers for other work and will open up new supply lines.

PASSAGES FOR FAMILIES FROM U.K.

A Press Communique issued by the Defence Department, Government of India, on October 18 stated:

Reports have recently appeared in the Press which give the impression that preference is being given to wives and families of Government officers in the matter of providing passages from the United Kingdom to India.

The Government of India wish to make it clear that this is wholly inaccurate. No discrimination has been or will be exercised between officials and non-officials and those members of the Defence Services whose wives and families are eligible for passages.

NEWSPAPER QUEST "FINDS" INDIAN WAR PRISONERS

INTO the offices of *Fauji Akhbar*, the Indian Army newspaper, there came recently a handful of snapshots of Indian prisoners of war in Germany.

There were no names to show who the men were. Only the red rubber stamp of the International Red Cross and the typewritten inscription, *France: Frontstalag* 315—*Epinal prisonniers de guerre Indiens,* accompanied the pictures.

So the editor of *Fauji Akhbar* had the snapshots made into enlargements and spread them boldly across his two centre pages. "Do You Know Them?" his headline appealed to his readers. "Help The Army In Identifying These Unknown Warriors."

From all parts of India letters began to come in from readers who recognised a face they knew. Records sections went to work; more letters went out and soon there were a few more families in India for whom months of anxiety were now ended.

Into the village of Khunda, in Mardan district, came a copy of the issue of *Fauji Akhbar* with the snapshots. It was picked up by the mother of Sepoy Ali Jan, who at once recognised her son in the corner of one of the pictures, wearing an overcoat and cap comforter. As the news spread round the village Ali Jan's relatives and friends came flocking to the house to look at the picture.

The prison camp at Epinal, where the amateur photographer took his snapshots, was in the path of the Allied forces advancing across France. It is thus possible that the men in the pictures are now free and may before long be re-united with the relatives and friends who are now writing in to identify their pictures.

LIBERATED FRENCH TERRITORY

Intimation has been received that British subjects in liberated French territory will henceforth be extended the same treatment in regard to food, social service, supplies, medical treatment, etc., as is given to French nationals.

The French authorities have also stated that they would welcome the appointment of British Liaison Officers who will be responsible for repatriation of their nationals and will also grant them every possible assistance in accomplishing their duties which will be similar to that of Consular Officers.



Do you know who they are? These Indian prisoners of war at a German prison camp in Epinal, France, have not been identified. If you recognise any of them, send full particulars to the Director of Public Relations, G.H.Q., New Delhi. (Below) Naik Raja Mohd. Zaman Khan (extreme left) has been recognised by his brother, Raja Ali Shan, a clerk in D.C.'s office, Rawalpindi. The rest have not yet been identified.





Men of a South Indian Labour Unit "tamping" down a road foundation (in the Arakan) constructed with sand and cement mixture

SOUTH INDIANS MAKE BRICKS OUT OF SAND

Sappers' Ingenuity

INGENIOUS sappers working on roads, runways, bridges and buildings at an Arakan base area bordering the Bay of Bengal are now making bricks out of the sands on the beach, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Here is the recipe: Take sand, mix with cement and water, put into moulds and tamp hard. Remove from the moulds, stack and cover with wet sacks to "cure" for a minimum of three days. The result is bricks useful for almost everything.

Levelled Surface

Men of a South Indian state labour unit, working in a miniature tarpaulin-roofed brick "factory", a stone's throw from the beach, are turning out 2,000 of these bricks a day. And the output is still going up.

A similar process—known as "stabilising"—is being used for the construction of roads and runways. The levelled surface is covered with a layer of sand-cement mixture which is tamped down hard by gangs of workers with wooden rammers. It takes ten days to "cure" after which a bitumen carpet is laid down over it and the result is a first class road.

Chief credit for this development goes to a newly appointed engineer, who had experience of the same process in the Sudan.

INDIANS' ARAKAN BRIDGE HUSTLE

Madrassi and Bengali sappers of an artisan works company, Indian Engineers, have been piecing together at high speed a new type of boat bridge which will span a 700-foot river on the Arakan line of communication.

The bridge was designed and built in India. It is a pre-fabricated production and all the parts were made in workshops in Calcutta.

If necessary, every inch of timber in the bridge could be carried by jeeps to the bridge site. A 700-foot bridge with 70 boats, weighing 385 tons, can be built by an artisan works company with its full complement of 300 men in 18 to 20 days and a boat can be built by one N.C.O. and ten men in three days.

The bridge was designed by Eastern Army experts, at a time when normal bridging materials were not available, specially to meet monsoon conditions. Similar bridges have already stood up to the severest tests in Assam.

If a monsoon flood carries the boats away they can be retrieved and reassembled and the bridge reopened with a minimum interruption of communications. This is an invaluable advantage in an area where rivers during the monsoon can rise as much as 15 feet in a day —the Chindwin sometimes rises 50 feet.

Commanding the artisan works company on the Arakan bridge site is 27-year-old Major G. G. Layton, of Finchley, London, who came to India to serve with the Indian Engineers in January, 1942. After experience in boats for the Middle East at Karachi, he was called in by the Eastern Army to assist in the fabrication of parts and organisation of supply for the new type of bridge.

The company he commands was raised in November 1942, and in 1943 was specially selected for training in this type of bridge construction. "Now," says Major Layton, "they could build this bridge anywhere at any time."

SERVICES VOTING REGISTRATION DRIVE

A two-week campaign to ensure that every entitled officer and other rank in the services in the India Command and South East Asia Command is given an opportunity to vote in the next British General Election by completing the appropriate services registration card is now under way.

The campaign has been instituted on instructions from the War Office. All service personnel are covered, including W.R.N.S., W.A.A.F.s and nursing services raised in the United Kingdom.

Service orders instruct all C.O.s of all types of units and establishments, including military hospitals, to arrange a suitable opportunity, such as the pay parade, for each entitled officer and other rank in the unit to be asked whether he or she has completed the form and to give facilities to those who have not completed it if they so wish.

Units are to report the number who have elected not to complete the form.

Only "members of the forces raised in the U.K. who are normally resident in the U.K." are at present entitled to be placed on the

(CONTINUED IN COL. 2)

RELEASE REGULATIONS FOR INDIAN ARMY

Three Types of Releases

THE Government of India have approved Release Regulations for the Indian Army and Women's Services, India. They are based on the same principles as the Release Regulations issued by the War Office and apply equally to all personnel, British or Indian, of the Indian Army and the Women's Services, India. They envisage three types of releases:

CLASS A: Personnel surplus to requirements who will be released in the priority of their ages and length of service.

CLASS B: Personnel urgently required for reconstruction work of national importance.

CLASS C: Compassionate cases.

No individual will be released against his or her will provided that he or she can be usefully employed.

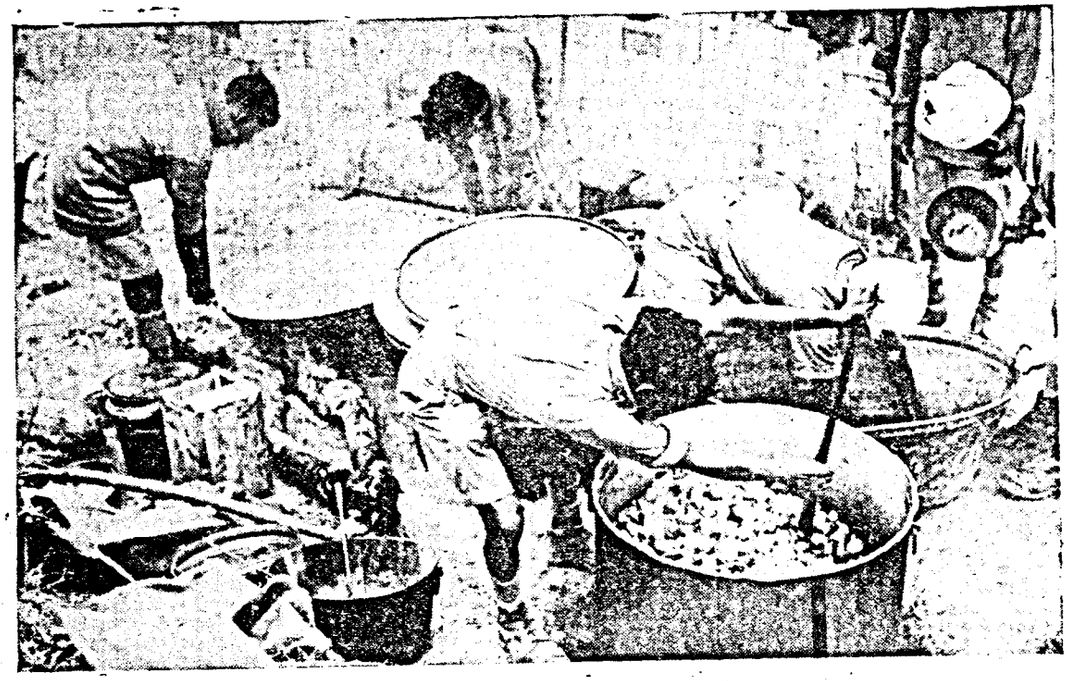
Similar Regulations for the Royal Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force are under consideration.

While approving this measure, the Government of India fully appreciate that there can be no reduction in India's fighting commitments until Japan is defeated. Until this has been achieved it is unlikely that there will be any personnel surplus to requirements. In consequence, every release except in compassionate cases will be subject to prior replacement by a trained substitute. This may result in delay in the release of individual men and women who wish to go, but the Government are confident that all ranks will understand the difficulties. For their own part, they are taking all possible steps to reduce such delay to a minimum.

(CONTINUED FROM COL. 1)

service register but the Secretary of State for India is pressing for the Act to be amended so that personnel normally resident in the U.K. at present serving in the Indian Army will be included.

"The cards serve one purpose only—to put you on the register of electors and to give you a vote at the election when it comes," explains *Contact*, the India Command services newspaper.



An open air kitchen on the Burma Front.

NEW FORMS OF DEHYDRATED MEAT FOR ARMY

WITH the great increase in the output of dehydrated meat for the army, new methods of cooking and treating meat are constantly being devised.

It has now been found that pre-cooking and mincing of meat preserve its qualities better than when the fresh meat is dehydrated without any intermediate cooking. This new form of dehydrated meat will soon be available for the Indian Army.

Special precautions have always been taken to ensure that the ritual of slaughter is strictly observed. In the case of *halal* meat, slaughtering is carried out under the direct supervision of a Mohammedan V.C.O. In the case of *jhatka* meat, the slaughtering is carried out by Hindu butchers under the supervision of Hindu V.C.O.s.

For the preparation of this meat new factories have been built, conforming to the most hygienic design to ensure absolute cleanliness. The meat is usually goat.

Although dehydration can be described as the withdrawal of water from meat the actual process must be carefully controlled. The meat is cut into thin slices which are dipped into salt solution to enhance the flavour and placed in a single layer on perforated metal trays. The trays are stacked in specially designed air dryers where they remain for about eight hours until each strip is perfectly dried.

The dried slices are packed into air-tight tins which are carefully marked on the outside to show that the meat is *jhatka* or *halal* as the case may be. In each tin is a certificate signed by the V.C.O. who has supervised the slaughter stating that the animal has been killed in accordance with the proper *jhatka* or *halal* procedure.

THREE MEALS A DAY FOR TROOPS

Indian troops in the India Command are to be encouraged to take three meals a day, instead of two as at present. The change is intended to make full use of the new basic ration scale, which will not have to be augmented to provide the extra meal.

Medical opinion in the Army strongly supports the change, which it is considered will build up the physique of the new recruit as well as the trained man.

Because of the conservatism of Indian troops, who have been in the habit of taking two meals a day for various reasons, chiefly economic, the new system is not to be introduced immediately but implemented gradually.

New Basic Ration

The quantity of food issued in the new basic ration is too much for two meals with the result that most units underdraw *dal*, thereby losing essential muscle-building food.

"The soldier has no time to digest a bulky meal between 10.30 and 17.00 hours," said an I.A.M.C. officer. "He has to be fed judiciously, in instalments, if the best value is to be obtained from the rations issued."

North-Western Army introduced this system in September, 1943, and it is now universally in use in that area. In the Southern Army and the Eastern Command troops in many cases are already getting three meals a day owing to the system of providing a small meal in the morning.

ARMY PLANS FOR EDUCATING THE SOLDIER

To fit the soldier to play his part in the post-war world education of troops in India, both Indian and British, has become a special concern of the Army.

An Indian Army Order announces a special grant for the year 1944-45 which provides for an anna a head for the education of all ranks in the India Command, the Ceylon Command and the 11th Army Group.

Maintenance of unit information rooms, engagement of lecturers, training in arts and crafts, provision of models and gadgets, purchase of books and visits to agricultural and industrial centres are some of the features of the scheme.

Wartime education has become an integral part of the training of British troops "and will be carried out during parade hours throughout the year", says the Order. One parade hour a week is spent on "winning the war" and another on "winning the peace". A manual on wartime education for troops has been issued, and courses to teach officers the possibilities of educational periods are held.

Specially selected officers who will undergo courses at the Army School of Education, Pachmari, will be the supervisors. Correspondence courses, vocational studies, general lectures, map reading, message writing, carrying of verbal messages, mathematics and mechanics are included in the curriculum.

ITALIANS' WAR WORK IN INDIA

'Italia Redenta' Battalion

Thousands of Italians who came to India as prisoners of war are now playing their part in the struggle against Japan.

When they came to the prisoner of war camps many of them were ardent anti-Fascists; others subsequently expressed their desire to work with the British. Once Italy was recognised as a co-belligerent it became possible to employ some of them, though work could not be found for all those who desired to help.

Gradually parties of Italian volunteers left the camps and were formed into units. The majority of them are still technically prisoners of war. They are now to be found working in third line workshops, shipyards, hospitals, messes, transport companies and on construction work throughout India. Everywhere they go the high standard of their work and their behaviour is apparent.

It is not generally known that even before the fall of Fascism in Italy many Italians who had expressed their willingness to aid the Allies were formed into a special Pioneer Corps named the "Italia Redenta" (Italy Redeemed) Battalion, comprising three workshop companies. Actually they were the first Italian unit to be attached to the Allied forces.

Circumstances do not permit of their return to Italy so they are doing what they can here in India. In a variety of jobs they are proving themselves both able and willing craftsmen.

LANCE-NAIK LINGUIST SINGS IN GREEK

Twenty-one-year-old Lance Naik Abdul Salim, of Trimulgherry, Secunderabad, who is serving in the R.I.A.S.C., with the Tenth Indian Division in Italy, has spent his leisure hours in learning languages.

He now speaks Urdu, Tamil, Telegu, Punjabi, Arabic, English, Greek and Italian. He wants to be an interpreter when the war is over.

I found Lance-Naik Salim entertaining his Madrassi comrades with Grecian songs in his tent beside a mountain stream, writes an Indian Army Observer. He told me of his Army service in Iraq, Iran, Cyprus, Egypt and Italy.

Of his language prowess he remarked: "Arabic is a special joy; it has enabled me to understand the Holy Koran much better than I did."



Members of the Defence Consultative Committee recently visited forward areas in Burma. Here, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Mohamed Sahban and Mr. A. N. Chattopadhyaya are talking to men of 33 Corps at Kohima.

DEFENCE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS VISIT THE 14TH ARMY H.Q.

MEMBERS of the Defence Consultative Committee recently completed a two-day visit to the 14th Army Headquarters.

The members were the Hon. Sirdar Sir Buta Singh, Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Mohamed Sahban, M.L.A., and Mr. Amarendra Nath Chattopadhyaya, M.L.A.

The party left Calcutta in a special plane and were met on arrival at the 14th Army H.Q. by senior army and air force officers. They chatted with Lt.-Gen. Sir W. J. Slim, the 14th Army Commander, and dined in the mess.

High spot of the tour was a visit to the penicillin research ward of an Indian General Hospital, where in a long bamboo hut, containing British, Indian, Burmese and African patients, the members saw medical history in the making. One Jat patient, Sepoy Sakhi Mohd., 9th Jat Regiment, has already been given 5,000,000 units of penicillin, and treatment is still being continued.

At the Indian General Hospital, which during the Jap advance on Imphal dealt with 400 cases a day, the party talked with many of the patients, including one thin but smiling Gurkha—Dumbar Bahadur Rai, 5th Royal Gurkha Rifles, who had arrived a few weeks



Khan Bahadur Mian Ghulam Kadir Mohamed Sahban (left), Mr. A. N. Chattopadhyaya (second from left) and Sirdar Sir Buta Singh talking to Major-Gen. Gracey, Commander, 20th Indian Division.

before, more dead than alive, suffering from acute malnutrition, typhus and malaria, contracted during his two years and nine months in the hands of the Japs.

MODERN HOSPITAL AT KOHIMA FOR NAGAS

Sir Andrew Clow's Address to Assam Legislature

THE announcement that a suitable modern hospital at Kohima is to be constructed to commemorate in a special way the Governor-General-in-Council's appreciation of the staunchness of the Nagas and the assistance they gave to the Army, was made by H.E. Sir Andrew Clow, Governor of Assam, addressing the Assam Legislative Assembly on November 16.

In paying a tribute to the soldiers, Sir Andrew Clow said:

We should not forget the people of the invaded area. You know something of how the Nagas in particular acted when their lands were overrun, of the valuable services they gave to the Army, of their staunchness in the face of violence and threats and the blandishments of those traitors who accompanied the Japanese, of their tenderness to our own wounded, of the courage with which they faced loss of their homes and substance. When the full story can be written, it will be a great chapter in our history. They have deserved well of the province and of India and you will be glad to know that the Government of India have generously undertaken the financial burden of the relief of the sufferers and the rehabilitation of the devastated areas.

With this generous backing the task is already in progress. All who need it are being supplied with food and other needs such as building materials, livestock, agricultural implements and household utensils are being distributed as widely and as rapidly as is possible in an area like this when transport is not easy and where the urgent needs of our armies must clearly be carried along the same lines of communication.

Recognition of Heroism

In addition to providing the means of relief the Governor-General-in-Council has decided to commemorate in a special way his appreciation of the staunchness of the Nagas and the assistance they gave to the Army. I am authorised to announce that it is intended to construct a suitable modern hospital at Kohima with which will be provided suitable itinerant medical facilities for the interior of the area.

This centre will serve as an abiding recognition of the heroism that was displayed and will at the same time, in place of the ravages of war, spread the blessing of healing throughout that part of Assam which faced the invasion. I know that I am speaking for all here when I express my appreciation of this generous and valuable gift. Construction will be deferred until more normal conditions are established; in the meantime the military authorities have kindly made available facilities for medical work in this area.

Since you last met here, we have passed through great and decisive events. Abroad these few months have seen immense campaigns. Allied armies have liberated practically the whole of France and Belgium and most of the Balkan countries, they are looking down on the plains of Northern Italy, they stand both in the East and in the West within the frontiers of Germany herself. In the Eastern theatre of war the perimeter of Japanese aggression has been constantly contracting and Japan can now see the menace of Allied power close to her homeland.

But on our own front Japan advanced and, for the first time since the invaders from Burma were driven out about 120 years ago, Assam had to face an enemy within her frontier. In the middle of March, the Japanese army struck at our forces along a front of nearly 300 miles and in a few weeks they had isolated our force in the Chin Hills, had cut off Manipur from the rest of India, had penetrated a considerable part of the Naga Hills, had surrounded and almost captured Kohima and were threatening to break through to the vital lines of communication in the Assam Valley. The early days of April were critical ones, but with the relief of Kohima it became clear that the tide had been turned and the campaign in India, after a great deal of hard fighting, ended in the most costly defeat that, as yet, Japan has ever sustained on land.

All of you know how gallantly the troops of the 14th Army and the men of the Air Force fought, and it is a matter of deep pride that none did better than the men of our own regiment, then in battle for the first time. I believe that the delaying action which they fought at Jessami and Kherasom saved Kohima, and the gallantry of the defenders of Kohima, in which they and some of the Assam Rifles were included, was a big factor in the failure of the Japanese operations. We feel a deep sense of gratitude to those who defended the province and India. A number of them will never return, and we should not forget the sacrifices which were the means of sparing us and the millions in India from the terrible ordeal of invasion.

POSITION OF INDIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Dr. N. B. Khare Attacks Union Government Policy

MOVING "that the position of Indians in South Africa and East Africa be taken into consideration," in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 6, the Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Member for Commonwealth Relations, Government of India, strongly protested against the Union Government's Pegging Legislation and other anti-Indian measures which he said "will seal the fate of our countrymen for generations to come." He attacked the policy of the Union Government, declaring, "We are determined not to submit to this racial arrogance, and weak as we are and limited as our powers are, we shall resort to all such overt acts as are open to us to give shape to our determination . . . .

"The Union of South Africa may laugh in their sleeves because our counter-measures may misfire or fall flat, as they may. But our determination and action to resist this insult to our honour will not rest and end here. Hatred and arrogance can only beget counter-hatred and counter-arrogance."

Here is the full text of Dr. Khare's speech:

This motion relates to both the cases—South and East Africa. With your permission and indulgence of the House, I would like first to deal with the position in East Africa although I realise that the House is at the moment more exercised over the position in South Africa. I am doing so because in connection with the resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. P. N. Sapru and accepted by Government at the last session of the Council of State a detailed discussion took place on the position created by the East African Government's temporary restrictions on the immigration of Indians. I do not repeat here the history of these immigration regulations up to the last session of the Council of State. If any of the Hon'ble Members desire further information on any matter of detail I will be only too glad to furnish it later on.

Regulations in East Africa

In February and March of this year certain regulations were sprung upon us more or less as a surprise by the Colonial Governments of Tanganyika, Kenya and Uganda. The regulations disallowed the entry of non-natives into these Colonies without a permit from their Government. They are to apply without any discrimination to all non-native immigrants and are a purely temporary wartime measure. Normal residents in the Colonies are, however, exempted from



Dr. N. B. Khare.

the scope of the regulations provided they have not been absent from the Colonies for more than two years from the date of the enforcement of these regulations.

When first received these regulations appeared to be of a comparatively innocuous character. They appeared to be only an extension of the restrictions on the issue of passports which had been introduced in December 1942 without any popular objection for keeping down the floating population of the colonies as a wartime measure. We had no reason to presume that the measure contemplated interference with the free movement of Indians who are normal residents or have vested interests in those Colonies.

Soon after the introduction of the regulations, protests however poured in from East African Indians as well as Indian organisations interested in East Africa. We have made repeated representations to the Colonial Governments and brought to their notice the facts and considerations urged in the various representations received from Indian leaders and also disclosed in the course of the

debate in the Council of State. The present position arising out of the representations that have met with some response so far is as follows:

(a) The Colonial Governments have agreed that entry permits will be granted to all bona fide residents of the Colonies even though they may have been absent from the Colonies for more than two years from the date of the enforcement of the Regulations.

(b) The Secretary of State for Colonies after consultation with the three Colonial Governments has now given us the assurance—through the Secretary of State for India—that the Regulations in question in all the three Colonies are purely for meeting wartime conditions and are not intended to be permanent.

We realise that the public apprehension that these Regulations are a prelude to a further attempt to the permanent exclusion of Indians from the Colonies is understandable. This aspect of the matter has a historical background. The Regulations were also sprung as a surprise on the Indian community and the Government of India was much hustled in the matter. For the present, however, there is no reason to question the genuineness of the assurance that has been given to us that the Regulations will not be made permanent. I can only assure the House that Government shall keep a vigilant eye on all future developments and step in to take remedial measures as soon as there are indications that the Regulations are being prolonged unduly.

Normal Residents

We have also taken up with the Colonial Governments any hard cases in which permits have been refused and I am glad to say that we have been successful in securing permits in certain recent cases.

I should, however, inform the House that in any case we are not resting content with the assurance received so far. We have urged upon the Colonial Governments that there are no valid reasons why normal residents of the Colonies should even have to submit to the necessity of obtaining permits for returning to their homes or for looking after their interests in the Colonies.

We have also forwarded to the Secretary of State for India copies of the debates in the Council of State and have urged most strongly that the following action must now be taken by the three Colonial Governments:

(a) All normal residents (including their families and dependents) in the colonies as well as Indians possessing vested interests in the Colonies should be immediately exempted from the operation of the Regulations irrespective of their periods of absence from the Colonies.

(b) Such new personnel as has to emigrate to the Colonies to replace or reinforce the business staff of the Indians should be immediately exempted from the operation of the Regulations.

(c) Even as regards other entirely new entrants the Regulations should be withdrawn as soon as possible.

In any case the Regulations should not be renewed after the expiry of their present term.

We have urged the Secretary of State for India to take our representations with the Secretary of State for the Colonies and move the Governments of the three Colonies to reconsider the whole matter and take immediately the action proposed by us.

Ban on Normal Residents

As the number of new immigrants has been automatically reduced by wartime conditions particularly by shipping difficulties, we have concentrated on having the ban on the movements of the normal residents removed. We expect that all normal residents, irrespective of their period of absence from their colonial homes, should be able to obtain permits for return automatically. Government will be grateful if any cases where difficulties are experienced are brought to our notice.

We are awaiting a further reply from His Majesty's Government and I can assure the House that the matter will continue to receive our closest and most vigilant attention. The Regulations have been enacted for one year for the present and that period is due to expire within the next three or four months. The Government of India would make every possible effort to prevent the extension of these Regulations. We are much handicapped by the lack of an agent in these Colonies and I shall be grateful if gentlemen like my Hon'ble friend Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee and his colleagues always keep us informed of any developments regarding which they may have any information.

I hope, Sir, that the House will be satisfied that we have done all we could and that we are not likely to relax the pressure that we have continued to exert on the Colonial Governments.

An amendment has been moved asking us to apply the Reciprocity Act to East Africa as well by my Hon'ble friend Mr. Hooseinbhoy Lalljee, who is, if I may say so, an expert on these matters, I want to state here, Sir, that we have achieved something so far through negotiations and we are hoping for some good results through the correspondence which we have begun through His Majesty's Government. It is not, therefore, very proper to apply any Reciprocity Act to East Africa at this stage. I would, however, assure the House that I will not shirk or flinch for a single moment if that necessity unfortunately arises.

Sir, now I will come to the position in South Africa which is exercising our minds for the last sixteen months or more since I have taken up this office. The House will recall that in February this year when my Hon'ble friend Dr. Deshmukh tabled an adjournment motion to discuss the Indian question in South Africa I told the House that nothing would be lost and something might be gained by postponing further discussion of the matter on that occasion. I hope the House will accept my assurance that when I made that statement I had good reasons to hope that the Union Government were making genuine efforts for a settlement of the question which might be acceptable to us.

The Broome Commission

In March, the Union Government appointed a Judicial Commission which had been foreshadowed in the speech of Mr. Lawrence, Minister of the Interior, introducing the Pegging Bill. Mr. Justice Broome was appointed Chairman and two leading Indians were appointed as members of the Commission. The terms of reference to the Commission were:

> To enquire into and report upon matters affecting the Indian community of the province of Natal, with special reference to housing and health needs, civic amenities, civic status and provision of adequate residential, educational, religious and recreational facilities, and to make recommendations generally as to what steps are necessary further to implement the uplift clauses of the Cape Town Agreement of 1927, and as to all matters affecting the well-being and advancement of the permanent population of Natal.

The local Indian community was on the whole inclined to give this Commission a chance. About this time we also had information that Field Marshal Smuts was going to receive a representative deputation of the Natal Indian Congress. We did not wish to impede the course of these negotiations. We have always been opposed to any statutory measure of segregation of Indians but, in view of the longstanding and deep-seated racial friction prevailing in the country, we did not desire to stand in the way of a compromise being worked out which the local Indian community might accept voluntarily.

I had, however, noted the intense feeling on the subject which the House had given expression to. Soon after the House dispersed in the first week of April, we therefore made it perfectly clear to the Union Government that Indian opinion would not be satisfied except by concrete action and unless the discussions, which had been initiated between the Union Government and the representatives of the Indian community, resulted, within a reasonable time, in some solution acceptable to us, we would be compelled to take counter-measures.

The House will recall that a public announcement was made by the Union Government on April 19 that an agreement had been reached by them with the representatives of the Natal Indian Congress. The announcement was to the following effect:

> "Discussions took place as the result of representations made by Indian Congress to find an alternative method of controlling occupation of dwellings in towns and boroughs in Natal to that adopted under the Pegging Act. It was agreed that the situation would best be met by the introduction of an ordinance in the Natal Provincial Council. This ordinance would provide for the creation of a board consisting of two Europeans and two Indians under the chairmanship of a third European, who would be a man with legal training. The object of the legislation would be to create a machinery for a board to control occupation by licensing of dwellings in certain areas and application of Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by Proclamation on passing of this ordinance."

This agreement was reached on April 18 and has been known as the Pretoria Agreement. On April 19 His Excellency the Viceroy also received a message from Field Marshal Smuts which, we thought, clinched the agreement. This message has already been published in the Press, but I may perhaps reproduce it in the House. It runs thus:

> "At a meeting on April 18 between Prime Minister and Minister for Interior and representative of Natal Indian Congress it was unanimously agreed that legislation be immediately introduced in Natal Provincial Council to provide for a joint board of five consisting of two Europeans and two Indians, with a European chairman, whose functions it will be to license the occupation of dwelling in area within borough and town in Natal. On passing of ordinance the application of the Pegging Act in Durban will be withdrawn by proclamation. This agreement provides a fair solution of trouble which has arisen in connection with the Pegging Act and will, I trust, be as welcome to Your Excellency as it has been to me."

According to the terms of this agreement, the Licensing Board of mixed composition was to control residential occupation in areas when the question of racial proximity arose. Apart from this control and regulation of future juxtapositional residential occupation of Europeans and Indians there were to be no further restrictions on Indian interests in land. All restrictions other than this contained in the Pegging Act were thus to be withdrawn. In particular it was made clear that there was to be no restriction on the right of Indians to acquire properties of any kind in the country.

The agreement had the approval of an overwhelming majority of the working committee of the Natal Indian Congress. Only 14 communist members out of a body of 81 dissociated themselves from the agreement. On the whole, opinion in India also favoured giving the agreed compromise a chance to work. Our immediate demand was that an alternative solution acceptable to both sides should be found early and that unless this was done the Pegging legislation should be repealed, or, if that would take time, the areas affected by it should be de-proclaimed.

An Ideal Solution

We felt that the agreement went far to meet this demand. We did not regard the solution embodied in the agreement as ideal, but as it was accepted by a majority of the local Indians and as, for the first time, the Union Government also accepted the principle of dealing with such matters by voluntary agreement in preference to statutory compulsion, we acquiesced in the agreement and decided to give it a chance.

By the end of April, however, reactionary European elements in Natal began to organise opposition to the agreement. We immediately took steps to draw the attention of the Union Government to the attempts made in this connection to go back on the Pretoria agreement. About the middle of May, the prospects of legislative implementation of the agreement appeared to be more hopeful. Information, however, reached us that the legislation was not likely to be introduced before August and we conveyed to the Union Government our uneasiness at this delay. The European agitation did not abate, but went on hardening progressively. The demand of the Europeans was that the provision for the control of acquisition of property which exists in the Pegging Act should also be incorporated in the Ordinance.

In the first week of June we, therefore, again conveyed strong representations to the Union Government. A definite improvement followed soon after. The Occupation Control Ordinance, the draft of which was approved by the Natal Indian Congress, was published in the official gazette and was put down for consideration before a special session of the Provincial Council on June 19. We had also a further reassuring message from the Union Government that the passage of the Ordinance would be expedited.

On June 19 the Ordinance was, however, only referred to a Select Committee after the first reading. This was a definite setback to our hopes and we did not fail to urge on the Union Government our demand for expediting the legislation without any radical alterations.

Field Marshal Smuts had left for London on April 21. In order to leave Field Marshal Smuts free to deal with the European opposition we decided not to hustle the Union Government. The hopes we entertained about Field Marshal Smuts' using his personal influence did not, however, materialise. He returned to South Africa on July 1 from the Prime Ministers' conference and visited Durban in the last week of July. It soon became clear that he was not prepared to deliver the goods, presumably with a view to avoiding a split in his ministerial party over the Ordinance.

About September 1 we therefore addressed further representations and made it clear that we would not brook further delay. We were then given an assurance that the draft Ordinance would be taken up for consideration on October 17. Having waited so long, we decided to wait a few weeks more.

On October 17, the Select Committee's report, which was unanimous, was presented to the Provincial Council and the House is aware of the developments that have occurred since then. The draft Ordinance as amended by the Select Committee contained radical alterations and contravened the Pretoria Agreement in several important respects. Let me explain the general position in plain language.

A Definite Departure

Under the Pegging Act occupation and acquisition of "any land or premises" could be allowed only on a permit issued by the (Union) Minister of the Interior. Under the Pretoria Agreement and the original Natal Occupation Ordinance, which was drafted in conformity with its terms, only occupation of any dwelling for residential purposes required a licence to be granted by the licensing board (Occupation Control Board) of mixed composition. All other restrictions on occupation and all restrictions on acquisition contained in the Pegging Act were to be withdrawn. Under the amended Ordinance occupation and acquisition of residential properties can be allowed only on a licence issued by the licensing board. The provision for the control of acquisition of residential property is thus a definite departure from the Pretoria Agreement and the original draft Ordinance.

The Licensing Board's control (of occupation and acquisition of residential property) is to be extended immediately to boroughs and townships throughout the province. Under the Agreement and the original Ordinance this control was to be extended to local bodies other than the Durban borough only on the recommendation of the provincial licensing board.

Under the Agreement and the original Ordinance, in granting licences for occupation, the licensing board had to make allowance for, *inter alia*, natural residential expansion of either racial group into contiguous streets, roads or localities. This is omitted from the amended Ordinance under which licensing boards will have to take into account the views of local bodies and any scheme of town planning adopted or contemplated by them. This provision is obviously designed for facilitating the carrying out of plans of racial zoning. The amended Ordinance thus departs from the Agreement and the original Ordinance in these respects also.

An "Amazing Statement"

It is true that the amended Ordinance provides for agreement being reached by the majority of ratepayers of the two racial groups regarding occupation and acquisition of residential and other properties by each group. The licensing boards will not exercise any control over occupation of residential properties in areas regarding which such agreement is reached. A majority of European ratepayers is not, however, likely to be a party to an agreement which does not make for the largest measure of segregation of the Indian population. A majority of Indians is also unlikely to be a party to such agreement. In practice, therefore, such agreement is not likely to be reached in most places. The net result would thus be that the jurisdiction of licensing boards will extend to most, if not all, boroughs and townships.

In the face of these radical alterations the Union Government have made the amazing statement that the amended Ordinance does not go back on the spirit of the Pretoria Agreement. Although not surrendering their inherent right, the Indians agreed, in deference to the thoroughly unreasonable sentiment of the European community, to the regulation of occupation of property for residential purposes in urban areas where the question arises of Indians living in close proximity to Europeans.

A Violation of Pretoria Agreement

I should state for the information of the House that on the eve of the Agreement in April the Natal Indian Congress presented to Field Marshal Smuts a memorandum setting out their demands. In response to a request made by the Congress for exchange of letters embodying the terms of the Pretoria Agreement this memorandum, read with the Union Government's public statement of April 18, which I have already quoted, was confirmed as the Pretoria Agreement in a message sent by Senator Clarkson, Minister of the Interior, to Senator Shepstone. Field Marshal Smuts' telegram of April 18 to H. E. the Viceroy also referred to control of only *occupation* as the object of the Agreement. The original draft Ordinance which had the concurrence of Indian representatives and was published in the Provincial Gazette on June 2, also provided for the regulation and licensing of *occupation* only.

The new provisions regarding control are also to be extended immediately to boroughs and townships throughout the Natal Province except a few to be excluded by administrative action. The House will thus see that the control of acquisition and some of the other provisions obviously involve a violation of the Pretoria Agreement.

We also understand that the amended Ordinance is to be one of a number of measures for a comprehensive long-term programme of town extension and racial zoning. A new provision is being made by a housing board ordinance under which the housing board to be set up should have the right of pre-empting properties offered for sale to Indians in European quarters. From the new measures it also appears that the Union Government are now willing to await the results of the labour of the Broome Commission which has been still investigating this very problem of better housing facilities for Indians.

INDIA RETALIATES: RECIPROCITY ACT ENFORCED

A Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on November 4 stated:

"The Government of India have imposed the same disabilities on South Africans of non-Indian origin as Indians suffer from in the Union of South Africa. These have been imposed by notifications published in a Gazette Extraordinary to-day. For the present the disabilities relate to entry, residence, trade, acquisition, holding and disposal of property and local franchise.

"The action has been taken under Section 3 of the Reciprocity Act which was passed by the Indian Legislature in 1943, but the application of which was held in abeyance pending the result of the Government of India's efforts to obtain a satisfactory solution of the problem created by the Pegging Act.

"Disabilities in respect of acquisition, holding and disposal of property have been imposed on South Africans domiciled in the Provinces of Natal and Transvaal where similar disabilities exist against Indians. Disability in respect of local franchise exists in all provinces of South Africa except Cape Province. Therefore the disability will not apply to South Africans domiciled in Cape Province."

A Retrograde Measure

Field Marshal Smuts may have his political difficulties, but we have always understood that the Union Government's concurrence in the Pretoria Agreement connoted, as a necessary corollary, their guarantee to ensure the enactment of implementing legislation. Had they the will to honour their pledge, it would have been quite open to the Union Government to have the necessary legislation enacted by the Union Parliament. I should tell the House that we have not failed to urge upon the Union Government this alternative also. They have, however, disregarded our representations in this respect.

The Pegging legislation, though applicable to the whole province, has been actually enforced only in the borough of Durban so far. Being temporary we had some hope that segregation would not be made a live issue in the rest of the province. The control of occupation which the Pretoria Agreement and the first draft of the Ordinance provided for was also to be actually applied only to the borough of Durban, though it was applicable formally to other parts of the province. The revised Ordinance is, however, to be brought into force, and the full apparatus of licensing board to be set up *ab initio* in the entire province. The right of unfettered acquisition which was to be restored by the Agreement is now thrown overboard. The new measure is therefore more far-reaching and retrograde in several respects than the Pegging Act.

Plan for Wholesale Segregation

Far from using their influence to provide an alternative solution of the limited racial problem in the borough of Durban, the Union Government have now gone back on the Pretoria Agreement and presented us with a scheme which only reveals a concerted plan for the wholesale segregation of Indians in the entire province of Natal. I should state for the information of the House that, apart from an Anti-Asiatic Clause in certain transfers of properties between Europeans, there were no restrictions in the Natal Province on the right of Indians to occupy and acquire land prior to the Pegging legislation of 1943.

The Durban borough has the largest concentration of Indian population. The only two other urban centres with any considerable concentration of Indian population are Pietermaritzburg and Ladysmith. Neither in the two latter centres nor in any other areas (except, of course, Durban borough) has an issue been made of the question of Indian penetration. The amended Ordinance has thus been sprung as a surprise on the Indian community.

The House is aware that the Indian community has rejected the amended Ordinance as entirely unacceptable to them in view of its contravention of the terms of the Agreement. The House is also aware that the third reading of the Bill was passed in the Natal Council on November 1. It is now due for presentation to the Governor General for his consent.

This is the history of the efforts we have been able to make since the last session of the House to secure the withdrawal of the Pegging legislation. I have made a detailed statement, to the boring of the House, to facilitate a proper appreciation of the position now reached. I hope the House will agree that I have maintained incessant vigilance over the interests of our ill-fated countrymen in this dominion and have done all we could with all the limitations and difficulties under which our Government have to work.

Racial Inferiority

The House is aware that the chronicle of the sufferings, hardships and, above all, the humiliation of our countrymen in South Africa is long and tragic. I gave a detailed account in the statement I made in the House on July 30, last year. I therefore felt that all possible resources of negotiation and compromise should be exhausted. While pursuing this course, we have, as already explained by me, made it perfectly clear to the Union Government that unless a satisfactory solution was evolved, we would have no alternative left to taking counter-measures. This latest attempt at racial segregation of Indians is but one of the many discriminatory measures which have been forged by the Union Government to keep fresh perpetually the brand of racial inferiority on our nationals in the country of their adoption. The House is aware that our nationals have been voteless in South Africa for many years.

Although these major grievances of Indians remain untouched, we decided to give the Pretoria Agreement our moral support and did our best to maintain an atmosphere favourable to its implementation. Our forbearance has been misunderstood and measures are now about to be placed on the Statute Book which, according to all the information we have made, will seal the fate of our countrymen for generations to come. Hon'ble

Members have no doubt read in the Press the impassioned appeal made to the Natal Provincial Council the other day in this connection by Mr. Kajee, the redoubtable leader of our oppressed nationals in South Africa.

The House will no doubt ask me—what shall we do now? I would like to put the same question to the House. I know the persistent demand from all sections of the House, and repeated throughout the length and breadth of India, is that we should retaliate. Let me tell the House at once that the Government of India as a whole, and in this I include all my Hon'ble colleagues and His Excellency the Viceroy, have been as amazed as the House and our countrymen at the Union Government's going back on an agreement into which they solemnly entered with the Indian community. The Government of India share in the fullest measure the indignation and resentment which this exhibition of racialism on the part of a fellow-member of the British Commonwealth has created in this country.

Sir, we all have our own views on the political status and future of our country as a member of the British Commonwealth, but so far as this attack on the honour and self-respect of our country and nation is concerned, I think I can say with confidence that there is absolutely no difference of opinion as regards what we all feel about it. With all the defects of our political status as a unit in the British Empire and with all our quarrels with His Majesty's Government in this connection, I believe that the overwhelming majority of our countrymen think that during this global war we should stand by the Commonwealth; or else we may be thrown out of the frying pan into the fire. (Mr. Gandhi also, Sir, has come down from his high pedestal, has suspended the civil disobedience movement and is now prepared to advise the Congress to offer the fullest co-operation with the Government.)

Racial Warfare

I believe it is this general instinct which has led the thinking elements of our countrymen to adopt a truce in our internal political warfare and not to do anything to impair the contribution which two million of our fighting men, who have been acclaimed throughout the Commonwealth as constituting the largest volunteer Army in the world—are making towards the emancipation of the civilised world from Fascist tyranny.

The Union of South Africa is also a constituent part of this Commonwealth. They have, however, thought fit to cast to the winds the interests of the civilised world and to wage to the bitter end a racial warfare against the nationals of a fellow member of the Commonwealth, many of whom have shed their blood in preventing the extension of the ravages and devastation of this war to their very country.

Sir, the United Nations are fighting this war against what they call the Hitlerite principle. It is an irony of fate to gauge the situation that the country which is supposed to be doing so is applying the same principles to our nationals although we have a common object. Sir, our patience is now completely exhausted and the whole nation is in a mood of desperation.

Retaliatory Measures

I may now inform the House that we have already told the Union Government in the plainest and most unequivocal terms, that the Government of India now hold themselves free to take such counter-measures as they can. Had our nationals been really accepted and treated as full citizens of the country of their adoption —towards the growth and prosperity of which they have made vast contributions—the attitude of the Union Government might have been intelligible. In view, however, of their latest exhibition of callousness the Government of India cannot possibly divest themselves of their moral responsibility for the welfare of their nationals in this ill-fated country. They, therefore, refuse to be a helpless spectator of the decision of the Union Government to relegate the large and progressive Indian population in Natal to a position of permanent inferiority.

On a former occasion I have told the House that the surgeon's knife will have to be applied if and when necessary. I may inform the House that we have therefore already issued a notification applying to the Union of South Africa the Reciprocity Act, passed by this House last year. This notification imposes on South African citizens of non-Indian origin the principal disabilities from which Indians suffer in South Africa. The imposition of a few other disabilities is under consideration and a decision will be taken immediately. So long the Government of India have only gone on holding out threats of counter-action and I am glad to be able to say that we have made at any rate a beginning in action.

I note, Sir, that two of the Hon'ble Members have also suggested the recall of the High Commissioner and enforcement of economic sanctions. I would want a little more time to take a decision on the question of the recall of the High Commissioner. I hope the House will accept my assurance that the presence of our High Commissioner in South Africa is of some advantage to our nationals there. I personally believe that his recall will be a great tactical blunder. Hon'ble Members will agree that a

decision on this matter requires the most careful consideration, but I have no intention of taking any unduly long time over it.

The Government of India have also been considering most actively the question of enforcing economic sanctions. This is a step the repercussions of which require the most careful consideration. The fact that I am not able to make an immediate announcement on this measure does not mean that I, or my colleagues, have approached it in any spirit of hesitancy or pusillanimity. A comprehensive and as up-to-date an examination as may be possible of the implications of the commercial relations between the two countries is essential and we would want a short time for it. Here, again, I can assure the House that I have no intention of delaying unduly our final decision. We are striving to reach a decision as soon as possible and our decision will be announced immediately after it is taken.

Counter Measures

None of us is in a position to forecast what the possible effects will be of the action that we have already taken and the measures which we have under active consideration. Some may criticise that the action taken is nothing else but milk bottle without sugar or the rubber nipple without the milk. Our counter-measures may or may not have any effect on a member of the Commonwealth whose racial arrogance has been raised to white heat even during the gravest crisis in the throes of which the Commonwealth is now involved.

After all is said and done, Sir, we cannot get away from the fact that politically and internationally our position is weak. The Union Government have some experience of what the weak and the oppressed can do for resisting injustice. Indians were practically cajoled into proceeding to South Africa, generations ago, for the exploitation and development of the country by the white settlers. The extent of their contribution towards the growth and prosperity of that country is well-known to the world; yet a fellow-member of the Commonwealth has thought fit to choose this moment to forge a plan of segregation of Indians which will, in the words of Mr. Kajee, "establish on generations yet unborn racial animosities and prejudices which are the seeds of conflict and war."

We must declare throughout the Commonwealth and the civilised world, in the plainest and most unequivocal terms, that we are determined not to submit to this racial arrogance, and weak as we are and limited as our powers are, we shall resort to all such overt acts as are open to us to give shape to our determination. The civilised world must know how those at the helm of the affairs of a country in the Commonwealth who are so loud in their professions about a beatific post-war world order are treating the nationals of a country whose relative contribution towards the world war is second to that of no other country fighting side by side with the United Nations.

Sir, if the professed war and peace aims are true and if really this war is being fought for the liberation of humanity from thraldom, it is inevitable that all the peoples of this world must get their sovereign equality and under these conditions any discrimination based on religion or colour or caste must disappear.

The Union of South Africa may laugh in their sleeves because our counter-measures may misfire or fall flat, as they may. But our determination and action to resist this insult to our honour will not rest and end here. Hatred and arrogance can only beget counter-hatred and counter-arrogance.

Sir, it has fallen to the lot of a medico, as my humble self is, to inoculate the body politic of India with the anti-toxin of retaliation. I hope it will generate sufficient resistance of the year to fight against all this racial arrogance and animosity wherever it may be.

The nationwide determination for retaliation will go on smouldering for years and through generations to come. Some day or other—and we are all hoping that it will be sooner than later—India will come into her own and be in a position to take more effective action against those who persist in assailing her national honour and self-respect. Our determination to resist such insults will certainly attain fruition then.

SIR SYED RAZA ALI: May I ask the Hon'ble Member whether the rules that the Government of India were to make under the amended Reciprocity Act have been publishd by them?

THE HON'BLE DR. N. B. KHARE: A notification has been issued by the Government of India in the Gazette Extraordinary but the rules have not yet been published.

MR. G. V. DESHMUKH: Have they been made on all the points?

DR. N. B. KHARE: On most of the points. Sir, these questions show how deep the feeling of resentment in this country is.

It was suggested in some quarters that one of the reasons why the British Government went to war against the Boers in South Africa in the early part of this century was for the bad treatment they were giving to Indians there and

therefore the British Government should now repudiate the Dominion Constitution conferred upon South Africa and appoint a Royal Commission to enquire into the maladministration and the injustices done by the South African Government against Indians, Africans and even against Europeans.

It is not for me to suggest measures to be taken by His Majesty's Government. They claim to be our trustees and I am bound to say that no trustee in the world can afford for any length of time to wait on with supreme indifference and supineness, while his ward is being insulted and assaulted for the very simple reason that in the very process of natural evolution, as time goes on, the ward is bound to attain the status of an independent entity himself.

AN ISSUE OF HONOUR, SAYS SIR SULTAN AHMED

Speaking in the Central Assembly on November 6 during the debate on the position of Indians in South Africa, the Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed (Leader of the House) said: Mr. Chairman, it was never my intention to intervene in this debate but a very admirable speech by Sir Frederick James, which contained three sentences, necessitated my getting up in my seat. One sentence which I think will be read with great concern by the people of the country was "India should appeal to the Union Government and the Provincial Government of Natal . . . ." Sir, he does not realise perhaps that this momentous issue is an issue of sentiment, honour and self-respect; I further go and say even of principle because four-fifths of His Majesty's subjects are Indians. After all that has happened in South Africa to which he himself made reference in his speech, he asks us to appeal to these Governments. I submit to the House that it is a most extraordinary request. I wish Sir Frederick James would ask His Majesty's Government and his own people in this country to appeal to their countrymen in South Africa to be reasonable, to be sensible and not ask us to appeal.

SIR F. E. JAMES (Madras—European): May I rise to a point of explanation? I think my Hon'ble friend, the Leader of the House, misunderstood the purport of my remarks. I certainly did not recommend that this House should appeal either to the Union Government or to His Majesty's Government. What I did say was that if any words of mine from this House could reach those quarters, may those quarters be reminded of the solemn pledges they had given in the past which were now being disregarded. I submit, Sir, that is quite different.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: Most certainly it is different. But I heard the word 'appeal.' (Several Hon'ble Members: Yes, he said appeal). Anyhow I would make a request to Sir Frederick James to call meetings of the European community in different centres in India and then appeal to his countrymen in South Africa to behave.

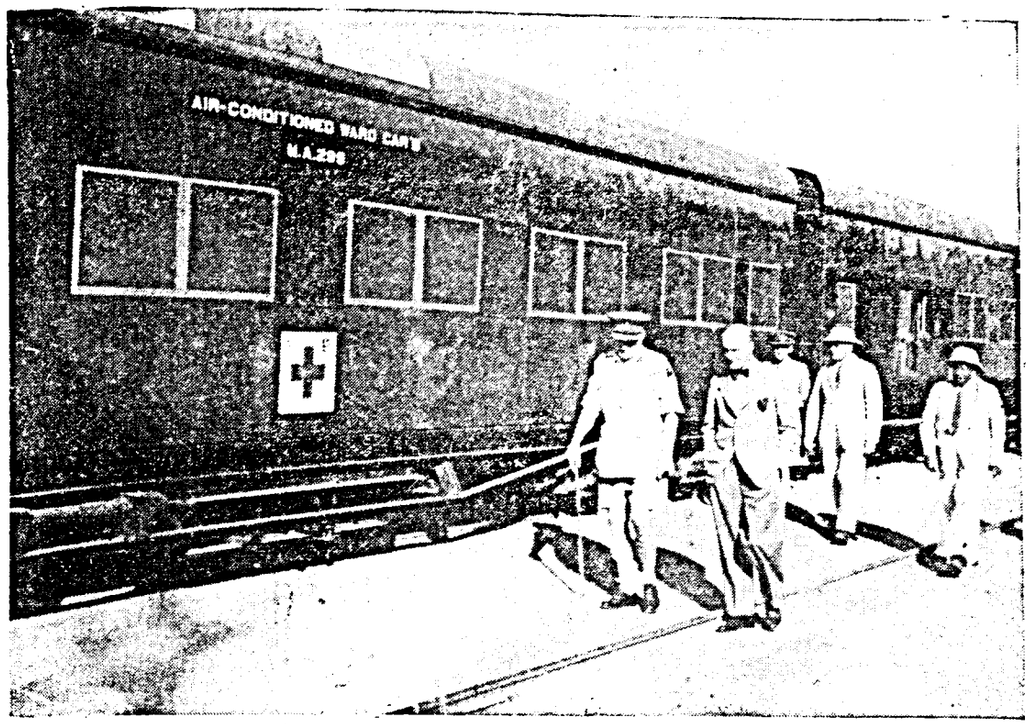
Sir Frederick James said that war efforts would suffer if certain steps were taken by the Government of India, I do not know whether those steps will be taken or not. That is a matter entirely for the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Commonwealth Relations Department. On behalf of the Government of India he has made the position clear. But I do not understand the meaning of throwing on us this sentence: "War efforts will suffer." Of course they will suffer but who is responsible for this? (Several Hon'ble Members: The Union Government). Are we responsible? Sir Frederick James himself has given us a good certificate. If South Africa is responsible for this then I suggest to the United Nations—twenty-five nations in the world apart from India—to go to South Africa and tell South Africa that they have to be reasonable.

Dr. G. V. DESHMUKH (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban). Smash them. Segregate them.

SIR SULTAN AHMED: Sir Frederick James said that India cannot do without wattle bark. Let me tell him that India can. India can do without it for the simple reason that nine-tenths of its population do without boots and shoes and if the remaining one-tenth have to walk bare-footed without shoes or boots, they will be prepared to do it.

DR. G. V. DESHMUKH: Let the South African bark!

SIR SULTAN AHMED: I suggest to Sir Frederick James that he must appeal to His Majesty's Government to get wattle bark from whatever sources they may and bring it into this country, if war efforts suffer. The position is that if the matter is not settled and if the Government of India decide to take economic sanctions which they haven't yet decided surely this wattle bark will not stand in the way. We will go to His Majesty's Government. We will go to the United Nations, every one of them, to secure wattle bark from any place that they can find so that the war efforts of the United Nations may not suffer.



Lt.-Gen. B. O Hutchison (left) Quartermaster-General, India, accompanied by Mr. Leslie Flatt, Director of Mechanical Engineering, Railway Board, going round to inspect the air-conditioned coaches.



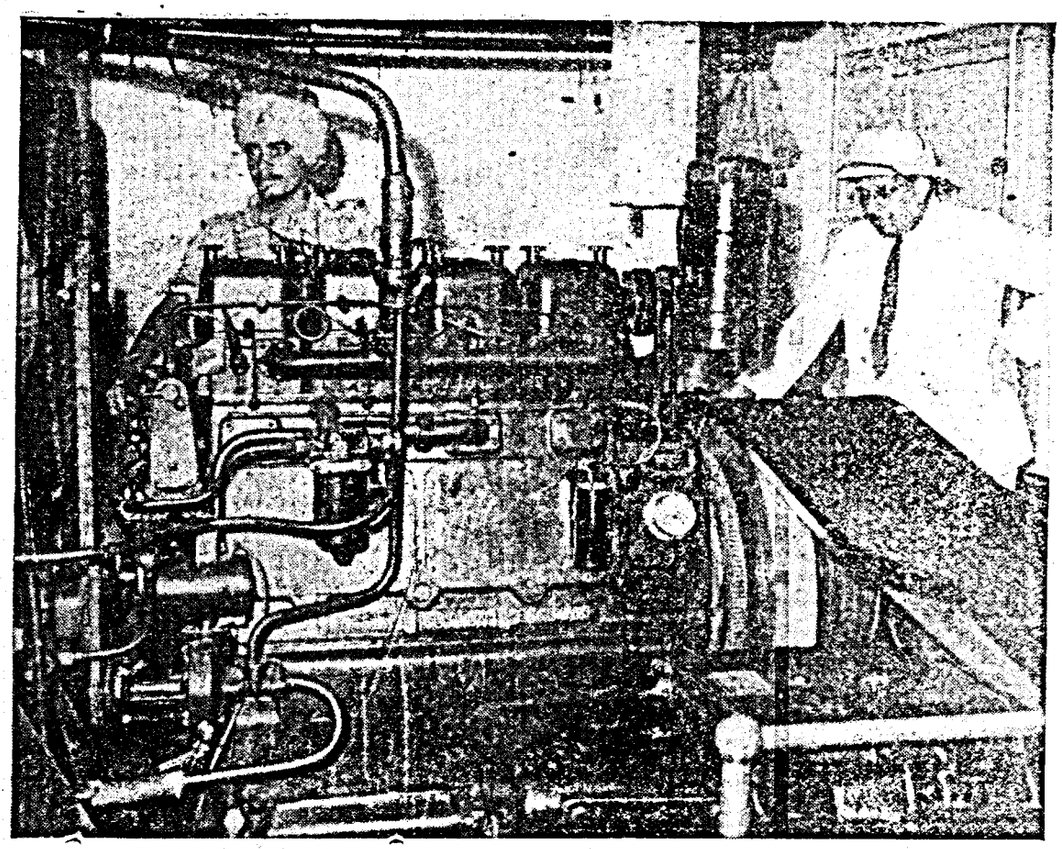
Interior of the Ward Car being shown to Pressmen.

INDIA'S FIRST METRE-GAUGE AIR-CONDITIONED COACHES

INDIA's first metre-gauge air-conditioned coaches have been turned out from the B.B. and C.I. Railway workshops at Ajmer. They are ambulance coaches designed to convey the sick of all Allied nations from the forward areas to hospitals inside the country. There are two of these air-conditioned ward cars, and attached to them is a generating car which makes them self-sufficient in electric energy.

Each coach consists of 20 beds. Automatic switches control and regulate the temperature inside the compartment, which is fitted with both cooling and heating systems. The beds are so arranged as to give the maximum comfort to patients and to save them from jolts and jerks.

The lay-out and designing of these coaches was done by the Railway Board. The air-conditioning unit was imported from America under Lease-Lend, while Britain provided the generating equipment.



A view of the engine in the generator car.

While air-conditioned coaches on broad-gauge lines have been in service in this country for some years, the building of such coaches for use on metre-gauge lines presented some difficulties. For instance, metre-gauge carriages have small and low underframes and are narrower.

The air-conditioned coaches were inspected by Lieut.-Gen. B. O. Hutchison, Quartermaster-General in India accompanied by Mr. Leslie Flatt, Director of Mechanical Engineering, Railway Board.

RAILWAY EARNINGS

The total approximate gross earnings of the Budget lines (Railways) for the period (10 days) ending October 20, 1944 (20th Period) amounted to Rs. 566 lakhs. This was Rs. 96 lakhs more than the actuals for the corresponding period of the previous year, and Rs. 178 lakhs more than the actuals for the corresponding period of 1942-43.

JAMNAGAR & DWARKA RAILWAY'S WAR WORK

The Jamnagar and Dwarka Railway, although a small terminal line, has made an impressive contribution to the common pool.

In the initial period of the war the Railway laid three miles of track at a port where hundreds of wagons had to be taken care of before they could be shipped overseas. A cement factory was kept supplied with 200 tons of raw materials every day, as also with 70,000 tons of coal a year, which had to be transported over a distance of 138 miles. The output of the factory, about 400 tons a day, was moved over a distance of 17 miles. Six miles of track were quickly laid to help in the development of a port, which also entailed the movement of a large number of men and materials. Material for the construction of two aerodromes was carried.

DID YOU KNOW THAT—

Every minute the Indian Railways are carrying 64,000 *passengers and* 52,000 *tons of goods over one mile.*

Between April 1939 *and May* 1944 *the number of railway passengers carried has increased by* 30,000,000 *a month.*

Before the war an average of 300 *to* 350 *special military trains were run each year; today more than* 850 *such trains are run every month.*

Since the start of war, Indian Railways have delivered more than 10,000,000 *tons of material for the construction of airfields.*

The Railway organised the supply of petroleum from a selected base to upcountry stations, and well over 200 special trains were run for this purpose. About 12,200 wagons were moved in 27 months.

The Railway transported machinery worth Rs. one crore for the erection of a chemical plant, as also large loads of salt which had to be moved by special wagons and power. Grain and other priority traffic was also heavy.

It was the Jamnagar and Dwarka Railway that suggested to the Government of India the scheme of sea-cum-rail route to divert traffic from Karachi and Bombay to Kathiawar and Gujerat, so as to avoid longer hauls, transhipment and delays to wagons, and thus relieve the rolling stock of the larger railway systems for other work.

All this was accomplished in the shortest possible time with very scanty resources in rolling stock, engine power and workshop equipment.

ACQUISITION OF RATIONED NEWSPRINT

At the request of newspaper interests and in order to reduce transport difficulties it has been decided by the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies to permit all newspapers to whom a permit to purchase and use newsprint has been issued to acquire their three months' ration of newsprint at a time if they wish to do so. Instructions have been issued to newsprint dealers accordingly, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department on October 4.

BETTER INDO-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS

Sir R. P. Paranjpye's Hopes

SIR RAGHUNATH PARANJPYE, India's first High Commissioner in Australia, has reached Perth accompanied by his daughter and grand-daughter and his official and private secretaries, says a cable received from Canberra.

The cable adds: He said he came to Australia fired with the desire to introduce a better understanding between the two countries and to tell the Australians about India and to learn about Australia. He thought the appointment very timely, because of the goodwill engendered by the war; and hoped that it would be carried into peace years, because the days of isolation for any country were now obviously gone.

India, which at heart was essentially peace-loving, together with Australia and China, he added, would have special duties in the post-war world guarding Asia's peace. He expressed the hope and belief that there would be a much greater future for, and greater future prospects of, increased Indo-Australian trade.

DR. KHARE'S MESSAGE

The following messages were exchanged between the Hon'ble Dr. N. B. Khare, Member, Commonwealth Relations Department, and Sir Raghunath Paranjpye, on the eve of Sir Raghunath's departure for Australia:

From Dr. N. B. Khare.—"His Excellency the Viceroy has asked me to convey to you his best wishes on the eve of your departure for Australia. I add mine to them and wish you *bon voyage*. I have every hope that your arrival in Australia will mark the beginning of an era of the closest friendship and co-operation between India and the Commonwealth of Australia."

From Sir R. P. Paranjpye.—"I am very much obliged to His Excellency the Viceroy for his good wishes on my approaching departure for Australia.

"I shall, of course, be in continual communication with you and hope that I shall be able to do something towards cementing friendship and co-operation between India and the Commonwealth of Australia.

"Thank you very much for your good wishes."

SINKING OF THE "CORMORANT"
Railway Member's Statement

IN the Central Legislative Assembly on November 3, the Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, speaking on an adjournment motion to discuss the sinking of the S.S. *Cormorant*, said.

I think I can best explain this matter by reading some extracts from the Communique of the Bihar Government which begins by saying:

"A good deal of misapprehension seems to prevail and several ill-informed statements have appeared in the Press in connection with the accident which happened to the passenger steamer S.S. *Cormorant* on September 12, 1944. Government consider it desirable to state the correct facts which have been ascertained during police investigation and the enquiry of the Joint Enquiry Board."

They then proceed to give the facts:

"S.S. *Cormorant* had a carrying capacity of 1,000 and at the time of the accident was carrying about 600 persons."

To cut a long story short: the bow of the steamer suddenly struck against some hard substance, supposed to be a submerged tree trunk. With great promptitude, the Commander ordered the steamer to be stopped and backed towards the bank and, at the same time, sounded the danger whistle. Passengers then proceeded to disembark on the bank. I have no doubt there was a certain amount of rush but that any number of passengers was lost is not the fact.

PRESIDENT (SIR ABDUR RAHIM): No life was lost?

SIR EDWARD BENTHALL: One child of six years old was missing. The whole of the 37 lifebuoys which were on the steamer were subsequently found intact. It shows that the passengers found no need to use them and there was no occasion for anyone to jump into the stream. The danger whistle was blown and help was sent to the spot but was found to be unnecessary.

I need not, I think, quote the paragraph in the report which explains why the number of passengers was round about 600 but the report ends up by saying:

"In the above circumstances Government are satisfied that it was an accident and, no one could be held responsible for it and they see no reason for ordering a special enquiry into its cause. The sensational reports about the accident that appeared in some newspapers were grossly exaggerated or inaccurate on many important details and apparently published without any care being taken to find out the facts."

There is one other point. The Hon'ble Member suggested that the ship was in a bad state of repair. The facts are these:

The vessel has been laid up for survey every year and dry-docked every four years, the provisions of the Inland Steam Vessels Act (Act I of 1917) and the rules made thereunder by the Government of Bihar being complied with.

MR. MUHAMMAD NAUMAN: Is it not a fact that the steamer met with an accident before this and was not considered fit to ply? Was it not due to the O. and T. Railway Administration's negligence that this vessel was allowed to ply?

SIR EDWARD BENTHALL: That is not a fact.

PRESIDENT (SIR ABDUR RAHIM): In view of the facts stated, I must disallow this motion.

STANDING COMMITTEE FOR ROADS

The proposed creation of a Central Road Board was among the questions discussed by the Standing Committee for Roads which met in New Delhi under the chairmanship of Sir Edward Benthall on November 11.

A Conference of the Chief Engineers of Provinces and States held in Nagpur in December last had recommended the setting up of a Central Road Board with adequate authority and powers, guided by an Advisory Council, to deal with the detailed policy and day-to-day administration of road planning and programme, and to serve impartially the interests of the Central, Provincial and State Governments.

The consensus of opinion in the Standing Committee was in favour of the general idea, but the Committee desired that more progress should be made in consultation with the Provincial Governments concerning the scope and nature of the organisation before they pronounced an opinion. The matter, it is understood, will also be considered by the Policy Committee for Post-War Transport.

The Standing Committee approved a number of schemes of road development to be financed from provincial allocations in the Central Road Fund. Among these was a programme of road development in Madras involving an expenditure of Rs. 36,00,000 and consisting of works required either for the furtherance of war effort or for the movement of foodstuffs and other necessities of life.

BILL TO AMEND THE INSURANCE ACT, 1938
Sir Azizul Haque's Speech in Central Assembly



Sir M. Azizul Haque.

MOVING that the Bill to further amend the Insurance Act, 1938, "Second Amendment" be referred to a Select Committee, in the Central Legislative Assembly on November 14, the Hon'ble Sir M. Azizul Haque, Member for Commerce, and Industries and Civil Supplies, pointed out that the Insurance Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of insurance interests and others was in substantial agreement with most of the provisions which were brought before the House. Sir Azizul Haque pointed out the defects in the Act which necessitated the Amendment and said that the Amendment desired was aimed firstly, at affording more protection to policy holders, secondly, making the insurance companies financially more stable, and thirdly, eradicating source of unhealthy practices which hampered the healthy growth of insurance business in this country.

Here is the full text of Sir Azizul Haque's speech:

THE HON'BLE SIR AZIZUL HAQUE: Sir, I move that the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai J. Desai, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Mr. Satya Narain Sinha, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak Sait, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. A. C. Datta, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee, Mr. L. S. Vaidyanathan and the Mover, and that the number of Members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

Important Amendments

Sir, in view of certain amendments which have been tabled, let me explain the purpose of this Bill. The Insurance Act was passed in 1938. Some substantial amendments were made in the Act in 1941. But the administration of the Act brought to light several flaws and defects and lacunae. We tried to change it by an Amending Act of 1944 to remove only two of these defects. But in the meantime, the war, the financial structure of the country and the wealth which has accumulated in certain sections have brought about a situation in which the insurance business has fared exceedingly well and there are now many more policy holders with many more companies and in a much stronger position. As a result of that, we feel that the other defects which are vital should not be allowed to remain on the statute book, but that some changes should be made in the law existing for the time being.

As Honourable Members are aware there is an Insurance Advisory Committee consisting of representatives of insurance interests in the country and also of persons nominated from among those connected with insurance business and others which have been provided for in the Act. We consulted this Committee and this Committee is in substantial agreement with most of the provisions which are now brought before the House. They aim firstly, at affording more protection to the policy holders, secondly, making the insurance companies financially more stable, thirdly, eradicating some of the unhealthy practices which hamper the healthy growth of insurance business in the country. The House will see that the important amendments provide for:

(i) Separate investment of assets in the life insurance fund;

(ii) Raising the life fund to an amount equal to the liabilities under life insurance policies before registering an insurance company for other classes of insurance business, *e.g.*, fire, accident, marine;

(iii) Restricting the amount of commission payable to employers of insurance agents, *e.g.*, Chief Agents, and the terms of their contract;

(iv) Assessing solvency or otherwise of a life insurance company or provident society without taking into account its uncalled capital;

(v) Cancellation of registration of an insurance company or provident society which delays beyond a certain period payment of a claim after it has been adjudicated in a court of law;

(vi) Preventing insurance companies and provident societies from remunerating their executive heads, managers, managing directors, etc., on a commission profit sharing basis;

(vii) Taking away from the scope of Married Women's Property Act, 1874, nominations in favour of wife and children made under section 39 of the Insurance Act; and

(viii) The transfer and amalgamation of provident societies with the sanction of the Superintendent of Insurance.

Difficult Features of Bill

These are some of the main features of the Bill. I will not take up much of the time of the House except to explain a few features which we are finding at present difficult. For example under the existing law a foreign insurance company has to submit annually a statement showing the assets held by such insurance company in India and audited by a person duly qualified under the law of the insurer's country. Similarly, clause (b) requires the revenue account of such an insurer to be audited by such an auditor. There is no provision for any statement of account of a company operating in India being audited by an auditor qualified only under the provisions of the Indian Companies Act. The result is that, as we have seen in wartime, if it is a Canadian company or a New Zealand company or any other foreign company outside India, its account is to be prepared in India and sent to the countries of those companies being audited by their qualified Accountants. This means inevitable delay for a very long time.

I feel, Sir, that it is inconsistent with the present position of India that Indian auditors qualified under the Indian Companies Act should not be allowed to audit the accounts of foreign companies as they are able to audit the accounts of big Indian Insurance companies in this country. Similarly there is a provision applicable to a non-British Indian insurance company requiring them to submit revenue account in respect of Indian business in the form set forth in the Third Schedule. On a comparison with section 11-(1) (c), the corresponding section applicable to British Indian insurers, it is found that the words "in accordance with the regulations contained in Part I of the Third Schedule" do not find a place in section 16(2)(b), though they occur in section 11(1)(c). This has been taken advantage of by some U.K. and foreign insurance companies to whom section 16 applies and interpreted to mean that they are not bound to follow the regulations in Part I of the Third Schedule and that only British Indian insurers have to follow them. The result is that information regarding gross premium income under regulation 7 and statements in Forms DD, DDD and DDDD are not supplied by some of the foreign insurers.

From the debates in the Central Legislative Assembly during the passage of the original Insurance Bill, it appears Members then understood that the information under Regulation 7 regarding gross income was to be given by U.K. and other insurers also. After the Bill was passed by the Assembly, it was examined in this Department and the discrepancy was noticed. An amendment to bring in line was suggested but the amendment was overlooked and not introduced in the Council of State. I feel today that we should try to rectify this omission and bring it in line with the intention of the legislature as when the Insurance Act was passed in 1937.

Then, Sir, there is one difficulty which we are experiencing in the administration of the Insurance Act. Section 29 prohibits the grant of loans and advances to any other company or firm if there are common directors. In other words, one insurance company cannot grant a loan or advance to another company with a common director. Somehow or other, as the legal interpretation stands, it shapes the loan if exactly at the time when the loan was granted there was no common director. And we have seen a case in which there was a common director who retired for some time, the loan was granted and very soon after he came back. (*A voice*: "*After one hour*"). One hour or one week is all the same for the purpose of the Act. I feel that that is not desirable and it should not be allowed in the interest of insurance business in this country.

Again, in connection with winding-up proceedings, the Superintendent of Insurance, where he is satisfied that a company is not able to manage its own affairs, can prefer an application to the relevant court for winding-up proceedings. Against any decision the party concerned can file an appeal; but if for some reason or other the Superintendent of Insurance is not satisfied with the decision of the lower court he has no power of appeal. The result is that in many cases owing to some legal defect it is not possible for the Superintendent of Insurance to take proper action.

Then again there are cases where under the present law the managing agent or manager or other officer of an insurance company who properly obtains or wrongfully withholds or wilfully misapplies any property belonging to the insurance company can be prosecuted; but for the purpose of this prosecution, it can be done only by the insurance company or by a policy holder. There was some time ago a case where the managing director of an insurance company misappropriated the funds of the company to the extent of one lakh of rupees. When this misappropriation was discovered the managing director was able to square up with all concerned near about him and no further proceedings were taken against him.

Keeping of Separate Assets

We feel that the Superintendent of Insurance should have power to file a complaint, in the interest of the insurance companies and also in the interest of the large body of policy holders concerned. The present law does not give him that power and we feel that it is time when he should have that power, in a proper case where private proceedings are not taken, to take action against the managing director of a company. After all it is necessary to safeguard the interests of the large bulk of policy holders who have no organised opinion of their own for the time being in many cases.

Then we want to take power to see that the managing director should not be able to nominate his successor. We have come across a case where a company entered into a contract with its managing director for a term of 15 years on a very liberal remuneration basis. He was allowed to retire during the term and nominate his successor for the balance of the term on the same remuneration. Now human nature being what it is, one may not be able to find out a successor of the same calibre as the managing director himself; but surely it is not right in the interest of the insurance financial structure of this country that the managing director should have the power to nominate his successor, specially in cases where very liberal terms are offered to him.

MR. T. CHAPMAN-MORTIMER (Bengal: European): May I know the date of that particular incident?

SIR AZIZUL HAQUE: About three years ago.

Sir, there are other provisions in the Bill which go into the structure of insurance business of this country. I will only add one word with regard to section 10. At present an insurance company carrying on life insurance business is not obliged to keep the assets corresponding to life insurance fund separate from its other assets. Keeping separate assets belonging to the life insurance fund is, however, necessary in the interest of holders of life insurance policies. It is therefore proposed to insert a provision making it obligatory for insurance companies to keep such assets as distinct from other assets.

Again we have seen cases where an insurance company is not able, or has not enough finance, to pay its policy holders. There have been cases in court and judgments passed, yet no payment has been made; but the company is still merrily functioning and issuing new life policies. It is not in the interest of the financial structure of this country that insurance companies which should take immediate and prompt steps to pay a policy holder should not pay him and yet continue to function and issue new policies.

Then there are other detailed points as regards the paid-up capital and what should constitute paid-up capital and what capital, for the purpose of considering the solvency of the company, should be taken into consideration. One main feature of this Bill is to bring about a demarcation between provident fund societies and insurance companies, and the Bill seeks to provide this no man's land.

I do not think I need narrate the other circumstances. I propose that all these matters and questions of principle should be carefully considered by the select committee I have no intention of hurrying this thing through. I am quite prepared to consider any point of view which may be raised, but I believe the time has come when all these questions of principle should be properly considered in a select committee of this House.

Sir, I move.

Response by Different Parties

SIR AZIZUL HAQUE: Sir, I am grateful to the different sections of the House for the favourable response which has been given by the different parties with reference to the Insurance Amending Bill. In spite of a lurking criticism or suggestion here and there and in spite of my friend Mr. Krishnamachari's motion for circulation, there is no doubt that the concensus of opinion, so far as this House is concerned—and I take it that that is a reflex of the opinion in the country—is that the time has come when, merely on the score of ourselves being in the midst of a war,

we cannot and should not sit tight, but must do something to rectify some of the abuses which have already crept up in some of the insurance companies and are likely to creep in more in future months or years in the insurance structure of this country. I am really grateful to the Hon'ble Members of the House for that.

Sir, several questions have been asked as regards the previous consultations and my friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, almost generalised it as the characteristic of Government movements today in the way of bringing legislation by consulting a few persons. I would only remind my friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, that we are in the midst of a war and in the midst of a war it is not always possible to have the dilatory method of a long-drawn out procedure, particularly in a country like India which, as my friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, knows, is a vast country with four hundred million people, where quick consultations between one part and another is extremely difficult, and specially at the present moment.

Lively Discussion

At the same time, the fact that we have on occasions erred on that side does not indicate that we do not mean to take into consideration all points which are brought to our notice. In this particular case (and here I might say that I do sometimes feel that experts are dangerous horse power which may have to be kept under a certain amount of non-technical control) we did consult a properly constituted body, where there were representatives of all the insurance interests, including the provident societies about which my friend Mr. Joshi asked me; and I must say that on some of the points there was quite lively discussion on the principles which have been embodied in this Bill. We did consult the chief agents. Not only that, I promised in that committee that as soon as the Bill is drafted it will be sent to every member of the Insurance Advisory Committee consisting of Indians and Europeans, representatives of business houses, insurance companies, provident societies and other interests. We have done that.

It is not my intention, as I said before, to rush through. What I propose is also neither to dilate nor to rush through nor to make any unnecessary delay. Subject to the assent of the Hon'ble the Law Member, who is always the Chairman of these Select Committees, I do not propose to call this committee earlier than about the beginning of January. In the meantime I want to circulate this Bill once again to the members of the Insurance Advisory Committee. I want to call a formal meeting of the committee, have their views recorded properly and have them circulated to members of the Select Committee.

MR. E. L. C. GWILT: Will the Hon'ble Member see to it that a copy of this Debate is sent to every member of the Committee?

SIR AZIZUL HAQUE: It will be very difficult for me to arrange that.

MR. CHAPMAN-MORTIMER: I do not want to interrupt the Hon'ble Member but I should like to be quite clear on one point. Supposing this is sent to the Committee and they say "Oh, yes, we want this and this and something else". These are the views of the Advisory Committee and with these if he comes back to this House, does it mean that we are bound to accept them?

SIR AZIZUL HAQUE: My friend knows the constitutional position. When the House is in seisin of a piece of legislation and it goes to a select committee, that select committee has the fullest right to go into the questions relevant and within the scope of the Bill and this House has a full right to take up that matter which is reported by the select committee. My friend, Mr. Chapman-Mortimer, as I said, has raised some of the points affecting the issues of the Bill itself. Similarly, it may be that other interests have got their own points of view and I want that the Select Committee should be fully cognizant of the different points of view on the different sections which are incorporated in the Bill itself.

BABU BAIJNATH BAJORIA: Why not have witnesses before the Committee?

SIR AZIZUL HAQUE: I will leave witnesses to the criminal and civil courts. My friend will understand that.

I say that perhaps, in view of the present circumstances regarding paper particularly, it will not be possible for me, to circulate this Bill except to some of the important industrial and trade organisations of this country and I do hope that that will at least give the general public, which is interested, an opportunity to consider the merits of the Bill. There are the Associated Chambers of Commerce, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Federation of Muslim Chambers of Commerce and other organisations of all-India importance.

To Ascertain Views

I propose to send this Bill, to ascertain their views, to such associations which are of an all-India importance and I want to place their views also before the Select Committee. But having done that my duty is to leave it to the members of the Select Committee and their good judgment. I want the Committee to be appraised of all the opinions on this Bill. After that it is my intention that subject to the Select Committee coming to a decision on this matter, to take up legislation in the next session. If

there are any other points of importance which arise I shall certainly take them into consideration.

My attention today on the floor of the House and for the last few days has also been drawn to various other objectionable and deplorable features in the insurance business of this country. I am fully in agreement with all those who feel the time has come when not only we should be watchful but that we should be particularly watchful that the India of the future is not handed over to a few monopolists in one way or the other. It is a great country and has a greater future before it and it will be an evil day for India when she will be dominated by a few either in the field of politics or economics.

Malpractices

I yield to none in my desire that we should take every possible step to see that a few monopolists do not control the economic future of India. If there is anything in the insurance line by which we can help that objective, I can assure you that we shall not be behind in bringing in relevant legislation in this House, and as soon as possible. I am told that there are other malpractices; I am told that there are people who are trying to capture some of these organisations to play with the money which they may have in these concerns. It will be my duty to keep a watch over that thing, and at any stage if I find the situation is coming to such a pass in which it is becoming a feature at least with some of these concerns, we will do our best to bring in the relevant legislation, or at least bring it to the notice of the House through the relevant legislation.

My Hon'ble friend, Mr. Vaidyanathan, has replied to some of the points which have been raised by Mr. Chapman-Mortimer and others. I do not think I need say anything more. I am quite cognizant of the fact that there will be difference of opinion as to whether industry as a whole or insurance business in particular should be a private enterprise or a state concern. (An Hon'ble Member: State certainly.) I would certainly welcome that day. But I am personally a bit nervous to take that step immediately today. (An Honourable Member: Why?) Because I find how similar State enterprises are being discussed through questions and resolutions in such ways, as when the station master of a particular station refusing a wagon to a particular person becomes a matter brought up before this Assembly through interpellations—I at least would wait for a little better atmosphere before I think of changing the present system. (An Honourable Member: You must not be afraid of criticism.) I want criticism, I want discussion; but I want my friend also to realise that we are not living one thousand years in the past or one thousand years in the future, but living in today and the atmosphere of today. If leaving the financial and other structures intact in this country, I am asked to break down the entire insurance structure of some of the biggest companies in India which have devoted years to making this business a success, and if I am asked by legislation to destroy the whole of that structure, I will hesitate to do it for the time being, at least till a national government is in power. It is no use my friends criticising me saying that I do not represent the people, and in the same breath coming to me and saying "You must take steps which only a national government can do."

A national government can only exist when you have got complete confidence in those who are responsible for the decision of questions of policy. I am not saying whether I do represent the people or not. I am not saying whether my Honourable friend is correct or incorrect. All I say is that in the existing state of affairs Professor Ranga's discussion is not just the proper thing for this House to decide...

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Why do you not begin that at any rate?

SIR AZIZUL HAQUE: I am quite prepared, as I say, my objective is quite at one with his. I entirely agree with him and I do hope it will be possible some day—I do not know when that day will come when we can rebuild all the existing structures. I would very much like that the cities of Bombay and Calcutta and Delhi should be rebuilt after wiping away every building. I would desire that every building should be built by the side of the Jumna, but I cannot destroy the buildings which are existing today. That is my difficulty . . . .

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: Does the Hon'ble Member want to bring Fort Stikhine on to the Jumna? Ask for the assistance of the War Transport Member!

Pitfalls and Mistakes

SIR AZIZUL HAQUE: I do not want to turn Delhi into a Venice by having a few pleasure boats there. But as I say my difficulty is that. I do not know what a national government will do; they might think of completely destroying this city and rebuilding it. That might be in consonance with their ideal: that might or might not be in the best interests of the country.

But situated as I am, I cannot possibly destroy a whole city in order to rebuild it. There are abuses, there have been pitfalls, there have been mistakes; there are things which we desire and desire anxiously to rectify. But I ask of Prof. Ranga seriously, when we rebuild does he want the whole city of Calcutta, or Bombay or Madras to be demolished and then rebuilt?

I am therefore a bit hesitant in expressing my views on this matter, and I think in this legislature it is the problems of today and the problems of the next few years which should suffice for myself. If I am able through your help to do something better for today, I would ask Prof. Ranga to dream his dream and think only of tomorrow but I will try to do my best, to do what I can, for today.

Future of Insurance

As regards the question of the future of this insurance, I entirely agree that insurance should cover a much wider field, not only life and fire and accident, but there should be insurance of crops, insurance of cattle, insurance against sickness, old age and many other forms of insurance. I yield to none in my desire that all these things should come. But as the Commerce Member in charge of insurance for the time being, I am merely concerned for the time being to see what I can do in order that these things may become possible in the future—to build on a clean solid foundation, whatever little structure we are raising today. When the superstructure and the palatial buildings come, Prof. Ranga may have the credit for himself; I shall be happy if I can find that one little brick has been added and that it stands solidly to support the framework. I oppose the circulation motion.

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA (Deputy President): Does Mr. Krishnamachari press his circulation motion?

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: I am not withdrawing my motion.

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: The question is—

That the Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting public opinion thereon by January 1, 1945.

The motion was negatived.

MR. AKHIL CHANDRA DATTA: The question is—

That the Bill further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938 (Second Amendment) be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Bhulabhai Desai, Mr. Abdul Qaiyum, Mr. N. C. Chunder, Mr. Satya Narayan Sinha, Mr. Muhammad Nauman, Mr. H. A. Sathar H. Essak sait, Sir Muhammad Yamin Khan, Mr. A. C. Datta, Mr. T. T. Krishnamachari, Mr. T. Chapman-Mortimer, Mr. E. L. C. Gwilt, Rai Bahadur Sir Seth Bhagchand Soni, Sir Vithal Chandavarkar, Sir Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A. Lalljee, Mr. L. S Vaidayanathan and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five.

The motion was adopted.

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE WITH LIBERATED ITALY

IN accordance with similar action taken by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom and the Government of the United States of America, the Government of India have authorised persons and concerns in British India to have commercial, financial and other correspondence with liberated Italy, subject to such conditions as are specified below, said a Press Communique issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on November 11.

It added: Banks and other financial institutions may now reply to requests for information from the depositors in liberated Italy, but remittances between British India and liberated Italy unless specifically authorised are not permissible. Documents such as birth, death and marriage certificates may also be transmitted. There is also no objection to Indian and Italian firms exchanging business information with a view to the future resumption of business relationship. It should however be clearly understood that the resumption of private trade is not yet permissible and that the despatch of powers of attorney and proxies to Italy will be permissible subject to the prior permission of the Government of India in the Commerce Department.

Italian-owned property in India will continue to be governed by the Defence of India Rules and to be under the general control of the Custodian of Enemy Property, Bombay. British subjects resident in Italy, who desire to obtain a release of their property in India should apply to the nearest British Consul.

Arrangements have also been made for the release in Italy of property (immoveable or otherwise) owned by British subjects to its original owner or his authorised agent. *Prima facie* evidence of ownership should be supplied but original documents of title should not be forwarded unless specifically requested. Applications and inquiries in this regard should be addressed by persons in Italy to the nearest British Consul and by persons in India to the Government of India in the Department of Commerce, Simla.

Correspondence for Italy can be despatched to the liberated Provinces of Italy and under the conditions notified in the postal notices and press communiques issued from time to time by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. Inquiries in this connection may be made at any post office.



Mr. Phillips, in charge of Indian Y.M.C.A. in Cyprus, chatting with two Indian soldiers outside the N.A.A.F.I.

WHY N.A.A.F.I. HAS NO CANTEENS IN INDIA

CONTACT, servicemen's official newspaper published by the India Command, in its issue of November 3, explains why N.A.A.F.I. has no canteens in India.

It publishes an official statement issued by the Quartermaster-General's Branch which says:

"N.A.A.F.I. has on more than one occasion been asked to take over the canteen services in this theatre but has refused to do so. During the last six months two highly placed N.A.A.F.I. officers came to India at the request of both General Headquarters (India) and Headquarters, 11th Army Group, S.E.A., in order to appreciate the situation in respect of installing a N.A.A.F.I. service in the 14th Army area.

"Both officers agreed that N.A.A.F.I. was unable to undertake this commitment and one of them placed on record that it was futile to disband a service such as Canteen Services (India) and call upon N.A.A.F.I. to replace the existing service, which could not be improved upon by N.A.A.F.I.

"The agreed division between the spheres of responsibility of the N.A.A.F.I. and the Indian Canteen Corps is that the Indian Canteen Corps serves India and troops maintained by land lines of communication from India. N.A.A.F.I. serves Ceylon and would serve any troops launched overseas and dependent on an overseas line of communication.

"A comparison of N.A.A.F.I. and Canteen Services (India) prices reveals that, taking the whole range of canteen stores, C.S. (I.) prices in the Indian Command and the 14th Army area are cheaper than N.A.A.F.I. prices in both U.K. and the East.

Sale and Range of Goods

"It is also interesting to note that one of the N.A.A.F.I. officers placed on record that he had seen goods on the canteen shelves in India that had not been seen in N.A.A.F.I. in the Middle East for some considerable time.

"Incidentally it is pointed out that the scale and range of goods provided by the Indian Canteen Corps are considerably in excess of those supplied by N.A.A.F.I. in operational areas."

FOR WELFARE OF TROOPS

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a further grant of Rs. 5,04,500 from his War Purposes Fund to Toc. H. with H. M. Forces, India Command, for expenditure on various projects for the welfare of British and Indian troops in India.



Indian soldiers playing cards and reading books in the N.A.A.F.I. canteen "Quiet Room."

RED CROSS FAMINE RELIEF WORK

AT a meeting of the Managing Body of the Indian Red Cross Society held, on November 10, in New Delhi under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Malik Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Defence Member, Government of India, Red Cross Milk Service in the famine areas was reviewed.

This Service has been in operation for over a year in Bengal and for several months in Orissa, Malabar and the States of Cochin and Travancore. Reports received show that there has been a general improvement in the condition of those who have been receiving this Red Cross aid. The Society has also recently sent a small supply asked for by the Bihar Red Cross for epidemic relief work in that province.

The Red Cross has so far received over 2,700 tons of powdered and condensed milk from various sources, the latest supplies being 350 tons from the United Kingdom, 200 tons from the American Friends Service Committee, 40 tons from South Africa and 25 tons from the Canadian Red Cross. Existing stocks are expected to see the Service through till the end of the year and it is hoped that the 1,000 tons of skimmed milk powder being imported by the Government of India will enable the milk service to be maintained at the present scale in all the distressed areas till the end of March 1945, the period up to which this work has been planned for the present, and also leave some surplus for use afterwards, if necessary.

Red Cross District Secretaries

The 22 Red Cross District Secretaries appointed to look after the milk service in Bengal mofussil areas were recently called together at Calcutta. After the meeting, the Honorary Secretary of the Milk Distribution Sub-Committee reported that the distribution in the mofussil was much more efficient both in the running of the canteens and the regular supply of milk to canteens from district towns. The railways have been good enough to give the Red Cross famine workers, for a period of six months commencing August 1, certain travelling concessions to facilitate the Society's relief work.

In August, the Society received from its Lady President, Her Excellency Lady Wavell, a gift of 1,180 garments for destitutes in Bengal. These were distributed in the Destitutes' Homes in Midnapore District.

INCREASED PAY FOR A.N.S. NURSES

A Press Note issued by the Director-General, Indian Medical Service, on October 13 stated:

The Government of India have raised the initial pay of general service certificated nurses of the Auxiliary Nursing Service. Proficiency pay for efficient discharge of nursing duties and for increased qualifications in nursing has also been sanctioned in the case of A.N.S. uncertificated nurses of the General Service category.

The scale of pay now sanctioned for A.N.S. General Service certificated nurses represents an increase of Rs. 28 on the minimum and Rs. 33 on the maximum rates in the old scale. The initial pay now will be Rs. 135 rising to a maximum of Rs. 175 per mensem. Those who pay for their rations, messing and mess servants, will now have a start of Rs. 203 rising up to Rs. 243 per mensem. The rates of uniform allowance have also been increased.

War Leave

The basis for the proficiency pay in respect of uncertificated nurses will be the system of grading which was introduced recently to give official recognition to the good work of lady nurses after they had gained certain experience. Distinctive marks are added to the uniform in the form of one, two or three narrow white bars on the black shoulder epaulette slides indicating the grade of proficiency.

When proceeding on war leave, General Service members of the A.N.S. are provided with a free first class railway warrant for the return journey to their home in India, without limitation as to the distance. Free road conveyance is also admissible under the prescribed rules.

The improvements now announced and the many concessions already granted to the Auxiliary Nursing Service are in recognition by the Army authorities of A.N.S.'s valuable contribution to the war effort.

TEHERAN INDIANS' GIFT

The Indian community in Teheran has contributed Rs. 16,169 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund. The principal donor is Khan Sahib Sheikh Dost Mohammed.

The community has also invested over Rs. one lakh in interest free war loan.

PRICES FIXED FOR GRAMOPHONE RECORDS AND NEEDLES, TOILET ARTICLES AND TENNIS BALLS

HERE are the latest notifications issued by the Government of India under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance relating to the sale of cinema equipment and spare parts, imported crockery, gramophone records, needles and common spare parts, toilet articles, readymade men's suits and tennis balls, etc.

*

Cinema Equipment

On a representation made by dealers in cinema equipments and spare parts that the addition to the landed cost allowed by normal trade practice in force on August 31, 1939, exceeded 20 per cent thereof, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has sanctioned additions of 100 per cent to landed cost in respect of cinema equipments and of 125 per cent to landed cost in respect of cinema equipment spare parts.

*

Imported Crockery

On a representation made by dealers in imported crockery that the addition to the landed cost allowed by normal trade practice in force on August 31, 1939, exceeded 20 per cent thereof, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has sanctioned additions to landed cost of 60 per cent (wholesale) and 100 per cent (retail) in respect of white crockery made in England.

In the case of complete tea and coffee sets, a discount of 20 per cent and in the case of dining sets a discount of 10 per cent should be allowed on wholesale and retail prices calculated as above.

Dealers in specified hill stations have been permitted to add 5 per cent to these prices. The freight has to be paid by the consignee.

*

Gramophone Records

By a Notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 11, 1944, the Central Government have fixed the maximum prices chargeable by a dealer in respect of gramophone records, needles and common spare parts.

The various makes of gramophone records for which maximum selling prices have been fixed include H.M.V., Columbia, Parlaphone, Brunswick, Decca, Hindustan, New Theatres, etc. The prices have been diyided into the standard category and the celebrity category, the latter being a little higher than the former.

Thus standard category 10" H.M.V., Columbia, Parlaphone, Brunswick, Decca (Red Label), New Theatres, Megaphone etc. records have been priced at Rs. 3 each. The prices of a 12" record of any one of these makes in Rs. four. A 10" standard category Twin, Regal, Regal-Zono, Rex or Orient record has been priced at Rs. 2; while a 10" magenta label H.M.V., Columbia or Parlaphone record at Rs. 2-8.

The retail selling prices of steel needles per box of 200 have been fixed at Rs. 1-8 for His Master's Voice or Columbia; Rs. 1-4 for other European or Indian makes and annas 10 for other foreign makes. The selling price of a sound box has been fixed at Rs. 15 (H.M.V.), Rs. 9 (other European makes) and Rs. 5 (non-European makes). The price of a main spring of size about 1" has been fixed at Rs. 9-8.

Producers and wholesalers shall allow the retailers a minimum discount of 25 per cent on records and needles and 20 per cent on springs and sound boxes. Freight and packing charges shall be borne by producers or wholesalers as the case may be.

Dealers in gramophone records and needles have been directed to exhibit the maximum selling prices as fixed by the Central Government prominently in their shops in English or the local language of the District.

*

Toilet Articles

The Central Government have by a Notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 11, 1944, fixed the maximum retail selling prices of toilet requisites manufactured by Messrs. Pearline (Paris) Bombay.

The retail prices of Hennol (4 oz.), Pimplex (3 oz.), Vitex (4 oz.) and Vitex Pomade (3 oz.) have been fixed at Rs. 5-12, 4-11, 5-12, and 6-14 respectively.

The Central Government have added 35 further items to the list of toilet articles in respect of which maximum wholesale and retail selling prices chargeable by a dealer have been fixed. These items include, several brands of toothbrushes, toothpastes and tooth powders, face powders, lipsticks and rouge, creams and depilatories.

The upcountry retailer's issue price of an adult size Nylon toothbrush has been fixed at Rs. 1-3 and of small size Kolynos toothpaste (English) at Rs. 1-1. The upcountry retailer's issue price of a Coty lipstick refill has been fixed

at annas 12; of E.I.P. Standard size lipstick at Rs. 3 and of Coty rouge at Rs. 1-8.

All dealers in toilet articles have been directed to exhibit prominently in their shops the wholesale and retail selling prices of toilet articles as fixed by the Central Government, in English or the local language of the district.

*

Readymade Men's Suits

By a Notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 18, 1944, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has directed all dealers, who sell readymade men's suits as well as those who make and sell men's suits to order, to mark with the sale prices, as already fixed by the Central Government, all men's suits exposed for sale and cloth exposed for being made into suits to order. These prices should be marked in the case of readymade suits on each piece thereof and in the case of suits made to order on each variety of cloth stocked for the purpose.

The prices of vests, coats and trousers sold separately should be marked on each piece. The retail selling price of the material and the making charges should be shown separately. The prices have to be written in English or the local language of the district.

*

Tennis Balls

The Central Government by a Notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 18, 1944, have revised the prices of tennis balls. The retail selling price of tennis balls has now been fixed at Rs. 39-10 per dozen.

MAXIMUM PRICES FOR VEGETABLE GHEE

By a Notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 11, 1944, the Central Government have fixed the maximum prices for vegetable ghee and preparations known as *tawda* or *tawra* which are a mixture of vegetable ghee and oil or ghee.

According to the Notification the maximum manufacturer's price and the wholesale and retail prices will be respectively As. 9, 9-9, 10-6 in Bombay town and suburbs; As. 9-9, 10-6 and 11 in Bombay Presidency, Madras, the C.P. and Berar, Coorg, and Panth Piploda; and As. 11, 11-9 and 12-6 in the Punjab, the United Provinces, the North-West Frontier Province, Bihar, Sind, Baluchistan, Delhi, Ajmer, Bengal, Assam and Orissa.

The retail prices of small packets of all brands of vegetable ghee as fixed under the Notification vary from Rs. 7-15 for a tin of 10 lbs. to As. 14-3 for a tin of 1 lb.

PAPER FOR WRAPPING AND PACKING CIGARETTES

THE Government of India have decided to permit under the provisions of the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, the packing and wrapping of cigarettes for civilian consumption as follows:

(1) Cigarettes will be packed in packets of 10 or cartons and tins of 50.

(2) For the packing of tens, an inner packing of white printing or imported glazed paper in an outer cardboard slide with shell or in a packet of kraft paper or thin cardboard may be used.

(3) For cartons or tins of 50 cigarettes an inner lining of thin board 2¾" x 8" may be used with a printed outside label not exceeding the size of 9" x 1¾" round the tin.

(4) The stock of labels in the full size of 9" x 2¾" may be used up before the introduction of the new size but stocks of such labels and the date by which they are likely to be used up must be declared to the Paper Controller, Post Box 444, Calcutta.

(5) Fifty packets of 10 cigarettes may be packed in one sheet of bitumen kraft sealed at one end with a small label not exceeding 2" x 3" indicating the brand of cigarettes contained in the packets.

(6) Except for tins and cartons of 50 cigarettes which have to be sent by post, rail or steamer, no packing will be permitted for tins which are hermetically sealed, but cartons may be packed in parcels of 10 cartons in a thin sheet of kraft paper.

IMPORT OF WOOLLEN GOODS

Replying to a question in the Council of State on November 9, the Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari, Secretary, Industries and Civil Supplies Department, revealed that Government had arranged for substantial imports of manufactured woollen goods. For example, for the six months ending June 1945, Government were hoping to arrange the import of 675 tons. Before the beginning of this year it was decided that in 1944, 25 per cent of India's woollen manufacturing capacity should be released from Defence requirements for civilian needs. He said that Government hoped to release a considerably larger percentage in 1945.

Sir Akbar Hydari further indicated that Government had arranged for wool imports from Australia and New Zealand to meet the requirements of Indian manufacturers for the production of woollen goods for the civil population. Wool imports for this purpose had been given the same degree of priority as wool imports for Defence requirements.

INDIA IS MOST KIND AND COURTEOUS HOST

Mrs. R. G. Casey on East and West Fraternity

"INDIA is the most kind and courteous host. In the nine months I have been in India, I have myself been shown much gracious and sensitive hospitality in the city of Calcutta and in the villages of the mofussil. I know that this same kindliness and interest extends to many individuals from the West, who are genuinely anxious to learn about this country while they are here", said Mrs. R. G. Casey, wife of H.E. the Governor of Bengal, in a radio talk on "East and West Fraternity", broadcast from All India Radio, Delhi, on November 3. Here is the full text of the talk:

I am very pleased to have been invited to speak to you for a few minutes to-day about the East and West fraternity, because it is a subject that interests me very much.

Many of you to whom I am speaking may not know what is the East and West fraternity, so I would like to tell you a little about it.

In the last few years many young men have been coming to India . . . men of the Allied Armed Forces, British, American, Chinese . . . many of them with a real desire to learn something about this great country of India, and of her people.

Though Indians are amongst the most kind and hospitable of people, it is difficult for shy young men and women to get to know each other without some common meeting ground. So, in June, 1942, largely through the zeal of Mrs. Milford, the East and West Fraternity was born in Calcutta. It was to be a meeting place for those interested in the exchange of ideas and cultures.

Meetings in Private Houses

At first, meetings for members of the Allied Forces and for Indian and European civilians were arranged in private houses. But because of the enthusiastic attendances, private rooms grew too small and the gatherings spread to a local club.

To the visitor from abroad the fraternity had much to offer. It made him welcome in a strange country. It opened the door to the India that each individual wanted to see. There are so many Indias . . . . the India of the past with its roots deep in history and tradition, and the India of the young generation of to-day . . . . the India of the Himalayas, of elephant and tiger and swampy jungle, and the India of great palaces and temples and mosques. On the one hand, a world of classical art and music and on the other the anonymous artists and posts of village life, kept alive the myths and ritual of the soil.

Informal talks were given on the many aspects of life, concerts and exhibitions of art were held, there were discussions on matters of current and international interest.

Now the East and West fraternity is spreading through India. There are centres in most Provinces. That it is needed and appreciated is shown in the way it has grown and in the happy letters written by those who have attended the meetings.

Goodwill and Understanding

The movement is not political. It provides the widest possible basis for young people from the East and West to meet, to learn from each other, to become friends. And thereby to help achieve that thing which is so near to the hearts of many of us . . . goodwill and understanding between people of all nations.

This is not something that must be sought after only by Governments. It is something that lies in the hands of individuals and can be brought about by their action, if enough of them are willing.

In spite of all the misery of war, these times give the individual greater opportunity than ever before to enlarge his knowledge of other peoples. This is supremely important to the future happiness of all of us. Without sympathetic knowledge of each other, mistrust born of ignorance will continue to poison human relationships . . . and it is on human relationships, in the end, that the peace and progress of the world depends.

Many people from the East and West have now the chance to get to know each others' qualities . . . and of assessing each others' strength rather than weaknesses.

Many an Indian has met with pleasure the younger generation from Britain, and America and other countries. When he goes abroad, as he probably will one day, he will have real friends to show him round.

Every Westerner may become not only the friend of India, but what he feels he will impart to those around him. His knowledge and interest will spread and pass on, through him.

India is the most kind and courteous host. In the nine months I have been in India, I have myself been shown much gracious and sensitive hospitality in the city of Calcutta, and in the villages of the mofussil.

I know that this same kindliness and interest extends to many individuals from the West, who are genuinely anxious to learn about this country while they are here.

The future lies in the hands of young people. May they handle it with humility and wisdom and a real desire for knowledge and understanding.

MRS. KIRAN BOSE'S TRIBUTE TO EAST AND WEST FRATERNITY

Here is the script of another talk on "East and West Fraternity" by Mrs. Kiran Bose, broadcast from All India Radio, Delhi, on November 3.

The fraternity was started in Calcutta in June, 1942, by Mrs. Milford, a woman of deep understanding and sympathy, who had an intimate knowledge of Indian art and was a lover of India and Indians. She had many Indian friends in cultured circles. She arranged for small gatherings to be held in Calcutta in private houses and hired rooms where members of the Forces could meet her Indian friends and discuss subjects of mutual interest. These informal meetings met a warm response, more and more representatives of East and West came to them. They outgrew their meeting grounds and it became necessary to find more adequate premises. These were obtained at a local club where the Fraternity has met ever since. Many warm friendships have been formed here and many wrong impressions removed.

Indian members who have not been abroad had the opportunity of coming into close contact with the younger generation of Britain and of other countries. Such meetings provide not only enjoyable social occasions, but give opportunity to newcomers to learn something about India.

Fraternity Centres

India is a friendly country and has much to offer to those who wish to learn. There are many men of wide interests in the Forces today who are anxious to know more of the country in which they are stationed. Often their duties oblige them to be in lonely places where they have little opportunity of making Indian friends or of seeing many places of historic interest. Their impressions of India are limited by their surroundings. It is, therefore, necessary to provide possible centres where they may learn something of Indian culture and Indian life. Some may be interested in educational matters, others in economics. Some may want to understand something of Indian art and music, to have demonstration of Indian dancing or drama, others may be interested in the religious and social customs of India.

It is difficult for members of the Services to make contact with Indian civilians unless some meeting ground is provided. The first fraternity in Calcutta having proved such a success, the example was soon followed by Chittagong. In spite of the difficulty of finding suitable premises unavoidable in a forward area, this fraternity met a need which was most enthusiastically supported. Now the centres extend from Madras to Peshawar. The success of these two centres proved that a fraternity club could be organised successfully not only in great cities but also in forward areas if supported by keen groups of workers.

It was decided to set up a representative committee in Calcutta to extend the movement throughout India. Clubs are now functioning at Allahabad, Ambala, Calcutta, Dum Dum, Chittagong, Dacca, Dehra Dun, Indore, Kasaun, Simla, Lahore, Madras and Peshawar. Others are about to be formed in other centres.

Varied Activities

The activities have been many and varied —brains trusts, moonlight picnics, demonstration of dancing and music. At two clubs a demonstration of Indian dress was given. Indian members wore the costumes of different parts of India from the northern frontiers to the extreme south. At one centre rival performances of East and West were given in an open air theatre. During the *Poojah* recess some Indian members invited their European friends to festivals in their homes and took them to see the ceremonies.

I should like to give a few extracts from letters from Indian and European members. One leading aircraftman wrote to an Indian friend, a fellow member of the club, "words really cannot express the enjoyment and fellowship I received there. You will be made as welcome as I know how, should you ever visit my home."

A young Indian member wrote, "my eleven months' association with East and West Fraternity and through it with the service members, the best youthful elements of England and America, has turned the wheel of my life, and made me more liberal minded and cosmopolitan. It is no exaggeration if I say that my life has by all such associations been richer," and with regard to the visits he had made with European friends, he said, "we often go to Indian cinemas, theatres, exhibitions or sightseeing . . . it makes me feel very happy when they say afterwards "never knew India was such an interesting place, that she has such a glorious past, and that her people were so cultured and hospitable".

A corporal in the R.A.F. stationed in a lonely place wrote to an Indian member, "I am back to the old routine after that welcome break. We didn't have much time but you will agree we made the most of it. I have had very happy memories of the time we spent together and of our numberless discussions on every topic under the sun. The programme at the club seemed to have been very interesting, I envy your opportunities . . . all being well I shall be spending two weeks' leave in Calcutta next month. I hope you will be able to dig up plenty of things for us to do. I still have vivid recollections of the last leave which was the best I have spent in Calcutta, thanks largely to your energy which made sure that every evening was filled and due to some of the very interesting acquaintances that I made through your good offices."

Another wrote to the Indian friend after transfer, "I enjoyed our short association greatly, and I only hope you would be able to write a few lines to us. I realise how busy you are and am very appreciative of the time you are giving up for fellows in the Services."

All-India Movement

Such cases of friendship could be multiplied by thousands if the chance for contact is provided. Service members are of all ranks, from Colonels to Privates and they are valuable members who have something to contribute to better understanding. Many who have been transferred to other stations where there are no facilities of this kind often write urging that such 'meeting' grounds should be formed and some have taken active steps to initiate fraternities. Although this movement has come into existence to meet the needs of wartime, it is intended that it should grow and continue after the war.

This movement has great potentialities, for East and West have much to learn from each other. Despite all the present difficulties, when everyone has his hands full already and workers are scarce, this movement has met with an immediate response and is fast becoming an all-India movement, and it is my earnest hope, with apologies to Kipling, that through this Fraternity, though East is East and West is West, yet the twain shall meet.

SERVICEMEN'S FAMILY ENQUIRY BUREAUX

BRITISH servicemen in the India Command and the 14th Army can now take their domestic problems to enquiry bureaux at Lahore, Calcutta and Bangalore, where representatives of the Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Association are at hand to give them help and advice. Details of the services which the association gives are outlined in an Indian Army Order.

The association handles family worries of a non-legal nature regarding which servicemen, a long way from home, may need sympathetic guidance. The inquiries may relate to such subjects as the health, financial position or whereabouts in Britain of the men's next-of-kin, relatives or fiancee, or to problems dealing with hire-purchase, rent or war damage.

The men's inquiries are sent to the bureaux through units and military hospitals, giving the army number of the men concerned. The men can also visit the bureaux in cases where discussion is necessary.

If the inquiry bureaux cannot answer the queries themselves, they refer them to the overseas section of the association in London.

Financial Help

In England, the association has its own local representatives, who are experienced social workers. The association's workers visit the homes of the men and make reports and sometimes financial help is arranged for serviceman's relatives.

Inquiries are sent from India by airgraph. In cases requiring urgent action cables are sent at public expense. Though servicemen can send their queries direct to London it is in their own interest to put them through the bureaux in India, which means a speedier settlement of the case and ensures that the facts are clear and complete, says the Order. Inquiries can be sent in cypher, if necessary.

The association's service works in the reverse direction for the benefit of relatives at home regarding personnel abroad. The association is in close touch with the Directorate of Welfare and Amenities.



An unusual prisoner of war—the first Japanese army elephant to be captured in the advance down the Tiddim road.

"ELEPHANT BILL" IS BACK ON THE JOB

"ELEPHANT BILL"—he knows 600 elephants in Burma by name and can recognise each one on sight—is back on the job again in the Tamu area "re-enlisting" elephants the Japs have been using.

"Elephant Bill" is Lt.-Col. J. H. Williams. His official designation is "Elephant Adviser to the 14th Army."

He will long be remembered in Burma for the remarkable feat he accomplished when, arriving in Tamu during the 1942 evacuation, he managed to get away, by elephants to Imphal, all the women and children belonging to employees of his firm, the Bombay-Burma Company.

This meant sending the elephants with their human cargo up the telegraph track which climbs straight up and down the sheer mountain sides. The Tamu road was still to be built.

Later Lt.-Col. Williams organised the elephants for the first Wingate expedition.

"Elephant Bill"—he first arrived in Burma in 1920—certainly has a way with elephants, writes an Indian Army Observer. They allow him to operate on them without a murmur.

Recently when the Japs were cleared from the West Bank of the Chindwin, and an elephant was brought in, he recognised it as one he had worked with as a forest manager before the war.

When it is all over, "Elephant Bill" hopes to sit back for a while and write a book about elephants. It ought to be good.

RED CROSS RELIEF WORK

Red Cross has so far received over Rs. 28 lakhs in cash contributions for its famine relief work but taking into consideration milk supplies received as gift as well as those paid for by Provincial and State Governments, the value of the milk the Society is distributing is estimated to be nearly Rs. one crore.

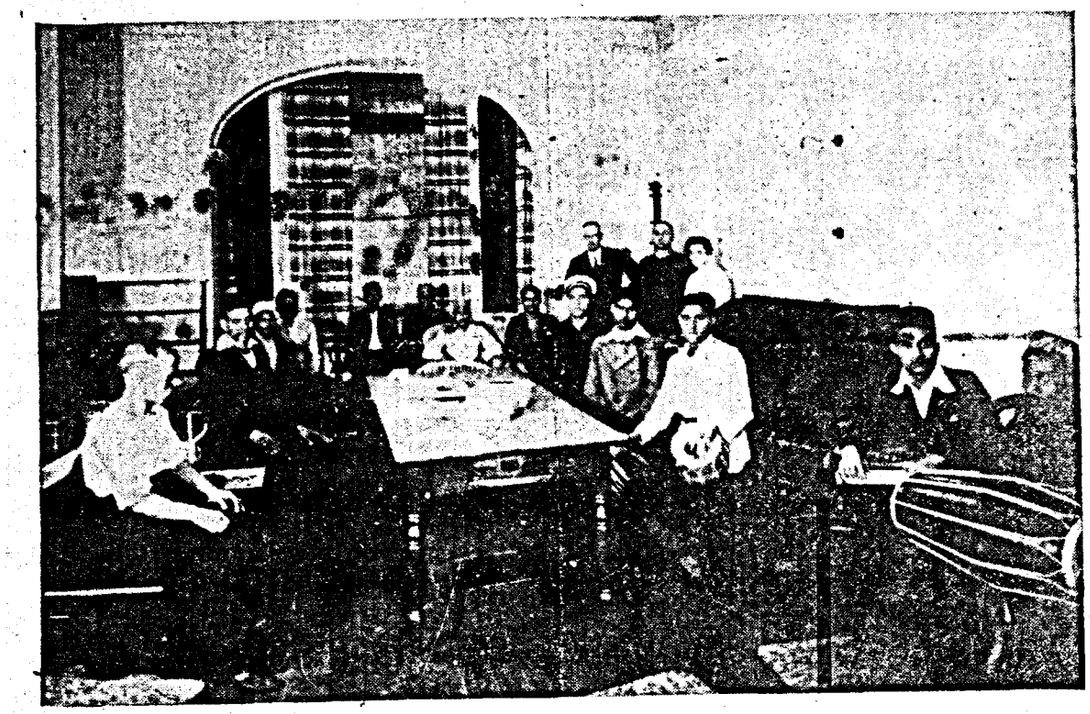
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• VICEROY'S TRIBUTE TO INDIAN MERCANTILE MARINE



The Missions to Seamen have established an Eastern Seamen's Club in Fremantle, Western Australia. Hundreds of Indians have taken advantage of the facilities offered by this club, towards which a grant of £1,000 was made from H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund last March. Picture shows the general recreation room of the club.

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AIMS:—To provide a condensed record of the main peace and war activities of the Government of India, together with some outstanding facts about the British Government's war activities. INDIAN INFORMATION does not compete with the Press; it exists for their convenience and is not intended for general circulation among the public.

PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, *e.g.*, the public administrator, whether he be governmental (Central or Provincial), municipal, commercial, educational or institutional, the editor, the publisher, the journalist and the publicist.

FORMAT:—Headings, sub-titles and bold face passages are inserted to facilitate reading, but they should not in themselves necessarily be considered as expressions of official opinion or emphasis.

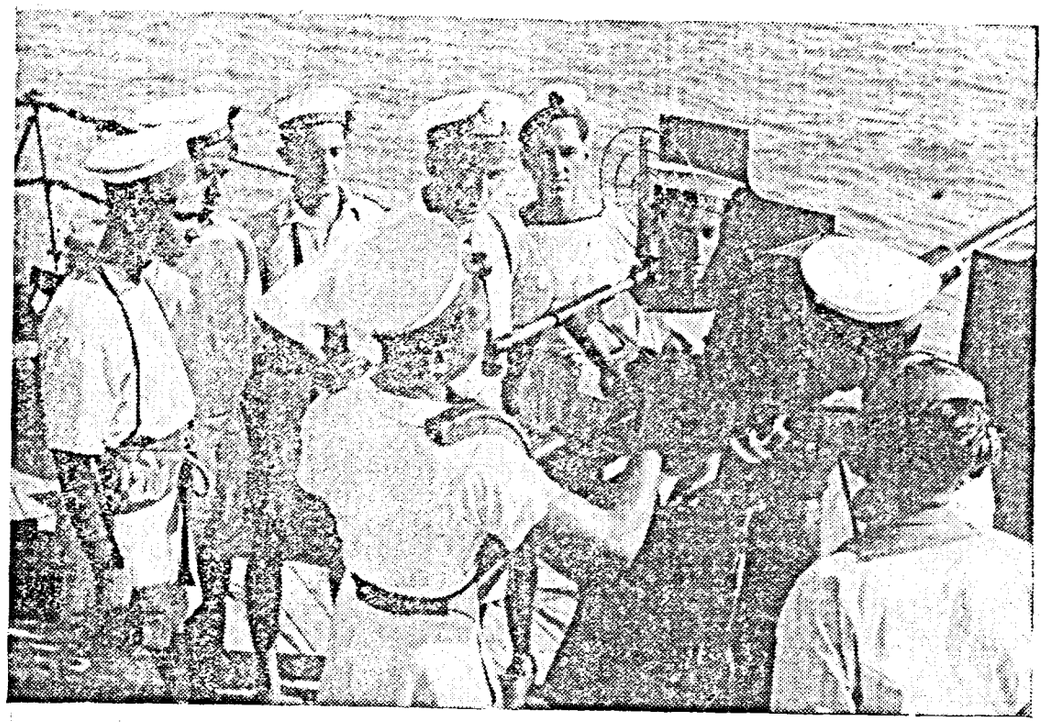
CONTRIBUTIONS:—Many MSS are submitted to us which we regretfully return; since everything published in INDIAN INFORMATION emanates from an official source, it follows that non-official contributions cannot be accepted.

Issued Fortnightly by J. Natarajan, Principal Information Officer, Government of India.
Associate Editor: P. D. Murti.

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COVER PAGE: Jemadar Gopal Singh of Jammu, points out enemy positions to Capt. Hassan Khan from the summit of the newly captured Kennedy Peak (Chin Hills).



R.I.N. ratings receive instruction in Oerlikon gun drill on board an H.M.I. ship.

VICEROY ON VALUE OF MERCHANT SERVICE TO INDIA

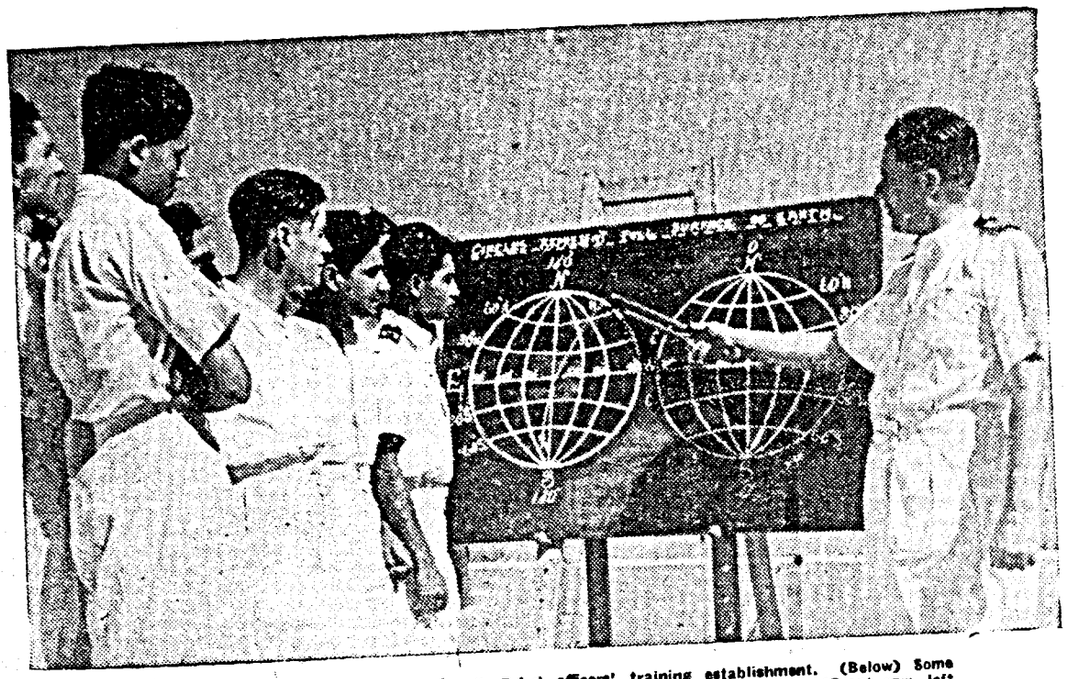
"TO India the development of a Merchant Service is specially important. I believe there are only two or three countries with a longer coastline than India, probably only two—Australia and the United States of America—with a greater length of generally navigable coastline. Russia and Canada may have longer stretches on the map, but they are largely ice-bound and useless for trade. So it is essential that India should have an adequate strength of shipping, manned by her own citizens," said H.E. the Viceroy in his address at the annual prize-giving ceremony on board the I.M.M.T.S. Dufferin on December 7.

Here is the full text of Lord Wavell's speech:

I am grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for your generous welcome. I am very gad to have been able to visit this training ship, Dufferin. It gives me several opportunities: the opportunity to express to the Mercantile Marine my admiration for its work during the war; the opportunity to see for myself something of what India is doing to train her youth to the sea; and the opportunity to congratulate Captain McConnell and all of you on the standard of character and education which you are setting in this ship.

I am a soldier and must speak to you from the point of view of a soldier, and, I am afraid, a land-lubber. It is customary in writing official narratives of military operations—I have written some ten or a dozen during this war—to begin by outlining the plan for defeating the enemy, then to describe the course of the fighting; and in a sort of postscript to refer kindly but briefly to the work of the transport drivers and others on the lines of communication.

The Mercantile Marine seldom, if ever, gets a mention at all. It should really be the other way round. Not merely does the success of any military operation depend on the quality of the work on the lines of communication; but no operation can be carried out unless the transportation system is in good order and the transport personnel work with a will. In all operations carried out by British or Indian forces in



A navigation class in H.M.I.S. "Feroze", R.I.N. officers' training establishment. (Below) Some of the many South Indians serving in R.I.N. Communications Branch. They are (Front row, left to right): Ordinary Signalman M. P. Rao, of Bangalore; Ordinary Signalman R. Browne, Bangalore; Signalman T. M. Nataraian, Cuddalore; Signalman B. N. Ramalingam, Coonoor. (Back row, left to right): Leading Telegraphist T. Raman Menon, Trichur; Signalman B. V. S. Rao, Salem. They are serving in H.M.I.S. "Jumna".



this war the story begins further back still, with the Mercantile Marine on the high seas, bringing reinforcements and supplies, and with the naval escorts protecting the convoys. It is unspectacular but vital work, the mainstay of our successes and indeed of our lives. It is work carried out in conditions of danger and discomfort, though it receives comparatively little recognition.

Tribute to Mercantile Marine

I am glad therefore to have this opportunity, as a military commander, to pay a tribute to that work, and to impress on you all its value to us. I know what I have owed to it as a Commander-in-Chief; I know what I owe to it every day now as Viceroy of India. Former cadets of this ship are playing a notable part in this work, as officers of the Indian Mercantile Marine or of their naval escorts. I understand that 50 per cent of the 700 or so cadets who have passed through this ship are actually serving at sea in the Royal Indian Navy or Mercantile Marine.

Next I want to say a few words to you on the significance of the career you have chosen for yourselves and for India. It is a great service to which you are dedicating yourselves. I think it is right to say that the seafaring profession and the medical profession are the two callings which have made the greatest contribution to the progress of civilization. Both are lives of hard service, yours, especially. Both are of great value to humanity. Trade by sea, carried on by the daring of the sailor, has been always the vanguard in the march of civilization throughout the world.

To India the development of a Merchant Service is specially important. I believe there are only two or three countries with a longer coastline than India, probably only two—Australia and the United States of America—with a greater length of generally navigable coastline. Russia and Canada may have longer stretches on the map, but they are largely ice-bound and useless for trade. So it is essential that India should have an adequate strength of shipping, manned by her own citizens. I am glad to learn that there has been a record number of applicants this year for the training given on Dufferin.

Lastly, I should like to congratulate you all on what I have seen here today, on the standard of training—moral, physical and technical—which this ship upholds. I am sure that you all realise that in your service it is character above everything else that counts. The sea does not long tolerate a weakling or a waverer.

When I was a young officer on the North-West Frontier—that was many years ago, I am afraid—it was always impressed on me that the Pathan tribesman was the best practical examiner in minor tactics; he was always watching you, he seldom let carelessness or irresolution pass unpunished, he acted quickly so that your own decisions had to be quick.

I should say that the sea was the best practical examiner of character; any weakness, any hesitation, any lack of hardihood is found out and is punished, sooner or later, and almost always sooner. A hard testing life, but a man's life. Oak and triple brass must be round the heart of the man who goes to sea, said the Latin poet, Horace. If he had been writing today he might have substituted teak and hardened steel.

I wish you all good fortune in your training and in your seafaring. You have a great opportunity in a great service.

ADDRESS AT INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

Replying to an address by Dr. H. J. Nichols, Chairman, Advisory Committee, India, Institution of Civil Engineers, Bombay, on the occasion of the presentation of the diploma of Honorary Membership of the Institution to H.E. the Viceroy on December 7, Lord Wavell said:

Gentlemen, I am very proud to have become an Honorary Member of your great Institution of Civil Engineers, and to receive the diploma of membership from so distinguished a body of representatives. I hope you will convey my gratitude to the President and to the Council.

When I was informed early this year of the offer of honorary membership, I was highly gratified but, I own, just a little surprised, since I have neither skill nor knowledge in mechanical matters. Though I have owned and driven cars for many years, I know no more of what goes on under the bonnet of a car than I do of what passes under the bonnet of a woman; both are mysteries to me. So that the "general advancement of mechanical science", which is the object of your Institution, will not benefit much from my personal efforts, though it will most certainly have my warmest encouragement. And this, as you have told me, is what is expected from honorary members.

I owe much to the work of the Royal Engineers during this war; they certainly lived up

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 778)



Mahratta soldiers attack up a steep hillside through a smoke-screen in Italy.

8TH INDIAN DIVISION CRACKED ITALY'S HARDEST NUTS

"WE can cut notches for the Biferno, the Trigno, the Sangro, the Moro, the Rapido, and the Anro rivers—and there are more ahead," said Major-General D. Russell, Commander of the Eighth Indian Division, in a Special Order of the Day marking the completion of the Division's first year in Italy.

India's first fighting formation to set foot in Europe, the Eighth Indian Division landed at Taranto on September 24, 1943, writes an Indian Army Observer. Campaigning in snow, which most of its men had never before seen, in mud and in steady, driving rain, the Division cracked some of the toughest nuts in all the hard fighting up the spine of Italy.

Fierce Three-day Battle

Montgomery used it to spearhead his attack on the first German winterline at Sangro in a fierce three-day battle. Later the Division was selected by Monty's successor, General Leese, to be among his assault forces to break the German resistance at Cassino. It was the Eighth that made the first breach in the Gustav Line.

"Our success," said Major-General Russell, "has been largely due to rigid reduction of transport, maintaining pressure by skilful patrolling and by hitting really hard when attack was necessary. The junior leaders have played a great part in preparing for the kill.

"Many have performed tasks for which they were not primarily intended. Anti-aircraft gunners have made excellent traffic control police and as a smoke-producing unit they have saved many casualties at considerable risk to themselves. The anti-tank gunners have performed valuable pioneer work."

During the fighting for the high ground before Florence, the Division's Mahrattas, looking for billets for battalion headquarters, discovered priceless art treasures taken from the Florence galleries and left unguarded in an old castle. Their immediate rescue was one of the Divisional Commander's most unusual jobs of the campaign.

The Division's part in the advance on Florence drew a tribute from the Army commander, who said that its stubborn fighting on the left flank was a considerable contribution to the ultimate liberation of the city. Constantly sniped from houses and distracted by marauding enemy armoured cars one brigade crossed the Arno and occupied the northern half of Florence.

In a heavy counter-attack by the enemy in defence of a road north of Florence two sections of a Frontier Force unit and the Highlanders of the Division were surrounded. They fought it out to the last man.

A Straight Run

After that it was a straight run over the mountain range, into the Sieve valley, across the river and towards the mountains which formed the basis of the Gothic defences. Infantry helped sappers to make a jeep track over 3,000-foot Mt. Giovi; a 25-pounder gun hauled over this track by men of a field regiment from Manchester was the only gun supporting the forward troops in their initial assaults on the foothills that formed the outposts of the Gothic Line in this sector.

Mahrattas, first over the Sieve, captured Mt. Veruca after an attack acclaimed as a model combination of punch and precision, while a Punjab regiment assaulted Vigliano, vital enemy switch position. La Scalette, one of the Division's two objectives, then fell without further ado.

On the right, the capture of high ground by a Frontier Force unit provided the Gurkhas

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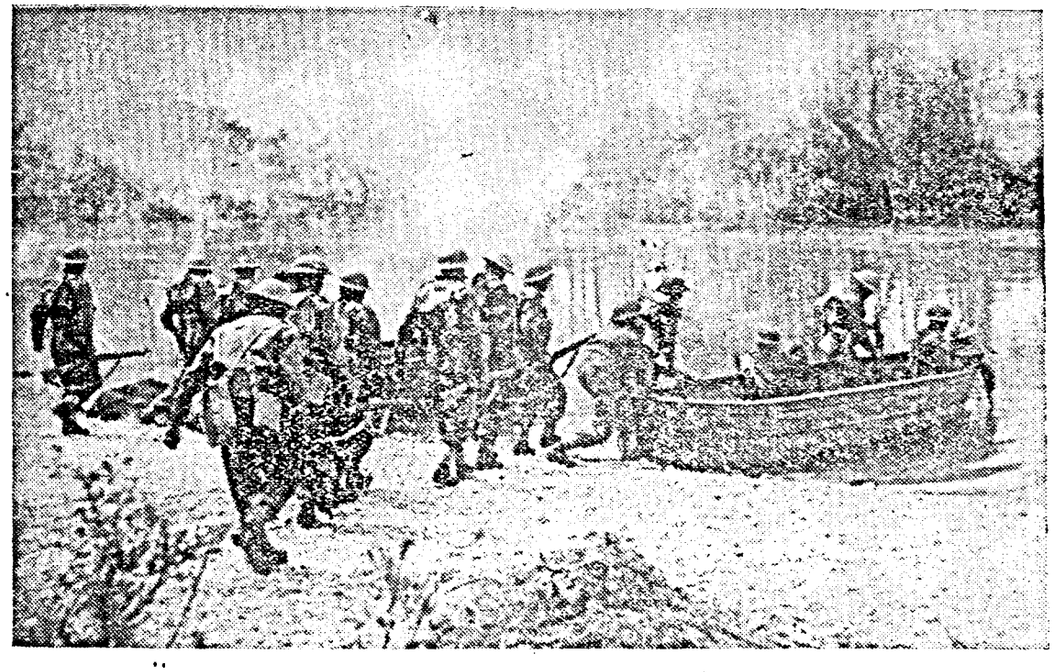
MAHRATTA BATTALION'S RECORD IN ITALY

FIGHTING its way up half the length of the peninsula, "Royal", the machine-gun battalion of the 5th Mahratta Light Infantry recently celebrated the completion of its first year in Italy. Its machine-guns chattered their way across the Biferno, the Trigno, the Moro, the Rapido and the Arno before the broad Po Valley opened up before them.

The battalion was one of those selected for complete Indianisation. It is today commanded by an Indian soldier with a martial heritage going back three generations—Lt.-Col. Digamber Singh Brar. The title "Royal" was conferred upon the battalion in 1920. In the last war, it took part in the famous siege of Kut.

When it was decided in January, 1943, to convert the battalion into a machine-gun battalion, the Mahrattas gave a striking demonstration of their aptitude for precision and accuracy by mastering in three months the intricacies of the heaviest automatic weapons in use today, writes an Indian Army Observer.

In Italy, the battalion has rarely been able to fight as a whole. Most of the time it has



Men of a 5th Mahratta battalion crossing a river (in Italy) under cover of a smoke-screen and machine-gun fire.



Mahratta soldiers enter the town of Castrocielo in the Liri Valley (Italy) after it was occupied by a North Indian regiment. (Below) A street scene in Monte Calvo. The town was taken by Indian troops without opposition.



been strung out in a series of small groups, its machine-guns giving support to the infantry over a 20-mile front—and generally drawing upon themselves the biggest concentrations of enemy fire.

"I have a divisional commander and three brigadiers to satisfy all the time," Lt.-Col. Brar told me just before he dashed off in his jeep, "Rani,"—a familiar sight on this front, daily making the rounds of the scattered groups of Mahratta machine-gun men.

Continuous Hard Fighting

The battalion's records of the year make a remarkable story of almost continuous hard fighting—some of the hardest in this hard campaign—for the crags and hills and river lines along the knotted spine of Italy.

"23.00 hours 11 May, 44, (the record reads) was machine-gunners' field day. Battalion fired 200,000 rounds with their machine-guns in support of the divisional operation. Mortars battered away at the enemy dug-outs. It was a great show, a wonderful sight and the biggest fire plan on this front."

That was at the crossing of the Gari river. One company got across the river by night; under a smoke-screen the men dug hard through the night, making weapon-pits. As dawn came they went into action with machine-guns and mortars.

These little bands of Mahratta machine-gunners are spreading the fame of the Indian soldier far and wide. A Canadian sergeant attached to the Mahrattas to instruct them in the use of mortars became so attached to his pupils that when he returned to his unit he asked to be allowed to continue to wear the Mahrattas' flash on his uniform.

8TH INDIAN DIVISION IN ITALY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 739)

with a springboard for an attack on Femmina Morta. The Gurkhas took their objective, capturing 47 and killing 25 Germans at the cost of one casualty.

As Major-General Russell, the Division's Commander said: "The retrospect is pleasant, the prospect is inspiring." And there is no doubt that the Eighth Indian Division will follow his concluding advice with enthusiasm—it was "Keep right on to the end of the road."

U. S. HONOURS FOR THIRD INDIAN DIVISION

IN recognition of outstanding services in Burma a brigade commander, a lieutenant and a jemadar of the Third Indian Division have been awarded the Silver Star by the Commanding General, United States Army Forces, India-Burma theatre.

They are Brig. J. M. Calvert, commanding 77th Indian Infantry Brigade; Lt. J. E. D. Wilcox, South Staffordshire Regiment; and Jemadar Rikhi Ramiale, of the "double V.C." battalion of the 6th Gurkha Rifles.

These awards of the Silver Star are the first to be made to men of the Indian Army in this theatre. The Silver Star ranks fifth in American decorations for gallantry.

Brig. Calvert receives the Silver Star for his great leadership at Mogaung this year. Confronted with heavy casualties, flooded terrain and extreme physical hardships, Brig. Calvert cooperated closely with a Chinese regiment in an attack which inflicted severe losses on the enemy, resulting in the capture of Mogaung.

Lt. Wilcox wins the Silver Star for consistent gallantry over a long period. He led his section in the vanguard of his brigade's advance towards Mogaung and succeeded in destroying the Namkwin-Mogaung railway. At Mogaung itself he continued in command of his unit in spite of a head wound until the objective had been reached.

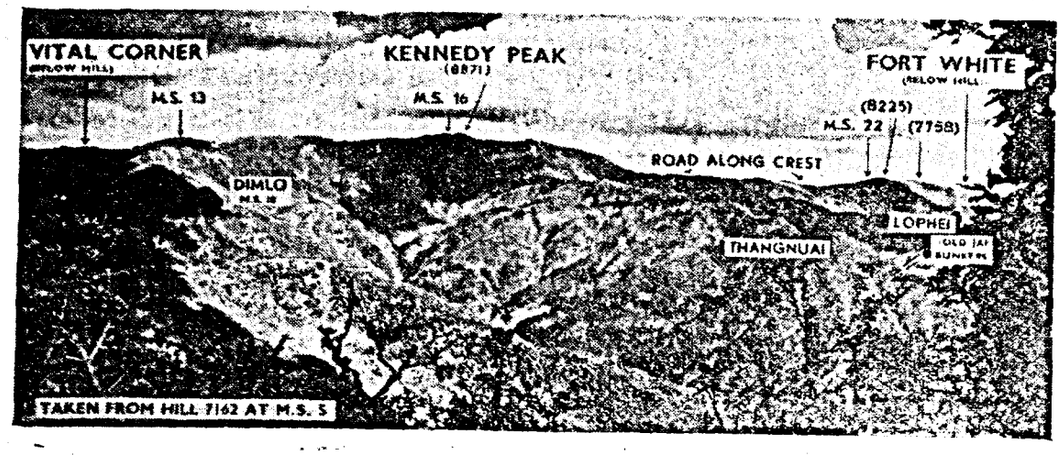
Jemadar Rikhi Ramiale led his platoon against strong Jap bunkers. Ever the first to throw his grenade and the first to rise and lead the assaults, he killed the Japs with bayonet and kukri.

"The courage and leadership of Jemadar Rikhi Ramiale reflects great credit on himself and the Armed Forces of the United Nations," says the citation.

QUETTA MILITARY DAIRY FARM IMPORTS FRIESIANS

Two hundred pure-bred Friesian cattle are being imported from abroad to re-stock Quetta's Military Dairy Farm—one more contribution by the Indian Army's Farms Department towards that improvement of stock which must have a key place in India's post-war agricultural programme.

The Quetta Farm's new steel-and-concrete earthquake-proof buildings, which replaced the buildings damaged in 1935, are now almost completed.



A panoramic view of the country over which the Fifth Indian Division has in recent weeks forced the Japanese back to Kalemyo. British and Indian troops have fought magnificently over these mountains where the Japs had some of their strongest defensive positions.

INDIAN TROOPS PUSH ON TO FORT WHITE

AS they push on towards Fort White the men of the Fifth Indian Division must now look over their shoulders to see Kennedy Peak, towering 8,800 feet behind them as a symbol of Indian-British courage, endurance and tenacity in some of the fiercest fighting on this front.

For many weary days it loomed before them as a difficult if inevitable goal; today it lies behind. For the Japs, evacuees from its shattered and shell-torn bunkers, it is one more landmark on the road back to Tokyo.

Precipitous Slopes

Seasoned Indian troops with experience of Abyssinia and the North-West Frontier describe Kennedy Peak as the worst country they have ever seen, writes an Indian Army Observer. Knife-edge ridges, precipitous slopes, steaming jungle and tracks at which even mules jib were conquered by men of famous Indian and British regiments in the face of great physical difficulty and hardship.

Bitterly cold days, still colder nights, terrain shrouded in mist and cloud, guns which had to be manhandled by their crews and lowered into position by ropes before blasting the wavering Jap—these were only a few of the snags.



Japanese key positions are falling fast before the 5th Indian Division's advance beyond Fort White in Burma. This picture was taken when the Division captured Kennedy Peak—8,000 feet high—in the Chin Hills and shows Indian troops moving up to consolidate the newly-won positions on the Peak.

BURMA VETERANS RETURN TO INDIA

WITH 14 military decorations to its credit, apart from nine "mentions", two commendation cards and two gallantry certificates, a battalion of the 16th Punjab Regiment has returned home after two years of continuous service on the Burma Front.

During the days of the attempted invasion of India, the battalion proved itself a worthy member of the group to which it belongs, beating the Jap at every turn. The welcome it received was correspondingly enthusiastic, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Awaiting its arrival was a large party from the regimental centre, including officers and men of the battalion who had returned from active service during the preceding months. The band was playing and happy re-unions followed to the lively skirl of the pipes; the platform became the scene of hectic activity as officers singled out their old orderlies, and V.C.O.s, their old officers, for an orgy of hand-shaking and reminiscence.

Special "Bara Khana"

As the train arrived ten hours earlier than expected a special *bara khana* that had been arranged could not be cooked in time. But the ingredients were put in the carriages for the resumption of the journey.

As the battalion was passing through to a new and pleasant station there was but a short hour in which to pack a century of gossip. Beneath the green and yellow heraldry of the battalion emblem anecdotes were exchanged in Punjabi, Urdu and English with many an old encounter remembered and many an old battle refought.

Everywhere there was evidence of *dil* and unshaken morale. The warriors who had so recently come out were all speaking with enthusiasm of the time when they would return to the line showing the Japs once again the claws of the tiger.

When the whistle blew and the train began to move the pipe band of the regimental centre formed up to play them out. The war cry of the battalion mingled stirringly with the haunting strains of "Auld Lang Syne" as the officers and men on the platform returned the waves and salutes of their old comrades who had come back in triumph from the Eastern battleground.

DOGRAS BACK HOME AFTER 2½ YEARS

After 2½ years overseas, spending much of the time in guarding vital lend-lease supplies passing through Iraq and Iran to Russia, a battalion of the 17th Dogra Regiment has returned to India. It was greeted by a message of welcome from the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck.

The battalion spent the summer grilling in the oven-like heat of the deep, narrow Persian valleys, protecting the lend-lease railway line from sabotage by Axis agents. Shade temperatures rose to 130 degrees, tent temperatures to 140.

Raised in October, 1941, at Jullundur by Lt.-Col. H. A. Oatts, the battalion was moved overseas to answer an urgent call for reinforcements to prepare positions in the Persian hills against the possibility of a Caucasus breakthrough by the Germans. The battalion assisted in preparing the many positions laboriously dug and concreted all the way from Persia back to the North West of India.

FAMILIES' MEDICAL CENTRE FOR DOCKYARD WORKERS

A dispensary and maternity ward have been opened in Bombay for families of workers in H.M.I. Naval Dockyard.

The workers are making a big contribution to the war at sea as the dockyard is always busy repairing and refitting naval vessels. This latest development in a comprehensive welfare scheme has greatly reduced their worries over the health of their families.

The medical officer in charge is Dr. (Mrs.) S. S. Gore, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. (London) who has had much experience both as a doctor and as a social worker. Her staff of nurses visits workers' homes, advises on children's health, and gives ante-natal and post-natal treatment.

Started in Parel, the centre has been moved to larger quarters on Hornby Road. On the ground floor are the main dispensary and children's treatment room and playroom, while the top floor accommodates the maternity ward.

All facilities are provided free—including food for patients in the maternity ward. The number of calls for advice, medical treatment etc. each month has risen to 1500—and is still rising. This shows how much the many thousands of dockyard workers appreciate the Centre.

NAWAB OF BHOPAL VISITS BURMA FRONT

AIR Commodore His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal recently visited Indian Air Force squadrons on the Burma Front.

On the forward airfields from which I.A.F. fighter reconnaissance and Hurribomber squadrons are operating, he inspected officers and men, listened to pilots being briefed for operations and watched ground crews servicing aircraft.

His Highness spoke to many members of the squadrons and made a point of questioning the men on their welfare. He visited sick quarters and talked to the patients, and on another occasion enjoyed tea with airmen in a servicing workshop.

The Bhopal Ruler also visited an American fighter unit, the famous Twin Dragon P 38 Lightning squadron. In the photographic section, he saw a number of combat films taken on the previous day's operations by the squadron over Rangoon airfields.

A visit to Indian troops was included in His Highness's tour. They gave him a warm welcome and he chatted with a number of old friends and acquaintances among them.

NEW TRAINER AIRCRAFT FOR I.A.F.

A new type of trainer aircraft is now being used at the Flying Training Schools of the Indian Air Force in addition to the Tiger Moth and the Harvard. It is the Cornell, an aircraft of American design.

The Cornell is a standard training type and is used by the Air Forces of the United States and Canada. It is a light-weight, low-winged monoplane and its simple lines make it in appearance very much like some of the later members of the 'Moth' family, the most famous of which it is now gradually replacing. It is stoutly constructed on a steel tube frame so that it will stand up to hard usage. It is equipped both for blind and night flying.

The Cornell is faster and more powerful than the Tiger Moth but not so powerful as the Harvard, and thus it is suited both for elementary and intermediate instruction. In this up-to-date trainer, I.A.F. cadets learn to fly in an aircraft which has the same characteristics as high-performance combat types.

INDIAN ENGINEERS' "FLYING FERRY"

ON his recent visit to the North Burma Front Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South-East Asia Command, rode in a flying ferry operated by Indian Engineers attached to the 36th Division. Its intricacies were explained to me by a sapper officer, writes a 14th Army Observer.

The accurate bombing of the 10th U.S. A.A.F. down the railway corridor necessitated much repair work by our sappers. One of the biggest problems was at Loilaw, three miles south of Mogaung, where the Namyin Chaung, tributary of the Mogaung river, passes beneath the track to form the eastern flank of the railway corridor.

American bombers had destroyed the bridge and also a subsidiary detour bridge built by the Japs. The chaung at this point is fast-flowing and 250 feet wide.

An Ingenious Device

So the engineers evolved the flying ferry, an ingenious device which utilises the force of the current. The men were a company of Hindu Shilpkars commanded by Major C. P. Roberts, of 3, Childwall Road, Liverpool, in peacetime an engineer employed by Ellesmere Port Urban District Council.

First they had to find equipment. The little timber in the vicinity was mainly damaged by fire and bombardment; the weather prevented the transport of heavy stores.

But these men are used to improvisation. Using four Jap light pontoon boats they, in 3½ days, built a raft capable of taking five tons across the river.

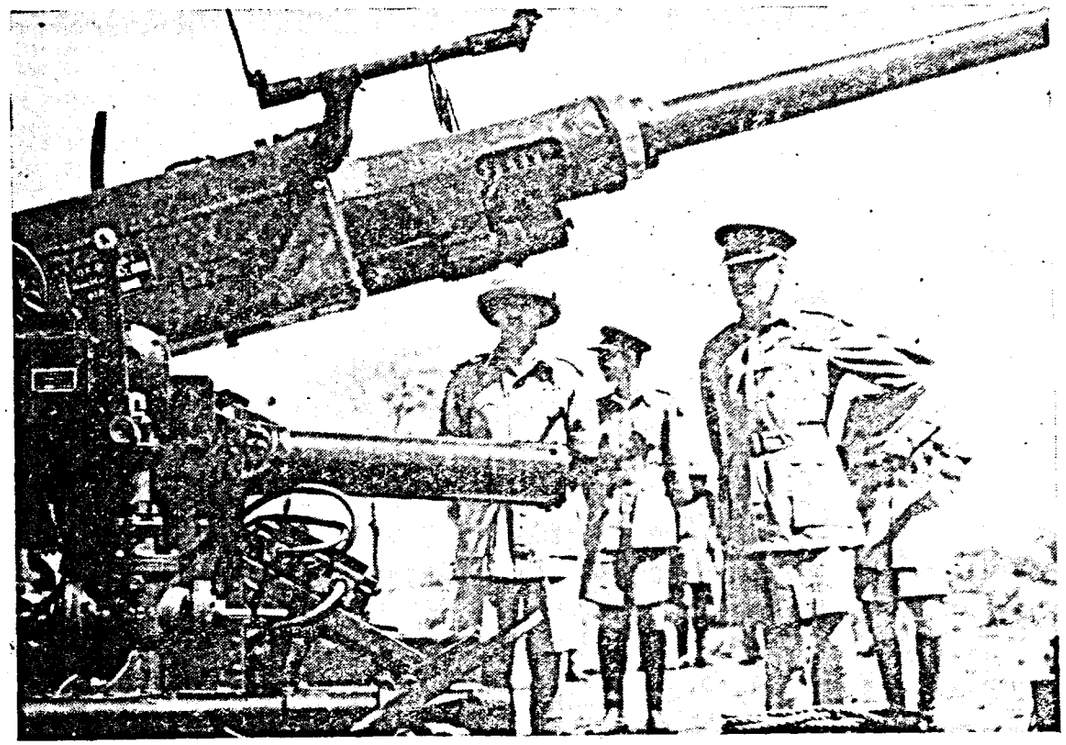
The Hindu Shilpkars are stocky little men from Garhwal, Almora and Lansdowne, in the foothills of the Himalayas.

TONK CENTRAL WAR COMMITTEE'S GIFT

A sum of Rs. 4,000 has been received in H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund from the Central War Committee, Tonk, for the following purposes:

Rs. 2,000 for Prisoners of War in Japan and Rs. 2,000 for Christmas gifts to soldiers.

The gifts have been gratefully accepted by His Excellency.



Gen. Auchinleck examining a Bofors anti-aircraft gun when he visited the Field Artillery Training Centre at Muttra.

INDIAN ARTILLERY'S NEW MEDIUM BATTERIES

MEDIUM batteries have been added to the Indian Artillery. The introduction of medium batteries marks the latest development in the growth of the Indian Artillery, which since the war has expanded from a few mountain regiments to a large and powerful force embracing almost all types of artillery.

The first of the new Indian medium gunners, mainly Rajputs and Madrassis, are now training hard somewhere in India and being initiated into the service of the 5.5-inch gun.

The regiment of Indian Artillery came into being a few years before the present war but at the start of the war, the Indian Artillery consisted solely of one Indian field artillery regiment. The real strength of the Indian gunners lay in the renowned mountain artillery, which at that time formed part of the Royal Regiment of Artillery and was only later transferred to the new regiment of Indian Artillery.

Here it at once provided that strong nucleus of hard, well-trained and experienced gunners which was to prove of such vast importance to the future of the new regiment. It was not only the technical efficiency of the mountain gunners which was of such great value; their pride and great traditions were of even more importance.

Expansion Programme

These mountain gunners are some of the best in the world, inheriting the tradition of their forefathers of the Abyssinian, Afghanistan and Burma wars of the last century, in which the Indian gunners, trained on the North-West Frontier, were conspicuously successful. Indian mountain gunners also fought with distinction in the last war.

But the enlarged gunnery needs of the present war brought big changes. As India began to exert her strength as a military nation, the

Indian Artillery began an expansion programme which has brought it to the front rank of combatant corps.

The Indian Artillery now has its own mountain, field, medium, heavy anti-aircraft, light anti-aircraft, anti-tank, mortar, survey, coast and searchlight batteries. In North Africa, Burma, Sicily and Italy its gunners have been in action and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy.

Today all personnel of the Indian Artillery, except for a proportion of British officers and N.C.O. instructors, are Indians. Large artillery training centres have been established and thousands of first class gunners have been turned out from these centres at Ambala, Muttra and Mehgaon.

Early Training

Almost all the early training of the new wartime gunners became the task of the personnel of the mountain artillery, which formed the sole basis for expansion.

It was men of the Indian Artillery who fought a whole panzer division in the Western Desert. When Rommel was thundering across Libya on the great drive of 1942, gunners from the 2nd Indian Field Regiment at Bir Hacheim fought to the last man and the last round, their guns blazing away until long after all chance of the withdrawal had gone. They knocked out nearly 40 tanks before finally being overrun.

It was the Indian Artillery which was given the distinction of firing the Viceroy's salute at New Delhi when Lord Wavell was installed in October, 1943.

TRAINING INDIA'S MOUNTAIN GUNNERS

Spread over an area of 1,000 acres, the Mountain Artillery Training Centre at Ambala, only one of its kind in India, is today busier than ever, turning out more and more men for the world-renowned Indian mountain artillery regiments.

The fighting on the Assam-Burma Front, with its problems of jungle and mountain warfare, has made a constant flow of mountain artillerymen vital. With living accommodation for several thousand recruits and instructors, the average output of the Mountain Artillery Training Centre has been steadily increased to meet this demand.

It is the great mobility of the mountain artillery that has made it so important. Mountain guns on pack mules can be taken to the most difficult positions across rough and rugged country and through thick jungle where it would be impracticable to take guns on wheels.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 750)



Working of a field gun being demonstrated to the C.-in-C. at the Muttra Field Artillery Training Centre.

C.-IN-C. SEES JUNGLE TRAINING IN C. P.

THE Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, who recently paid a short visit to the Central Provinces, met representatives of the Press at Nagpur. Stressing the importance of co-operation between the Press and the Army he said that the Press had the power to contribute much towards the winning of the war.

Accompanied by the District Commander, Major-Gen. R. B. Clarabut, the Commander-in-Chief drove from the aerodrome to Kamptee, where he inspected a battalion of the Coorg regiment and saw a battalion of the Mahar regiment carrying out normal training. He was particularly interested in the physical training and boxing of the Boys' Company.

Later he visited a motor transport training centre and the combined military hospital, where he chatted with many of the patients.

The C.-in-C. also visited the Rest Camp and Twynam hostel and met several ladies of the W.V.S., including the chairman of the local branch, Mrs. A. O. Hardy, the provincial honorary secretary, Mrs. Peers, and the president of



Jungle warfare training: Gen. Auchinleck watches men under training near Belgaum during his tour of the Bombay Presidency.



The C.-in-C. watches Indian soldiers learning to improvise boats and rafts from groundsheets and bamboo.

the Red Cross Committee for the C.P. and Berar, Lady Burton.

Gen. Auchinleck expressed pleasure at seeing such a large contingent of the W.V.S. and especially at seeing so many Indian ladies among them. He paid a warm tribute to the valuable work they were doing.

Jungle Patrol

General Auchinleck later visited one of the training formations which prepare Indian troops for jungle warfare. The training takes place in terrain typical of that found in many parts of Assam and Burma.

Men from all branches of the army are sent to these formations before joining active units in operational areas. The C.-in-C., travelling much of the way by jeep, was taken around the area by Maj.-Gen. A. C. Curtis, who is in charge of the training.

His Excellency closely followed men taking part in a jungle patrol and watched them "detect" imaginary tree snipers and booby traps. He saw men advance over obstacle and assault courses under fire and through smoke; in many cases "live" ammunition was being used to accustom men to act coolly while under fire and to train them to take cover.

Gen. Auchinleck also visited men of the Indian Engineers building bridges and saw infantry crossing rivers in assault craft, home-made rafts and small boats. He also saw men of a British heavy anti-aircraft regiment and Madrassi sappers belonging to a field company of the Indian Engineers, with whom was Major P. S. Bhagat, V.C.

Addressing officers of the area, the C.-in-C. said that the work which they were doing had earned the appreciation of many senior commanders with the South East Asia Command who had been able to put the value of the training to practical tests in recent operations.

POSTAL SERVICE TO GREECE

With immediate effect, mail communication to Greece has been resumed. The service is for the present restricted to non-illustrated post cards of a personal or family nature and is available to all areas in Greece except Macedonia, Western Thrace and Crete, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on December 8.

AIR CHIEF'S FAREWELL ORDER OF THE DAY

IN a Farewell Order of the Day to the Allied Air Forces in South East Asia, Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, said:

"In relinquishing command of the Allied Air Forces of South East Asia, I send to every officer, airman and airwoman—American, Dutch, Indian, Dominion and British—this personal message of farewell.

"Each and every one of you has contributed in full measure to the building up of a wonderful Command and to the discomfiture of the enemy.

"Besides our common purpose, which is the destruction of a barbarous and despicable enemy, we, as an Allied Command, have been knit together by a deep feeling of respect and friendship, one for another. The Air Command is one command and, as such, I know will go forward sparing neither effort nor personal consideration until that purpose is accomplished.

"It is with very deep regret I say farewell but I shall carry away with me a memory of work well done and the knowledge that final victory will crown your effort. Good luck to you all."

C.-IN-C.'S THANKS

In a letter to Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, who is relinquishing his post as Allied Air Commander-in-Chief, South East Asia, the Commander-in-Chief in India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck thanks Sir Richard for his valuable help and co-operation in the war against the Japs.

"I want also to thank you for the very lively interest you have shown in and the great help you have given to the Indian Air Force," says the C.-in-C. "The fact that it is now an efficient and valuable fighting force is in no small extent due to your wise guidance and control.

"I wish you the best of luck in the future from all ranks of the India Command."

There will be no issue of "Indian Information" dated January 1, 1945.

"AULD LANG SYNE" FOR GENERAL GIFFARD

C.-in-C.'s Farewell Letter

GEN. Sir George Giffard, G.C.B., D.S.O., A.D.C., who recently handed over command of the 11th Army Group to Lt.-Gen. Sir Oliver Leese, has left by air for the United Kingdom.

At the Delhi airport Gen. Giffard was greeted by the Commander-in-Chief in India, Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck, and inspected a guard of honour drawn from the 4th (Outram's) battalion, 6th Rajputana Rifles. As Gen. Giffard climbed aboard his special 'plane the band of the Rajputana Rifles Regimental Centre played "Auld Lang Syne".

In a farewell letter to Gen. Giffard the C.-in-C. said: "I want to thank you personally, first for the great work you did on taking over the command of the Eastern Army on the Burma frontier at a most critical and difficult time last year, when I was responsible for the conduct of operations in this theatre, and secondly for the unfailing sympathy and help you have given me since you became Commander-in-Chief of the 11th Army Group.

"Next, on behalf of the whole Army in India I wish to thank you for your patience and understanding in all your dealings with us and for your most generous appreciation at all times of our efforts to help you and those under your command."

Gen. Giffard's Reply

General Giffard wrote in reply: "My command out here has been a great experience and I have enjoyed the work immensely. My job has been made easy by the magnificent support and help that you and everyone at G.H.Q. has given me.

"I should like to say how greatly I have appreciated the honour of commanding formations of the Indian Army. From my earliest days in this country I have had a great admiration for the Indian soldier and my trust in his fighting qualities, courage and steadiness has never faltered.

"He is a grand chap and he has fought and is fighting magnificently and it has been a great inspiration to see him master the Jap at a game at which the Jap thought he was master."



Gen. Giffard (right) talking to a brigade commander during his visit to a forward area in Burma.



Lt.-Gen. Sir Oliver Leese.

Among the many senior officers of all three Services who were present to bid farewell to Gen. Giffard were Lt.-Gen. Sir Oliver Leese,

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 752)

INDIANS TRAIN WITH WEST AFRICANS

INDIAN troops have co-operated with West Africans in recent training in India.

The West Africans are putting an edge to their training by day and night battle schemes and route marches. Some of them showed the zeal with which they are anticipating a renewed "West African-Japanese" war by performing a war dance for an Indian Army Observer. They called it "The dance of the killing of the Japanese." Officers have already been into frontline areas for a preliminary "duba" at the Jap.

At a battle inoculation barrage Mahratta gunners joined with Nigerian howitzers and mortars in a violent plastering of a target area 200 yards ahead of a mass of watching troops.

I.A.F. pilots demonstrated pinpoint dive-bombing, and during schemes in the hills some of the West Africans had their first experience of parachuted air supplies. Indian gunners demonstrated new equipment to the West Africans.

Two Nigerian padres are the first to come to India from West Africa. They are the Rev. H. N. Hunter, formerly chaplain at Lagos Cathedral, Nigeria, and the Rev. A. Solarin, from a Methodist Church in Ibadan, whose younger brother is training in England to be an R.A.F. pilot.



Havildar Hariba Girunkar of the 5th Mahratta Anti-Tank Regiment, instructing a Nigerian gunner how to use a 6-pounder anti-tank gun at a training centre in India. The Havildar comes from village Ajanuj in Ahmedabad District. (Below) Sgt. Robinson Okeke of Awka, Nigeria, chatting with Lt. Diljit Singh Randhawa, M.C., at the 5th Rajputana Rifles Training Centre.



TRAINING INDIA'S MOUNTAIN GUNNERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 746)

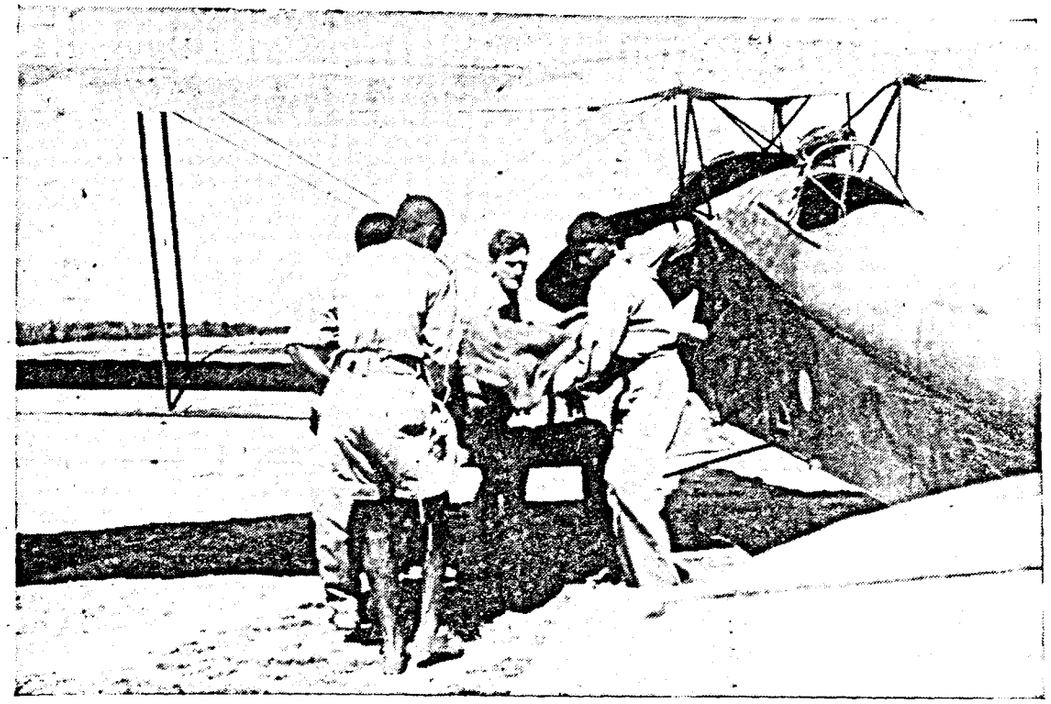
Almost all the transport work is done by horses and mules; until recently hardly any motor vehicles were used. The guns are detachable into eight pieces and are strapped on to the mules, which also carry the ammunition.

The centre at Ambala has been the home of one of the oldest Indian Army units for nearly 20 years. Recruits from Rawalpindi, Campbellpur, Gujrat and the rest of the Punjab are turned into expert artillerymen in less than a year. Most of the men are Punjabi Mussalmans; Sikhs and Ahirs are well represented.

The centre has its own boys' section. There is also an Indian States' Forces training battery at the centre.

All personnel in the mountain regiments are now Indian except the officers, who are both British and Indian.

His Highness the Maharaj Rana of Jhalawar has contributed Rs. 5,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund.



Wounded personnel from the Burma Front are evacuated by air to base hospitals. Here is a wounded soldier being removed by stretcher bearers from a plane at a forward airfield.

GLIDER AMBULANCES FOR BURMA WOUNDED

INDIAN and East African casualties from the fighting areas on the Central Burma Front are now evacuated to base hospitals by gliders left over from the Wingate-Cochrane expedition.

Men of the United States Army Air Force to-day get the sick and wounded out in one hour; previously the 100-mile journey took three days over monsoon-ruined jungle roads, writes an Indian Army Observer.

Towed from their base by Dakotas, used for air supply drops to forward troops, the gliders are released over a landing strip only a few hundred yards long, while the tow-plane circles overhead. Half an hour later, when the sick and wounded are settled in the glider, the parent plane circles lower. There is a sickening thud and the glider is snatched into the air.

Within an hour the glider has once again slipped her tow-rope and slides quietly on to the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 752)



A wounded Gurkha soldier being taken out from a plane to be transferred to an ambulance car.

ARMY REORGANISATION COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE INTO INDIA'S POST-WAR DEFENCE REQUIREMENTS

HIS Excellency the Commander-in-Chief has set up a committee to be known as the Reorganisation Committee to carry out a preliminary investigation of India's defence requirements after the war, and to make detailed recommendations regarding the size, composition and organisation of the future Army in India.

Lt.-Gen. H. B. D. Willcox, C.B., D.S.O., M.C., is the Chairman of this Committee and the other members are: Brigadier W. G. S. Thompson, Brigadier K. M. Cariappa, Brigadier J. E. Powell, Air Commodore E. J. Kingston-McCloughry, R.A.F., and Commander E. C. Streatfeild-James, R.I.N.

It will be seen from its composition that this is a committee of experts. Their report will deal with the problem from the purely military aspect. The report, which is not expected to be complete for some months, will provide a technical basis for consideration and discussion by the Government of India.

General Auchinleck has given instructions that the Committee should welcome any constructive views put forward by officers of the Indian Armed Forces of whatever rank.

The Members

Lt.-Gen. Henry Bresford Willcox has been G.O.C.-in-C., Central Command, since 1942. He has had particularly wide and varied experience, having commanded every unit and formation from a platoon to a command and held almost every grade of staff appointment.

A New Zealander, aged 53, he has been instructor at the Staff College, Camberley, in addition to being Senior Instructor (1936-38) at the Staff College, Quetta, where, using novel methods, he proved a brilliant teacher.

Called home in 1939 he was given command of the first British Infantry Brigade to set foot on French soil in this war. By the end of 1939 he had been promoted Major-General and appointed Inspector of Infantry. To him thereby fell the task of keeping the infantry of the newly-mobilised army up to the high standard which emerged with such clarity in the retreat from Dunkirk.

On the reorganisation of the Army in India in May 1942, Lieut.-General Willcox was brought out to take charge of the new Central Command. At this time, when the invasion of India seemed probable, his responsibility was particularly heavy because it was in the Central Command that almost all the individual training of troops for this theatre of war was to be carried out.

Brig. W. G. S. Thompson

Brig. William Gordon Starkey Thompson was commissioned in December, 1918, and served with 1|5 Royal Gurkha Rifles. He was at the Staff College, Camberley, from 1930 to 1931 and was appointed Staff Captain to Peshawar Brigade from 1933 to 1936. In June, 1937, he was Senior Instructor at the Indian Military Academy, Dehra Dun, an appointment which he held until April, 1940, when he became a Staff Officer at the Staff Duties Directorate, G.H.Q., India. In 1942, he became Deputy Director, Staff Duties. Before his present appointment he served as Brigadier General Staff, War Staff, India Office, from December, 1942, to October, 1944.

Brig. K. M. Cariappa

To Brig. K. M. Cariappa, 7th Rajput Regiment, belongs the distinction of being the first Indian to command (as a Lt.-Col.) a battalion —the machine-gun battalion of 7th Rajput Regiment which he himself raised and commanded from April, 1942, to March, 1943.

Brigadier Cariappa has seen active service in this war both overseas and on the Burma Front. Prior to that he had a remarkable record of "firsts" to his credit in 25 years' service in the Indian Army. He comes from Coorg and took his first commission in a Coorg battalion.

He was one of the first batch of Indian cadets to be commissioned from Daly College Indore, in 1919, the first Indian officer to ente the Staff College, Quetta (1933) and the firs Indian officer to hold a Grade II staff appoint ment, as D.A.Q.M.G. of Deccan district i October, 1938.

Brig. Cariappa saw overseas service i Mesopotamia from 1920 to 1922 as adjutant o 2nd|125th Napiers Rifles, was in Waziristan wit the 1|17th Dogras and the 1|7th Rajputs fro 1922 to 1925, and with the 10th Indian Divisio in Iraq, Syria and Iran from April, 1941, t March, 1942, and in Burma since July, 1943, wit



Brigadier K. M. Cariappa.

the 26th Indian Division. He has also spent five years on the North-West Frontier.

During his 25 years' service in the Indian Army he has visited the naval base, Singapore, toured villages in the United Provinces dealing with the welfare of ex-servicemen and was brigade major of Kohjak brigade, later the 20th Indian Infantry brigade. While with the 10th Indian Division in Iraq, he served under Maj.-Gen. W. J. Slim, (now Lt.-Gen. Sir W. J. Slim) the 14th Army Commander.

Brig. Cariappa records his present war service on his steel helmet, which bears the official signs of all the formations with which he has served. He has travelled widely; as a subaltern he made a world tour, during which he visited Japan, with the object of studying foreign armies. His hobby is stamp collecting.

Brig. J. E. Powell

Brig. John Enoch Powell joined the Royal Warwickshire Regiment as a private in 1939. A late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, he was formerly a Professor of Greek in Sydney University. He was commissioned in May, 1940, and served on the staff of two armoured divisions in England from 1940 to 1941.

After attending the Staff College, Camberley, he held various posts at G.H.Q., Middle East, and Allied Headquarters, Algiers. Since coming to India in August, 1943, he has been secretary to a joint Inter-Services Committee, India and South East Asia Commands, and subsequently an assistant director in the General Staff Branch, G.H.Q., India.

Air Commodore E. J. Kingston-McCloughry

Air Commodore Edgar James Kingston-McCloughry was head of Plans and Operations at the Headquarters of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force during the planning and invasion of France. He served in the Directorate of War Organisation, Air Ministry, 1938-1940. In 1940, he visited South Africa with an R.A.F. Mission. From 1929-1933, he was on the staff of Air Headquarters, India.

He was born in Adelaide, Australia, and during the last war served with the Australian Flying Corps. He joined the R.A.F. in 1922 and is a graduate of both the R.A.F. and the Army Staff Colleges.

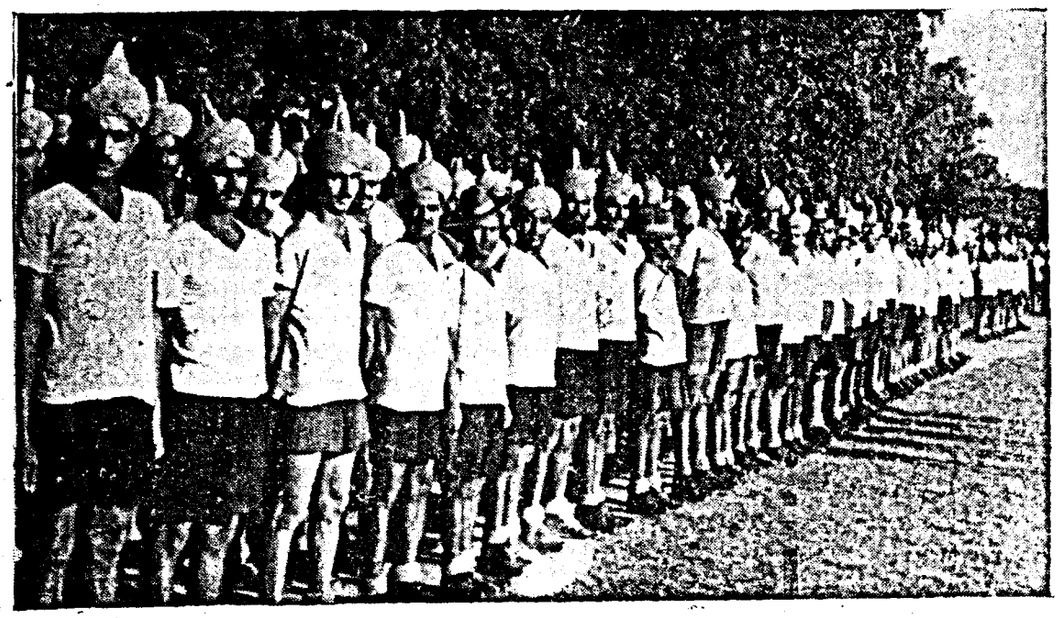
Commander E. C. Streatfeild-James

Commander E. C. Streatfeild-James, R.I.N. joined the Royal Indian Marine in 1921. Prior to that he had trained at Osborne and Dartmouth for the Royal Navy. For many years he was in the Marine Survey of India, and at the outbreak of war, he was serving at sea. More recently he has held important staff appointments at General Headquarters and Naval Headquarters (India).

11,000-MILE PRESS TOUR OF I.A.F. TRAINING CENTRES

A Royal Air Force Dakota aircraft recently completed a 11,000-mile tour of Indian Air Force training centres. It carried parties of journalists to I.A.F. units to enable them to see for themselves how India's youngest fighting Service was being built up on solid foundations. Nearly one million passenger miles were flown. The flying time was 75 hours.

During the tour, 80 journalists from the North, East, South and West of India were flown from their home cities and after inspecting the training schools, flown back. For most of the journalists it was their first flight.



Men of the Indian Army Ordnance Corps.

VITAL WORK OF INDIA'S "BACK-ROOM BOYS"

THE airman floating safely to earth by parachute, the infantryman quenching his thirst from a chagul, the naval rating who undergoes a surgical operation far out at sea—all our servicemen owe much to India's "back-room boys", who for years have been conducting vital research work in ordnance laboratories.

These laboratories form the scientific testing and development organisation of the Inspectorate of General Stores, which works under the Master General of the Ordnance Branch of G.H.Q., India, through the Controller-General of Inspection.

Successes in Research

Established at Cawnpore in 1929, the original ordnance laboratories were fitted to deal only with oils, paints and chemicals. Tests and measurements of other materials and special stores were later added to the laboratories' responsibilities and four scientific sections—chemical, textiles, mechanical engineering and "development"—were set up.

At headquarters in Cawnpore research has now been organised into nearly a dozen branches. These have achieved many successes, not only as regards development of Service equipment but in the stimulation of new processes for Indian industry.

The chemical branch has produced a substitute for rubber and as a result a rubberless ground-sheet has been evolved, double-textured and proofed, similar to the present Service pattern. The air stores branch has produced fabrics and components suitable for parachutes and conforming to the most exacting standards.

As a result of the development work performed at the ordnance laboratories a great silk and cotton parachute industry has been set up in India and the country's silk industry revived on a scientific basis. To the resulting production must be attributed a great share of the far-reaching success of the recent military operations on India's north-eastern frontier.

The textile branch has designed patterns for textiles stores for river crossings. A team of engineers, established in Sialkot to assist the trade in the planning and manufacture of surgical instruments, has in co-operation with the Cawnpore laboratories produced hundreds of thousands of surgical instruments for the Services.

India's industries have much for which to thank the ordnance laboratories. They in turn acknowledge their indebtedness to manufacturers and other institutions, official and non-official.

PASSING AMMUNITION TO BURMA FRONT

"Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition" sang the men of General MacArthur's Pacific garrisons as they blazed away at the Jap invaders of Manila and Corregidor.

In a big I.A.O.C. depot which is supplying the Burma Front I have just seen something of the vast task which the sorting and packing of ammunition involves, wrote an Indian Army Observer from Calcutta on December 1.

"Passing the ammunition" is a job which demands the utmost care from the base hundreds of miles behind the line to the actual gun within sight of the Jap positions.

In caring for the millions of rounds of ammunition which they maintain, repair and supply, the officers and men of the I.A.O.C. and R.A.O.C. are doing work which is always arduous and often dangerous. They "sit on dynamite" for most of the time.

Inspection Before Issue

However urgently required by the Artillery, the ammunition must still be subjected to careful inspection before issue. This work cannot be done too hurriedly, rigid rules of accuracy must be applied to the marking and storage of the component parts of a shell, the fuzes, primers, detonators and so on.

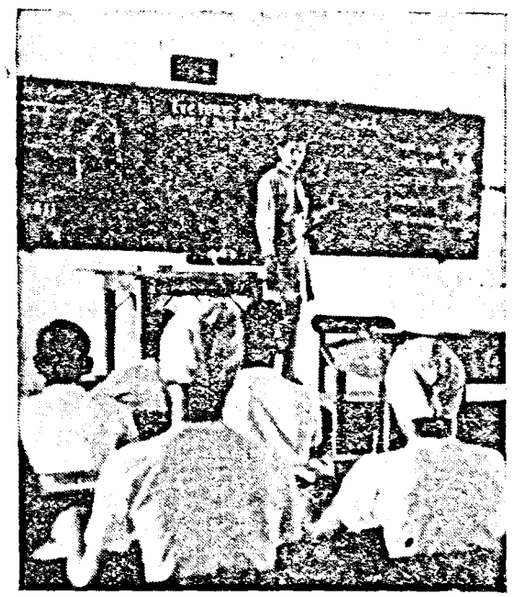
In a country where the fire-risk is high each depot maintains its own fire-fighting service.

To minimise the effect of any explosion which might occur, every building housing ammunition or explosives is so sited that the undulations of the terrain serve as buttresses. Where necessary these are built up, with high shock-proof walls between each storehouse; in many cases sheds are built right into the hillsides.

A highly trained clerical staff works long hours on the documentation, which makes certain that the Artillery will be supplied with ammunition from the same batch, lot or series. The devastating artillery barrages of this war can only be as accurate and effective as careful sorting, marking and documentation in the depots will allow.

The danger-men of the Corps are the Inspecting Ordnance Officers and Ammunition Examiners, who test all explosives in well-equipped laboratories where safety precautions are of paramount importance. Ammunition officers and men of the I.A.O.C. are to be found right up in the front line, testing urgently required ammunition in compact mobile ammunition laboratories.





Men at an Ordnance training centre in India learn the mechanism of an automobile steering wheel. (Below) A lecture on chassis construction at the centre.

THE WORKING OF GOVERNMENT GRAIN MONOPOLIES

Mr. Somerset Butler's Report

"GIVEN the will and determination, a Government monopoly can be introduced successfully in spite of administrative difficulties and the possible opposition of vested interests," states the Hon'ble Somerset Butler, Special Officer, Department of Food, Government of India, in his report on Government Monopoly Procurement of grain. He adds: "It is of importance to observe that in all those areas which have gone forward towards a Government Monopoly there is not one single instance where any doubt is felt that the basic principle is right. In no case is there any thought of withdrawing. On the contrary, the tendency is quite the reverse. To find this atmosphere universal over a large part of India must go a long way towards confirming from practical experience the policy of Monopoly Procurement laid down by the Gregory Committee.

"To say that all schemes have been successful, that there have not been mistakes or that hardships have not been caused would be ridiculous but that the policy is right there are no two opinions amongst those who have tried it out and the same thing can be said for the views of non-officials."

Fixation of Prices

Mr. Butler goes on to say that another important, if not the most important, aspect of Monopoly Procurement is that prices can be and are being fixed and maintained at one level for the whole crop year. On this point he concludes, "To be able to achieve, by Monopoly Procurement, control in deficit areas, sufficient to institute fixed prices at predetermined levels and be confident of maintaining those prices must in my view, be the final and decisive argument against all those opposed to Government Monopolies."

Since the Gregory Committee's report of September 1943, many Provinces and States have made considerable progress towards a policy of Government Monopoly Procurement of Foodgrains. It was considered therefore that the practical experience gained over a wide area was sufficient to warrant a detailed examination of the principal schemes operating, with a view to enabling the Government of India to co-ordinate the efforts being made and to place at the disposal of all administrations the experience so far gained. The Hon. Somerset Butler was consequently placed on special duty to carry out the survey and his report is now under the consideration of Government.

The report itself presents a factual survey of the schemes operating in Kashmir, Orissa, the Central Provinces, Travancore, Cochin, Madras, Mysore, Kolhapur and the Deccan States, Bombay and Indore, but Mr. Butler in his letter forwarding his report to Government makes some general comments and specific recommendations for the consideration of Government.

Extent of Government Monopoly

The extent of monopolies in force varies considerably from complete monopolies where the entire surplus from each individual holding is taken over to a semi-monopoly as in Orissa where there is no levy nor any attempt made to assess the surplus, and private trade is permitted for transactions in quantities up to 10 maunds each. Most areas have started with comparatively simple schemes and what is significant is that in virtually every case it has been found necessary as experience is gained to develop the original scheme beyond its initial conception.

As a means of assuring procurement of a specific quantity within a given time a simple arbitrary levy has its advantages, but the percentage of the marketable surplus that can be procured in this way must be small if the levy is to be upon a basis which cannot create hardship to any class of cultivator. Consequently, it is thought that a levy of this nature should be looked upon as a stepping stone to more refined methods of procurement.

In many areas determined attempts are being made to assess individual holdings and to acquire compulsorily the entire surplus. Here, again, methods of assessment vary considerably from rough and ready estimates to actual physical measurement as in Kolhapur and the Deccan States. The latter is the ideal and should undoubtedly be aimed at, but the practical difficulties involved make it doubtful whether it could be put into force on a wide scale until Food Control Administrations are more adequate.

Mr. Butler puts forward the suggestion that sufficient progress has been made in Food Control in India to warrant consideration of the question as to whether control should not, either in its present or some modified form, be used on a long-term basis as a means of

stabilising the economy of the country from the food and agrarian points of view.

"India, although a very large producer of foodgrains," he says, "is not dependent upon world markets for the disposal of her produce. Furthermore, the grain normally imported has in the past always been at prices somewhat below those ruling internally. Consequently, I see no insurmountable difficulty, from the point of view of supply and the marketing of India's produce, why the present form of control, or a modification of it, should not continue and be used to maintain the agrarian standard of living just that much higher than it was before the war, and so ensure the cultivator an existence above starvation level. When we are in a position to peg prices at predetermined levels, and we have already progressed a long way towards this, the proposition begins to assume practical shape."

Mr. Butler outlines some of the difficulties which undoubtedly exist but suggests that the idea is worth the most careful and sympathetic examination.

Distribution

He points out that where procurement is under Government Monopoly responsibility must be taken for distribution even in rural areas. In fact, if the Monopoly is complete Government automatically make themselves responsible for the feeding of everyone. The arrangements for rural distribution vary in different parts. In most of those areas where the monopoly is on the basis of an assessment and acquirement of individual surpluses, cards are being issued to all those families who do not produce grain or have not received it legitimately for services rendered.

Travancore and Kolhapur and the Deccan States have gone further. Here a ration card is issued to the head of every family in the State regardless of whether he is a producer or has other private but legitimate means of access to grain. Those with adequate private resources have their cards cancelled. Those with resources sufficient for a part of the year have their cards cancelled for that part of the year. Mr. Butler's opinion is that this is the soundest method of distribution particularly if it is backed by a statutory Rationing Order, and he suggests that rural rationing on these lines should be the aim wherever Monopoly Procurement is in force.

Transport difficulties were found to exist but surprisingly enough not to the degree expected. In very few places has there been any attempt to organise bullock cart traffic. The one outstanding exception is Mysore where bullock carts are being manufactured by the State for distribution at subsidised rates, with the stipulation that they be available for the transport of Government grain. In Kashmir, Cochin and Travancore country craft has been organised to operate on Government account.

The retail trade continues to operate almost everywhere even if only as distributing agents for Government. On the other hand the wholesale trade is nowhere allowed to act as principals. In many areas wholesalers are however used as Government agents, usually in the capacity of handling, storage and transport contractors but in some areas they have been entirely excluded. To find out to what extent hardship has been caused by the exclusion of the trade has been difficult, Mr. Butler says, but he affirms that there does not appear to be evidence of undue hardship anywhere except to those merchants who were previously employed in the import and distribution of Burma rice and they have been excluded by the fall of Burma and not necessarily by the imposition of Government control. One reason for this is that most traders do not deal in controlled foodgrains only and as they are making larger margins in other articles they do not feel the loss on their foodgrains business to the same extent that they might otherwise have done.

That black markets do exist is not disputed but in no area where monopoly control exists are they still operating on an organised basis. The more complete the control the less evidence is there of a black market and this is true even of places where the size of the ration is below the minimum of one pound.

Mr. Butler emphasises the need to make full use of non-official assistance and advice, and he considers that this is well appreciated in most areas.

Other Suggestions

Among the recommendations made are:

(1) Great attention should be paid to the cultivator being allowed to retain from his produce, grain sufficient for his needs. One of the most vital aspects of Monopoly Procurement is to assure the cultivator that his interests as well as those of his dependents and of his village are protected.

(2) There should be greater co-ordination between adjoining States and Provinces in the fixation of procurement prices than there is at present. Apart from other considerations this would serve as an effective check against

smuggling. The time is approaching when the Central Government should take a more direct interest in specific price fixation as against fixation of statutory maxima. Prices should be fixed for as wide an area as possible.

(3) Under Government Monopoly the activities of the wholesale trade should be confined to acting as Government agents for the purpose of handling, storage and transport. There is, however, no reason why they should not also finance the grain while it is in their charge.

(4) The importance of adequate inspection organisations is emphasised and it is stated that until a proper Inspectorate is set up under every Food Control Administration the difficulties which are continually cropping up over quality, deterioration, loss of grain, etc. will continue. It is recommended that an Inspection Directorate be set up in the Food Department in order that there should be direction and expert advice from the Centre.

(5) There should be a specific branch in each Foodgrain Administration to deal with the elimination of bribery and corruption. Administrations should also take all possible steps to eliminate petty harassment by minor officials. Into all officers and staff should be instilled the fundamental principle that in food matters more than in any other aspect of administration, Government officers are the servants of the people in the true sense of the word.

FREE VEGETABLE SEEDS FOR "SCARCITY" AREAS

An offer of 20,000 free packets of vegetable seeds by Messrs. L. R. Brothers, Saharanpur, has been accepted by H.E. the Viceroy.

The seeds have been supplied to Bengal, Madras, Orissa, Travancore, Cochin and Manipur (Assam) for distribution among cultivators in "scarcity" areas, said a Press Note issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, on November 24.

FOODGRAINS CONTROL ORDER

It is explained that simultaneously with the cancellation of the Central Government's notification regarding the Foodgrains Control Order 1942, Provincial Governments have issued separate notifications by which the Foodgrains Control Order comes into force in the several provinces. This step ensures a more effective application of the Order.

"NEEDS OF CALCUTTA WILL BE ADEQUATELY MET"

Food Member's Assurance

THE Government of India continue to recognise the importance of Calcutta and therefore satisfy themselves, in consultation with the Bengal Government, that the needs of the city will be adequately met—this was the assurance given by the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member to the Government of India, addressing a Press Conference at New Delhi on November 30.

Explaining the Central Government's decision on supplies of foodgrains for Bengal in 1945, the Food Member declared that the Director-General, Food, had correctly stated the Government's policy in the Council of State on November 14, when he said: "In our view, so far as supplies of foodgrains are concerned, the position in Bengal has changed very materially for the better. We have now to review our policy for 1945 with regard to Bengal. The improvement in the supply position owing to last year's exceptional rice crop, combined with the progress which has been made by the Government of Bengal in the development of their machinery for the purchase and distribution of grain, and the large stocks which they now hold, justifies the question of Bengal's supplies for 1945 being determined on the same basis as supplies for other parts of India.

"That is to say, we can take stock of the position on its merits and determine what is essential that Bengal will have. We need not do as we did last year and say whatever the statistical position in Bengal, whatever the needs of the rest of India we will undertake the whole responsibility for Calcutta. Wheat, of course, they must have in any case and necessary allotments will be made. So far as rice and other grains are concerned, I assure the House that the reasonable needs of the Government of Bengal will be reviewed in the light of all the relevant facts at appropriate intervals by the two Governments in consultation, and allocations will be made as necessary by the Government of India from stocks available for the purpose at their disposal. In deciding the amounts to be allocated due regard will be paid to any special circumstances in Bengal, especially such as may arise from its proximity to the scene of active operations as well as to the special needs of other parts of India."

"In amplification of this statement," said Sir J. P. Srivastava, "I wish to make it clear that there is no question of the Government of India seeking to divest themselves of all responsibility for Calcutta. On the contrary I wish to repeat, and make it clear, that we continue to recognise the importance of Calcutta and will, therefore, satisfy ourselves in consultation with the Bengal Government that the needs of the city will be adequately met. As has been already clearly stated the Government of India will review the position from time to time and ensure by all means in their power that the reasonable needs of Bengal, including Calcutta, are provided for.

"There is another aspect of the supply position in Bengal to which I should like to draw your attention. In January last I had commended the Bengal Government's *aman* procurement scheme, the main features of which had our approval, to the willing co-operation and public spirit of the people of Bengal. I am glad to say that my appeal had a ready response, and the Bengal Government have succeeded in procuring nearly one million tons of rice. Procurement is still active and I have good reasons for expecting that very large stocks of rice will be carried over as a reserve for the next year after the current demands of deficit districts have been met.

Purchase of Nepal Rice

"I should like to clear up any misapprehensions that might still exist about the purchases of rice from Nepal. First of all, it must be remembered that in 1943 His Highness the Maharaja of Nepal had placed an embargo on the export of rice from Nepal to India, but at the end of 1943 he made a generous offer of exports from the old 1943 crop specifically to help Bengal. An agent of the Government of Bengal was thereupon deputed to make the necessary purchases from this old crop. Later, His Highness offered to the Government of India a surplus of 100,000 tons from the new crop about to be harvested, and preliminary negotiations with regard to this amount were begun by the Government of Bengal's agent who was on the spot. The negotiations proceeded on the basis not of a maximum, nor even of a market price, but on the basis of a minimum price; that is to say, had the arrangement proposed to the Bengal Government's agent been proceeded with, the Bengal Government would have been bound not to pay less than a particular minimum. They would, of course, have had to pay the market price prevailing across the border if that happened to be higher.

"It will be realised that the neighbouring provinces of Bihar and U.P. were also claimants for Nepal rice, and it was accordingly decided that it would be in the best interests of procurement and movement, especially of supply to Bengal, if the whole surplus were procured for the Government of India through an agent of their own. In practice, the arrangement was shortlived, as within a very short time the ban on the free export of rice from Nepal was removed and rice was allowed to come into India without restriction.

"The point I wish to make, however, is that there was no question of the Government of India agreeing to a higher price than the Government of Bengal's agent. The arrangement in both cases was on the basis of market prices prevailing subject to a minimum and not a maximum level imposed by the Nepal authorities in the interests of their producers.

"The purchase and movement had to be completed within as short a time as possible and procurement operations encountered unavoidable difficulties of transport, storage and milling capacity. As a result we were not able to mill the paddy and move it all before the rains commenced and in spite of our putting on special staff to arrange, wherever possible, for the protection of the grain, some of it was damaged by exposure. All losses of this nature are deplorable but the amounts should not be exaggerated. The extent of the estimated loss is 39,000 maunds valued at about Rs. 4,90,000.

Long-Term Planning

"I am glad to see that the announcement of my intention to set up a Planning Section in the Food Department has been welcomed by the Press. We feel that the control of the distribution of food which war has forced on us, irksome though it may be, can and should be turned to the best possible account in the interests of the people. Food control will, we anticipate, have to continue for some time to come, and now that we are passing clear of the emergent conditions of last year, it is possible and necessary for us not only to look ahead to coming problems but to see whether we can take up and solve immediate problems such as the improvement of defective diets and the provision of better nutrition under control of what I may term the vulnerable sections of the community such as expectant and nursing mothers, infants and school children.

"Planned production and planned distribution must go hand in hand if we are to raise the general standard of nutrition and protect the health of our people for the future. This is common ground for men of goodwill in all political parties and I have no doubt that the new Section will receive universal co-operation.

"I have always held the view that in matters of food the advice and collaboration of non-officials is absolutely necessary. Two non-official

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 761)

IRRIGATION SCHEMES TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION

THE emergency irrigation schemes undertaken in pursuance of the "Grow More Food" campaign will increase the irrigated area under food crops by about 3.8 million acres.

The projects now under construction with the help of the Centre cover 572,000 acres, and the projects under examination will bring another 12,34,000 acres under irrigation. The total cost of these schemes is Rs. 588 lakhs, the Centre having subsidised to the extent of Rs. 44 lakhs. The additional crop expected is roughly 4 lakh tons.

A number of projects have been undertaken by provinces on their own initiative and these represent capital expenditure of Rs. 311 lakhs. The area expected to be irrigated is over 2 million acres and the additional yield of foodgrains to be obtained over 4 lakh tons. Most of these projects are expected to be completed by the end of 1945.

Irrigation is being extended in many Provinces and States by short-term projects including the employment of indigenous methods of irrigation, irrigation by mechanical means such as tubewells, river pumping, etc. Long-term projects comprising construction of large canals with their storage or diversion dams and cross-drainage works have not yet been undertaken owing to the war except in the Punjab, where the Thal project is now well advanced.

In Bombay, Central Provinces and Rajputana the more primitive process of conserving rain water by low embankments has been extended in suitable areas. Bunding water on slightly sloping fields to hold up soil moisture has also been practised and drainage has been improved in wet lands notably in Bengal and Assam. Measures have been taken in Assam for carrying water from rivers and flooded areas to dry areas, and in some provinces canal water distribution is being overhauled.

Irrigation by mechanical means has covered more than a million acres of land in the U.P., the Punjab and Bihar. The methods employed include pumping from deep rivers in the Deccan and Rajputana and pumping by power-driven tubewells from the sub-soil in the alluvial plains of the U.P., the Punjab and Bihar.

In the U.P. 200 tubewells each capable of irrigating 500 acres annually will be in operation during *Rabi* of 1944-45 and another 200 tubewells are to be installed in 1945. Seventy-six tubewells are being constructed in Bihar for ensuring crops on some 30,000 additional acres yearly. In the Punjab, machinery has been secured for 126 new electrically-driven tubewell pumps to be installed on the Lower Chenab Canal system to irrigate 84,000 additional acres in 1945.



A view of the Grand Anicut with its battery of sluices across the Cauvery river (South India).

Another scheme has been prepared in the Punjab for the double purpose of (a) de-watering areas of water-logged land between the Ravi and Jhelum rivers and (b) thereby reducing a large area of "thur" (alkaline soil) which is at present increasing at an alarming rate. In the N.W.F. Province, "pilot" wells installed for exploring the possibility of tubewell irrigation will themselves irrigate 7,600 acres in 1945.

Pumping Water from Rivers

Six large river pumps (electrically-driven) are being installed on various rivers in Bihar to command high but fertile areas, thereby ensuring 9,000 acres of *Rabi* crops and the protection of a large area (about 14,000 acres) of millets in early *Kharif*. Eight river pumps are being obtained for irrigating 10,500 acres in dry tracts on certain river banks in Baroda where crop production hitherto has been hazardous. Similar schemes for pumping water from rivers are under investigation in Bombay, N.-W.F.P., Kolhapur and Bundi.

Among other minor projects undertaken so far are 24 drainage projects involving de-watering of 90,000 acres of rice land in Bengal; a project for the boring of wells in the dry scarcity areas of Bombay; storage tank in C.P. and Berar for feeding 22 miles of canals at a total cost of Rs. 6½ lakhs to irrigate 5,000 acres. The Central Government contributed 50 per cent of the outlay.

Apart from the short-term projects, it is hoped that a number of long-term schemes now under examination will be taken up immediately after the war. Among these are the Sone Valley Scheme for U.P., C.P., and Bihar where it is proposed that some 100,000 Kw can be made available for agricultural and industrial development at economical rates; a large storage and hydro-electric dam on the Nayar tributary of the Ganges which will secure several lakhs of acres on the Upper and Lower Ganges canals; and the joint (Punjab-U.P.) Jumna Valley Scheme whereby additional irrigation and hydro-electric supplies from the Tons tributary of the Jumna river will be developed on a large scale.

PROCUREMENT OF FOODGRAINS

Personnel of Sub-Committee

In pursuance of the recommendation of the Central Food Advisory Council, the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava, Food Member, Government of India, has appointed a sub-committee from amongst the members of the Council to consider the question of foodgrains procurement.

The members of the Sub-Committee are:

Sir Datar Singh, Sir N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar, Sir Madhorao Deshpande, Sir Purushotamdas Thakurdas, Sir William Roberts, Col. B. H. Zaidi, Nawab Jamshed Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Abdul Momin and Messrs. Hasham Premji D. P. Khaitan, Mukhtar Singh, and C. W. Tosh. Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao will act as Secretary.

The first meeting of the sub-committee is likely to be held in New Delhi about the middle of December under the chairmanship of Sir J. P. Srivastava. The Agenda includes consideration of Mr. Somerset Butler's report on the working of Government Grain Monopolies in certain provinces, which is now under examination by the Food Department. It is also likely that the Committee would suggest measures to enlist the co-operation of landlords, if it is decided to extend monopoly purchase to other areas in India.

SIR J. P. SRIVASTAVA'S STATEMENT

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 759)

committees are to meet next month—the Procurement Sub-Committee of the Central Food Advisory Council is to meet on Dec. 12, 13 and 14 and immediately after that meeting we shall devote two days to the deliberations of the Standing Advisory Committee of the Legislature on Food.

"In the short interval left to us between Sessions, to keep the Department in touch with local affairs and needs, Mr. B. R. Sen is already touring part of the Madras Presidency and will, afterwards, visit Bengal and Assam.

"I am myself hoping to visit the Eastern Regions early next year, and the Secretary is going to Bombay and the Central Provinces. He will probably pay a visit to Madras in January. At the end of January just before the new Session commences, we shall have the official representatives of Provinces and States in Delhi for a five-day conference to review progress and discuss important items of policy for the coming year.

MANUFACTURE OF FERTILISERS IN INDIA

U. K. Technical Mission's Recommendations

THE report of the U. K. Technical Mission appointed to advise on the production of artificial fertilisers was considered, on November 20, at a meeting of the Reception Committee appointed by the Government of India, and representatives of Provincial Governments. The Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member, Government of India, presided. The Reception Committee consists of Indian scientists, industrialists and representatives of Provinces and States.

The Supply Member made it clear at the outset that the present discussions should be based on the decision of the Government of India that it was necessary to develop the production of artificial fertilisers to an immediate target of 350,000 tons per annum for the improvement of the food situation during the war. The discussions did not, however, exclude the possibility of further expansion whether by Government or private enterprise which might be a part of a general plan for the industrial development of the country.

The general trend of opinion at the meeting was strongly in favour of erecting a single factory to produce the immediate target. There was, however, some difference of opinion as regards the actual site, several members of the Committee favouring a site in Bihar instead of the United Provinces. It was felt that if Government decided to set up two factories, one factory should be in the northern zone and the other in the southern zone.

Sulphate of Ammonia

It was agreed that sulphate of ammonia was the artificial fertiliser which should be manufactured in India immediately, but investigations should be undertaken regarding the production of ammonium nitrate in a suitable form for use in this country.

In connection with the production of ammonium sulphate by the method recommended by the Mission a survey of India's anhydrite deposits should be undertaken, and the possibility of using inferior qualities of coal and hard and soft coke at a later date be investigated.

The meeting also welcomed the statement made by the Supply Member, of Government's intention that any factory set up should be State-owned and State-controlled.

The Mission have recommended the manufacture of sulphate of ammonia and have discussed several schemes of production involving a number of factories in different parts of India. They strongly recommend the centralisation of production in a single factory at Harduaganj in the United Provinces.

The approximate capital cost of this factory is estimated at Rs. 10.1 crores and the approximate factory cost of the finished product will be Rs. 114 per ton. As against the single factory scheme, five factories located in different consuming regions will cost Rs. 21 crores and the average production cost is estimated at Rs. 167 per ton. If three factories are erected the total capital cost and the average depot cost will be Rs. 16 crores and Rs. 110 per ton respectively. In the case of two factories, the estimated figures are Rs. 13 crores, the total capital cost, and Rs. 135 per ton, the average production cost.

Capital Expenditure

The allocation of capital expenditure between India and abroad is Rs. 6.0 crores and Rs. 4.1 crores respectively. In estimating this the Mission have taken into account that the fullest use will be made of raw materials and labour available in India. "Since, however, in some cases such facilities are of limited capacity, it may be necessary in the interest of rapid completion of the project to import from outside India a somewhat greater proportion than is indicated by the above figures."

It is pointed out that there exists in India sufficient manufacturing capacity which can be utilised for the manufacture of certain items of the plant required for the factory. "At present, however, the whole of this capacity is absorbed in munitions production and other essential war work, and our estimate of the amount and approximate value of plant which can be manufactured here can, therefore, only be regarded as an indication of India's potential capacity for the work under consideration."

The Mission consider that structural steel work and buildings, mild steel construction work—such as tanks, vessels, low pressure gas and air mains—gas holders and purifiers, cranes, cast iron water mains, cast iron tanks and vessels, a proportion of the mechanical equipment and refractory materials can be obtained in India. Plant and equipment to be imported are: high pressure forgings, fittings and pipe work, high pressure compressors, pumps and circulators, pumps, blowers and fans, electrical equipment, valves and instruments, high pressure boiler quality and stainless steel constructional work, tubes, steam mains and fittings, machinery of existing proprietary designs and in which special materials are incorporated, and insulation.

Production of Ammonia

Considering the raw materials and power available in India, the most economic method of manufacture recommended is the production of ammonia by using water gas made from coke and then converting it to sulphate. "Not only does this recommendation ensure that all the raw materials are wholly and abundantly available from Indian sources, but it has the further advantage of utilising processes which have been perfected over a long period of years, during which time many standardised items of equipment have been evolved. By the adoption of the method we have recommended, the delays in carrying out design and development work on items of equipment, which might be required for other methods, will be entirely eliminated."

Coke should be obtained from Bihar-Bengal coalfields and gypsum or anhydrite from Khewra in the Punjab. The Mission further recommend that a survey should be undertaken to investigate the quantity of anhydrite in the Salt Range, so that this raw material can be used in preference to gypsum, thus effecting certain economies in the manufacture of sulphate of ammonia. If anhydrite is not available, the desirability of developing the production of gypsum in Rajputana should be considered in order to utilise a second source of supply.

Sources of Supply

The advantages of various sources of supply in relation to the production of sulphate of ammonia have been discussed in detail. The Mission are satisfied from information received by them that the quantity of coke required (about 175,000 tons per annum) will be available. They have emphasised that from price consideration alone there is no advantage in the use of charcoal in place of coke. It is recommended that if extensions to the present scheme of production are contemplated, the possibility of utilising lower grade non-coking coal for gas production should be investigated.

The Report further says that no fertilisers other than sulphate of ammonia should be considered for the present purpose. The capital and operating cost of alternative nitrogenous fertilisers has, therefore, not been estimated. It is, however, recommended that work should be instituted to determine the suitability of ammonium nitrate as a fertiliser for Indian conditions, in order to take advantage, for future nitrogenous fertiliser requirements, of a material which should be cheaper to produce.

It will be necessary for a majority of the technical staff to receive training in a factory of the type proposed in the Report. This can best be carried out by sending a number of carefully selected Indians to undergo a course of training overseas. As soon as the contract for the erection of the factory has been negotiated a number of Indian chemists and engineers with good University qualifications and sound industrial experience in some of the chemical works or ordnance factories in India should be sent overseas for training.

Initially the erection of the factory will be in the hands of a main contractor who will be under obligation to provide a number of technicians. The best method of training Indian nationals for taking over entire responsibility from specialists is that the majority of the technical staff should be on the site to watch the erection of the plant. "They will thus acquire a first-hand knowledge of the special types of plant and machinery installed and be ready to take an active part under the supervision of specialists in the starting operations."

SCIENTIFIC STORES FOR THE ARMY

India's largest scientific stores depot, the Central Ordnance Depot of the Central Command, is now so busy issuing war equipment that one week's vouchers, placed end to end, would reach to the top of Mount Everest. Stores handled in a week exceed the gross tonnage of a destroyer.

The depot is the chief supply source of scientific stores for the India and South East Asia Commands. It has its own railway and internal transport systems, supplies its own packing cases, cartons and office furniture, often made from salvaged material, and it has a dispensary and a canteen for its employees, many of whom are civilians.

Besides the specialist work at the depot normal military training is continued; all ranks of I.A.O.C. must be prepared to play their part as combatant soldiers and their routine programme provides for weapon training and studies in tactics.

MEASURES TO SOLVE BOMBAY'S MILK SUPPLY PROBLEM

WAR is a great disaster, but, because it focuses attention on problems which in peacetime have been overlooked, it also brings great opportunities. The increasing eagerness of Provincial Governments to solve the difficulties of milk supply in the larger cities is a case in point. Superimposed upon all schemes of milk that are now being prepared in different provinces, is the undisputable fact that agricultural and dairy products of all surplus producing countries are decreasing in volume, whilst the demand for them is increasing in all countries. It is obvious, therefore, that for the next three or five years India's imports of condensed and powdered milk must be negligible.

There are two ways of meeting the problem: to increase the supply and control the demand. In order of priority an increased milk supply comes first, with control or rationing of consumption ranking second. The Government of Bombay has advanced further in attempting a solution of this problem than, perhaps, any other provincial administration.

Bombay's Problem

While the population of Bombay has increased from about 15 lakhs to about 25 lakhs, there has been practically no increase in the supply of milk. The result has been that milk is being sold in Bombay at nearly four times the pre-war rate and is beyond the means of persons really in need of it. Increasing the supply of milk is rendered difficult by the existing bans on inter-provincial movement of milch cattle and cattle-feeds of all kinds. The Government of Bombay was, therefore, faced with the problem of (a) conserving its stocks of milch cattle, (b) ensuring adequate feeding of cattle, (c) reducing the non-essential and (d) satisfying the essential demands for milk.

The Government of Bombay has issued an order prohibiting the slaughter of animals either in milk or in calf or fit for breeding. At the same time it has arranged for the salvage of dry animals outside the limits of Bombay City and the Bombay Suburban District and has sanctioned a scheme of subsidies to encourage the export of dry cattle for the purpose of salvage to breeding areas. Such cattle would be imported into the City when they are in milk again.

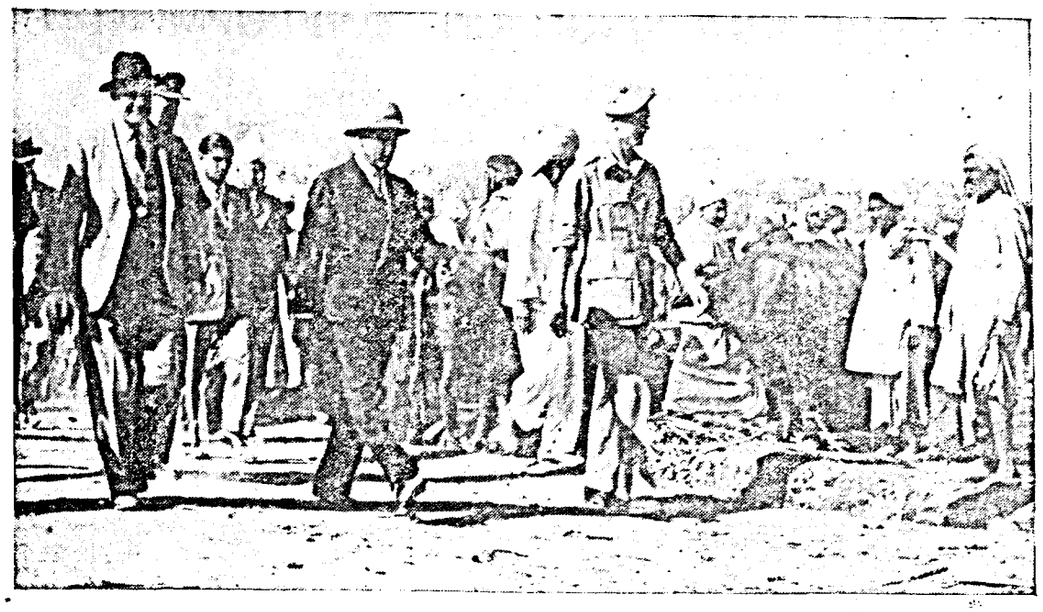
The rationing of cotton-seed and oil-cakes for milch cattle commenced from November 16, 1944. It is proposed to ration other types of cattle-feeds as soon as the supply arrangements are complete. It is necessary not only to conserve supplies of milch cattle and feed them properly but also to see that whatever milk was available was most usefully consumed.

The Government of Bombay has, therefore, prohibited the use of milk in the preparation of any articles other than tea, coffee, buttermilk, ghee and butter for distribution in a public place or sale at any place. It has also stopped the distribution of any beverages other than tea and coffee in which milk is used at parties or functions to more than 49 persons. Further measures which have been taken towards the same end are the closure of hotels, restaurants and tea shops at 11 p.m., and persuading factory canteens to substitute condensed milk for whole milk in the tea served by them. As a result of these measures, large quantities of milk have been released for what may be described as essential consumption.

Among the priority consumers, the needs of infants under 2 years required satisfaction first. Accordingly, the Government of Bombay has arranged for the distribution, through the agency of the Bombay Municipality, of milk to infants below 2 years at half the prevailing market rate. The distribution is made through milk cards which are registered at Municipal Distribution Centres. At present about 27,000 persons are taking advantage of the scheme. Proposals for the extension of the scheme to children up to 5 years and expectant and nursing mothers are under active consideration.

Statutory Milk Board

These are, however, only short-term arrangements. The long-range problem is being tackled at the same time. Among the schemes under consideration for the reorganisation of the Bombay City milk supply, is the establishment by Government of a Statutory Milk Control Board in which will vest full control over the production of milk and milk products, their processing and distribution. The functions of this Board *inter alia* will be licensing of all producers of milk, the control and marketing of milk, fixing of wholesale and retail prices and standardising qualities of milk and milk products.



H.E. the Viceroy visited the cattle fair at Okara during his recent tour of the Punjab.

One of the most difficult problems in connection with the long-range programme is the distribution of milk with respect to the transport available. It is stated that there are no large firms handling the bulk of the milk trade. Besides a few organised companies, there are about 16,000 small milk retailers. It would be necessary to license all traders in milk and then form them into an association with a Distributors' Council.

Another subject engaging the attention of the Government is that of removing cattle and owners out of the City. The magnitude of this problem can be easily visualised when it is stated that the number of milch cattle in Bombay City and the Suburban Area is over 50,000. If such removal is made, wholesale or bulk reception depots will have to be opened in the City. This will bring into prominence the question of equipment such as bottles, sterilisers, cans, sealing, cold storage, etc. The manufacture of such equipment would lead to the establishment of a new class of industries in India.

A sum of Rs. 1000 has been received in His Excellency the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund from the Central War Committee, Tonk, for Christmas presents for army personnel.

GRAIN ISOLATION DEPOT

Situated somewhere in Bombay is an Isolation Ward where experts carry on a ceaseless warfare against contamination. Probably few medical men have seen it and the vast majority of the civilians have never heard of it. Yet its functions are of vital importance to the city's welfare.

It is the Bombay Government's Grain Isolation Depot where all "suspects" are carefully treated and if possible rendered immune from passing on infection to others. Anything up to 100 bags of grain—serious cases of infection—are transferred to this Isolation Depot every day.

Stocks of infected or damaged grain are immediately removed by an Inspector from the Storage Godowns to the Isolation Depot where as much of it as possible is salvaged, the idea of course being to make it fit for human consumption.

If this is not possible it is seen whether the grain can be used as animal fodder; if the state of infection rules out even this possibility, it might still be useful to industry for its starch content. Only when the grain is found to be totally unfit and useless, is it sent to the "morgue", the Municipal dump, where it is destroyed. Such cases are rare for the percentage of recovery is high, the average being about 3,000 bags a month.

SIR JOGENDRA SINGH ON DEVELOPMENT OF INDIAN SUGAR INDUSTRY

INAUGURATING the first meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee in New Delhi on November 29, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands Department, Government of India, said:

I feel happy to have the privilege of inaugurating the first meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee. Sugarcane and the production of refined sugar have been among one of my life interests. I can claim without violating any canons of modesty that I was instrumental in securing the appointment of the Indian Sugar Committee of which I was a Member, and also the appointment of the Royal Commission on Agriculture. H. E. the Viceroy in his speech in the Council of State on February 9, 1926, said:

"In July, 1923, Sardar Jogendra Singh moved a Resolution for the appointment of a Commission by Government to consider questions, nearly all of which fall within the scope of the terms of reference of the Royal Commission now to be appointed."

Indian Sugar Corporation

Mr. B. J. Padshah, who represented the firm of Tatas on the Indian Sugar Committee, and I were so convinced of the immediate possibilities of the development of sugar industry that we conceived the idea of floating an Indian Sugar Corporation under the auspices of Tatas.

The Corporation was formed and a capital of Rs. five crores subscribed and shares sold at a premium. The Corporation engaged the services of Mr. Noel Deerr, a Sugar Technologist of international reputation who, after inspection of some areas in the U.P. and Bihar, declared that the sugarcane in Northern India was unfit for the manufacture of sugar. The Corporation was dissolved and the capital returned to the shareholders.

Mr. Noel Deerr then joined Messrs. Begg Sutherland and Co., and afterwards one day confessed to me that he was entirely wrong in declaring the Northern Indian canes unfit for the manufacture of sugar. Today most of the sugar factories are working in Northern India. The yield per acre of sugarcane has been almost doubled, and indigenous canes replaced by new hardy and high yielding Coimbatore canes.

The area under improved canes now ranges round 3½ million acres. Our thanks are due to Sir Venkataraman, whose good work in cane breeding has added enormously to the wealth of the country. In Bombay, in some well managed plots yields of 100 maunds of cane and over have been harvested from an acre. The recovery of sugar when the Indian Sugar Committee held its enquiry, was about 6 per cent; it is now over 10 per cent even in Northern India. Such an improvement is an indication of what capital, science and organisation can achieve in other directions also.

Mr. Padshah in a note which is appended to the Report, gave some figures as to the new business and increased employment that sugar industry will provide. At the time some of our colleagues regarded these figures as fantastic.

The sugar industry now is one of the largest industries in India, and second in importance only to cotton textiles. It gives employment to well over 100,000 workers, 3,000 graduates and technical men and 20 million cultivators. The capital invested in the sugar industry is about Rs. 33 crores; 1.3 million tons of sugar are produced annually. At Rs. 440 a ton this represents about Rs. 57 crores. Between 1910 and 1914, the imports of sugar into India averaged 7,23,915 tons valued at Rs. 12,71 crores.

I wish my friend, Mr. Padshah, were with me here today to see that what he said has come true. Today we produce all the sugar that we need, besides 3.9 million tons of *gur* (raw sugar) per annum.

Government Protection to Industry

In *gur* manufacture 34 per cent of the sucrose in the cane is lost or "inverted," compared with the results obtainable by an up-to-date factory. The consumption of white sugar per head of population is only 7 lbs. while in the U.K. it is 106 lbs. I cannot conceal the fact that so far as food value is concerned, *gur* is more nourishing than refined sugar. Our technologists must find some way of increasing the recovery of sucrose in the manufacture of *gur*.

Government have wisely given protection to the sugar industry for 15 years which ends on March 31, 1946, and the future policy in this connection will have to be considered at the end of this period in the light of the needs of the industry and the prevailing market conditions.

The Sugar Committee's recommendations were practically unanimous regarding the constitution of an Indian Sugar Board, but this, as well as some other important recommendations of the Indian Sugar Committee, never emerged from the faithful custody of files.

The Indian Sugar Committee presented its report some 24 years ago, and though in this short period the sugar industry has undergone a complete transformation, I would commend the report to the consideration of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee. Even now the Central Sugarcane Committee will find some of the recommendations of the Indian Sugar Committee useful—such as fixing the price of sugarcane, organising research and helping the industry by advanced training of technologists.

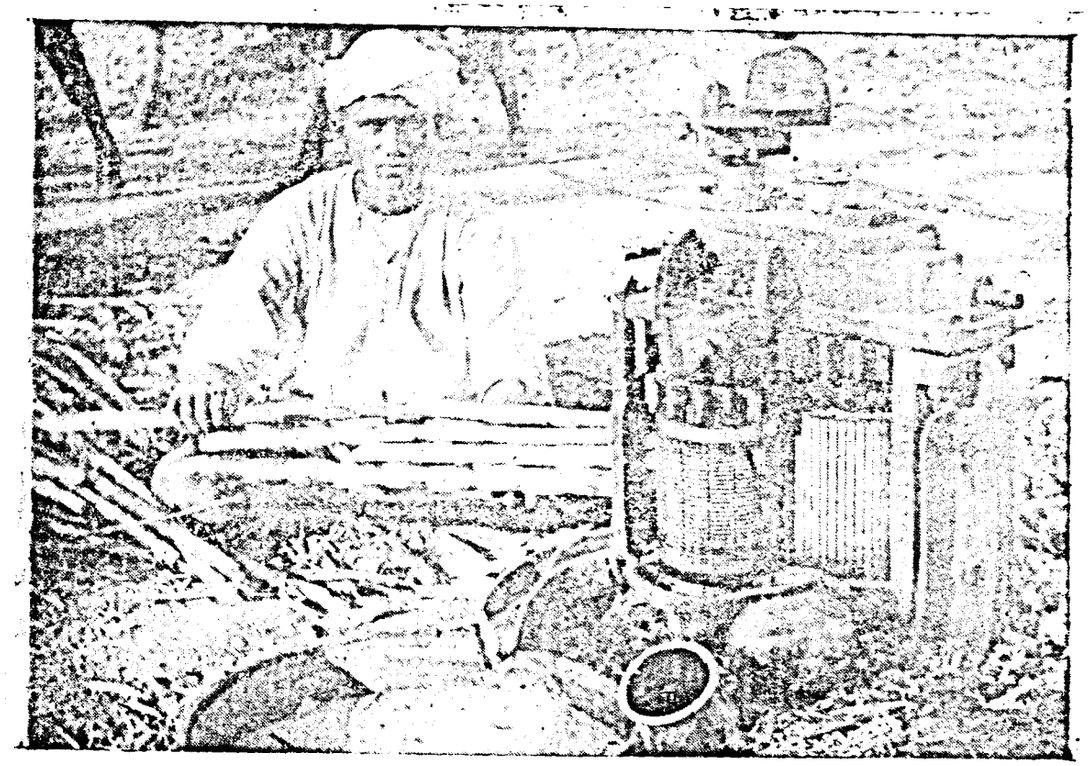
The Governing Body of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, in 1939, recommended the constitution of a Central Sugarcane Committee and proposed that a sub-committee should be appointed to frame its scope and specify its functions. The sub-committee could not be set up as the Ministers of U.P. and Bihar had vacated office.

The Sugar Committee of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, in October, 1941, on the move of Sir Shri Ram revived the proposal. We owe it to Sir Phiroz Kharegat and Mr. Bhagwan Sahay that after nearly a quarter of a century it is given to me today to inaugurate the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee which ought to have been constituted not long after the Indian Sugar Committee had reported.

It will be the responsibility of this Committee to initiate and guide sugarcane research, to advise the Central and Provincial Governments on matters relating to the improvement and development of the industry both on the farm and in the factory.

The Indian Central Sugarcane Committee will be a body corporate registered as a "Society" under the Registration of Societies Act with headquarters at Delhi or such other place as the Committee may decide. The Articles of Association of the Committee, its Rules and Regulations and Draft Bye-laws are now before the members.

The Committee will undertake the improvement and development of the growing, marketing and manufacture of sugarcane and its products. The Committee will initiate agricultural,



Feeding Sugarcane into a Crusher.

technological and economic research on sugarcane, the production, distribution and testing of improved varieties of sugarcane, gur, sugar and their bye-products, the improvement of crop forecast and statistics and adoption of improved cultural practices. It will deal with the problems of banking and transport facilities.

The control of the Institute of Sugar Technology will vest in the Committee and it will be its responsibility to raise the Institute to the highest possible level. The Committee will also advise the Central and Provincial Governments on any points which may be referred to it by them, provided that the subject matter of reference falls within the prescribed functions of the Committee.

Sugar Excise Fund

At present the proceeds of the Sugar Excise Fund, which is financed out of the excise duty at the rate of one anna per cwt. of white sugar produced in British India, are available only in part for co-ordinated schemes of sugarcane research, the rest of the Fund being administered directly by the Government of India, partly for maintaining the Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology and partly for giving grants to Provincial Governments for expenditure on schemes ancillary to schemes sanctioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. Henceforth the Government of India will place at the disposal of the Committee the entire proceeds of the Sugar Excise Fund; the amount so credited shall continue to be one anna per cwt. of white sugar produced in British India out of the excise duty levied on it.

The income of the Committee will, therefore, vary with the production of refined sugar. If, however, the amount placed in the Fund in any year falls short of the needs of the Committee, the Government of India will automatically grant a loan free of interest to cover the deficit and to enable the Committee to incur expenditure up to a limit of Rs. 11.75 lakhs in the year, subject to the condition that the first charge on any surplus occurring thereafter will be the replacement of this loan.

We have endeavoured to make the Committee as representative as possible of the various sugarcane interests, such as the growers, the manufacturers, consumers, the traders, the technologists, etc.

I trust the Committee will divide itself into sub-committees, each sub-committee taking up a special subject, such as cultivation and improvement of sugarcane, manufacture of sugar, manufacture of gur, utilization of bye-products, supervision of the Sugar Technological Institute, and improvement of communications for the transport of cane.

It would be an advantage if the members of these sub-committees visit various centres, keep in touch with the existing conditions and, by discussion with experts, have a clear idea of the possibilities of improvement in all directions. It is with an earnest and sincere prayer for its future success that I inaugurate the first meeting of the Indian Central Sugarcane Committee.

INCREASE IN SUGAR PRICES

The Government of India have decided to raise the *ex*-factory price of sugar by rupee one and annas seven and of khandsari by rupee one per maund respectively from October 21, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India.

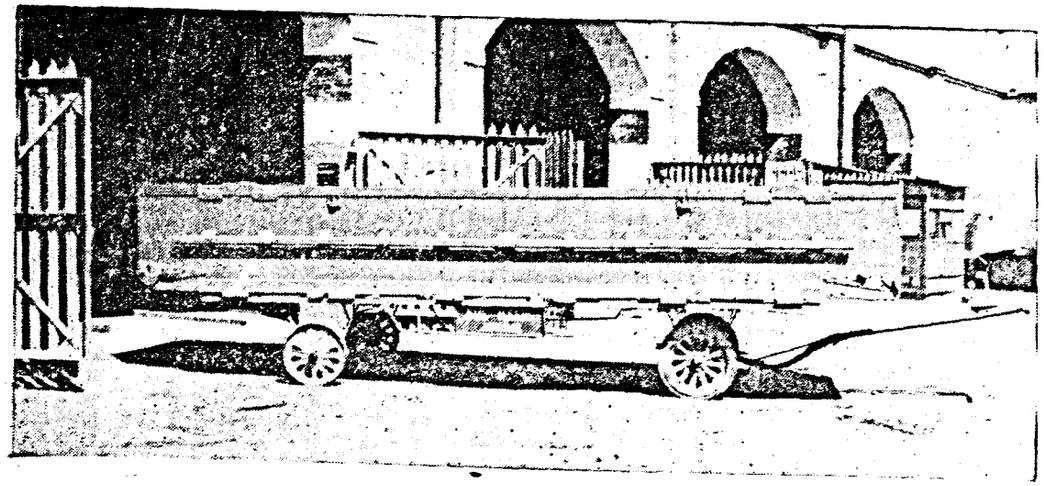
It added: This will enable the Provincial Governments of U.P. and Bihar to raise the minimum price of sugarcane by annas two per maund.

As the new price of sugar should apply to sugar manufactured from the cane bought at the new prices to be fixed by Provincial Governments and not to stocks of sugar already in the hands of factories and dealers, the Government of India have decided to adopt a similar measure as was done last year to realise the amount equal to the difference between the old and new prices of sugar from producers and wholesalers by imposing an additional excise duty under an Ordinance issued on October 20.

The procedure for the assessment and realisation of the above excise duty will be the same as that of last year.

QUARANTINE RESTRICTIONS

Information has been received by the Public Health Commissioner with the Government of India that the Government of Palestine have imposed quarantine restrictions on account of cholera against persons arriving from Cawnpore and Delhi by air. In order to avoid possible delay and inconvenience at the port of debarkation, passengers leaving Cawnpore and Delhi by air to Palestine are advised to be in possession of cholera inoculation certificates showing the inoculation has been performed not less than six days and not more than six months prior to arrival.



A completed centre pontoon on a trolley.

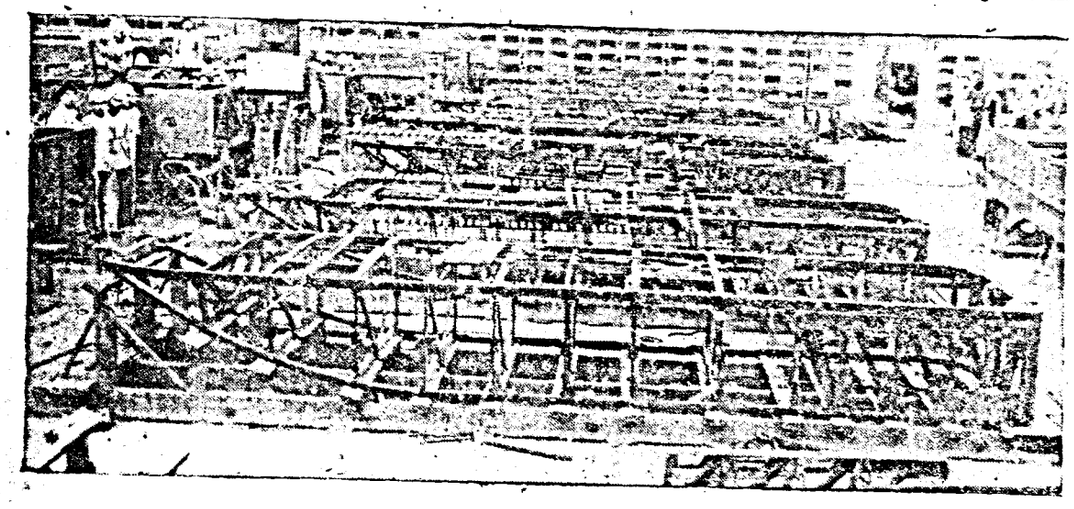
INDIAN RAILWAYS BUILD PONTOONS FOR THE ARMY

INDIAN railways are building pontoons for the Master-General of the Ordnance, India.

An insight into the nature of the work was gained during the execution of a small educational order which was completed in 1942. Large repeat orders having been visualised, a separate workshop was allotted and equipped for this work, which involved the designing and manufacture of numerous and intricate machinery pads and assembly jigs.

The magnitude of the work may be measured by the number of timber components in an Mk. V end pontoon—450 different components are used, some of which necessitate 16 different machining operations.

Two types of pontoons are built. A set consists of one centre and two end pontoons



Assembly section of the pontoon workshop.

which, with the aid of side and deck couplings, form a unit. Shisham and Deodar are used for the skeleton of both types, bracing being provided by mild steel frames, while the "skin", bottom and deck are of tempered Masonite, plywood and Deodar respectively.

One of the most exacting jobs is the fitting of the couplings. For obvious reasons all pontoons must intercouple, and this is only possible by employing a special jig by means of which four sets of couplings are fitted simultaneously at either end.

Nine Different Stages

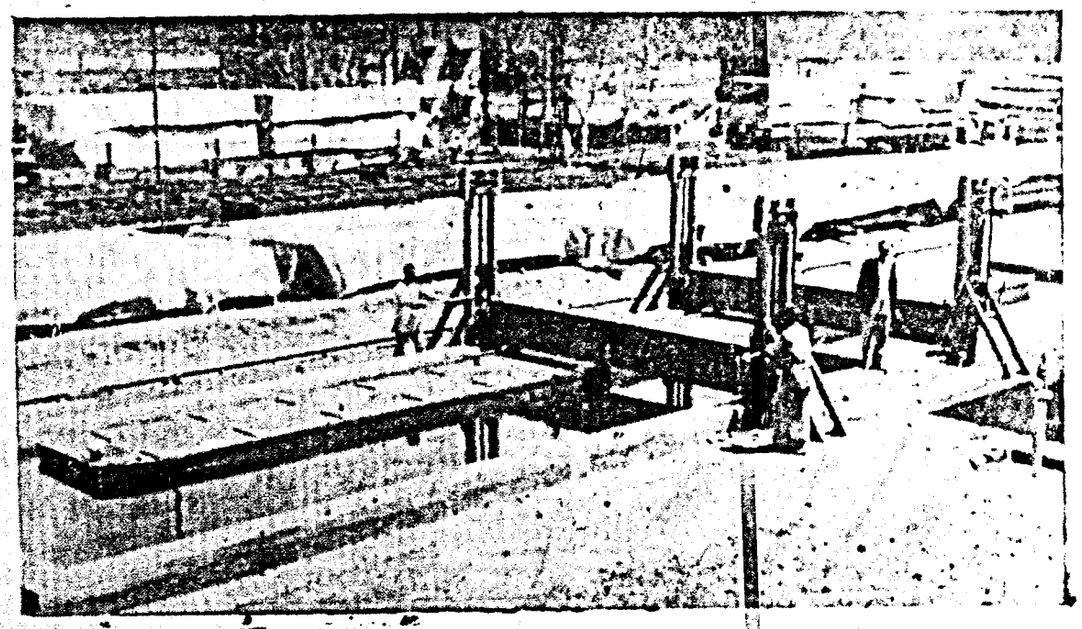
The procedure in the workshop is initially to machine and to store the timber details, then to build up components in sub-assembly jigs, and finally to distribute assembled components to the appropriate stage on the assembly line for incorporation in the pontoons.

Construction is done over nine different stages entailing daily moves down the assembly lines. At the first stage main assembly jigs are used to build the skeleton frame. On completion these are transferred to trolleys, which move from stage to stage as work is completed and passed by military inspectors.

After final inspection of constructional work, each pontoon is conveyed by trolley to a beam scale to check the weight, for which tight limits are fixed. The pontoon having



Launching a pontoon into the submersion tank.



Submersion test of one pier consisting of two Mk. V pontoons and one centre pontoon.

been weighed, the trolley is moved a few yards to a launching ramp which serves the adjacent testing tank. Here the pontoon is launched by means of a winch. When the day's output is afloat, the pontoons are coupled and then submerged simultaneously to within three inches of the gunwale by a rapid-acting mechanical device to test the craft and ensure that each is impervious to water.

The test covers 12 hours and is completed overnight. The following morning the preceding day's output is inspected and given the last coat of paint. The pontoons then leave the workshops, protected by palm-leaf matting, for the combat zone.

INDIAN RAILWAYS' LOCOMOTIVES

A Comparison with U. K. and America

The efficiency of railway working is reflected, among other things, in the proper maintenance of locomotives. Indian Railways in this respect, to quote a very highly placed British railway official, "have nothing to be ashamed of".

Since the outbreak of war railway traffic has increased beyond all proportion to the increase in the number of locomotives. Indian Railways have tried to meet the situation by stepping up the loads of trains to the maximum possible limit and by introducing new devices and new techniques to improve the standard of locomotive maintenance. A passenger train now carries 32 per cent more load than before the war, a goods train 8½ per cent more.

In spite of this heavy strain thrown on the locomotives, the latest figures show that not more than 15.91 per cent of them are in "hospital" as against 14.34 per cent in the U.K. The "hospital" takes the form of a running shed in cases of minor repairs; cases requiring heavy repairs or periodical overhaul are dealt with in the workshops. For the U.S.A. figures are available only of locomotives undergoing repairs in workshops and the latest information is that 5.2 per cent of the locomotives are temporarily out of service on that account. The corresponding figures for India and U.K. respectively are 5.5 and 5.66.

India's showing would probably be better if all the materials and spares necessary for repairs were readily available in the country, for the engines would then be out of the workshops and on the lines earlier.

MEASURES TO RELIEVE OVERCROWDING IN TRAINS

A MEMORANDUM on proposals regarding the classes of railway accommodation to be provided in the post-war period was placed before the Central Advisory Council for Railways at its meeting held in New Delhi on November 18, the Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India, presiding. The Council also discussed overcrowding in trains and suggested measures to relieve the situation.

The proposals regarding the classes of railway accommodation had already been circulated to Chambers of Commerce and discussed by Local Advisory Committees of Railways. Of the Chambers of Commerce addressed about half had intimated their views to the Board, and the results of the discussions by most of the railways with their Local Advisory Committees had also been received.

A majority of the Central Advisory Council after considerable discussion approved generally of the proposal that there should be three classes of railway accommodation provided in future instead of the existing four and that, in addition, air-conditioned travel should be provided on long distance and inter-provincial trains. The present discussion was considered a preliminary one, and the Council asked that this important subject be discussed again on a suitable occasion.

20 Million More Passengers

Overcrowding in trains was once again discussed by the Council. It was pointed out by the Hon'ble Member for War Transport that 20 million passengers more per month were travelling by train now in 1944 than had been the case during the first half of 1942 and that this enormous increase was due only partly to military travellers.

Suggestions were made by the members of the Council, including restrictions of travel by mails and expresses to journeys of not less than a certain distance, the provision of more buses for local traffic within 20 or 30 miles of large towns and an extension of the road services in co-operation with the railways.

After some discussion it was not considered practical generally to introduce restrictions on the sale of tickets to correspond with train accommodation actually available. The enforcement of such a measure would be difficult

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 786)

"OMNIBUS LOADING" OF RAILWAY WAGONS

The Indian Railways have developed a system which enables the best possible use to be made, with the least possible delay, of empty wagons on their way to fetch vital cargo.

Heavy traffic in one direction frequently results in wagons having to run empty in the opposite direction. Thus wagons distributing throughout the country the coal mined in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields must rush back to the coalfields if vital industries are not to suffer; they cannot all be delayed even for loading freight for intermediate stations. This is where what is known as the "Omnibus Loading" system comes in. According to this system, the various Traffic Control Offices advise the station staff beforehand of the date and time empty wagons will pass *en route* to loading points and the destinations for which loading may be undertaken. The station staff in their turn inform local merchants, who bring their goods to the station and stack them on the platform ready for loading, enabling them to be transferred to the empty wagons, as soon as they arrive, immediately and rapidly. Thus, as many as 30 wagons were loaded with piecegoods, grains, oil cakes and general merchandise in 90 minutes at Akola on the G.I.P. Railway.

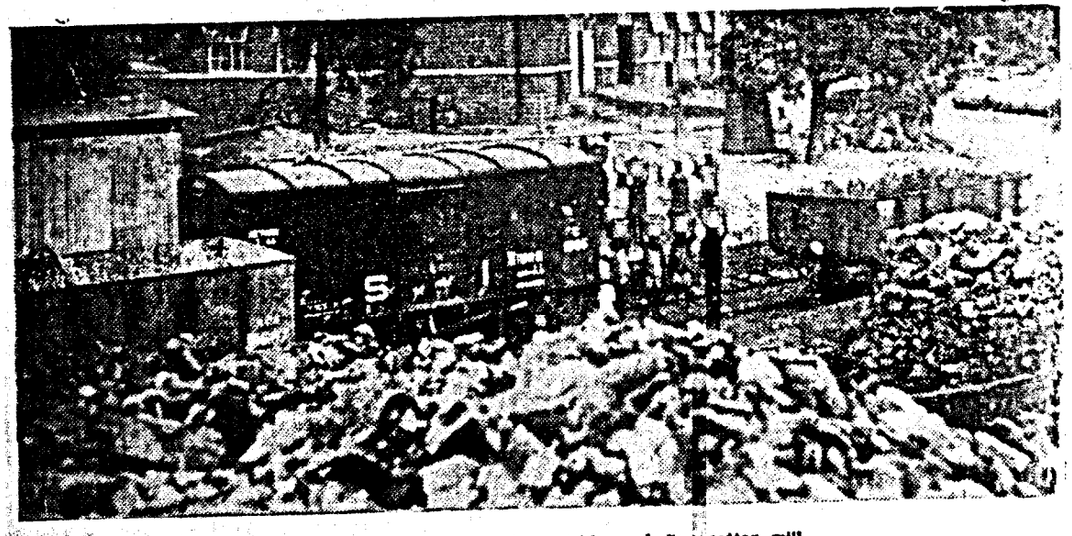
In this way goods even of Low priority awaiting despatch are cleared and delay to wagons is reduced to a minimum, thus ensuring the speedy transport of vital commodities.

INDIAN RAILWAYS' HELP TO EMPLOYEES

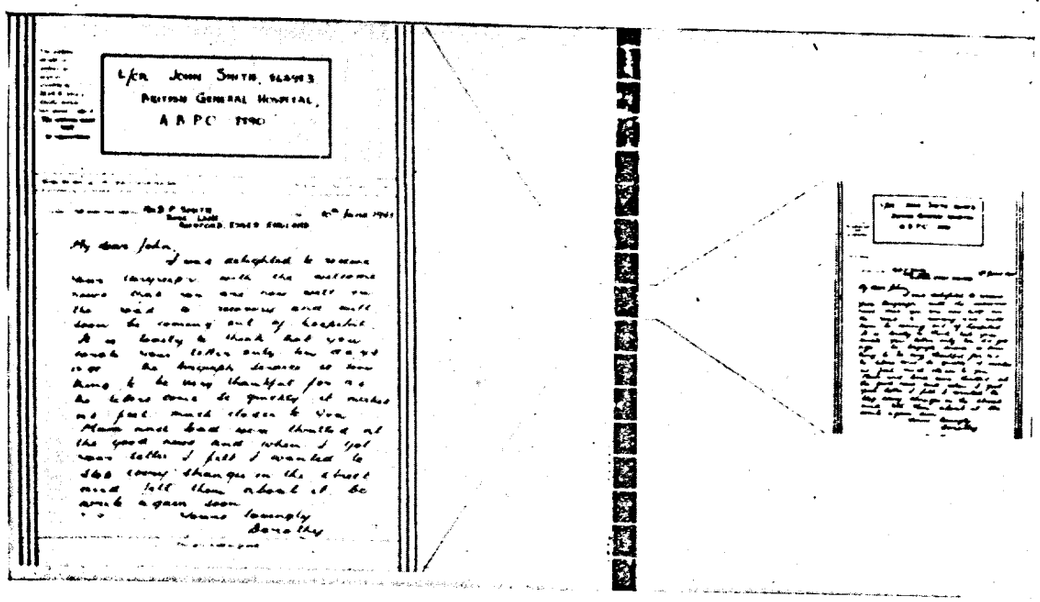
Seven million maunds of foodstuffs, four million yards of cloth, 800,000 dozen boxes of matches and 250,000 dozen cakes and bars of soap—these figures, impressive as they are, represent only part of the help given by the Railway Grain Shop Organisation to railway employees in India during the six months ending September 30 last.

Railway employees are now to receive further assistance through this vast organisation in that they may now obtain supplies for those entirely dependent upon them, up to a maximum of three persons, in addition to their own families. Moreover, in order further to reduce the cost of living, the Railway Department has agreed to bear a still larger proportion of the prime cost of the articles supplied. Steps have also been taken to combat malnutrition by the supply of milk and vegetables where available, and by allowing employees an increased ration of *dals*.

The organisation necessary to deal with such a large and widely distributed population as exists on the Railways has only been made possible by 100 per cent rationing of all employees and their families. This 100 per cent rationing has been in force since early 1942, and undoubtedly enabled the Railway Department to pass through the food crisis of 1943.



Railway wagons being loaded outside an Indian cotton mill.



This picture, in three parts, briefly tells the story of airgraphs. (Right) A reduced scale photograph of an airgraph form and letter. (Centre) The form in which it is sent—half-inch square photographic negative. (Left) And this is how it looks when it reaches the recipient—the film has been enlarged and a reproduction made by the receiving station.

AIRGRAPH SERVICE

THE airgraph service has become more popular from year to year since its inception in February 1942. In that month it carried about 100,000 letters; two years later, in March 1944, it carried 19 times that number; and in the last financial year more than 20,000,000 airgraphs were despatched from India.

Airgraphs, which were introduced to help to ease the shortage of freight capacity on aircraft during wartime, are a great space saver. One hundred of them weigh as much as one ordinary air mail letter. Neither accident nor enemy action can stop them from reaching their destination; for, should a batch of airgraphs be lost in transit, the original message is traced from the country of origin, rephotographed and transmitted again.

This is how the airgraph system works. A half-inch square photographic negative of the letter to be delivered is made in the country of origin and sent throughout by air. (While 1 lb. of ordinary air mail averages 30 letters, 1 lb. of film, including the spool and container, takes about 3,000 airgraphs). At the destination a 5" x 4" photographic facsimile of the original message is made from the film and delivered to the addressee.

An airgraph form now costs eight annas



Sealed tins of airgraph films being dispatched to the airfield. Each tin usually contains 200 feet of film or 3,000 airgraphs.

but will cost only four annas from December 1. Members of His Majesty's Forces on active service can buy it for three annas. The form,



Inspecting the airgraph film before dispatch.

when filled in, may either be handed at the counter of a post office or sent in an unstamped cover direct to the Airgraph Section, G.P.O., Calcutta, if posted in Bengal, Assam, Bihar or Orissa, and to the Airgraph Section, G.P.O., Bombay, if posted in any other part of India.

The airgraph service is at present available from India for more than 15 countries including the United Kingdom, Eire, Canada, Newfoundland, Australia, New Zealand, Fiji Islands, the British North African Force, the Allied Armies in Italy and the Middle East Force. It is also available to His Majesty's Forces in India (1) for the forces stationed at Gibraltar and (2) for civilians in British West African territories.

The service can be utilised for writing letters and for advising remittances in code by approved banks. Photographs should not be affixed to airgraph forms, but airgraphs bearing purely personal and domestic photographs directly produced on a sensitised replica of the airgraph form will now be accepted for any destination to which the airgraph service is available.

The rates of postage will be the same as for ordinary airgraphs. These sensitised forms are not supplied by the post offices, but service in this line is given by approved professional photographers in all large cities.

Photographs by Airgraph Service

With immediate effect, purely personal and domestic photographs will be accepted by all post offices in India for transmission by airgraph service to those countries and places to which the service is available *provided* they are not affixed to airgraph forms but are produced directly on sensitised paper upon which is also printed a replica of the official airgraph form, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on November 21.

It added: For this purpose, a selection of *bona fide* professional photographers who are prepared to cater to the public for the production of such portraits has been made in all large cities and their names will be announced separately by the Heads of Postal Circles. The approved photographers have been fully instructed with regard to the preparation of the replica of the airgraph form.

POSTAL SERVICE TO FRANCE AND ITALY

In accordance with action taken by His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, the Government of India have authorised persons and concerns in India to have private and business correspondence with the whole of France except the Departments of Meuse, Meurthe-et-Moselle, Vosges, Hautesaone, Doubs, Moselle, Basrhin and Hautrhin and the territory of Belfort.

Business letters are restricted for the present to those ascertaining facts and exchanging information only. Such correspondence can be despatched under the conditions notified in the postal notices issued by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, enquiries regarding which may be made at any post office, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department on December 1.

An earlier Press Note said that the postal service to France had been extended to include private and business letters not exceeding one ounce in weight and that registration, insurance, express delivery, money order or parcel post facilities were not available.

To Italy

A Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on November 21 stated:

With immediate effect, unregistered business correspondence (in addition to correspondence of a purely personal nature) may be sent to those parts of Italy to which the postal service is at present available and also to the following provinces, to which it has now been extended: Terni, Viterbo, Ascoli, Macerata and Grosseto.

The despatch of business correspondence to Italy is subject to such restrictions and conditions as may be imposed by the Government of India from time to time. Such conditions and restrictions are notified in the *Gazette of India* as well as by means of Press Communiques to which senders are advised to refer.

The limit of weight per article continues to be two ounces.

Mr. H. R. Shivdasani, O.B.E., I.C.S., has been appointed Chief Commissioner of Ajmer-Merwara with effect from December 1, 1944, in succession to Mr. Khurshed Ahmad Khan, I.C.S., whose services have been replaced at the disposal of the Government of the United Provinces.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Twenty telephone calls a day made by 1,000 subscribers move 50,000 bits of machinery, which wear out with every movement.

At one time this year the Bombay Central Telegraph Office was handling more than 30,000 telegrams daily.

The "peak" hours in a telephone exchange are round about 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. and the "easiest" hours are from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and after 6 p.m. for local conversations. For trunk calls you get "through" quickest and easiest before 9 a.m. and after 6 p.m.

One hundred airgraphs weigh as much as one ordinary air mail letter.

It has taken you just one minute to read and "get" all this and you may well try and keep each telephone conversation down to one minute.

NO CHRISTMAS CARDS TO WAR PRISONERS

The sending of Christmas cards or calendars to Prisoners of War in enemy hands is again prohibited this year. This is because the delivery of the ordinary private mail, which every prisoner of war is anxious to receive with as little delay as possible, is greatly delayed by the censoring of Christmas cards and calendars, said a Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, General Headquarters, India, on November 17.

CHEAP FOOD FOR POSTAL STAFF

At the recent session of the Central Legislative Assembly an assurance was given that the Government of India were considering the supply of foodstuffs at concession rates to the staff of the Posts and Telegraphs Department wherever practicable. Schemes are already working in some areas and it is learnt that arrangements are well advanced and a start will be made in Bombay at a very early date. Similar arrangements will be made in various other places. The rates to be charged, it is understood, are under consideration and will be decided shortly.

ENGLAND-INDIA AIR MAIL SPEED UP

AIR letters which were posted recently in England on a Saturday were delivered to servicemen in Calcutta on the following Monday evening, and to troops in the forward areas the next day.

This is just one typical example of the speed-up of air mails between India and Britain which has taken place in recent months. Mail which, six months ago, took ten days to reach the forward areas does so now in approximately a week; and this will probably be cut down to five days in the near future.

The fast aircraft which carry these service mails leave England on an almost daily schedule. The mails themselves are sorted and made up at Nottingham late each afternoon and sent to an airfield near Bristol. The aircraft leave at dawn and, in many cases, are due to arrive at Karachi 36 hours later. The journey is now often done in 30 hours.

Mail for Forward Areas

Whatever time the mail arrives, it is sorted immediately. Mail for the forward areas, which has already been separately sorted in England, is merely broken down into smaller units. This makes it possible for this mail to go to Calcutta on the same aircraft when it leaves two hours later. From Calcutta it is again flown as far forward as possible. By this arrangement mail arrives in Chittagong or Imphal just as soon as it does in Delhi or Madras.



Parcels received from India being dealt with at a base post office.

Working on a 24-hour basis, the R.A.F. Postal Service alone handles two-and-three-quarter million air mail articles a month and this figure is increasing. Outgoing Christmas airgraphs alone are expected to number 850,000.

The Army Postal Service is doing an equally big job. The Service postal systems which handle at high speed this vast quantity of mail all the way from the base post office to the addressee many thousands of miles away are doing a great job in bringing servicemen nearer to their families.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS AIRGRAPH FORMS

A limited number of attractive "Christmas Greetings" airgraph forms will be placed on sale shortly at all important post offices. The exact date will be notified later. No additional charge will be made for these forms, which will continue to be sold in the same manner as ordinary airgraph forms, namely, three annas per form in the case of members of Defence Services and eight annas per form for members of the general public, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on November 11.

VICEROY'S ADDRESS TO ENGINEERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 737)

to the definition in a couplet of Kipling's that has stuck in my mind:

"When the children of Israel made bricks without straw,/

They were learning the ordinary work of our Corps."

In our post-war offensive against poverty in India, engineers will certainly be in the forefront of the battle; and you may rest assured of my support for the development of the country by hydro-electric schemes, irrigation, road-making; and other engineering activities connected with industries and agriculture. I am sure you will agree with me that one of the first needs of India is a very great increase in the numbers under technical training, of all kinds.

I deplore with you the fact that men of practical experience, such as engineers, so seldom have time or inclination to take an active part in public affairs, which would greatly benefit from their experience. They are normally too occupied with "simple service simply given to his own kind in their common need," to quote again from Kipling.

Gentlemen, I thank you again for the honour which your Institution has done me, and I assure you of my warm interest in the progress of engineering in India.

ANTI-INDIAN LEGISLATION IN S. AFRICA

Mr. R. N. Banerjee's Speech in Council of State

INITIATING the debate on "the position of Indians in South Africa" in the Council of State on November 17, the Hon'ble Mr. R. N. Banerjee, Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, said:

After the full-dress debate which the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Commonwealth Relations initiated only 10 days ago in the Lower House I take it, Sir, that this House will not expect from me a long speech on the woeful tale of the sufferings of our countrymen in South Africa. I would, therefore, only content myself with setting out briefly the recent events which have led up to the situation which confronts us today. Exact and up-to-date statistics are not available, but it is estimated that there are about 2½ lakhs of Indians in South Africa. About four-fifths of this Indian population, *i.e.*, about 2 lakhs, are domiciled in the province of Natal, the balance being distributed between the provinces of the Transvaal and the Cape of Good Hope.

Anti-Asiatic Clause

The European population in Natal exceeds the Indian population by about 6,000. Of the entire Indian population of the province of Natal, about 45 per cent (that is to say, about 88,000) reside in the town of Durban. The European population in the town of Durban is about 95,000. Prior to the enactment of the Pegging legislation in 1943 there were no statutory restrictions in the Natal province on the right of Indians to occupy and acquire lands and landed property. In certain private transfers of property between Europeans, what is known as an anti-Asiatic clause used to be included. The effect of this so far as we can make out was that any subsequent transfer of such property to Asiatics used to invalidate the original transaction.

The Pegging legislation was passed to put a break on the penetration of Indians into European quarters. Under the Pegging legislation Indians can now acquire and occupy lands and houses in European quarters only on a permit to be granted by the Union Minister of the Interior.

The Pegging legislation was passed in great haste in April last year in spite of repeated protests and representations from the Government of India. The incidence of the legislation falls primarily on Indians and, therefore, the legislation has been in practice discriminatory against the Indian community. This discriminatory legislation naturally caused the strongest resentment both in India as well as amongst the Indian community in South Africa.

After the legislation was passed the Government decided to proceed rather slowly in the matter, because as promised during the passage of the Pegging bill a judicial Commission was appointed about this time for an inquiry into the housing needs and other civic amenities of the Indian community. Field Marshal Smuts was also about to receive a representative deputation of the Natal Indian Congress.

In view of the intense public feeling in this matter the Government of India, however, made it perfectly clear to the Union Government in April this year that Indian opinion would not be satisfied except by concrete action and unless the discussions, which were then in progress between the Union Government and the representatives of the Indian community, resulted, within a reasonable time, in some solution acceptable to us, we would be compelled to take counter-measures.

Pretoria Agreement

The conclusion of what is known as the Pretoria Agreement was announced on April 19. By this Agreement representatives of the Union Government and of the Natal Indian Congress came to the understanding that a licensing board consisting of two Europeans and two Indians, with a European with legal training as Chairman, should be constituted. This board should control and regulate the future occupation of property for residential purposes in urban areas where the question of Indians living in close proximity to Europeans might cause friction. Apart from this control and regulation of such residential occupation there were to be no further restrictions on Indian interests in land. All restrictions other than this contained in the Pegging Act were to be withdrawn. In particular, it was understood that there was to be no restriction on the right of Indians to acquire properties of any kind in the country.

We wanted the Pegging legislation to be withdrawn and therefore did not regard the agreement as an ideal solution. The majority of the local Indians however accepted it as a

working compromise. For the first time the principle of settlement of all such disputes by voluntary agreement was accepted by the Union Government. We, therefore, acquiesced in the Agreement and decided to give it a chance.

This Agreement was to be embodied in legislation and an Ordinance was to be introduced to this end in the Natal Provincial Legislature. A draft Occupation Control Ordinance was accordingly published in the Natal Provincial Gazette on June 2. The Ordinance was introduced in the Natal Council on June 19 and was referred to a Select Committee. Reactionary European elements in Natal, however, carried on a campaign of opposition to the Agreement and this opposition went on hardening progressively. It was on October 17 that the report of the Select Committee on the draft Ordinance was presented in the Natal Council. The Select Committee produced an amended Ordinance which is now called the Residential Property Regulation Ordinance.

Effect of Ordinance

Let me explain briefly the effect of this amended Ordinance. Under the Pegging Act occupation and acquisition of "any land or premises" can be allowed only on a permit issued by the Union Minister of the Interior. Under the Pretoria Agreement and the original Natal Occupation Ordinance, which was drafted in conformity with its terms, only occupation of any dwelling for residential purposes required a licence to be granted by the licensing board of mixed composition. Under the amended Ordinance, occupation and acquisition of residential properties can be allowed only on a licence issued by the licensing board. Provision for the control of acquisition of residential property is thus a definite departure from the Pretoria Agreement and the original draft Ordinance. In fact by retaining the restriction on acquisition the amended Ordinance reproduces for residential property the main features of the Pegging Act.

The Licensing Board's control of occupation and acquisition of residential property is to be extended immediately to boroughs and townships throughout the province. Under the Agreement and the original Ordinance control of occupation was to be enforced only in the Durban borough in the first instance and was to be extended to urban centres other than Durban only on the recommendation of the provincial licensing board. Under the Agreement and the original Ordinance, in granting licences for occupation the licensing board had to make allowance for natural residential expansion of either racial group into contiguous streets, roads or localities. This is omitted from the amended Ordinance under which licensing boards will have to take into account the views of local bodies and any scheme of town planning adopted or contemplated by them.

The House should know that Indians do not have municipal franchise anywhere in Natal. This provision is obviously designed for facilitating the execution of post-war plans of racial zoning which are in contemplation.

Racial Zoning

This amended Ordinance is also to be one of a number of measures for a comprehensive long-term programme of town extension and racial zoning. A housing board is to be set up with the right of pre-empting properties offered for sale to Indians in European quarters. I may add that these new measures really forestall the results of the labour of the Broome Commission which has been still investigating the very problem of better housing facilities for Indians.

The amended Ordinance thus contains radical alterations of the terms of the Pretoria Agreement and the provisions of the original draft Occupation Ordinance.

The Natal Indian Congress presented to Field Marshal Smuts in April a memorandum setting out their demands. This memorandum was officially recognised as the Pretoria Agreement. Field Marshal Smuts' telegram of April 18 to His Excellency the Viceroy also referred to control of only occupation as the object of the Agreement. This original draft Ordinance which had the concurrence of Indian representatives and was published in the Provincial Gazette on June 2, also provided for the regulation and licensing of occupation only. It is thus clear that the control of acquisition and some of the other provisions involve a violation of the Pretoria Agreement.

A Request Disregarded

The contention that the amended Ordinance does not go back on the Pretoria Agreement is not now seriously pressed. We are told that without such departure from the Agreement in respect of the control of acquisition of residential properties the original Ordinance stood no chance of being enacted by the Natal Provincial Council. We have maintained, Sir, that by concurring with the Pretoria Agreement the Union Government accepted responsibility for the enactment of the necessary implementing legislation. Such legislation can be passed even by the Union Parliament, but our request for such alternative legislation has been disregarded.

Without surrendering their inherent right the Indian community, in deference to European sentiment, agreed to the regulation of the occupation of property for residential purposes in urban areas where the question of Indians living in close proximity to Europeans might create friction. Indians thus accepted the principle of segregation by agreement only as regards residence.

Great Potentialities

This principle of voluntary agreement had great potentialities for the solution of the racial problem in the Union. It is a thousand pities, Sir, that this principle has been thrown overboard and no efforts have been made by the Union Government to carry with them local Indian opinion in such reasonable modifications as were considered to be essential to the enactment of the original ordinance.

The principle of agreement could perhaps have been applied successfully without intensifying racial bitterness when schemes of post-war town planning came to be implemented. Europeans made a genuine grievance last year of Indian penetration only in Durban and to the best of our information, this issue was not anywhere else in Natal. It, therefore, passes our comprehension, Sir, that any such far-reaching measures which are admittedly justified only as part of post-war reconstruction plans should be linked with the implementation of a solemn Agreement and rushed through while the whole Commonwealth is in the grip of this devastating war.

The apprehensions of the Indian community that undue advantage has been taken of the present occasion to prejudice their future are certainly not exaggerated. We had had sprung upon us fully elaborated measures the result of which will be, as the Hon'ble Member stated, "to relegate the large and progressive Indian population in Natal to a position of permanent inferiority."

Representations Unheeded

This is the situation with which we are now faced. I have initiated this discussion to explain to the House that the Government of India have not spared any efforts to avoid this situation. We have throughout maintained the maximum possible pressure on the Union Government and if we have not succeeded in preventing the enactment of this anti-Indian legislation, it is not due to any lack of vigilance or exertions on our part. I have already said, Sir, that our representations and protests against the enactment of the Pegging Act last year went completely unheeded. When the Act was passed in spite of our protests the Government of India made their sentiments clear in a Press Communique.

The following extracts from the Communique would bear quotation:

"The Government of India cannot but regard this news with profound regret and concern. In principle they have consistently maintained the view, frequently expressed before, that legislation restricting the rights of Indians in South Africa does not offer an acceptable solution of the Indian problem in that country and is at the same time a serious cause of offence to Indian sentiment everywhere.

"They cannot ignore the apprehensions aroused in Indian minds by the extension of statutory restrictions upon the Indian community. Opinion in India has unanimously protested that the legislation is repugnant, unnecessary and inopportune. With that opinion the Government of India are in full accord."

As the Hon'ble Member made it clear in his speech, the Government of India fully share the feelings of the Indian community in South Africa and the public in India roused by the Union Government's latest anti-Indian measure. The Hon'ble Member gave in the Lower House details of the action we have taken at various stages since the middle of April. We have addressed remonstrances to the Union Government on six occasions during this period and left them in no doubt that, unless a satisfactory solution was evolved, we would have no alternative to taking counter-measures. I hope, Sir, the House will be satisfied that Government have done all that they could to prevent the enactment of this legislation.

Grievances of Two Generations

It is not generally realised, Sir, that the anti-Indian agitation in South Africa started nearly 60 years ago. Ever since 1885 discriminatory measures against the Indian population have been adopted in South Africa. It will take me too far afield to enter into these details, but I only wish to emphasise that this is not the first time that such discriminatory measures have been adopted against Indians. The present is but one of a long series of discriminatory measures though it has had the effect of the last straw on the camel's back.

The position is not that the present Government of India are responsible for all the woes of the Indian community in South Africa. To

wipe out the accumulated grievances of two generations is not a task of ordinary magnitude. It is true, Sir, that South Africa is formally a unit in the British Commonwealth, but even as such theirs is an independent Government and the House will realise that such a Government is not likely to be easily amenable to advice or pressure even from His Majesty's Government in matters affecting the self-interest of their ruling classes.

The House is aware that most, if not all, of the discriminatory measures in South Africa apply formally to all Asiatics. There is a sprinkling of Japanese and Chinese nationals in the Union who are also affected by these measures. It is interesting to note that the Governments of these two independent countries have not so far been able to protect their nationals from measures involving racial discrimination. I realise, Sir, that it is probably owing to the infinitesimal number of their nationals in this country that these Governments have had no incentive to taking strong actions in the matter, but I have drawn attention to this minor fact to demonstrate to the House the extreme difficulty of obtaining relief in such matters by the normal methods of international intercourse. What other really effective action the Government of India can take is not thus a simple question.

Retaliatory Measures

This brings me to the measures which the Indian public have suggested for the redress of the grievances of our nationals in South Africa. Our legislature passed the Reciprocity Act last year. As the House is aware, we have already enforced all the effective provisions of this measure. The two other retaliatory measures which have been demanded unanimously and insistently are the recall of our High Commissioner and the severance of trade relations.

I regret, Sir, I am not yet able to add anything to the statement which the Hon'ble Member made the other day on these two measures. The Government are considering them most energetically from day to day, but the House will realise that the decision, particularly that about the severance of trade relations, would be a momentous one and Government may perhaps be given some time to gauge the full implications of the measure.

Our grievances are 60 years old and I hope the House will agree with me that lightning speed is not perhaps essential in all the circumstances of the case. Now that the Government and the people are so completely at one with each other in this matter the public may not grudge the Government some discretion in regulating the pace and dimensions of their diplomatic operations.

The Union Government have been told that the Government of India now hold themselves free to take such counter-measures as they can. Our repeated representations drawing their attention to the deplorable repercussions of their action have not carried any weight. However limited may be the actual incidence of the application of the Reciprocity Act the fact that we have been driven to this extreme should be some measure to the Union Government of the depth and intensity of Indian resentment at the affront to their national sentiment and should be some evidence that the Government of India are in dead earnest about the grievances of their nationals in the Union.

An Assurance

That we have made a beginning in the enforcement of retaliatory measures should also be some evidence that we can take such other measures as may be open to us. I can repeat the Hon'ble Member's assurance in the lower House that our inability to make an immediate announcement should not be attributed to any luke-warmth on our part and that no undue delay will occur in taking a decision.

One word more, the Government of India are unable to agree that they are interfering in the domestic affairs of the Union. The bulk of the Indians in South Africa are the descendants of those whom the Government of India sent out in a spirit of helpfulness and co-operation to provide the manpower to develop the country sometimes in response to the importunities of the then governments of the country.

The Government of India cannot therefore abandon even now, and certainly not once for all, their moral responsibility for obtaining the recognition of the rights of their nationals as full citizens of the country of their adoption. Once that goal is reached and all discrimination against them ceases, the Government of India will have no more occasion to interfere in the affairs of the Union. The struggle for this objective will certainly be kept alive now and in future and we are not likely to stop till our goal is reached. The House will perhaps join me in expressing the hope that better counsels may yet prevail and it may be possible for us to defer extreme action.

REFUND OF HAJ PASSAGE MONEY

A Press Note issued by the Commonwealth Relations Department, Government of India, on November 25 stated:

Persons who had applied for passage to Jedda on a pilgrim ship and paid the passage money in advance to the Haj Booking Officer, but who could not proceed should now submit applications in English to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Commonwealth Relations, by registered post for the refund of their passage money so as to reach him not later than January 2, 1945. Each application should contain the following particulars:

(a) Name and father's name of the person who remitted the passage money in block capitals.

(b) Date of application.

(c) The amount remitted.

(d) The number and date of the postal money order bank draft cheque.

(e) Reservation card received, if any, and the money order receipt and acknowledgment or other documents in proof of having sent the passage money, should be submitted in original in support of the claim.

Any claim received after the above-mentioned date will not be considered save in exceptional circumstances. Claims for the refund of the difference of amount paid for a higher class of passage applied for and a lower class actually availed of will be entertained within one month of the return of claimants to India.

HOW MUCH SURCHARGE TO PAY?

With a view to facilitating deduction of surcharge in accordance with the new rates imposed by the Indian Finance Act, 1944, the Central Board of Revenue have issued a Ready Reckoner, which shows the amount of surcharge, both yearly and monthly, on annual incomes ranging from Rs. 10,001 to Rs. 25,000 and the average rate of surcharge on them. Since surcharge on incomes between Rs. 2,001 and Rs. 10,000 is two-thirds of the basic rate, it can easily be calculated by reference to the 'Income-Tax Ready Reckoner under the Slab System 1939.'

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECHNIQUE

New Training School

The Archaeological Survey of India has established a training school in archaeological technique at the famous ancient city of Taxila, near Rawalpindi. The School is the first of its kind in India, and the response has been encouraging.

Over 40 research students, representing universities in all parts of India, upwards of six Indian States, and a number of provincial and municipal museums, have already assembled. They are living under canvas, and are carrying out systematic training in the various branches of archaeological fieldwork, including the excavation of a part of the Mauryan and pre-Mauryan city known as the Bhir Mound.

The purpose of the School is to bring Indian students into contact with modern scientific methods, such as have been elaborated during recent years in the Middle East, Europe and America, and to enable them to apply these methods to the further elucidation and preservation of India's great cultural heritage.

The students attending the school are mainly those who hope to take up archaeology as a career, and there are others who are concerned with the allied studies of history which in India depends so largely upon evidence adduced from archaeology. It is hoped that, by establishing this close working contact with the Indian universities, the Archaeological Survey may be able to play a real and effective part in the general expansion of education now in progress.

Visitors are welcome to inspect the school during normal working hours and to see the students at their work.

INDIAN HISTORICAL RECORDS COMMISSION

The Government of India have appointed Khan Chaudhuri Amanatulla Ahmed, M.L.C., nominee of the Cooch Behar State on the Indian Historical Records Commission and its Research and Publication Committee as Ordinary and Associate member for a term of five years with effect from September 12, 1944.

Mr. V. Rangacharya, Professor of History, Maharaja's College, Travancore University, has been appointed Ordinary and Associate member in the vacancy caused by the retirement of Mr. C. V. Chandrasekharan, for five years with effect from August 8, 1944.

LADY WAVELL'S TRIBUTE TO W.V.S.(I)

FIFTY delegates, including the wives of the Governors of Provinces, from the eleven provinces of British India, the Centrally-administered areas and some leading Indian States attended the 19th meeting of the Central Committee of the Women's Voluntary Services (India) under the presidentship of Her Excellency the Viscountess Wavell. The meeting was held in the conference room of the Viceroy's House, New Delhi.

After the delegates had assembled in the conference room Her Excellency arrived. Lady Colville, wife of the Governor of Bombay, then presented a W.V.S. brooch to Her Excellency on behalf of all the delegates present which Lady Wavell gratefully acknowledged.

Lady Wavell's Speech

Inaugurating the proceedings, Lady Wavell said: "I take real pleasure in welcoming you all here to-day for the Annual Provincial Delegates Conference of the Women's Voluntary Services (India).

"I know well the sacrifice of valuable time entailed in travelling long distances—but I also know you have made the effort willingly and in a good cause. That so many delegates should be present this morning is in itself a testimony to the widespread work being done throughout this country by our Organisation; nor are many conferences honoured by the presence of no less than nine of those especially busy people—the ladies whose husbands govern in the Presidencies and Provinces of India. I am only sorry that Lady Hope and Lady Twynam have been unavoidably prevented from coming. I am more than glad to see that the States are also well represented—and that we have with us to-day several of the pioneers of the W.V.S. in India.

"The Women's Voluntary Services movement is spreading rapidly—it is firmly established in the United States of America and has already become a part of the life of the people of the United Kingdom where its contribution towards the victory of the Allied cause in this war has been very real. In this country the gratitude of our fighting men proves what the Women's Voluntary Services has meant to them. I hope that long after peace has come to this harassed world—the W.V.S. will remain an active and virile influence for good throughout India.

"To achieve great things, it is necessary to think and plan on a similar scale. I ask you as Delegates present here to-day not only to bring forward your local problems and difficulties which I hope this Conference may help you to solve—but, on matters affecting the all-India policy of our organisation, to remember that in Unity lies Strength. This ancient truth has never been more firmly proven than in these last five years of war.

"We have a long agenda—I will now call on Mrs. Godfrey—our indefatigable and wonderful Honorary Organising Secretary—to read us her report."

Discussion

Mrs. Godfrey the Honorary Organising Secretary, then presented a review of the year's progress and work.

The meeting discussed various problems of the Women's Voluntary Services including the scope and conditions of work of the organisation, the registration of European women and recruitment both for general and forward area work.

Lady Bird, editor of the W.V.S. Bulletin and Honorary Publicity Organiser, then presented a report on the work of the Publicity Branch.

In the afternoon a W.A.C. (I) officer of the Welfare Directorate, G.H.Q., explained the help needed from the W.V.S. in the work for Indian forces' families.

The meeting also considered, among other questions, proposals for improving work connected with war-separated families, the appointment of regional commissioners or touring secretaries and plans for a W.V.S. special committee on post-war development and reconstruction. The generous offer of the W.V.S., Rajkot, to provide a mobile canteen or ambulance was gratefully accepted.

FAREWELL TO GEN. GIFFARD

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 749)

C.-in-C., Allied Land Forces, S.E.A.; Vice-Admiral J. H. Godfrey, Flag Officer Commanding, Royal Indian Navy; Air Vice-Marshal M Thomas, Air Officer Commanding, India Command; Lt.-Gen. R. B. Deedes, Adjutant-General in India; Lt.-Gen. Sir Wilfrid G. Lindsell, Principal Administrative Officer, India; Maj.-Gen. R. B. Freeland, Commanding Delhi District Maj.-Gen. J. S. S. Martin, Deputy Director, Medical Services, Central Command; Maj.-Gen. H. E. Roome, Engineer-in-Chief, India Command Maj.-Gen. R. M. M. Lockhart, Deputy Chief of General Staff; Maj.-Gen. R. C. McCay, Military Secretary.

W.V.S. NEEDS YOU
Lady Bird's Call to Women of India

"SERVICE in a spirit of self-sacrifice and unselfishness—service in a spirit of determination to see this war through as soon as possible—service in a spirit of tolerance, sympathy, loyalty and co-operation." In these words Lady Bird, Honorary Publicity Organiser, H.Q., W.V.S. (I), New Delhi, summed up the creed of the W.V.S. in a radio talk broadcast from A.I.R., Delhi, on November 24.

Here is the full text of the broadcast:

Good Evening. This is the W.V.S. calling all women in India!

Ten thousand strong!—yes—but we are still a long way from that winning post! What do I mean? Just this—that if the W.V.S. is to carry out the pogramme of work with which all Branches are faced this cold weather we must have 20,000 members by Christmas—Yes, 20,000! Nonsense, you say, it can't be done. Oh yes, but it can! Where are those pussies by the fire or under the fan as one Province calls the not-yet-enrolled? If every member produces one new member now we could double our numbers within a week—just think of it—in one week or even less, and so it is up to all W.V.S. members who are listening to me now to pass the word on and to give the W.V.S. (India) a Christmas present really worth the having—10,000 new members.

An Appeal

I therefore appeal tonight in all earnestness to those who, owing to the nature of their home ties, are unable to join one of the full-time services, to come forward in their hundreds and their thousands for part-time non-salaried service to fill the many jobs that are waiting for you and YOU and Y O U at your W.V.S. Branch Office—jobs that will interest you—jobs that require drive, energy, initiative, vision and organising ability——jobs that need the touch of human kindness, sympathy and understanding. Will you come forward and fill one of these jobs that are aching for your skill and your help? Will you come forward and give—and go on giving until it hurts—of the best that is in you in unselfish service to others? "Yes," I think I hear you say, "I will—but what does it all mean? What do you want me to do?"

Have you ever thought what it means to a sweating, tired sailor, soldier or airman—Indian or British—it's all the same to us—begrimed with the dust and smoke of travel, to be given as he pauses on his way a mug of tea or a cold drink and a cigarette from that little oasis of cleanliness, the station kiosk—handed to him with a smile and a friendly greeting by those "Ships that Pass in the Night"—the W.V.S. workers?

Have you ever thought what it means to the same tired fighting man to find on arrival at his destination after many weary hours and perhaps days in the train a canteen either in the station or nearby, where he can have a wash and shower perhaps—and an appetising, well-cooked and well-served meal? That is what some of the W.V.S. workers are doing year in and year out, and 117 degrees in the shade makes no difference to them—they think not of their own comfort. And these canteens if they are to be well run need a great deal of imagination, skill, tact and organising ability.

Have you ever thought what it means to a lonely patient in a British or Indian Military hospital to have letters written for him if he wishes, visits from sympathetic women who will do all they can to help and to cheer him, bring him books, papers and cigarettes—buy some little thing for him to send home to his family, and when he is convalescent help him to get back the use of a limb or muscle by showing him how to embroider or how to do leather-work or how to knit—or if he is blind show him how to make balls of wools or how to plait pyjama strings or how to type?—That is what the W.V.S. workers do.

Have you ever thought what it means to the convalescent and the fighting man on leave to be asked to stay in a home for a week-end or perhaps a week or even a fortnight where he can enjoy the ordinary comforts of a home and can be asked out to picnics, teas, dances, supper parties and all the rest—after all he is a long way from his own home—the W.V.S. does this too.

Have you ever thought what it means to the war separated wife to be able to take her troubles and her problems to a sympathetic woman who will help her and be the buffer between her and the military machine which of necessity must often appear inhuman?

Have you ever thought, too, what it means to the fighting man in the forward areas to be able to go to a canteen where he can have a cup of tea, a meal and a chat—and to the men out in the blue miles away from any town who listen for the sound of the W.V.S. Mobile Van as it ploughs its way—very often over some of the worst roads in the world—to bring little trifles such as airgraphs and stamps, cakes and

cold drinks, sweets and toilet requisites, to these grateful men?

Just listen to these letters. The first one was written to friends at home and a copy sent back to us. Here it is—"I can assure you that the canteen, just outside the main station, which is run by the W.V.S. is just like a little bit of heaven in this hot blistering inferno, and to see the ladies serving tea and eggs and chips with the temperature at 116 degrees when they might be enjoying themselves in the hills makes one thank God for such voluntary helpers." And the other one from Brighton, England—"Your name as Honorary Secretary of the W.V.S. was on the packet containing the tapestry bag my son made while in hospital. I feel that behind the triumph of this bag there are such kindly women helping these men to occupy themselves and their minds, and there is a deep sense of appreciation here in England for what the W.V.S. in India means to us."

Need for War Service

It was the battle of Britain—August 1940—that first fired the imagination of women in India and brought home to them generally the need for war service, and it was in that fateful month that the Marchioness of Linlithgow broadcast for the first time an appeal to the women in India to band themselves together and so organise their war activities that by filling gaps in existing voluntary organisations no time and talents might be wasted. And so the W.V.S. (India) was born.

It must not be forgotten however that before the Women's Voluntary Services, India, came into being several Provinces had already gone ahead and had formed their own War Services organisations, and so when the first urgent call came a number of trained voluntary workers was ready to go into action.

In those early days, personnel for Red Cross Work Parties; help with the registration of British men of military age; censor and cypher work; organisation of entertainments for troops whether sick, convalescent or fit; the organisation of scrap collections and assistance with Thrift and Victory Shops were the main needs, but, as the tide of war flowed ever nearer to India, there came an ever-increasing demand for A.R.P. and canteen workers, and urgent requests came from Government Departments for assistance with registration and welfare work in connection with Evacuees and War-separated Families. And so it was that in the early spring of 1942 Lady Linlithgow—realising the need for a central co-ordinating body, formed a W.V.S. Central Committee to co-ordinate policy—the membership of which included representatives of Presidencies, Provinces and States.

Now, under the presidency of Her Excellency the Viscountess Wavell, the W.V.S. (India) is, I repeat, the largest body of voluntary women workers in India, having a membership of 10,000 British and Indian helpers and more than 150 Branches which are scattered throughout the length and breadth of this vast country.

But you may say, what other forms of work are available besides those already mentioned? It is quite impossible to give them all because they are legion and vary according to the Presidency, Province or State in which you live—but generally speaking, here are some of the additional jobs of interest to which we are now asked to give our help: The organisation of small groups or clubs for men of the fighting forces in connection with art, games, literature, music, etc., and groups such as Scottish Group, a Welsh Group—or for example London, Devonshire and Gloucestershire groups—each having its own interests and each developed on its own lines; the entertaining of leave parties from the 14th Army and the packing of troops' parcels—another activity of absorbing interest.

If W.V.S. members can organise shopping parties and show the men where and what to buy, whether it be for the family or for the girl friend, the men appreciate this. Darning lessons are needed by both officers and men; language courses in European languages have been asked for, and clerical assistance in the Dispensary, Dental, Massage, Ophthalmic and X-Ray Departments of military hospitals is badly needed.

Tribute to Indian Members

W.V.S. workers—especially Indian lady members—can do a lot to help the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Boards in connection with the Fauji Sevadarnis scheme by which the young Indian wife in the village is helped with her affairs while her husband is away on service, or it may be that help can be given with Women's Institutes which are educating the Indian soldier's wife in matters connected with the home; and their help is needed too in connection with Army Child Welfare; blood banks; destitutes; famine relief and with schemes affecting post-war development.

Indian lady members are doing magnificent work in station kiosks for Indian soldiers and in canteens and they also visit Indian hospitals and teach diversional therapy to the wo

sick and wounded—but here again we need more Indian lady members for the work is increasing day by day. Commission sales, War Savings schemes, scrap and bun shops—it is all the same to us—we take them all in our stride. BUT WE MUST HAVE MORE WORKERS.

Our motto is "I serve" and we are ever willing and ready to take on any job that will help to accelerate the war effort on a part-time non-salaried basis.

Our men who are fighting for us in order that we may live are prepared to give their lives; surely the least we can do in return is to give our brains—our eyes—our hands—our health if need be—and above all our hearts wholly and sincerely, to do all we can to bring this war to an end as soon as possible.

Before I finish I would just like to quote from a message that was sent out to W.V.S. members by Stella, Lady Reading, who is the Chairman of the W.V.S. in Great Britain. She says, "We have learnt that to carry a job through, to be reliable and responsible, one must dominate self, give generously to others whether it be praise or opportunity, and judge all men and things with understanding and tolerance whilst seeking no reward for ourselves." That I think sums up our creed—SERVICE in a spirit of self-sacrifice and unselfishness—SERVICE in a spirit of determination to see this war through as soon as possible—SERVICE in a spirit of tolerance, sympathy, loyalty and co-operation.

We work as a team and not as individuals—our reward is the grateful smile of the sailor, soldier and airman and the heart-wrung hand of those whom we have helped, and I think this is a fitting opportunity to pay tribute to the members many of whom, un-named and unknown except to their own particular section or Branch, have carried on so nobly year in and year out—often under the most trying conditions of both climate and family, in their unselfish effort to give help where help was needed most.

In Great Britain there are 100,000 W.V.S. members—in India there are as yet but 10,000 but we must have 20,000 by Christmas—Are you going to be one of them? Or if you are already a member do you think you could do just a little more to help? There are jobs waiting for you and YOU and Y O U at your W.V.S. Branch Office, so hesitate no longer. Let's "Go to it" as Winston had said, and let's put ourselves heart and soul into whatever we agree to take on and stick to it so that in the doing the temper of all W.V.S. Offices may remain "sweet"! Goodnight.

HELPING BLIND INDIAN SERVICEMEN

AN Indian Army Order regarding the St. Dunstan's Hostel for Indian war-blinded at Dehra Dun makes it clear that Service personnel are eligible whether their blindness is due to military service or not.

The hostel is for the benefit of blinded personnel of the defence services, including units of the Auxiliary Force (India). They undergo a training course designed to reduce to a minimum the handicaps of blindness, to teach them a craft and to show them that they can still enjoy life.

On completion of the course each man receives a braille watch. If the St. Dunstan's authorities are satisfied with his progress a minimum of Rs. 200 is spent either towards providing each man with a good home wherever he asks (including Nepal) or towards providing him with other needs.

Benefits of Training

"There can be no doubt whatsoever that, once a man has undergone this course of training, he will be grateful for it for the rest of his life," the Order adds. "The difficulty in the case of the Indian serviceman, however, is to persuade him now that this is actually so.

"Unlike the blinded British soldiers, for whom St. Dunstan's has been working for years and who have knowledge of the results, the Indian soldier is unable to appreciate the benefits that will inevitably result from such training. Once he has left hospital he has only one thought—to return to his village and family; he knows he will be cared for. This is only natural.

"The St. Dunstan's Hostel for Indian war-blinded is a new venture and as such is possibly looked upon with disfavour and suspicion, although once a number of men have passed through and the results have become known it can confidently be expected that little difficulty will be encountered in persuading others to follow.

"The first group of blinded soldiers who went to Dehra Dun in July, 1943, have responded splendidly and are cheerful and active. They will give a warm welcome to their newly blinded comrades joining them later."

ST. DUNSTAN'S ARRANGE BLIND SOLDIER'S MARRIAGE

VILLAGERS staged a *tamasha* of their own for a blind Indian soldier and his bride at their wedding at Pachora, East Khandesh. The wedding procession was led by the district police band and the ceremonies ended in a feast at the local cinema.

The soldier was Sapper Fakira, a Teli-Mahratta, who became totally blind as a result of injuries received in blasting operations in 1942, when serving with the Royal Bombay Sappers and Miners.

Sir Clutha Mackenzie, who is in charge of the St. Dunstan's Hostel at Dehra Dun, arranged for his admission into the hostel, where blind Indian soldiers are taught crafts and trades.

Wedding Gifts

Wives of blind soldiers may accompany their husbands to the hostel so that they can be shown how to help and take care of them. Steps are taken to arrange marriages for blind soldiers and this was done in Sapper Fakira's case.

Special care was taken to find the right bride for him. Sir Clutha Mackenzie, the Chief Civil Liaison Officer for southern area, the Commissioner for Bombay Province Central Division, the local collector and the president of the district Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board joined in the search and many inquiries were made in the Ghat country.

The villagers of Pachora collected Rs. 1,000 for wedding presents for the couple. Sir Clutha Mackenzie gave Rs. 500 for the wedding expenses and housing arrangements which may have to be made after Sapper Fakira has completed his training.

OVERCROWDING IN RAILWAYS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 771)

and might result in increased ticketless travel rather than a decrease in the number of passengers.

It was advocated that the checking of tickets should be stricter and that more police help should be obtained in preventing passengers from entraining from the off-side and indulging in other irregular practices.

"DDT," ARMY'S NEW ALLY AGAINST DISEASE

A powerful new weapon is about to be enlisted by the Army in its ceaseless war against the malaria-carrying mosquito—our biggest enemy in the East.

"The excellent DDT"—the remarkable insecticide hailed by Mr. Churchill in a recent speech as an invaluable addition to our medical armoury for the Far Eastern War—is now arriving in India in fair quantities. It is planned to bring it into full use during the next malaria season.

For some time army medical authorities have been conducting a series of experiments to determine the most effective ways of using the drug in this theatre. It has proved many times more effective against mosquitoes, and particularly their larvae, than any previously used killing agent.

The experiments show that when sprayed on walls DDT remains lethal to mosquitoes for one to two weeks afterwards. For flies and bugs a single spraying remains effective for months.

When it is possible to bring the new drug into full application its effects in the reduction of fly-born dysentery, one of the principal saboteurs of military plans in the east, may be far-reaching.

Air-spraying Experiment

In a big-scale air-spraying experiment, a malaria-infested area three miles long by two miles wide was sprayed by aeroplanes with a solution of DDT. With great ease and speed a large number of the mosquitoes and their larvae over this big area were instantly eliminated.

"While DDT is a powerful new weapon," stated an army medical authority at G.H.Q., India, "it should be stressed that it is a reinforcement and not a substitute for existing well-tried systems of malaria control, which should on no account be relaxed. But we believe that DDT is going to have a big future in the fight against malaria and dysentery in post-war India."

His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner has generously contributed Rs. 5,000 to the St. Dunstan's Fund for St. Dunstan's Hostel for Indian War Blinded, Dehra Dun.



Sgt. Rajul Shah supervising the thinning of young vegetables in the Southern Army Headquarters gardens.

AGRICULTURAL PIONEER IS W.A.C.(I) GARDENER

ONE of India's first women agriculturists, Sgt. Rajul Shah, W.A.C. (I), a Jain from the Gujerati village of Umadi, Jath State, is in charge of the big produce garden at Southern Army Headquarters.

Outside each office bright flowers are blooming. On every bit of waste land there are flourishing vegetables.

A stocky figure with greying hair and a pleasant smile, her eyes lit with enthusiasm as she walked through her acres, describing to an Indian Army Observer her plans for bigger and better crops.

"This year, at the height of the season, I supplied 300 lbs. each day to sergeants' and other ranks' messes," she said. "Next season, I hope it will be 500 lbs."

Bachelor of Agriculture

A daughter of farming folk, Sgt. Rajul Shah at an early age began to take an interest in crops; when her schooling was finished she decided to study agriculture. She joined Bombay University and two years of strenuous work followed.

With her own hands, Miss Rajul Shah tilled and manured the ground, planted and cared for her crops and rose at 3 a.m. to supervise the milking of the cattle. At the end of the course she passed out top, a Bachelor of Agriculture.

The Gaekwar of Baroda, anxious to improve the cropping in his State, appointed her agricultural supervisor. She went to the U.S.A. and spent three years at Michigan University, Ann Arbour, passing out as Master of Science.

Later Miss Rajul Shah became horticulturist to the Government of C.P. and Berar.

W.A.C.(I)s MAINTAIN H.Q. COMMUNICATIONS

Keeping open communications throughout Southern Army are a team of W.A.C.(I)s serving in the Headquarters Signals unit. They work day and night in six-hour shifts to handle the messages which keep an army functioning smoothly.

Two years ago there were only five of these girls in the unit. So well did they prove themselves that today 75 per cent of H.Q. Signals are W.A.C.(I)s; soon they are expected to form 90 per cent of the personnel.

They control all receiving and sending of messages, operate the teleprinter machines and telephone system, serve as counter-clerks, accepting and routing messages and, when commissioned, code and decode secret matter in the cypher section.

So great is the demand for signals girls that close by a school has been set up where girls from all over Southern India, including many Indian girls, are trained in signals work so that the supply may be maintained.

INCREASED PAY FOR W.A.C. (I) SPECIAL APPOINTMENTS

Increased rates of pay for W.A.C. (I)s holding special appointments are announced in an Indian Army Instruction.

Senior Commanders, who are equivalent to Majors, in second grade appointments will draw Rs. 100 staff pay in addition to their pay of Rs. 380. Junior Commanders, equivalent to Captains, in third grade appointments will draw Rs. 100 in addition to their pay of Rs. 220.

W.A.C (I) officers holding first grade appointments will draw pay of rank plus Rs. 200. Warrant Officer, class one, will draw Rs. 185 instead of Rs. 155.

W.A.C.(I) AIR RAID WARNING OFFICER

Subaltern M. Devasahayam

SUBALTERN Manoranjitham Devasahayam, a W.A.C.(I) from Anaihkadu, Tanjore district, Madras Presidency, known to her friends as "Sub. Davis", has been appointed an air raid warning officer at a heavily camouflaged R.A.F. station somewhere on the east coast of India.

Only occasionally has the area been bombed but "Sub. Davis" must be constantly alert as long as there is any possibility of the Japs attacking.

Daughter of a leading Mirasdar in the Tanjore district, Subaltern M. Devasahayam was married at 12, and at 19 was left a widow with two small children. She persuaded her family to allow her to study and reached the intermediate standard.

She then joined the W.A.C. (I.), thus becoming a pioneer among South Indian girls. Her father took care of her children and she was posted first to Coimbatore and then to Assam, where she was air raid warning officer at the much-bombed Silchar. Supply dumps surrounded the little town and the Japs made repeated efforts to destroy them.

"In spite of long hours in the trenches, usually at night, I rather enjoyed the excitement," she says. "I felt that I was really in the war."



Subaltern M. Devasahayam (left) with E. Benemy George (centre) of Circus Avenue, Calcutta, and W. A. Pitts (Bangalore), R.A.F. Air Raid Wardens.

GIRL TRAINS ANTI-AIRCRAFT MEN

For the first time a girl is conducting classes for Indian soldiers in the field. She is L|Cpl. D. Theobald, W.A.C.(I), of 2776, Flower Street, Tanjore, Madras Presidency.

Attached to a heavy anti-aircraft unit stationed at a jungle post she is serving, with other W.A.C.(I)s, as a plotter and teller in the unit's gun operations room. One of her duties is taking classes in English for men of this Madrassi unit, who are trained to become battery telephonists.

This smiling young girl has high praise for her pupils. "They are learning so fast they often amaze me," she told an Indian Army Observer, who found her taking an outdoor class of soldiers. Formerly serving in Madras, L|Cpl. Theobald has been in the W.A.C.(I) for about 15 months.

W.A.C. (I) RECRUITING CAMPAIGN IN SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

An All-India drive to stimulate recruitment from Indian schools and colleges to the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) is being made to secure the services of educated and competent women for the Corps.

Undergraduates, graduates and post-graduates of Indian Universities, who are especially qualified to hold positions of responsibility in the Corps, are particularly sought.

KHARIF GRAINS PRICES

The Government of India have decided that the existing statutory maxima for rice, bajra and jowar in different Provinces will continue unchanged for the next Kharif year. This decision does not apply to rice prices in the Eastern Provinces which are being examined separately, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on November 18.

W.A.A.F.'s ARRIVE IN INDIA

MARCHING ashore at an Indian port with a smartness worthy of any military unit, 500 officers and airwomen of Britain's Women's Auxiliary Air Force have arrived in India to work alongside the men of the R.A.F. in the war against the Japs. They form the first large contingent to arrive in South East Asia Command.

Most of the airwomen are thrilled at the opportunity of seeing a new land; others are thrilled at their homecoming, for some were born in Bombay and Calcutta, and others are happy in the thought that they will be nearer their husbands already serving in India and Ceylon.

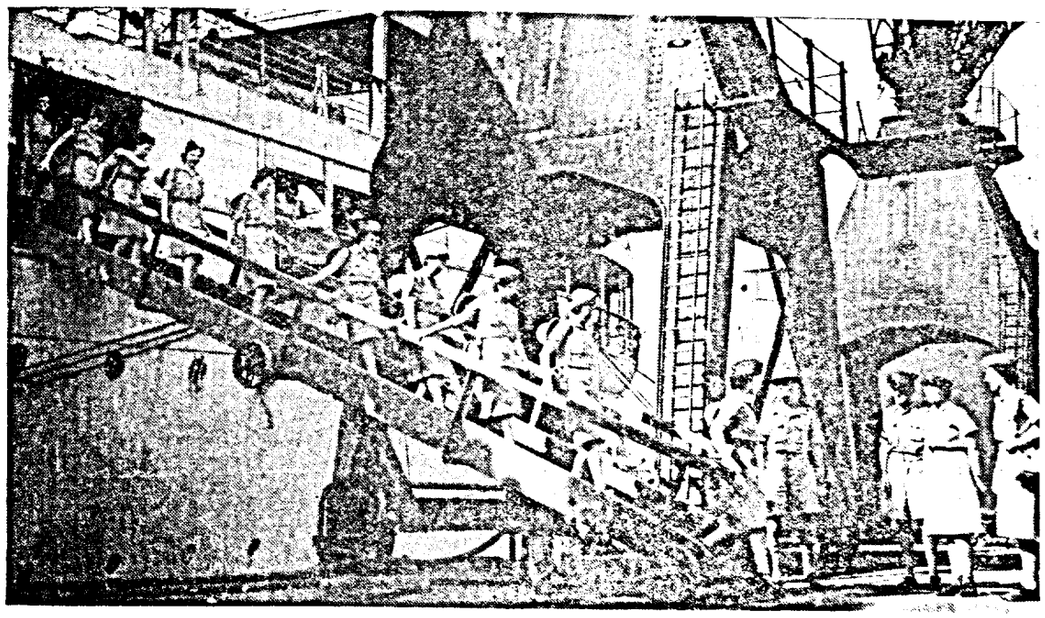
Entertainments during Voyage

Though they are imbued with the spirit of adventure and have just enjoyed the delights of a calm voyage, their chief desire now, voiced by every one, is to get down to work.

They are all volunteers for this Command. Many had previously volunteered for the Middle East but had been crowded out of the crafts.



W.A.A.F.s with their topees 'in line astern' photographed while waiting to disembark.



Disembarking at an Indian port led by Cpl. Moyra Bish of 114, Hoe Lane, Enfield, London.



W.A.A.F.s darning R.A.F. personnel's clothes on board the ship during the voyage.

Their spirit is typified by that of Corporal D. Jackson, of Manchester, a clerk in the W.A.A.F. for three years, who said: "I volunteered because I knew I would probably not get another chance and I want to do a good job." She added: "The voyage was very well organised, with concerts and a cinema once a week. The food was marvellous, better than we have been used to in most camps at home. I made some good friends on the ship, and I shall be sorry to lose them. Our W.A.A.F. officers, too, were grand to us."

Entertainments during the voyage included sing-songs, which were very popular, games tournaments, brains trusts and dancing.

The draft were allowed shore leave at one port, where they enjoyed two hours' swimming and were given local coinage to buy refreshments.

There was plenty of fun, but time was not wasted. The day began with P.T. and there were talks on hygiene and Eastern customs, domestic evenings and classes in Hindustani.

"Every one of my airwomen put in half the day sewing or ironing for the troops on the ship," said Squadron Officer J. M. Williamson, of Gunthorpe, Notts, who was in charge of one party.

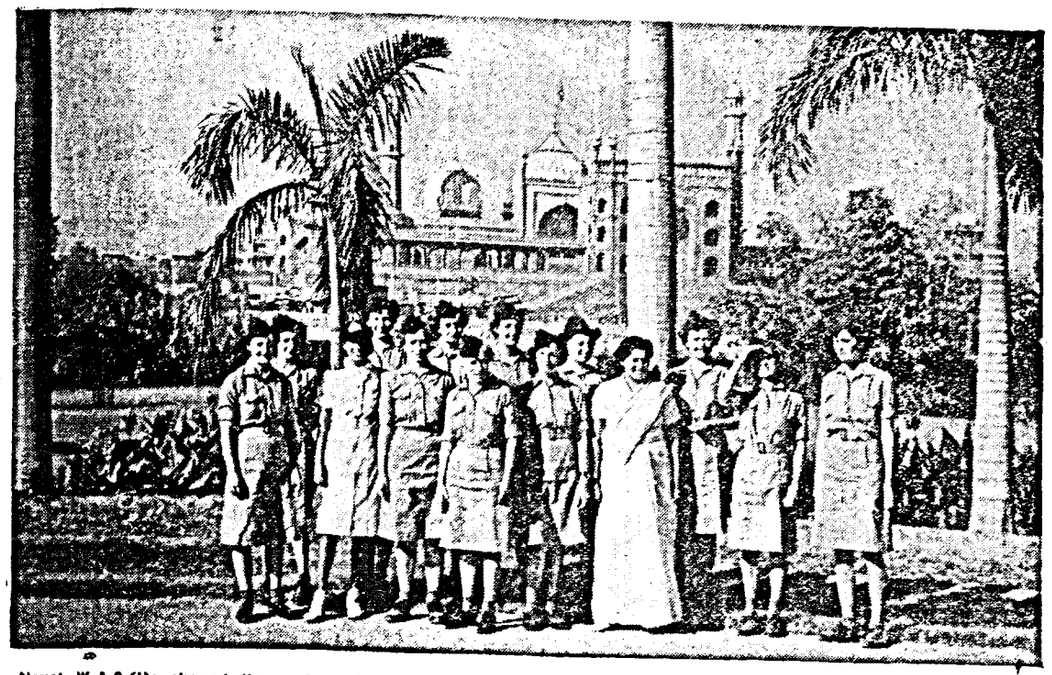
"To make sure that some of the airmen did not monopolise all the dancing partners, the airwomen, of their own accord, arranged dances for one mess deck at a time. Airwomen also helped in the canteens of the ship."

In the draft was LACW Barbara Westerman, a clerk, who was born at Jhansi, United Provinces. "I have been teaching the girls Hindustani on the ship," she said, "and I have had most enthusiastic pupils. I missed an open air life in England for eight years. Now I'm looking forward to some outdoor sport—riding, fishing and shooting."

As the party marched off the ship to the waiting train they were wearing for the first time on land, not only their khaki tropical uniform but also the blue forage cap, similar to that worn by airmen, which is only adopted by the W.A.A.F. overseas.

That the W.A.A.F. will initially serve in Delhi, Bombay, and in various units in Ceylon, including Headquarters, Air Command, South East Asia, was stated by Group Officer I. M. Campbell, Senior W.A.A.F. Staff Officer, who was in Delhi before the contingent arrived.

Group Officer Campbell, who has been appointed Senior W.A.A.F. Staff Officer, A.C., S.E.A., is a kinswoman of Sir Henry Campbell-



Naval W.A.C.(I)s showed the newly arrived W.A.A.F.s some of Delhi's sights. Here is a group photograph of the girls with the Juma Masjid in the background..

Bannerman, who was Prime Minister of England from 1905 to 1908. She joined an R.A.F. company of the Auxiliary Territorial Service early in 1939 and transferred to the W.A.A.F. on its formation in June of that year. Before coming to India she was Deputy Director of the W.A.A.F. in Britain.

Her deputy in Delhi will be Wing Officer A. F. Gauld, who was commissioned in an R.A.F. company of the A.T.S. as early as 1938. Prior to coming to India she was a Staff Officer in Transport Command.

The W.A.A.F. personnel, who are all volunteers, are not an addition to the R.A.F. serving in India, but are taking the place of R.A.F. officers and men in Air Command, S.E.A.

"I would like to emphasise that these girls are part of the R.A.F.," said Group Officer Campbell. "They are helping to solve the manpower problem by taking the places of men. They are coming here to do a job of work just as they do in the U.K."

The girls will live under substantially the same conditions as the R.A.F.—the airwomen in barrack houses and the officers in R.A.F. messes. In the winter they will wear blue uniform as in Britain, and in the summer they will change into khaki tropical dress.

Provision has been made for their welfare. They will have their own women medical officers, who hold commissioned rank in the R.A.F., nursing orderlies and even hairdressers. Arrangements are being made for them to spend leave periods at R.A.F. hill depot stations. They will be encouraged to share with the R.A.F. such amenities as discussion groups, musical and theatrical societies.

"In Britain we have a hospitality scheme under which residents in the areas where the W.A.A.F. work invite airwomen and officers from time to time to their homes for tea, tennis and so on," said Group Officer Campbell. "We hope that families in India will welcome them to their homes as warm-heartedly as the folks in Britain."

The W.A.A.F. officers will be employed on Intelligence, Codes and Cyphers, photographic interpretation, equipment, catering, accounts and operations room duties. Among the airwomen will be wireless operators, equipment assistants, clerks, telephonists, teleprinter operators, code and cypher clerks and postal clerks.

The W.A.A.F. have a splendid record of overseas service. They are already serving in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, West Indies, Middle East, North Africa, Italy and latterly in France and Belgium.

NEW DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

Lt.-Col. Desmond Young

THE Commander-in-Chief in India has selected Lt.-Col. Desmond Young, M.C., at present on leave in the United Kingdom, to succeed Brigadier I. S. Jehu, C.I.E., as Director of Public Relations, India Command.

A Press Communique issued on November 28 stated:

"In response to a representation received from *The Times of India*, H.E. the Commander-in-Chief has agreed to the release from military service of Brigadier I. S. Jehu, C.I.E., in the summer of 1945.

"This is in fulfilment of an undertaking given by the Government of India when, at their request, the Editor of *The Times of India* generously released the senior member of his staff to become Director of Public Relations in the Defence Department in 1940.

"To permit of Brigadier Jehu completing for the Government of India certain essential work which he is best qualified to undertake but which has been held pending owing to the pressure of day to day responsibilities of the D.P.R., the Commander-in-Chief has directed that Brigadier Jehu should be placed on special duty as soon as arrangements can be made for his relief."

Lt.-Colonel Desmond Young is the son of the late Commodore Sir Francis Young, the well-known salvage expert to the Admiralty during the last war. Educated at Oxford, he fought with the 60th Rifles in the last war, won the M.C., and for a time commanded his battalion. After the war he interested himself in salvaging sunken ships off Murmansk, the Scilly Isles and the coast of Brittany, his stirring adventures being well described in a book he subsequently wrote called "Ship Ashore".

Going to South Africa he was engaged in journalistic work for some years and was on the staff of the *Cape Argus* and *Cape Times* and became editor of the *Natal Witness*.

In 1932, he came to India as editor of the *Pioneer*, which paper, he transferred from Allahabad to Lucknow without missing a single day's publication. He represented the U.P. European constituency in the Provincial Assembly.

Early in 1940 Lt.-Colonel Young was appointed Chief Press Adviser to the Government of India and in this post established most cordial relations with the Indian Press, being responsible for the setting up of Press Advisory Committees in the provinces and at the Centre, and indirectly assisting in the formation of the All-India Newspaper Editors' Conference.

At this time there were no Indian war correspondents giving day to day news from the Middle East, and when it was decided to send official Army Observers to fill the gap, Lt.-Colonel Young volunteered his services to the D.P.R. and having secured his release was appointed the first senior Indian Public Relations Officer overseas in May 1941.

His adventures in the Middle East were many. He insisted on going as often as possible to the frontline to observe the fighting for himself and set an example to his younger officers. He reported the final stages of the Abyssinian campaign. Captured by the Vichy French during the campaign in Syria in 1941, he managed to avoid the order for British officer prisoners to be transferred to France and was still in Damascus when the city was retaken. From then on he followed and reported the fighting in North Africa.

During Rommel's drive from Gazala to El Alamein, he spent most of his time with our forward troops on the battlefield. When an Indian Division was overrun at El Adem in Cyrenaica, Lt.-Colonel Young was reported missing on June 5, 1942. It was subsequently known that he had been taken prisoner and transferred to Italy. On the collapse of Italy in September 1943, he managed to escape from custody and made his way north into Switzerland where he edited a newspaper called *Marking Time* for British military personnel.

Freed by the Allied advance through France in June of this year, Lt.-Colonel Young made his way to London where he has lately undergone an operation for throat trouble and is now on the way to recovery.

DISPOSAL OF USED GOVERNMENT MOTOR VEHICLES

The Government of India have issued an Order designed to control the disposal of used Government motor vehicles by persons to whom they are sold for reconditioning under arrangements made by the Supply Department. It is called the Disposal of Used Government Motor Vehicles Control Order, 1944, and was published in the *Gazette of India* on November 18, 1944.

The Order limits sales or resales to persons holding permits issued by Provincial Motor Transport Controllers. Reconditioners desiring to obtain a reconditioned vehicle must also obtain a

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 793)

PRIORITY PASSAGES TO UNITED KINGDOM

A Press Communique issued by the Defence Department on November 28 stated:

A limited number of priority passages will be allotted by the Government of India to officials and non-officials who have retired and are desirous of proceeding to the United Kingdom with the intention of not returning to India, and also to children proceeding to the United Kingdom for educational reasons accompanied by parent or guardian.

In both cases applications will only be considered on the condition that applicants are prepared to accept passages if offered within three months of the date of their application.

It must be clearly understood that mothers accompanying their children are unlikely to get passages back to India for a considerable time.

Those wishing to avail themselves of these passages should apply to the Officer on Special Duty, Defence Department, Government of India, New Delhi for application forms.

INQUIRY INTO BOMBAY POSTAL STAFF'S COMPLAINTS

On November 21, 1944, Mr. N. M. Joshi asked in the Central Assembly in a short notice question whether certain postal staff in Bombay had given notice asking for adjudication into their grievances and what action Government proposed to take.

In reply Mr. W. H. Shoobert, Secretary, Posts and Air Department, stated that the Bombay Postmen's Union and the Bombay Post Office Lower Grade Staff Union had addressed the Postmaster-General, Bombay Circle, asking for certain reliefs and given notice under Section 15 of the Trade Disputes Act. Mr. Shoobert added that the matter was already under consideration of Government.

It is now announced that a Committee of Inquiry has been appointed to make a thorough investigation into the complaints and to submit a report to the Government of India.

The Committee will consist of Mr. Krishna Prasada, Postmaster-General, Bombay (Chairman), and Mr. R. S. Nimbkar, Labour Welfare Adviser, Government of India, and Mr. A. Qadir, Deputy Financial Adviser, Communications, as members.

EXPORTS OF TANNED GOAT AND SHEEP SKINS

IN view of the uncertainty which seems to exist regarding future purchases of tanned skins by the U.K., U.S.A., and other Allied Nations, the following statement of the position is issued by the Government of India in consultation with His Majesty's Government, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on December 3.

It added: Export licences for tanned sheep skins and tanned goat skins will be issued up to limits fixed for each country under a Combined World Planning Scheme.

For the time being shipments will be licensed to U.K. freely but U.S.A. will not effect any purchases until U.K. deficiencies have been made up. Licences will be granted to Canada and South Africa for limited quantities only. No allocations have been made for shipment to other countries.

When U.K. deficiencies have been made up, U.K. and U.S.A. will purchase approximately in the following ratios:

Tanned sheep, U.K. 5, U.S.A. 1.

Tanned goat, U.K. 7, U.S.A. 3

If either country's purchases exceed the above ratio then they will reduce or cease such purchases until such time as the other country has purchased sufficient to adjust the position.

U.K. and U.S.A. will operate on a common price schedule based on London selections. Canada and South Africa will follow the same schedule.

GOVERNMENT MOTOR VEHICLES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 792)

permit. To prevent profiteering, ceiling prices have been fixed. The reconditioner is required to guarantee satisfactory working for three months of the parts overhauled by him and the Provincial Motor Transport Controller is empowered to enforce the terms of this guarantee. The Order requires the registration mark of a used Government motor vehicle to be in yellow on black background, followed by the letter "G" and the number of the permit.

Provision is made for appeal to an authority appointed by the Central Government against an order of the Provincial Motor Transport Controller fixing the ceiling price of vehicles of wheel-base or manufacture not specifically mentioned in the Order.

INDIAN STUDENTS IN GREAT BRITAIN

High Commissioner's Annual Report

REFERRING to the post-war problems of Indian students in Great Britain, the report on the work of the Education Department of the High Commissioner's Office in London, for the year 1940-41, says that some practical and definite procedure should be devised (and the first steps in this direction must necessarily be taken in India itself) to prevent or at least effectively discourage the annual exodus of so many young, immature and unqualified students.

When peace is once again established a great rush of Indian students to Great Britain may be expected. It is desirable that steps be taken to ensure that those who go are such as are best fitted to profit from a sojourn in the West and that, while they are there, they should derive the greatest possible benefit, both educational and cultural.

Many who go to England, the report adds, lack the qualifications, ability and steadfastness to benefit from University or similar education, either in the United Kingdom or in India. Others who are fitted in the sense of possessing the initial qualifications for admission to academic or other training there could obtain suitable courses in India at less expense. Others again are allowed to leave India, apparently with little or no idea of the exact purpose in mind, or of the advantage or utility of the proposed study or training and its reasonable prospect of leading, when completed, to suitable employment, and only too often without an adequate counting of the cost. There are those too who come provided with, not too little but too much money, and who, free from parental influence and control, are only too liable to fall into idle or even dissolute ways.

In Normal Pre-war Years

For the well-qualified student who has already taken a good degree at his own Indian University and has proved himself both on academic and personal grounds well fitted for higher and advanced work there is always a ready and warm welcome.

In normal pre-war years the average number of Indian students at any time in Great Britain was about 2,000 and during the year under review there were only about 500 students. The number of applications for admission was 181 as against 847 in the preceding year.

Return passage to India was secured for 119 students including seven women. A number of Indian students joined the Armed Forces—20 joined the Royal Air Force, five the British Army, nine the Indian Medical Service, two the Royal Indian Navy, nine the various branches of the Indian Army. Several students took up civilian employment for the national war effort and there were many who agreed to do part-time civil defence work including fire watching.

The High Commissioner gave advances to 284 students in financial difficulties. During the year under review £7,900 was advanced as against £4,600 in the preceding year.

Noteworthy Successes

Despite the many difficulties and disadvantages under which university education had to be carried on, Indian students won many noteworthy successes. Among those engaged on research or advanced work, two were awarded the high degree of Doctor of Science, and 22 the Doctorate in Philosophy in various branches of Science and Arts.

Of the students reading for first degree eight were placed in the First Class. In the Faculty of Medicine three students obtained the important professional distinction of F.R.C.S. (England), seven the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and three the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.

INDIAN TEACHERS FOR PERSIA

With a view to promoting closer cultural relations between India and Persia and to meet the desire of the Persians for facilities for the study of English, the Government of India have recently sent four Indian teachers of English to Persia. Two of these will hold classes at Meshed and one each at Kerman and Yezd. The despatch of two more teachers is under contemplation, said a Press Note issued by the External Affairs Department, Government of India, on November 21.

TELEGRAMS TO FRANCE

Telegrams of all classes (Ordinary, Deferred, DLT and NLT) can now be accepted from the public for most places in France, details of which may be ascertained from the local post and telegraph offices, said a Press Note issued on November 26.

COAL CUTTING MACHINERY IMPORTED TO STEP UP INDIAN MINES' OUTPUT

A DIRECTORATE of Open Cut Mining is being set up at Calcutta, under the Supply Department of the Central Government, to operate the plant and machinery which has been secured from abroad and is expected not only to arrest the decline in coal output but also to bring about the necessary increases to meet industrial and war requirements.

Along with the machinery the services of a small number of experienced technicians from American coalfields have been secured for purposes of supervision and instruction. They belong to the firm of Foley Bros., well-known specialists in this kind of equipment. The Directorate will also require a staff of technical men from India who have had experience of working on similar machinery.

Brig. Westrop, the Director of this new organisation, recently returned from U.K. and U.S.A. where he was sent specially for securing the required equipment. He received all possible assistance abroad in securing a number of modern heavy duty excavators which are shortly due in India for coal cutting operations.

This equipment will be used in selected Open Cut mines in the Bengal and Bihar coalfields, and it consists of shovels and draglines (Electric, Diesel and Steam), with buckets upto 5 yards capacity, large drills of various types, large diesel dump lorries and various other items.

Brig. Westrop is an expert in excavating matters and his services were lent by the Army. He proceeded to U.K. and America after examining and reporting on the problem in the coalfields.

It is felt that certain coalmines in India are very suitable for open-cut work with heavy excavating equipment. In some mines the easier coal has been taken out by hand and what is left constitutes a painful work against the heavy rock overburden. Accordingly, some time ago, it was decided that to secure extra output for war needs, some of the open-cut mines should be mechanised.

Initially some difficulty was experienced in securing proper equipment. The Army in India lent both mechanical units and light equipment. These Army Units have helped considerably in arresting the decline in output. They have been operating with tractors, bulldozers and scrapers. Small excavators and dump trucks have been used for removing the overburden, and compressors, compressed air tools and well drills have been utilised for blasting it.

These measures were introduced on a temporary basis, and large powerful equipment, such as is used in England and America, has now been secured for the same purpose.

EXCISE DUTY ON COAL AND COKE

By a Notification published, on November 4, the *Gazette of India*, the Central Government have decided to levy and collect, with effect from December 1, 1944, a duty of excise on all coal and coke despatched from collieries in British India, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on November 1.

It added: The rate at which this duty will be levied has been fixed at 4 annas per ton. The amount thus collected will be credited to a Fund which will be utilised for financing and promoting Labour Welfare Activities in the coalfields. The Notification exempts all coal and coke despatched from collieries in British India otherwise than by rail from liability to the duty of excise.

IDEAL CONDITIONS FOR PRODUCING CHARCOAL

In a leaflet published by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, the quality of charcoal produced in indigenous kilns is discussed, and the results of experiments with 37 species of charcoal obtained from different types of kilns are given.

The quality of charcoal, it is pointed out, does not depend entirely on the type of kiln, but on the temperature at which the wood is carbonized. Almost any type of kiln would, therefore, produce charcoal of good quality provided care is taken to conduct the carbonization at regulated temperatures. The analysis showing quality of charcoal for 37 species are given.

MR. W. R. TENNANT

Mr. W. R. Tennant, C.I.E., I.C.S., has been posted as Director of Railway Audit, with effect from December 1, 1944, vice Mr. E. R. Seshu Ayyar.



Indian prisoners of war who escaped from the Japs at Hollandia were given a rousing receptionwhen they arrived in India from Ceylon. Here, Brig. MacGregor, O.B.E., Sub-area Commander, welcomes the men at a transit cam.

INDIAN WAR PRISONER'S STORY OF JAP ATROCITIES

GRIM details of how Indian prisoners of war have been faring in Jap hands were given by Indian troops who are now on their way to India after escaping from the Japs.

Over 200 Indian troops captured in Malaya are now free after two years as prisoners. When Allied 'planes began to bomb heavily in New Guinea the Japs fled into the jungle, taking the Indians with them, but the Jap guards became frightened by the advancing Americans and Australians and the Indians made for a rendezvous already decided on.

The men were taken to Australia, where they were given special food and attention—many were emaciated and sick as a result of bad food and ill treatment. Today few of them show any signs of their experiences but each one has his own tale of Jap cruelty and harshness.

Subedar Pandya's Account

Subedar S. C. Pandya, a doctor, of Agra, (United Provinces) told an Indian Army Observer: "When we were overrun in Malaya I wandered about for days, dressed as a Malay, trying to rejoin our forces. I was constantly stopped by Jap sentries, who clubbed me with rifles and robbed me.

"I slept in wrecked bungalows at night and ate roots or anything else I could find. Eventually I was so exhausted from walking and lack of food that I admitted I was an Indian officer.

"I was put in a prisoner cage in Singapore, where I found hundreds of Indian troops, most of them sick and in rags. All they were getting were bags of rice, which were flung in every few days and which they measured out to make a cupful a day. In addition, there were occasional tins of fish.

No Medical Supplies

"I tried to do what I could for the health of the men but as I had no medicine it was practically impossible. The Japs refused to give us any medical supplies.

"After six months of this we were taken to the Palau Islands. We were crammed into a ship in which the deck was four feet above our heads and no one could stand upright. We had about a foot of space each with a petrol tin of rice between scores of men each day and a bottle of hot water each.

"We used to take it in turn to sleep; even then no one could lie down properly. There were only ten lavatories for 2,000 Indian prisoners on the ship. The voyage took 35 days



Lady Hope, wife of the Madras Governor, gives a towel and soap to one of the men—luxuries which they never saw in the Jap prison camp.

"When we arrived at Palau we had to march 12 miles at night, carrying everything we had on our heads. Anyone who faltered through sickness or fatigue was beaten unmercifully.

"In the camp we were put on tree felling. I tried to attend to the sick, most of whom had dysentery.

"The trees were floated down a river and some of our men were in the water for 12 hours a day. Of our little party 11 died in Palau.

Without Food or Sleep

"After six months in Palau we were taken to New Guinea in the same sort of conditions as before. We were made to unload ships for 48 hours without food or sleep. Later the Japs set us to building airstrips; they worked us without any consideration and any Indian who stopped through fatigue was clubbed.

"At last we managed to slip away in the darkness and hide in the jungle. It was amazing to see how the men cheered up when they realised they were free again; men whom I thought were going to die seemed to become almost well."



A Civil Affairs Officer examines the wounds of a Chin elder who was suspended from the wrists by telephone wire by the Japs for his pro-British sympathies.

On their arrival in Ceylon the men were given a warm welcome. Cigarettes and sweets were provided and concerts and film shows were arranged for them.

They are all going on long leave with their families. But many of them asked if they could have leave after they have been to Burma.

"We have a lot of debts to pay off before we take leave," grimly remarked a havildar.

NIGHTMARE PACIFIC VOYAGES

Two V.C.O.s, Subedar-Major Abdul Qadir Shah of the Bahawalpur State Infantry, and Subedar Mir Mahomed Ali of the Mysore State Force, patted the wall of a hut in Ceylon, gazed around them delightedly and exclaimed at last—"After all we have gone through we feel we are at home."

The two V.C.O.s were part of a second draft of Indian soldiers rescued from the Japanese after two years in captivity and now arrived in Ceylon on their way to India.

Sub.-Major Mir Mahomed Ali said to an Indian Army Observer: "After we were captured in Malaya we were taken to Singapore and asked to help the Japs fight the Allies. Every man there was disgusted at the suggestion and refused in spite of threats.

"When the Japs realised we meant it, they said: 'All right, you can go and die in the jungles of the Pacific.'

"I can hardly bear to speak of how they treated us. It is a sin that such barbarians should be allowed to stay in the world.

Each Voyage, A Nightmare

"We were taken by ship to New Britain—the voyage took 56 days and we crouched in the hold like animals—2,500 of us. Sixty of our men died of dysentery and Beri-Beri through bad food and treatment on that voyage. I went also on voyages for coolie work from New Britain to Palau in the Pacific and then to New Guinea. Each voyage was a nightmare.

"We were bombed constantly by American 'planes and seven out of nine ships in the convoy were torpedoed and sunk, including the one I was in. We were afraid to sleep at night because of the dangers; every man kept a plank near him to cling to if the ship was sunk when we were torpedoed.

"We managed to keep with a party of Japs



Medical aid for a liberated Sikh soldier at an Australian base in New Guinea.



Australian airmen, F.-Lt. Paul of Melbourne (on ground) and F.O S. Mulcahy of Sydney, N.S.W., with freed Sikh soldiers whom they flew to an Australian base in New Guinea.

in the water and were hauled aboard a Jap destroyer. Those who were not with Japs were drowned because the Japs would not bother to rescue prisoners.

"For two years we had nothing to eat except 500 grains of rice a day. Often we ate stewed grass as vegetables.

"The mean and cruel way the Japs treated us made us realise that they are nothing more than beasts. They beat and slapped us constantly for the most trivial things and the officers were worse than the men captured.

"British and Indian officers—even up to the rank of Lt.-Col.—had to do coolie work and were beaten just as the ordinary soldiers were.

Graveyard for Japs

"The Japs, although some of them spoke English, tried to make us speak Japanese. If we wanted our rice ration we had to ask for it in Japanese. We had to learn a few words for necessities, but we refused to learn any more of their dirty language. They made us bow to Jap sentries. If we did not we were slapped. Many of us preferred to take the slapping rather than lower ourselves that way. But they are paying for their savagery. The Pacific is a graveyard for the Japanese. Tens of thousands of Japs lie at the bottom of the Pacific. Every convoy they move suffers losses from Allied bombers and submarines."

The returning troops were given a warm reception in Ceylon. A troop of Indian entertainers gave them a show and a mobile cinema screened Indian films for them.

They went sightseeing and were taken to the Colombo Zoo. A tea party was held for them at the Indian troops canteen at Colombo, where Indian civilian helpers served them tea and *mithai* (Indian sweetmeats).

GLIDER AMBULANCES FOR BURMA WOUNDED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 751)

airfield, where an ambulance is waiting to take the men to hospital.

Apart from the jolt of the forward area take-off, the glider flight is smooth and restful. The only noise is the rush of wind through the spars and the patients can look through the windows at the road up which they might have been jolted if they had gone in an ambulance.

The American pilots, provided the weather is good, make this trip two and more times a day. At peak periods they have evacuated up to 70 casualties in 24 hours.

LATEST FILMS FOR TROOPS IN BURMA

ISOLATED groups of servicemen in the furthermost outposts of the Burma jungle are now to see the latest films before they are shown in the city cinemas.

This is the aim of the Indian Army's recently-formed Directorate of Services Kinematography, which is now organising an All-India network of mobile and static talkie projectors of the latest type, designed to take the best the cinema has to offer to servicemen, both Indian and British, wherever they may be. Still not much more than four months old, the Directorate has already put 1,500,000 feet of new American, British and Indian film into circulation.

An important part of its programme is the production of a special news-reel for British service audiences. This will show Britain's part in the war more fully and will also feature many aspects of the work of the 14th Army not hitherto shown on the screen.

The new directorate is headed by a former film industry chief of 35 years' experience—Brig. I. R. Grove, who was a pioneer of the Army Kinematograph Service launched in Britain three years ago.

Free Shows

Already showing the latest films (recent programmes have included "The Way Ahead", "This Happy Breed" and "Song of Russia") to hundreds of thousands of British and Indian troops each week, the Directorate's aim is to give troops in the India Command a new film show every seven days. As the shows are free and great royalty concessions are made by the distributors, an agreement has been made with for Rs. 35 crores, said a Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India.

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3 PER CENT FUNDING LOAN 1966-68

As it appears that there is a strong demand on the part of institutional investors and the market generally for a long term investment, the Government of India have decided to create a further issue of 3 per cent Funding Loan 1966-68 for Rs. 35 crores, said a Press Communique issued by the Finance Department, Government of India.

It added: The securities will be available for sale on Government account by the Reserve Bank of India through the usual procedure for the sale of counterparts and special issues at prices to be ascertained from the Bank.

PRICES FIXED FOR READYMADE GARMENTS, TINNED PROVISIONS, KNITTING WOOL AND KEROSENE LAMPS

HERE are the latest notifications issued by the Government of India under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance relating to the sale of readymade garments, tinned provisions, wines and liquors, "Rythm" cigarettes, knitting wool, kerosene lamps, radios, radio valves, other radio accessories and components, etc.

Readymade Garments

The Central Government have fixed the maximum retail prices which dealers, who sell readymade garments as well as those who make and sell garments to order, may charge in respect of men's suit consisting of trousers and coat, with or without vest, whether hand-sewn or machine-sewn, and the prices of a vest, coat, and a pair of trousers separately, on the basis of the cost of the material plus certain specified making charges.

The maximum price chargeable for worsted or heavy woollens suit is the cost of the material plus Rs. 30; for a palmbeach, light woollens, half woollens or silk suit, it is the cost of the material plus Rs. 25; and for a cotton suit or a suit of other material not included above, it is the cost of the material plus Rs. 15.

Cost of the material means the retail price at which the principal cloth out of which the suit is made could have been lawfully sold but excludes the price of the material such as lining, canvas and buttons required for tailoring. "Tailoring and making charges" means the amount a dealer may add to the cost of the principal cloth to fix the final retail price of the finished garment. It includes the cost of labour employed in making the garment and the cost of lining, buttons or other material used, apart from the principal cloth.

If a dealer is certified by the Deputy Controller General of Civil Supplies exercising jurisdiction in the area in which he carries on business to belong to class B or to class A, the maximum prices chargeable by such dealer for suits shall be the cost of the material plus Rs. 60, Rs. 40, or Rs. 25 as making charges if he is in class B; and the cost of the material plus Rs. 100, Rs. 75 or Rs. 50 if he is in class A for the three categories of materials mentioned above.

The making charges of vests, coats, and trousers separately are calculated at a percentage of the total making charges of the whole suit. For a coat it is 65 per cent, for trousers, 45 per cent, and for a vest, 10 per cent.

*

Tinned Provisions

The maximum wholesale and retail selling prices in respect of several more brands of tinned provisions including marmalades, Jams, processed cheese and South African Beef extract have been fixed. The retail selling price for a 12 oz. tin of "Maxam" processed cheese has been fixed at Rs. 1-6.

The maximum wholesaler's price (F.O.R. destination) and retailer's price for Edam and Gouda brand cheese has been fixed at Rs. 2-8 and Rs. 3-2 per lb. respectively.

*

Wines and Liquors

The maximum retail prices chargeable by a dealer or producer for a number of varieties of wines and liquors, both imported and locally manufactured, which have already been fixed by the Central Government per quart bottle, have now also been fixed for pint and half-pint bottles.

A Provincial Government may fix lower prices than the maximum limit prescribed for Indian spirits in the latest Notifications, and the lower prices so fixed by the Provincial Government will operate as a maximum limit for areas under its jurisdiction. The prices chargeable by dealers and producers at specified hill stations may exceed these maximum prices by 3 per cent.

*

"Rythm" Cigarettes

The maximum selling prices chargeable by a dealer or producer in respect of "Rythm" brand cigarettes have been fixed at Rs. 21-14 per thousand cigarettes (wholesale) and annas 0-4-0 per packet of 10 cigarettes (retail).

*

Knitting Wool

The maximum selling prices chargeable by a dealer in respect of 14 different brands of knitting wool, including Beehive Scotch Fingering 3 and 4 ply, Diana 3 and 4 ply, Wendy Plain 3 and 4 ply, Wendy Baby, Crocheteen 3 ply, Lustre Wool (hand knitting art silk yarn), and Pastorella have been fixed.

The maximum retail selling prices to consumers per lb range from Rs. 9-9 (Crocheteen 3 ply), Rs. 12-6 (Wendy Plain 3 and 4 ply), Rs. 18 (Pastorella) to Rs. 18-4 (Beehive Lady Betty 2, 3 and 4 ply). A discount of 15 per cent has to be allowed to retailers on these prices and the freight has to be borne by the consignee.

*

Kerosene Lamps

The Central Government have fixed the maximum selling prices chargeable by a dealer in respect of American-make U.S.C.O. brand Kerosene Oil Table and Wall Lamps at Rs. 3-12 each; U.S.C.O. brand Hurricane Lantern at Rs. 3-8 each; U.S.C.O. brand Tea Strainer with bakelite handle at annas 10 each; and American-make Master Padlock No. 47 Tiger brand at Rs. 1-12 each.

*

Radios

In supercession of their previous Notification dated March 25, 1944, fixing the retail prices of radio tubes and other spare parts, the Central Government have now revised the prices chargeable in respect of radios, radio valves, other radio accessories and components.

*

The retail prices shall be calculated on the basis of Rs. 7-8 to the dollar and Rs. 1-8 to the shilling with reference to the American and British list prices respectively. The retail prices of any article not included in the American or British price lists, as the case may be, shall be calculated at 300 per cent of the landed costs in India of such articles, the landed costs being the landed costs as certified in this behalf by the Controller General of Civil Supplies. The American and British price lists referred to here shall be the latest price lists furnished by the importers and certified as latest by the Controller General of Civil Supplies. The dealers will be allowed a trade discount of not less than 35 per cent of the retail prices fixed above.

*

Imported Bicycles

On a representation made by dealers in imported bicycles and bicycle parts that the additions to landed cost allowed by the normal trade practice in force on August 31, 1939, exceeded 20 per cent thereof, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has sanctioned additions to landed cost of 20 per cent (wholesale) and 40 per cent (retail) in respect of cycles and cycle parts, the maximum selling prices of which have not already been fixed by the Central Government.

The wholesale and retail prices so calculated may be exceeded by a sum, equal to the freight from the nearest port to the place of sale plus octroi duty actually paid in respect of the article. Dealers in specified hill stations have been permitted to add 5 per cent to these prices.

*

Scientific Glassware

On a representation made by dealers in scientific glassware and surgical instruments and rubber goods, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has sanctioned additions to landed cost of 60 per cent (wholesale) and 100 per cent (retail) in respect of these articles.

*

Retail Prices to be marked

In supersession of all previous notifications issued in this connection, the Controller General of Civil Supplies has directed all dealers, wholesalers as well as retailers, in photographic materials, arms and ammunition including cartridges, sports goods, razor blades, fountain pens, boot polishes and watches, clocks and timepieces, antenna wire, battery cells and torch lights, cigarettes, crockery, cycles and cycle parts, electric bulbs, foodstuffs, including infant's foods, galvanised iron buckets and drums, gramophone records and needles, imported sheet glasses, Japanese staple fibre yarn and artificial silk yarns, leather, Milkmaid sweetened condensed milk, pure and artificial silk fabrics, radio tubes and accessories, *sissoo* timber, synthetic camphor and camphor tablets, vacuum flanks, tinned provisions, toilet requisites, vegetable ghee and "tawda," vegetable seeds, wines and liquors, and woollen cloths, cinema equipment and spare parts, knitting wools, pipe smoking tobacco, refrigerators, air conditioners and electrical appliances, scientific glassware, surgical instruments and rubber goods, and washing and toilet soaps, either to mark the retail selling prices or to exhibit price lists at a prominent place in their shops, in English or in the local language of the district, showing clearly the retail selling prices of these articles.

Those who are exclusively wholesalers must exhibit a price list showing both wholesale and retail prices. Those who are retailers must, where possible, mark the retail selling prices on the articles and where marking is not possible must exhibit the price list at a prominent place.

The prices marked or exhibited shall not exceed the maximum price which for the time being it is lawful to charge under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance; and where a price list is exhibited, the list shall be in different parts for the various classes of articles and within each part the articles shall be arranged as far as possible in alphabetical order.

Records of Sale and Purchase

The Controller General of Civil Supplies has directed all importers and wholesalers of pure and artificial silk yarn and silk fabrics in British India to maintain daily records of all sale and purchase transactions in respect of these yarns and fabrics and to submit to the Controller General of Civil Supplies, 1st Marine Street, Kalbadevi, Bombay 2, so as to reach him on or before the 15th day of every month separate statements of the stock position of these yarns and fabrics on the last day of the preceding month in a prescribed form showing the total stock, disposal during the month and the balance.

IMPORTED ARTICLES UNDER PANEL SCHEME

As matters relating to possession limits and sales prices in respect of imported articles under the Panel Scheme administered by the Supply Department were so far being looked after by that Department, by an arrangement with the Supply Department no action was being taken in respect of such articles under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance.

The Government of India have now decided to terminate the above arrangement. With immediate effect, therefore, action will be taken to apply the provisions of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance to all such articles, and cases in which the normal pre-war trade practice allows the addition of more than 20 per cent to the landed cost will have to be reported by the dealers concerned to the Controller General of Civil Supplies, 1st Marine Street, Kalbadevi, Bombay, before the higher margin is charged.

CEILING PRICES OF RAW BUFFALO HIDES

By a Notification published in the *Gazette of India* dated November 25, 1944, the Government of India have fixed the ceiling prices of various categories of Raw Buffalo Hides. These prices will come into force with effect from January 1, 1945.

To avoid confusion it has also been decided to make available standard samples of the various selections of hides, mentioned in the Notification, at all zonal centres for inspection and guidance of suppliers of the zones. These samples will be available for inspection for a limited period only which will be notified later.

By another Notification the Government of India have also fixed the prices of various selections of heavy E.I. Tanned Kips over the weight of 15|16 lbs. range.

MAXIMUM RETAIL PRICES FOR INDIAN WOOLLEN GOODS

By a Notification issued on November 23 under the Indian Woollen Goods (Control) Order, 1944, the Central Government have fixed the maximum retail prices which may be charged by dealers in respect of Indian woollen goods other than controlled goods.

The prices fixed are for the best quality material, and prices for lower qualities should be proportionately less. The maximum retail price of tweeds and woollen suitings manufactured from Indian machine-spun woollen yarns, for example, is Rs. 5-10 per lb. and that fixed for blankets and rugs manufactured from Indian machine-spun woollen yarns is Rs. 4 per lb.

Maximum retail prices for a variety of worsted cloth manufactured in India are: Rs. 8 per lb. for worsted cloth (suitings, shirtings, flannels, shawls, etc.), manufactured from imported worsted or union (T.C. quality) yarns; Rs. 22 per lb. for worsted cloth manufactured from cotton warp or cotton twisted with imported worsted yarn with cotton contents not exceeding 25 per cent; Rs. 18 per lb. for worsted cloth manufactured from cotton warp or cotton twisted with imported worsted yarns with cotton contents above 25 per cent, but less than 51 per cent; Rs. 20 per lb. for worsted cloth manufactured from imported worsted any union (T.C. quality, etc.), yarns twisted with rayon or staple fibre yarn and Rs. 9-8 per lb. for worsted knitting yarns of Indian manufacture.

These ceiling prices will probably be reduced after 3 to 4 months.

REDUCTION IN CEMENT PRICES

The Government of India have decided to reduce the prices fixed for all portland cement other than that manufactured by the Assam Bengal Cement Co. Ltd., with effect from December 1, 1944, said a Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on November 24.

It added: The prices will be reduced from Rs. 70 to Rs. 68-12 per ton in full wagon loads, F.O.R. destinations, except (a) stations situated on the Bengal and Assam Railway, supplies to which are on an F.O.R. Calcutta basis, and (b) river stations in Bengal and Assam, supplies to which are on an F.O.B. Calcutta basis.

INCREASED NEWSPRINT RATION

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on November 23 stated:

The Industries and Civil Supplies Department of the Government of India intend to carry out the following proposals from January 1, 1945:

(1) To replace the one-third increase in the ration of newsprint allotted to newspapers by one-half increase with effect from January 1, 1945. Accordingly, every stock holding newspaper will be entitled from January 1, 1945, to consume one-half extra ration every month instead of one-third. So also dealers are informed that purchase permits already issued should be treated with effect from August 1, 1944, as valid for one-half increase instead of the one-third;

(2) to fix the ceiling prices for daily newspapers in accordance with the number of pages published for the six daily issues in a week. The maximum prices to be fixed will be as follows:

No. of pages of a daily of six issues a week	*Maximum price per copy* Rs. as. p.
36 to 41 (inclusive) ..	0 1 0
42 to 47 (inclusive) ..	0 1 6
48 and above ..	0 2 0

(3) to give further reading matter to the public by restricting advertising space to 45 per cent of the total space.

ADJUSTMENT OF PAPER CONSUMPTION

The Government of India have decided that the quantity of paper permitted to be consumed under the Paper Control (Economy) Order, 1944, in any quarter by a printing press, publisher or manufacturer of articles from paper may be exceeded by not more than 10 per cent or 250 lbs., whichever is less provided that this excess is made up in the next quarter.

They have also decided that if the quantity of paper consumed by a printing press, publisher or manufacturer of articles from paper in any quarter is less than that permitted under the Order, the balance may be carried forward to the next quarter but not to any subsequent quarter.

PAPER CONTROL ORDERS

Powers Delegated to Provinces

By a series of Notifications, published in the *Gazette of India* dated December 2, 1944, the Government of India have delegated certain powers under the Paper Control Orders to Provincial Governments and Chief Commissioners.

These powers relate mainly to:

(1) the grant of permission to start new printing presses;

(2) change of ownership of periodicals; and

(3) search, inspection, etc. of any establishment dealing with paper.

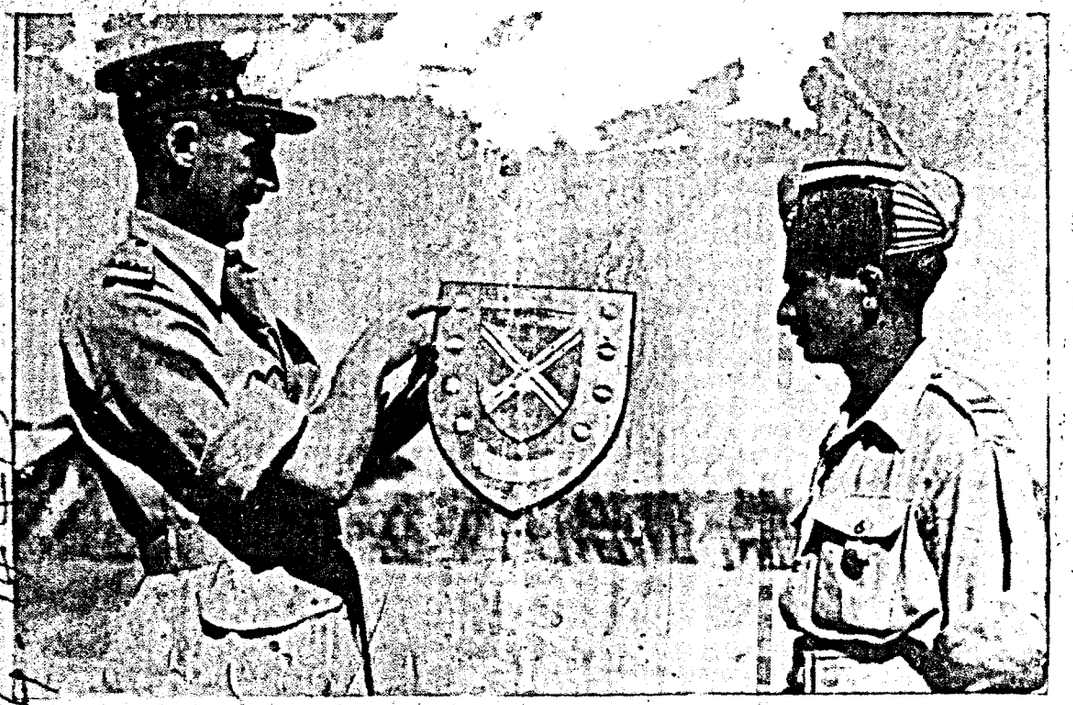
Other powers are still to be exercised either by the Central Government or the Paper Controller, India, Calcutta.

Such of the Provincial Governments as have set up the necessary organisation have also been authorised to receive various returns and copies of periodicals required to be submitted under the Paper Control (Economy) Order. From provinces in which organisations have not yet been set up, returns and copies of newspapers and periodicals should continue to be sent to the Paper Controller, India.

PAPER FOR PACKING ARTICLES

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies have decided to permit the use of packing paper and or board for packing articles for transmission also by road (*i.e.*, by buses, carts, etc.), provided such packing is essential for the protection of the goods and is not used for delivery in the same town and provided further, the minimum quantity of packing paper and or board is used for the purpose. Such packing was previously allowed only for transmission by post, by rail or by steamer.

The caption for the picture appearing on page 69 (Col. 2) of *Indian Information* dated July 15, 1944, should read: "I.W.O. D. Gnaniah of Madura (South India) sorting out incoming mail at the Indian Field Post Office in Cyprus. Though very small, this Post Office daily handles about 2,500 letters and 53 parcels. Money Order and Savings Bank facilities are also provided."



As a token of friendship and esteem the 52nd Lowland Division presented this shield to the 29th Indian Animal Transport Company. Here, Maj. H. E. Ferror, C.O., 29th Indian A.T. Coy. explains the significance of the shield to Sepoy Faqir Mohd.

A SCOTTISH DIVISION'S GIFT TO R.I.A.S.C.

MEN of a famous Scottish division have paid a striking tribute to comrades of the R.I.A.S.C. with whom they soldiered in the early days of the war.

Two shields have been presented by the officers and men of the 52nd Lowland Division to the 3rd and 29th Animal Transport Companies, R.I.A.S.C., to commemorate their association with the division in Scotland. The shields are surmounted by a St[illegible] surrounded by silver horses.

The com[illegible] formed part of the Indian Contingent [illegible] as Force K[illegible] which served with the British Expeditionary Force in France

In Front of Maginot Line

The [illegible]th Company landed in M[illegible]lles in December, 1939, and was engaged on lines of communication duties in the Le Mans area, actually leaving St. Nazaire on the last day of the evacuation from that [illegible] The 3[illegible] Company joined the Indian Co[illegible] in England in the summer of 1941.

Of other animal transport companies i[illegible] Force K[illegible], 22nd Company served in front of th[illegible] Maginot Line with the 51st Highland Divis[illegible] and was captured in the Saar region. Both th[illegible] 25th and 32nd companies were evacuated a[illegible] Dunkirk, the former after service on the Belgia[illegible] frontier.

From July 1942 to January 1944, the 3rd a[illegible] 29th companies, both pre-war Punjabi Muss[illegible] man units, trained extensively with the 52[illegible] Lowland Division. A firm friendship sprang [illegible] between the British formation and these units [illegible] the Indian Army.

The shields now in possession of 3rd and 2[illegible] companies are reminders of the unity in a[illegible] and purpose among men of different creeds a[illegible] races in times of great common danger.

The Jetpur State has generously contribut[illegible] a sum of Rs. 1,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's W[illegible] Purposes Fund.

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