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Madras Journal of Co-operation

EACH FOR ALL, AND ALL FOR EACH

Journal of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union, Esplanade, Madras.

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Editorial Notes.

Dependent Territories:

It is significant that the International Labour Conference held at Philadelphia adopted unanimously a resolution on the co-operative movement sponsored by a representative of the General Federation of Jewish Labour in Palestine and supported by the Belgian and British Empire representatives. The significance lies in the fact that the proposal deals with dependent territories for whose economic development some of the big powers are responsible. The resolution runs thus.

1. "The assistance and development of co-operative societies, including co-operative organizations of workers for the promotion of health, housing and education, shall be accepted as part of the economic programme of competent authorities in dependent territories, and the measures to be taken shall include financial assistance wherever this is appropriate.
2. "To this end consideration shall be given to: (a) the adoption of adequate legislation, simple and expensive in application, covering all forms of co-operative organization; (b) the creation of special services to promote and supervise the development of co-operative organizations and to encourage education in co-operation.
3. "In appropriate cases co-operative organizations shall be effectively represented on public boards and agencies affecting their interests."

We regret very much that the International Labour Conference had to remind these powers who possess dependent territories of their obligations even in the year 1944. However, we hope some action will be taken to bring the benefits of co-operation to these areas and in doing so we have no doubt the lessons learnt elsewhere will be borne in mind. The Colonial Office is busy preparing schemes of post-war development and in view of the beneficial results already obtained in some of the colonies by the adoption of co-operative methods there should be no hesitation in preferring them to capitalistic enterprises. As co-operation helps, if properly organized and fostered, to promote the inculcation and practice of democratic principles, we hope this aspect will not be lost sight of as even these dependent territories must sooner or later become self-governing if the ideals for which this war is being fought are to be realised.

Stores Movement :

Presiding over the Trichinopoly District Co-operative Stores Conference, Sri S. Parthasarathi Naidu, President of the Madura-Ramnad Co-operative Wholesale Stores, one of the big stores in the Province, delivered a very interesting address in which he summarised the growth of the stores movement in the Province and referred to some difficulties experienced by the stores in the matter of procurement and distribution of paddy. We have no doubt the authorities will give their due attention and rectify those defects. Sri Naidu also made valuable suggestions to make the stores self-reliant. He said, "you must employ proper men and pay them well. Unless you have a contented staff, business will suffer, and the staff should also be assured of security of tenure and further promotion in the same department." We commend these observations to stores in the Province who believe in conducting business guided by false notions of economy and declaring rebate and dividends by paying almost a pittance to their salesmen, accountants and clerks. The President also stressed the need to increase membership and thus augment their share capital. He pleaded that the stores should take up agencies for the sale of consumer goods in common demand and establish business contact with well-established firms and companies. The strengthening of reserve fund to withstand all possible setbacks incidental to post-war economy was emphasised. We have more than once referred to these points and it is with sincere pleasure we note those in charge of the stores movement are equally aware of these coming dangers and the need to take measures from now. The temptation to earn big profits is sometimes irresistible and, therefore, needs exercise of restraint, however irksome it may be. In this connection we would once more commend to the attention of the stores in the Province the very valuable circulars issued by the Department

with a view to prevent catastrophic changes in the movement after the war. The Stores Conference which met under the distinguished presidency of Sir N. Gopalaswami Iyengar also passed many important resolutions which we have reproduced elsewhere. It is gratifying that every one connected with the movement is keenly alive to the needs of the situation.

Regulation of Crops :

Legislation for 'regulating the cultivation of crops with a view to grow more food crops' has been sponsored by the Government of Bombay. The Government of His Exalted Highness the Nizam of Hyderabad has also enacted a Regulation to serve the same purpose. The Bombay Government have taken power to enforce compulsion in any area where the administration considers it necessary to compel agriculturists to raise food crops in place of non-food crops. Before this principle of compulsion is accepted, it is necessary to convince the public that the persuasive methods under the 'Grow More Food' campaign have not borne fruit. The Government should also examine if those methods provide the necessary incentive to change over from the non-food to food crops and whether facilities offered are adequate. Moreover, it is not so easy to change over unless the Government come forward to convince the cultivator that they are prepared to make good such loss as the change would cause to him. There are seasonal factors as well which have to be taken into account. We have also referred to other considerations in the last issue of the *Journal* under the heading 'Growth of Cotton.' May we also point out in Great Britain and other countries the payment of subsidies is one of the recognised methods of inducement offered to the cultivator for bringing land under cereal crops. In India the Government offer to remit a part of land revenue or irrigation dues, if, in the opinion of Government, which invariably means the local Revenue official, it is necessary to do so having regard to the prices of food crops. We venture to submit this is not sufficient inducement and in fact it tantamounts to no help.

In Madras some attempt has been made to restrict the cultivation of what is known as *mungari* cotton except as a mixed crop in the proportion of one line of *mungari* cotton to at least two lines of food crops and the Government have also sanctioned a bonus of Rs. 2 per acre from the funds provided by the Government of India from the 'Cotton Fund' for lands in which pure cotton would normally have been grown but for this restriction. The point for consideration is if the bonus provided will make good the loss sustained by the cultivators by this restriction. It is not known on what basis this figure of Rs. 2 was arrived at. If our memory serves us right, the Government of His Exalted Highness

If under the Order all the marketable surplus is to be handed over to the Grain Purchase Officer at such price as he fixes, we are afraid the work of loan and sale societies will suffer seriously. Co-operators have been advising the cultivators to hold back their stocks of surplus in order to sell them when he obtains better price. For this purpose loan and sale societies have been started. Under the proposed arrangement the cultivator has to sell his surplus immediately after the harvest and perhaps at prices by no means advantageous to him. This aspect of the question we commend for the consideration of co-operators. If food crops are to be preferred to cash crops and if all the available surplus is to be sold to Government immediately after the harvest, we wonder if any business can be transacted by the loan and sale societies at all.

Registrars' Conference :

In view of the consideration of post-war development in all spheres of national activity, the deliberations of the Registrars' Conference recently held at Bombay are of more than ordinary interest. As we have not yet received the full text of the proceedings, we shall not be justified in commenting either on the speeches delivered or the resolutions adopted. The press summary available is too meagre to appreciate the implications of the various proposals considered. However, there are some points to which we may venture to draw the attention of our readers. The proposal to promote industrial development through co-operative organisations is a very valuable suggestion. The history of the Industrial Co-operatives in China reads more like a romance. If in war-weary China they have thrived so well and have been of great assistance in war effort, such efforts ought to yield more satisfactory results in our country if only the Government are serious about their development. For providing war supplies various industries have received impetus. If only they are utilised to produce consumer goods when peace comes and afforded the same assistance, their future can be assured. We hope the special committee to formulate a programme suggested by the Conference will soon be appointed and it will look into the various aspects of the question. We shall deal with other topics when we receive the full text of the resolutions.

Sir Jogendra Singh, in his farewell speech, made a suggestion which merits attention. He said that instead of a large body of persons like that which met at Bombay, it would be an advantage to have a smaller body of experts and prominent co-operators which could meet more frequently. We wish Sir Jogendra Singh gives effect to his own suggestion by creating a Standing Committee of the Registrars' Conference. Then again, provinces are setting up Post-War Reconstruction General Committees. If a sub-committee of the General Committee is constituted to deal with the possibilities of applying co-operative methods for promoting development in all fields of economic activity, it would be an advantage to Provincial Governments in their task of economic rehabilitation.

The Madras Provincial Co-operative Union, Esplanade (Madras).

EXAMINATION RESULTS.

The following is the list of candidates with their Registered Numbers who have come out successful in the Co-operative Institutes' Examination held in the month of March 1944 at Coimbatore, Tanjore, Rajahmundry and Anantapur Centres :—

FIRST CLASS.

S. No.	Name of Candidate.	Regd. No.	S. No.	Name of Candidate.	Regd. No.
Coimbatore Centre.			4	K. Kanagasundaram	1633
1	P. V. Raghava Varier	1651	5	S. K. Sankaran	1717
2	R. Raju	1653	6	H. Subramanian	1729
Tanjore Centre.			7	V. H. Subramanian	1732
3	C. Appakutty	1668	Rajahmundry Centre.		
			8	K. V. Ramana Rao	1758

SECOND CLASS.

Coimbatore Centre.			42	S. Ramamurti	1714
1	R. Arumugam	1631	43	S. Sankaranarayanan	1718
2	A. C. Balakrishnan Nair	1632	44	M. Santhanamariappan	1719
3	U. Gajanan Rao	1635	45	S. Seetharaman	1720
4	B. S. Kuppuswamy	1639	46	R. Seshu	1721
5	D. Kuppuswami	1640	47	A. Sethurathnam	1722
6	P. S. Lakshmana Das	1641	48	N. Sounderarajan	1724
7	K. Namiraja Hegde	1644	49	K. Srinivasan	1725
8	S. Narasimhan	1645	50	R. Srinivasan	1726
9	P. Narayanan Nair	1647	51	V. Subbarayan	1727
10	M. M. Palaniswami	1649	52	R. Subba Rao	1728
11	S. Raghavendra Rao	1652	53	V. Subramanian	1731
12	S. Ramasamy	1655	54	V. Swaminathan	1734
13	A. P. Santhappa	1658	55	S. T. Thiagarajan	1736
14	M. Shanmugam	1660	56*	N. Chandrasekaran	*1812
15	T. N. Sivaraj	1661	Rajahmundry Centre		
16	K. Velaswamy	1663	57	B. Jagannadhamurthy	1743
17	A. Venkataramana Sarma	1664	58	B. Krishnamurti	1747
Tanjore Centre.			59	P. Lokanadheswara Rao	1749
18	E. K. Anandapadmanaban	1666	60	B. Rajagopal	1754
19	S. Antony Rajan	1667	61	K. Ramaraju	1757
20	T. N. Balaji Rao	1669	62	M. Rama Rao	1759
21	S. Balasubramanian	1671	63	T. Ranganadham	1761
22	V. Balasubramanian	1672	64	S. Ranga Rao	1762
23	V. Bhaskaran	1673	65	S. Satyanarayana	1765
24	K. S. Chandrasekharan	1674	66	A. Satyanarayana Murthy	1766
25	S. Ganesan	1675	67	V. Seshavadhanulu	1767
26	R. Govindan	1678	68	M. Someswara Rao	1768
27	D. Karuppiah	1684	69	G. Sriramamurthy	1769
28	M. Krishnamoorthy	1685	70	K. Suryanarayanamurthy	1771
29	T. V. Krishnamurthy	1686	71	B. V. Bhadrarow	1772
30	N. Krishnaswamy	1688	72	D. Venkatarama Sarma	1775
31	P. Kunjithaphatam	1689	73	K. Venkatasubbiah	1776
32	D. Linga Chetty	1691	74	M. Venkatasubbiah	1777
33	P. Narayanaswamy	1698	75	Y. Venkateswarlu	1778
34	K. S. Natarajan	1700	76	G. Venkateswara Rao	1779
35	P. V. Natarajan	1701	77	N. Visweswara Rao	1780
36	R. Nilakantan	1703	Anantapur Centre.		
37	M. K. Rajagopalan	1706	78	D. Anantha Iyer	1781
38	G. Rajendran	1709	79	A. M. Annamalai	1782
39	G. Ramachandran	1710	80	A. Chitambar Rao	1783
40	T. K. Ramachandran	1711	81	M. Gopalachar	1785
41	N. Ramamoorthy	1713			

THE MADRAS JOURNAL OF CO-OPERATION

S. No.	Name of Candidate.	Regd. No.	S. No.	Name of Candidate.	Regd. No.
82	R. Jagadeesan	1788	89	G. Suryanarayanamurti	1802
83	G. Lakshminarayana Chetty	1791	90	M. Thygarajan	1803
84	M. K. Mabu Rao	1792	91	C. Veerasankaram	1804
85	K. Meenakshisundaram	1793	92	M. Venkannachar	1805
86	K. Satyanarayanamoorthy	1797	93	B. Venkatarangiah	1806
87	D. Subba Raju	1799	94	S. Venkateswara Sarma	1807
88	C. Subba Rao	1800			

PASSED IN PART I.

Coimbatore Centre.			Rajahmundry Centre.		
1	B. Devappa Naik	1634	7	L. V. L. Narasimha Rao	1751
2	C. A. Govindarajan	1636	Anantapur Centre.		
3	A. Narasingam Pillai	1646	8	C. Hanumanthu	1787
4	B. T. Subramaniam	1662	9	D. L. Krishnaswamy	1790
Tanjore Centre.			10*	M. Krishnamurthy Rao	*1821
5	A. Muthaiyan	1694	(* No. 1821 has passed in all parts by passing Part I this year and the other parts in previous years.)		
6	M. Muthukrishnan	1695			

PASSED IN PART II.

Coimbatore Centre.			Rajahmundry Centre.		
1	K. Chathukutty Nambiar	1633	19	P. Rajagopalan	1707
2	V. K. Kunhikrishnan Nair	1638	20	S. Ramalingam	1712
3	C. C. Mathappan	1642	21	L. Rangabashyam	1715
4	C. Palaniswami	1648	22	K. Sankaran	1716
5	G. Ramachandra Rao	1654	23	S. Shanmugasundaram	1723
6	B. T. Subramaniam	1662	24	K. V. Subramanian	1730
7	A. G. Venugopal	1665	25	S. Sundaresan	1733
Tanjore Centre.			26	S. Vaithinatham	1737
8	V. Gnanasambandam	1676	27	R. Venkataraman	1739
9	G. Govindarajan	1679	28*	S. Ranganathan	*1813
10	M. Kadir Nainar	1681	29*	C. Arunachalam	*1814
11	O. T. Kaliyappan	1682	Rajahmundry Centre.		
12	G. V. Krishnamurthi	1687	30	L. V. L. Narasimha Rao	1751
13	S. Mookan	1693	31	G. Satyanarayana	1764
14	A. Muthaiyan	1694	32*	S. Kesava Rao	*1816
15	N. Nadimuthu	1696	Anantapur Centre.		
16	S. Narayanaswamy	1699	33	K. Gopalakrishnaiah	1786
17	S. Natarajan	1702	34	C. Hanumanthu	1787
18	M. Poonuswamy	1705	35	K. Krishna Rao	1789
			36	P. Subbarayudu	1801

PASSED IN PART III.

Coimbatore Centre.			Rajahmundry Centre.		
1	T. R. Radhakrishnan	1950	8	S. Ramalingam	1712
Tanjore Centre.			9	L. Rangabashyam	1715
2	V. Gnanasambandam	1676	10	B. V. S. K. S. Bhagavanulu	1741
3	G. Govindarajan	1679	11	M. Kameswara Rao	1744
4	V. Jayaraman	1680	12	K. Narasimhamurthy	1750
5	C. T. Kaliyappan	1682	13	P. Narasimha Rao	1752
6	S. Mookan	1693	Anantapur Centre.		
7	S. Nagarajan	1697	14	K. Gopalakrishnaiah	1786

(Note: Those marked with an * denote Supplementary Candidates.)

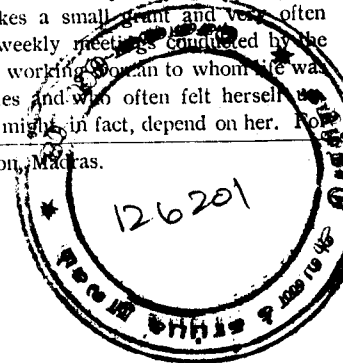
Women and Co-operation.*

The Madras Co-operative Department has arranged this evening to broadcast to you, the women of our Province in town and countryside alike, the message of co-operation. No movement in the modern world can progress or prosper unless it assigns to women their rightful place in direction and control as much as in enrolment and participation. In European countries co-operation among women has developed to such an extent that not only do they have women's co-operative guilds in boroughs and counties, federated into a national guild at the central headquarters, but they are having an "International Women's Co-operative Guild" with its offices in London. Till recently this guild united all those countries which have national women's organisations but the advent of the war has restricted the scope of its activities to a certain extent. To us in India, a knowledge of the achievements of such organisations in the west, serves as a pointer and for taking them as models to be followed. Not that we can reproduce identical institutions in our soil but a real appreciation of the worthy manner in which they have applied themselves to the problems confronting women from time to time will stand us in good stead, to steer clear of difficulties and overcome by emulating their courages, perseverance and their enduring patience in doing constructive work.

2. Let me then tell you briefly at the outset what these achievements are. Ever since the earliest days of the Movement, co-operative societies in England accepted, as they do now in India, women as equal members with men but women took little part in the life of the society. This is so even today in India with a few happy exceptions. But nearly sixty years ago this indifference of women in England to the management of the day to day affairs of their co-operative societies was felt to be an impediment in the way of the Movement's real progress and steps were taken betimes to set right the defect. You will not perhaps be surprised to learn that the one branch of co-operation to which women in the west are mostly attracted, is consumers' co-operation or the co-operative stores. This is as it should be, seeing that in the western household the purchase of the things needed by the family is largely done by the house-wife and not by the leading male-member of the family as is often the case with us in India. The purchase of household requirements being mainly the concern of the women, they were transacting business with their own co-operative stores, although they were content to leave the management of these institutions to the men. As early as 1883, a woman, Mrs. Acland, had the perception to see that co-operation had something better than this to give to women and that women in their turn had something they could give to the co-operative movement. She felt that it was not proper that men alone should be urged to attend meetings and to help to vote, to criticise, and to act whereas women were asked only to come and buy. She felt that spending money and buying the things stocked by stores should not be the limit of the sphere of association of women with co-operation. "Why?" she asked "should not we have our meetings, our readings and our discussions". To this appeal there was good and prompt response from her sisters. From these simple proposals grew the English Co-operative Women's Guild which in 1938 had nearly 80,000 members and branches in every co-operative society in England. The guild is a democratic organisation, but it is not a co-operative society or part of a co-operative society. It is a voluntary unregistered group but none the less a business-like organisation with elected committees and officers, minutes of proceedings, annual reports, and accounts. The funds are derived from the members' own small subscriptions, though in most cases the co-operative society in connection with which the branch of the guild works makes a small grant and very often provides a room in which meetings may be held. The weekly meetings conducted by the guild helped in no small measure to enliven the life of the working woman to whom life was a grinding round of duties, responsibilities, and anxieties and who often felt herself unnoticed and unvalued, however much husband and family might, in fact, depend on her. For

* A radio talk given by the Department of Co-operation, Madras.

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such and especially for those with latent intellectual tastes and powers, the Guild is a door way into a larger, lighter, and more varied world. Once a week the hardpressed housewife imprisoned for life in her kitchen, could escape from her too familiar home to be amused and stimulated and to experience at once the consciousness of her own individuality and that comradeship with equals which had hitherto been reserved for men and for a small member of educated women who could find spare time. The Guild interests itself in propaganda and conducts special district schools and week-end schools to educate its members. "Women's Place in the Co-operative Movement", "The Co-operative Movement as a social uplifter", "Married Women in paid positions", "Milk for school children" and "International world for Co-operative Women" are some of the subjects taken up in these schools. The guild interests itself in "Maternity and Child Welfare", "Nutrition and food values", "School leaving age" and other problems of citizenship.

3. Turning to India, what do we see? We have not gone very far yet. There are several reasons why we have not. But our record is not altogether barren. Women's co-operative in the Punjab have done well. In our own province membership of women in rural and urban co-operative societies is a very common feature. But it is only in one or two rare cases that they have been on the committee of the societies. Societies were in the past organised exclusively for women only on the basis of thrift. But in the Punjab as well as in Madras it soon became evident that such societies do not function effectively on the basis of thrift alone, however much the ideal of thrift is appealing. Gradually therefore women's societies extended their activities from thrift and credit, to cottage industries in Madras, and to the provision of educational and recreative facilities in the Punjab. In the Punjab the efforts of the Government of the Province to popularise co-operation among women date back to 1925. Since then they have gradually strengthened the special staff of women attached to the co-operative department as inspectresses and sub-inspectresses and virtually provided the Registrar with an ideal agency to push through the work among women. Thanks to the efforts of these women officers, and to the zeal and enthusiasm exhibited by a number of cultured ladies in district centres, there were as many as 235 women's co-operative in the Punjab in 1937 with 5,026 members and Rs. 2,79,384 as working capital. We have it on the authority of a retired inspectress of co-operative societies in that province that the difficulties which faced the movement in the earlier years have practically disappeared and that co-operative societies have endeared themselves to thinking men and women. It is now the turn of Madras to take a leap forward in this direction. The Government of Madras have appointed a woman special officer to organise and supervise co-operative societies among women in the City of Madras. This officer is the first woman to be recruited to the ranks of the Department as a whole-time paid officer. She has the unique advantage of being guided in her work by a committee of prominent ladies in the City of Madras. Already the deliberations of this committee have given an impetus to the development of cottage industries among women in the City of Madras. There are societies now in the City which give employment to their women members in tailoring, embroidery, knitting, cooking, pickle-making, leaf plate making and envelope making. Malabar and Mangalore are other places where similar work is done on a considerable scale. A good deal of persistent propaganda and a number of separate woman officers are required, not only to pull up and revive women's co-operative societies in other places in the province where they exist, but also to organise and develop new societies where conditions are favourable. But obviously that will be in the next stage of development and we will have to confine ourselves, for the present, to intensifying the work in centres where there is already evident scope. The Department will see to it that this is done.

4. Let us pass on to the possibilities for the future. There is vast scope for the expansion of co-operation among women. But placed as we are, with more than 90 per cent of the women illiterate in the countryside we cannot make miraculous progress. Firstly, most of

our women are conservative. They are not accustomed to transacting business on any very large scale except with the assistance of their husbands, sons, or other male relatives. They find it difficult to persuade themselves to come forward and associate in public enterprises. Fortunately, however, there is a noticeable change in their attitude and educated ladies are nowadays coming in increasing numbers to undertake social work and set an example to their sisters. But where women actually do business on their own account, be it the taking of a loan from a banking institution, or in producing goods for sale, or in growing vegetables and in marketing them, or in the production and supply of milk and milk products like ghee, or in the rearing of poultry and sale of eggs or in the purchase of house-hold requirements, there is no reason why they should not take to the co-operative method. Conditions in our province are such that we do not require separate credit societies or separate consumers' co-operative stores societies for women. They transact business with such societies either as members or as wives of members. Only they have not so far evinced any interest in the administration of these societies. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies has already appealed to them to serve on the committees of stores and in some cases to act as their presidents or secretaries, in the course of his address to the conference of co-operative stores held at Madras in June 1943. "Women", he said then, "are better equipped than men to gauge the needs of a household as regards food and clothing. They can instinctively pick out good material from bad. They are the experts for the running of the home and especially of the kitchen which is their particular province".

5. Apart from the contribution which women have to make to the development of composite societies in the manner indicated above, there are potentialities for their organising themselves exclusively for the attainment of a thousand other objectives which can be said to be of particular interest to women alone. What do you think of women engaged in mat-weaving? Why should they not come together in a producers' sale society with a view to improve their business and secure better marketing facilities? Again who does the work of rearing cows and buffaloes and vending milk, curd, and ghee in most of our smaller towns? Are not most of them women? Surely they can have their own co-operatives. In Malabar Ramnad, and Tanjore Districts there are Muslim women engaged in spinning coir yarn and making coir rope. Some of them have already joined co-operative societies organised for their benefit. Women of the scheduled castes are adepts in basket-making, making of winnows and bamboo thatties, though in these operations they have necessarily to be assisted by their men in sizing the raw materials and in procuring them. Above all women can also save money simultaneously with their other business. Women have a peculiar aptitude for thrift. In the Punjab about ten young women have been able to take advanced courses of study in the teaching and medical line with the help of their savings in co-operative societies. Several village women have borne the marriage expenses of their sons or daughters with money saved in their societies. Some others have built houses or purchased plots of lands. Some women have even saved their husbands from embarrassing situations by paying up from their savings money which the husband had to pay but did not know where to get.

6. Work of the kind outlined above requires team spirit and sustained effort by a group of selfless and enlightened ladies in every taluk and in every town. The movement can expand and make still greater progress if wives of officials lawyers, doctors, and business men in each locality can join and take interest in its development. They should doubtless be assisted by wholtime women officers in the service of Government. When women's co-operation takes root in the soil and its foundations are well and firmly laid, we can boldly say that the pace of amelioration of women has been quickened by this socio-economic movement, as probably no other movement can. Besides this, co-operation gets enriched by the association of women, and the development of the women's side of the movement. The societies not only help to improve the economic condition of their members, but they also give the women of all classes and of every status in life opportunities to mingle on equal

terms and obtain a thorough training in the principles of self-government, thereby fitting them to take their rightful place in parliamentary democracy and even in the governance of the country. As Margaret Llewelyn Davies truly said "The appeal which co-operation makes is to the largest class of women, and is a stronger and more significant appeal than that of any other movement. It gives openings for the exercise of every woman's gifts and capacities in the service of the community. Through it all the common every day actions of the housewife gather round them a new and stimulating interest and are filled with purpose and far reaching results. In providing for the well-being of her family the co-operative woman is inevitably acting in a way which leads to the establishment of a juster order in her own country, to the foundation of a world-wide co-operative common wealth and to the longed for advent of universal peace".

XXV Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference

It has been decided to hold the 25th Madras Provincial Co-operative Conference on the 28th and 29th October 1944.

As per the constitution of the Conference, the following class of societies may each elect the number of delegates noted against them:

Provincial Societies 5 delegates; Language Federations 10; District Central Banks 3; Training Institutes 2; Local Supervising Unions 1; Limited Primary Societies (Urban Banks, Land Mortgage Banks and non-credit Societies) 1; Unlimited Primary Societies with a working capital of Rs. 50,000, 1; Societies in which other Societies are members 1.

Scale of Delegation Fees.

Primary Societies (Urban & Rural) and Supervising Unions	Rs. 3
Training Institutes, Central Banks and Federations	5
Provincial Societies and Language Federations	10

The above delegation fee is irrespective of the number of delegates that the institution may send.

Co-operative Institutions in the Province are requested to elect delegates and communicate to the Secretary, the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union, Esplanade, Madras, their names with full addresses so as to reach on or before 30th September 1944.

In addition to deputing delegates to attend the Conference the institutions are requested to kindly make liberal donations as usual towards the expenses of the Conference and thus make it the success that it ought to be.

They are also requested to communicate to the Secretary of the Union resolutions for consideration at the Conference on or before the 1st October 1944.

Boarding will be arranged if sufficient notice is given. Owing to rationing, arrangements have to be made in advance. So delegates are requested to inform before 1st October 1944.

The meeting of the Board of Management and the General Body of the Madras Provincial Co-operative Union will be held on Sunday the 28th October 1944. Affiliated Co-operative institutions will please arrange to intimate the names of their representatives before 1st October 1944.

The Second Madras Provincial Conference of Consumers' Societies

RESOLUTIONS

1. This Conference of consumers' societies in the province is of opinion that as there should be no conflict between consumers' co-operatives and producers' co-operatives in the field of Co-operation, the possibility of co-ordinating their interests and serving their larger wholesale requirements in and through one control organisation should be explored.

Pending such exploration the policy which is being pursued during the emergency period of utilising the Madras Provincial Co-operative Marketing Society—which was originally organised for marketing producer societies goods—for large scale purchase for wholesale distribution to stores societies, may be continued as also the present A class membership of co-operative stores in Provincial Marketing Society.

2. This Conference requests the Registrar of Co-operative Societies to move the authorities concerned for providing an adequate and reasonable margin of profit in the case of sales of sugar and other controlled commodities.
3. This Conference requests the Government that in distributing supplies of foodstuffs to various districts, they should not send commodities which are not required in that area and dump the same on the people.
4. This Conference requests that in the matter of fixing the prices of articles purchased through them, the Government should arrange to intimate the cost immediately on the delivery of the goods and to permit the wholesale stores to fix the wholesale and retail prices at the various primary stores on some well defined principles to avoid delay in effecting distribution.
5. This Conference is strongly of opinion that in the matter of allotment of controlled or quasi-controlled commodities, the prices of which are fixed at both ends, the Collectors or the allotting authorities should fix the price per unit by weight or measurement, as the case may be, and enforce supply on this basis from the producer or wholesaler from whom allotments are made, to avoid loss being caused to the primary co-operative stores.
6. Resolved that the Government be requested to follow a generous policy in complying with the requests of stores societies for the loan of departmental officers for managing such societies, especially in cases where they are unable to recruit efficient men themselves.
7. While thanking the Government for the orders recently issued sanctioning at their expense, the continuance of the staff employed for directing and supervising stores societies, this Conference would request
 - (a) that the burden of the expenditure on the supervising staff, being a legitimate charge on state funds, should be borne permanently by the Government and
 - (b) that the existing staff for supervision being inadequate for dealing efficiently with the work it is called upon to do, it be substantially strengthened.

8. While thanking the Government for their instructions to the district officers to encourage co-operative stores in preference to merchants, this Conference feels that the district officers are preferring merchants to co-operative institutions for the reason that normal trade channels should be maintained and thus in effect have failed to carry out the policy of the Government in full. This Conference, therefore, requests the Government to issue strict instructions to the district officers to carry out the policy of the Government and allot quotas of controlled articles preferably to co-operative institutions and thus help in preventing profiteering and black markets.
9. Resolved that every co-operative store society which makes an application be authorised to sell Horlicks, Glaxo, and similar infant foods.
10. This Provincial Conference of co-operative stores deplors the decision of the Government in taking away from the co-operative stores the distribution of iron and steel to the agriculturist and vesting it in the Director of Agriculture under a separate staff at a heavy cost on the baseless ground that the co-operative organisations are not likely to deal equitably with non-members; and strongly appeals to the Government to reconsider their decision. If this is not possible, the Co-operative Societies should be authorised at least to make the sales to persons on permits obtained from the Agricultural officer of the district.
11. This Provincial Conference of Co-operative Stores is of opinion that instead of organising separate depots of Agricultural Department in villages for the sale of seeds, fertilisers, etc., at a huge cost, it would be better and more economical for the Government to entrust this work to Co-operative Stores where they exist or in their absence to the village co-operative credit societies. This Conference feels that such co-ordination between the Government and non-official agencies will be in consonance with the principles enunciated by expert committees.
12. Whereas it is found difficult to secure cement even in absolutely necessary cases at fixed prices, this Conference resolves to request the Honorary Cement Advisor, Bombay, to recognise co-operative stores as distributors of cement, subject to any conditions that he may impose in this regard.
13. Whereas the working of the co-operative stores institutions, both wholesale and primary, has been considerably handicapped by lack of proper and adequate knowledge of market conditions and market intelligence and of the innumerable laws, regulations and orders of various kinds regarding prices, supply, prohibitions of exports, or imports, or fixation of quotas for the same by Zones, etc., and licensing regulations of a complicated nature, this Conference is of opinion that the time has come to start without delay a fortnightly bulletin to supply this need for the benefit of the co-operative stores institutions and requests the Chairman of the Committee of this Provincial Conference to take immediate steps towards this end.
14. Resolved that the Committee appointed at the last Conference do continue with Rao Bahadur S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer as Chairman to see that the resolutions of this Conference are implemented.

Reviews.

THE PRESENT FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA,

BY DR. ANWAR IQBAL QURESHI.

The supply of 'food' to the teeming millions of India is a very major problem which requires immediate attention of the leaders of community—the Government and the public as well. So any enquiry into India's food and famine problems, is most welcome and opportune and an immediate solution is the crying need of the hour. Dr. Qureshi has contributed a scholarly treatise on this most important topic of the day in this small pamphlet and embodies his observations about the present food needs of the population by quoting pertinent statistics on the normal production of wheat, rice and other subsidiary grains. His conclusion seems to be that 10 million tons of wheat and 25 million tons of rice would in normal times feed the present population. But it should not be considered that the quantity is adequate from the proper dietary standard.

India has enough wheat, but in rice there is a deficit consequent on the loss of Burma, Malaya, etc., and this could be made up by 'growing more food' by intensive cultivation of the same crop or by substituting with other surplus food products like wheat and cereals and by export controls. To achieve this better transport facilities from the surplus to the deficit areas will help to relieve distress and this whole problem must be dealt with by a Central authority.

The readers will agree with Dr. Qureshi on the Government policy of price controls and dehoarding methods. During the earlier part of the control and dehoarding Government had not the adequate experience and the findings of Dr. Gregory were merely academic and recommendatory. They were followed without sufficient efficient administrative staff.

Dr. Qureshi does not agree to rationing; but our experience has shown that rationing, wherever it is introduced, has done good and in the light of this experience Dr. Qureshi may have to revise his opinions in other editions of his book. Theoretically his argument that rationing comes in when a quantity of food supply is limited may be right now. The Military needs have accentuated the shortage and so rationing is called for and this aspect Dr. Qureshi has recognised in his concluding part of the essay when he says that Government have given due consideration to the author's recommendations.

The very fact that the Government, when the author has criticised for its vacillating policy of price control etc., has accepted the recommendation of the author makes his opinions authoritative and the book is one of the instructive contributions to India's most urgent food problem.

K.S.J.

POST-WAR CONSTRUCTION

BY ANWAR IQBAL QURESHI.

Economists and politicians all the world over are giving serious thought to post-war reconstruction. The Beveridge social security plans, the Atlantic Charter, the White's monetary plans, Keynes and Morgenthau's currency methods and the latest International Monetary Fund and such other recommendations for post-war planning are discussed by the several Governments of the west where war has

devasted vast territories and property. The India Government too has its Committees to gather sufficient statistics and make necessary recommendations in this behalf. The Congress while in power had foreseen the necessity for industrial development and unfortunately its wise deliberations are made a closed book. Sir M. Visveswarayya has been doing a good deal to influence the commercial interests in starting new basic and key industries and his recommendation are being considered and given effect to by even the several Provincial Governments now. The famous 'Bombay Plan' is largely popularized by the *Eastern Economist* and also the *Indian Finance*, and is under the consideration of the Government too, but the importance of agrarian economy has not been recognised so well anywhere else as in Dr. Qureshi's pamphlet 'Post-War Construction.'

All the Indian Economists like Dr. Qureshi are agreed on the point that planning in India should consist of increasing production so as to improve the per capita income and the financing of the industries including agriculture by Government, Banks and private agencies, and to evaluate the importance of agriculture and industry and to co-ordinate production and distribution. This requires more efficient labour, better machinery, good system of transport and proper financing agencies including Grain Banks - the training of demobilised soldier to fit into post-war labour force, the problem of marketing, control of exports and trade routes - these are also well discussed by the author.

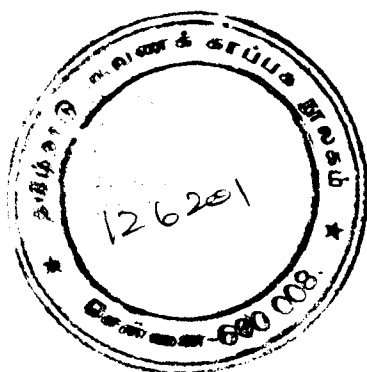
Also Dr. Qureshi's contribution has an added importance because of its insistence upon the improvement of rural economy. As per the author's opinion, in the large scale and small scale production how far rationalization plays its part could be properly determined by the new theory - Technological time preference. This theory in its practical application to India's future industrial development will contribute greatly to efficiency both in labour and machinery, in the light of our requirements in food, clothing and other consumers' articles and productive machinery. Dr. Qureshi is in full accord with Dr. Lokanathan in his appreciation and importance of this technological time preference theory and in support of his contention brings to light the economic waste that Soviet Russia suffered by not recognising the processes by which small and large scale industries could be co-ordinated by not utilising effectively the readily available manpower and capital, in the bid for big industrial advancement.

Dr. Qureshi also examines the food position as obtaining now and offers practical solution in a brief manner. In the concluding portion of the bulletin, Dr. Qureshi explains the Government plans and the functions of the Committees thereof and hopes that they will bring forth comprehensive methods for construction of Post-War India by increasing the per capita income and national wealth.

The author's recommendation to start Grain Banks is a novel idea and well worth emulation on lines of foreign Grain Banks and a suggestion in this behalf was made by one of our Advisers to Government of Madras.

This pamphlet is very thought provoking.

K.S.J.



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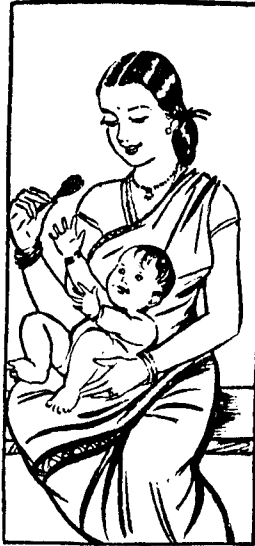
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