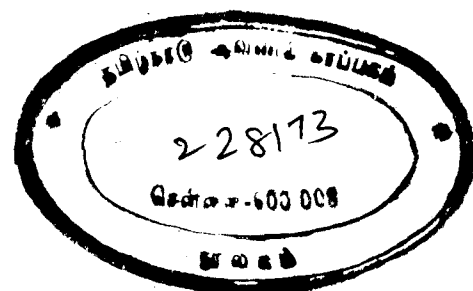


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INDIAN INFORMATION
1944

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Mr. Winston Churchill with members of the Cabinet and Dominion Premiers photographed after the meeting of the Commonwealth Conference. India's representatives, Sir Feroz Khan Noon and the Maharaja of Kashmir, are standing seventh and eighth from left in the second row. Their speeches are published on page 596.

Vol. 14, No. 138. INDIAN INFORMATION JUNE 1, 1944

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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-headings 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 gratefully 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: F. D. Douglas.

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COVER PAGE PICTURE: Swung and secured in 45 minutes by Indian Engineers in Italy, this ropeway is capable of bearing the weight of jeeps and field-guns as they are hauled across ravines. With all the bridges destroyed by the retreating Germans, this contrivance is particularly useful, for it enables guns to be pulled across to protect the engineers while they work on new bridges.



"At Imphal, trucks are conveying a steady stream of war material and supplies."

SIR SULTAN AHMED VISITS BURMA FRONT

I RETURNED last evening after a three-day tour of the forward areas on our Eastern Front. I feel it my duty to take the earliest opportunity of giving you my first-hand impressions of the situation on the Burma Front.

At the outset I would say if you have any fears about the immediate or ultimate outcome of the operations at Kohima, Imphal and the Arakan, forget them. There is no danger now, and there can be no danger to India except that conjured up by the propagandist broadcasts from

from the air or from the ground. At Imphal, which Tokio claimed three times was in Japanese hands, transport planes are bringing in and trucks are conveying a steady stream of war materials and supplies, but these planes and trucks are ours. They are going out from the west, not coming in from the east. There are Indian and British troops whose morale is so high that I would strongly urge Tokio to abandon its futile attempts to persuade our Indian troops that they can be beaten.

By the Hon'ble Sir Syed Sultan Ahmed,
Member for Information and Broadcasting
Government of India.

(A broadcast from Delhi station of
All India Radio on May 9.)

Tokio. Don't be deceived by them. They are playing their last card. They are accomplishing on the ether what their forces have failed to achieve on the field. Don't you be deceived by them. You have been told by Tokio repeatedly that Imphal is in Japanese hands. Yet I flew to Imphal and back and neither the planes in which I travelled nor the fighters that escorted it saw the least trace of Japanese opposition.

On the first day of my visit to the forward areas I dined with the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers at their Mess. They said that had they known of my visit earlier they would have arranged a special dinner. I replied that I was glad to share an ordinary meal with them as, indeed, I was. Their food was as excellent as their spirits were high. Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs sat around the same table. They laughed at the very idea of a successful invasion of India by the Japanese.

"We have proved our reputation, they said, 'in every theatre of war; we have superior equipment; we are supreme in the air; we have plenty of food; and we are fighting for the defence of our country. What have we to fear from an enemy who is afraid



Jap prisoner being treated by doctors of the 7th Indian Division.

to come out and engage in open battle, who attacks from the cover of the jungle; who lives on food snatched from the villagers; whose planes indulge in hit-and-run raids and whose conception of fighting is to subject unarmed civilians to inhuman torture."

A Subedar-Major assured me that victory must flow inevitably from our all-round superior resources. "Our tradition," he said "does not provide for defeat; it would be a disgrace to our families, our village and our country. Tell our countrymen that we will not return till we have thoroughly beaten the Japs."

I assured them on your behalf and on mine of our absolute confidence in their ability to crush the Japanese forces and drive them back. The sick and wounded in hospitals, Indian nurses and women doctors, all showed the same cheerful spirit. They were confident of victory and every one of them was doing a fine job of work.

General Slim told me (on the trip to Imphal on May 6), that our Burma operations had once

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again proved the superb fighting qualities of the Indian soldier. "They have all been first-rate," he said, "Men of every Province have done and are doing a fine job of work." We were provided with a strong fighter escort on our trip to Imphal as we had been warned the previous evening that the Japanese Radio had announced my impending visit. We reached our destination, however, without incident, but were informed on alighting from the plane that Imphal had been raided a couple of hours earlier by 20 Japanese planes, seven of which were brought down before they could get away. The same afternoon the Japanese lost four guns to our men in the Bishenpore sector. General Slim humorously remarked that my visit had brought them luck! At the Military Headquarters in Imphal I had explained to me in detail the dispositions of the enemy's forces and our own. It was clear to me that, far from losing heart, our forces were comfortably established in positions of vantage and were eager to give battle to the enemy the moment he came out

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Smoke from bursting shells envelop a Japanese position on the Tamu Road.

into the open from the jungle in which he was hiding.

The Political Agent of Manipur, who came to see me at Imphal, showed me specimens of currency distributed by the Japanese in the areas under their occupation in Burma. These were attractively printed five and ten-rupee notes without any signature or the name of any bank. He also showed me clever imitations of our ten-rupee notes which the Japanese were using freely in occupied territory.

In the Arakan I found the same spirit of cheerfulness and confidence as was apparent at Imphal. Officers and men went about their duties, stripped to the waist owing to the heat. In the hospitals and at headquarters there was absolute confidence in the strength of our positions and reassuring news flowed in steadily from the field. Wherever I went I was welcomed by officers and men and given every assistance in acquainting myself with the situation. Indian officers and men also accorded me a warm welcome and said that they were very glad to meet a Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council.

When I bade farewell to General Giffard at the Headquarters of the 14th Army I thanked

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him warmly for the kindness and courtesy shown to me by him and his officers. He assured me that my visit had been greatly appreciated by all. "I mean it," he said, as he shook hands with me. "Don't treat it as a mere gesture. Just let me know when you would like to come here again and I shall make all the necessary arrangements." I thanked the General for his cordial invitation and left by plane for Calcutta.

I take this opportunity to-day of impressing on you the points which stand out clearly in my mind after my three-day visit to the Burma and Assam Fronts.

First, the outstanding confidence, courage and determination of our men; second, the overwhelming supplies and weapons and armoured transport in evidence everywhere; third, our unquestioned superiority in the air disturbed only by occasional sneak raids by the enemy, fourth, the knowledge of the Japanese themselves that their forces are trapped and must either withdraw before the rains set in or be annihilated. It is this fact that they are trying to cover up by fantastic claims of successes which are as spurious as the currency they are circulating in occupied territory.

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Our men are not deceived by these claims. I can assure you, from first-hand knowledge, that we, too, can afford to laugh at the claims of the enemy, for I am now in a position categorically to affirm that the Japanese forces were never farther from the attainment of their military objective than they are to-day. Their claims of successes are as real as their promise of independence to Burma, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies has proved to be. They live in a world of counterfeit co-prosperity, counterfeit currency and counterfeit successes. We shall not be deceived by them but shall forge ahead, determined to support our men at the front in their struggle for peace and freedom on the attainment of which depends the speedy and successful termination of this war.

I do not counsel undue optimism. Grim fighting is in progress in the Kohima sector and we have months of hard fighting ahead of us. But what I do wish to emphasise is that we were never more certain of final victory than we are to-day. It is now only a matter of time and the time in which it is attained will depend on the united efforts of all Indians, both at home and on the battlefield. Our men in Assam and in the Arakan are doing their part gallantly. Let us not fail them.

SPEECH AT PRESS CONFERENCE

Addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi, on May 9, on his return from the forward areas, the HON'BLE SIR SYED SULTAN AHMED said:

Before I left for the forward areas on our Eastern Front I told you that immediately on my return I would hold a Press Conference. I am here to-day in fulfilment of that promise. I may assure you at the outset that my visit has confirmed beyond the shadow of a doubt that we were never stronger on our eastern frontier than we are to-day. The strength of our line of communications is borne out by the steady stream of war material and supplies which is daily reaching our Eastern Front. High military officials pay daily visits to battle areas—visits that are undertaken almost immediately after they are planned. What impressed me most of all was the high morale of our Indian troops who repeatedly assured me that they would not return to their homes until they have driven away and inflicted a crushing defeat on the Japanese.

We left Delhi at 7 a.m. on the morning of Friday, May 5, and we reached our destination,

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the Headquarters of the 14th Army, half an hour before the scheduled time. Immediately on arrival, I paid a visit to the Officer in charge of Intelligence, who informed me that civilian morale was generally good and particularly high in the north and in Manipur State. All India Radio had rendered useful assistance in broadcasting and the men in the forward areas eagerly listened in to special programmes broadcast for them. The morale of the troops was excellent. They were naturally anxious about the welfare of their families many miles away and we could not give them too much information of happenings in their homes, but this did not in any way affect their determination and confidence in defeating the Japanese. The Indian soldier was interested in the measures taken by the Provincial and Central Governments to promote the welfare of his family at home. He wished to be assured that his case did not go by default in a land dispute, that the members of his family received the requisite medical attention when they needed it, and that they were ensured adequate supplies of food at reasonable prices. "Neither the Indian soldier nor the civilian wants his news sugar-coated," this Intelligence Officer told me. "The best way of maintaining the present high morale is to push out the news before rumour can gain currency."

The Officer in charge of Operations explained to me the dispositions of our forces and the forces of the enemy. It was apparent from his account that we had nothing to fear from the enemy who knew only too well what their fate would be if they engaged our forces in open battle; they confine themselves to occasional sallies from the dense forests in which they remain for the most part in hiding. The Japs cannot expect any support from the local population whose food they have forcibly seized and whom they have subjected to the most inhuman tortures in efforts to obtain information about the whereabouts of our troops.

Agricultural and Livestock Drive

After a frugal lunch I had a long and most interesting talk with a high military official who is in charge of supplies. He told me that it was their aim locally to produce all bulk fresh food supplies. They were having a large-scale agricultural and livestock drive. The British species of vegetable was grown on high ground and Indian vegetables were also grown. They had increased the supply of birds by adopting the system of rice-husk hatching prevalent in China. They had found from experiments that dry grass fodder and Napier grass fodder provided a complete balanced ration for cattle. The measures

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taken to grow this type of grass, it was expected, would effect an economy in transport of 10,000 wagons. Generally, the steps taken by the Army in the field of agriculture would, it was expected, revolutionise methods of production. One thousand three hundred acres in Bengal were being exploited under modern mechanised methods. Another 24,000 acres, near airstrips, were also being restored to cultivation. The loss of livestock in transhipment was very high and local breeding of goats was being encouraged under the penny-packet system. The Army was also organising the supply of fish. Salted fish was now available which, after washing and boiling, was as good as fresh fish. The Officer acknowledged the assistance given him by the Department of Education, Health and Lands, and the Bengal and Assam Governments. By all these measures it was hoped to meet 75 per cent. of all requirements of the Army, including the U. S. Forces, in the forward areas.

Dinner with V.C.O.s.

The same evening I had dinner with the Viceroy's Commissioned Officers at their Mess. The food was excellent and the spirit of the officers high. Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs came up to me in turn and welcomed me in their midst as the first Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council to visit them. They asked eager questions about conditions in the districts from which they hailed which I answered to the best of my ability. The emphatic assertion they made about their confidence in defeating the Japs confirmed in no uncertain manner the statement made to me earlier in the morning by the Intelligence Officer. They assured me that, man to man, the Indian soldier was infinitely superior to the Jap. In addition to his own fighting qualities he had the advantage of superior equipment and even superior air support. With all these advantages victory was inevitable.

I assured all of them individually that we in India were proud of the gallant fight they were putting up against the Japs and our absolute confidence in their ability to crush the Japanese forces and drive them back. In the hospitals which I visited earlier in the day I found the same cheerful spirit among our sick and wounded. I also met Indian nurses and lady doctors who are doing a fine job of work in ministering to our ailing fellow-countrymen.

Early on the morning of May 6, we left the 14th Army Headquarters by air for Imphal. On arrival we motored in a station wagon over bumpy roads, which on occasion almost drove our heads through the roof of the car, and

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reached the Military Headquarters where I had the operational positions explained to me in great detail. I was greatly impressed by the cheerful and business-like manner in which everyone was going about his daily task and I recollected with amusement the oft-repeated claims of the Japanese that Imphal had fallen to them and was now in their hands.

The truth is that our forces are comfortably established at Imphal and eager to give battle to the Japanese the moment they come out into the open from the jungles in which they are hiding.

We then left the operations office to meet the local representatives of the Director of Public Relations and the only war correspondent, Mr. Gardner, of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, who happened to be there. After a short discussion in the open air, I met the Political Agent in Manipur and discussed with him problems of morale, economic conditions, etc., of the local people. While morale was excellent, he felt that something should be done to maintain it at the high level it had attained by means of a loudspeaker van of the type used in the province of Assam.

Jap Prisoners in Hospital

Before lunch I visited hospitals equipped with thousands of beds where casualties were being treated. Patients, both British and Indian, were extraordinarily cheerful, even though some of them had sustained severe injuries. I saw some Japanese prisoners undergoing treatment in a hospital. One of them was in a serious condition. I also saw a Japanese flag seized by our troops in an encounter. At lunch time we received information that four Japanese guns had been captured in the Bishempore sector. Gen. Slim again remarked that my visit to Imphal had brought luck in the shape of seven Japanese planes destroyed and four guns captured. He expressed the hope that we would do even better in the Arakan which I was to visit the next day and I promised to do my best! We returned to the Headquarters that evening where I was entertained to dinner by the local office of the Public Relations Directorate. I was greatly impressed by the cheerful enthusiasm with which these officers worked in this distant outpost.

Early in the morning of May 7, we set out in a small party of three for the Arakan, arriving there after an uneventful flight. Our plane was, however, escorted by fighters. We were received at the airfield by an officer who conducted us to our jeeps. In three-quarters of an

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5TH INDIAN DIVISION'S DRAMATIC AIR DASH

A FEW hours after they had been engaged in fierce fighting for the Buthidaung-Maungdaw tunnels, Indian and British troops of the 5th Indian Division—complete with jeeps, guns, mules, food and ammunition—were flown from the Arakan to strengthen the Imphal "offensive base" where, a few days later, they were again in action against the Japs in the Kanglatombi and Ukhrul road sectors.

Here, Dogras, Jats, Punjabis, West Yorks and Suffolks scored conspicuous successes, the first being the complete evacuation of a valuable ordnance dump which was under fire from a strong enemy force ten miles north of Imphal. Many hundreds of Japs have fallen before these resolute veterans of Eritrean and Western Desert fame during the past few weeks.

Another brigade of the 5th Indian Division moved up the Manipur road to Kohima on April 5, where the Royal West Kents were able to beat the enemy for possession of the last ridge which served as the base of the Kohima "inner" garrison which they held against overwhelming odds for 13 days before Rajputs and 1st Punjabis, also isolated on another height a mile to the north, fought their way to their aid. British troops eventually relieved the brigade, still operating on the northern front.

It was military history repeating itself, writes an Indian Army Observer, for it was this famous Division which smashed Jap resistance on the Ngakayedauk Pass when the 7th Indian Division were isolated last February, east of the Mayu Range.

The flight from one battlefield to another was a huge "tamasha" for the vast majority of the Indian troops, whose homes in remote villages in the Punjab, Central India, United Provinces, Bengal, Bombay and Madras are often many miles from the nearest railway station. For the vast majority of the thousands it was also an introduction to flying.

An Indian Army Observer who accompanied the Division on its first airborne move states that many had been withdrawn from the fighting line so quickly that they still showed visible signs of battle. The air trip lasted less than two hours. It saved days of rail and road movement across Assam.

For most part of the journey, the men, excepting the few who were airsick, discussed the

SIR SULTAN AHMED'S VISIT TO ARAKAN

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 577)

hour we reached the military headquarters in that area. Here officers and men worked stripped to the waist and I observed the same quiet confidence and efficiency. Here I was informed by the Intelligence Officer that the morale of both civilians and troops was excellent and that all efforts of the Japanese to terrorise the local population had failed.

Here, too, we visited hospitals and my visit to the largest synchronised with the arrival of a small convoy of casualties. I went round the wards and visited the operations theatre while an operation was in progress. As in Imphal the men here looked cheerful and well. There were few cases of very serious injuries. We returned in the evening to the 14th Army Headquarters where I took leave of Gen. Giffard.

Five Impressions

As we flew back to Calcutta, five impressions stood out clearly in my mind of my three-day visit to the Burma front: first and foremost, the confidence, courage and determination with which our men looked forward to the coming encounter with the enemy; second, the overwhelming supplies of weapons and armoured transport in evidence everywhere; third, our unquestioned superiority in the air, disturbed only by occasional sneak raids by the enemy; fourth, that the Japanese had been trapped and must either withdraw before the rains set in or be annihilated; and finally, the duty we all of us owe to our men at the front.

I have come back with the fullest confidence that the Japs will be defeated completely and that there is really no danger of an invasion of India.

We spent the night of May 7. in Calcutta and returned to Delhi on the evening of May 8, after a brief halt at Patna.

war, their future commitments and the rough topography of the country, sometimes ten thousand feet below. Their first thought on arriving on Manipur Plain, three thousand feet higher than their last battleground, was to get some warm clothing.

BATTLE FOR THE KOHIMA HILLS

S EVEN hundred and fifty-three dead Japanese were counted between first light of May 4 and midday of May 6, within the three square mile area of Kohima, which is the Headquarters of the Naga Hills district of the Assam Province, wrote an Indian Army Observer on May 10.

This mountain stronghold of the Angami Nagas, which was covered in mist as I watched it from a little distance away, is on a north-south ridge traversed by a single good metalled road. On the north flank of this ridge lies the Naga village which had till a few days ago 800 homesteads with a population of 3,000, its highest point being 5,000 feet above sea level.

Though a small area, Kohima is composed of at least five different hills besides "pimples" some of which are 500 feet above the level of the road. The Deputy Commissioner's bungalow hill, scene of bitter fighting, is on a salient commanding not only the road leading from Manipur Road to Imphal, but also the side road running to the Kohima bazaar and the Naga village. This salient, which is just a little bit to the south-east of our stronghold of the 'Hospital Hill', has almost been cleared of the enemy.

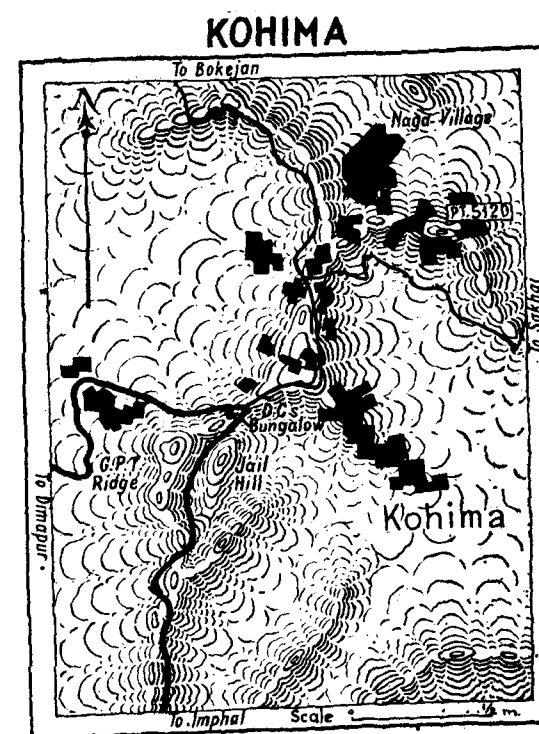
A little to the south of the D.C.'s bungalow hill is "Jail Hill" which was pounded by our guns even while I was in the Kohima box. The southernmost end of Kohima is occupied by "G.P.T. Ridge".

Three Hills Captured

After four hours of fierce fighting, men of the 15th Punjab Regiment captured the vital feature known as the "D.I.S. Hill", wrote an Indian Army Observer, from Kohima on May 16.

During the course of the two days' battle they were completely at the mercy of the elements and had to face in turn rain, mist, cold and intense heat. Heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy. The Commanding Officer of the battalion, though wounded in both arms, continued to direct the operations to their successful conclusion.

At the same time British troops operating to the left and right of the 15th Punjab Regiment similarly occupied two other equally vital features, called "F.S.D. Hill" and "Jail Hill." This action has resulted in the clearing up of most of the Jap pockets



of resistance in commanding positions on this front.

The initial task was undertaken by a company of Sikhs under the command of Major J. Whitmarsh Knight of Cawnpore and a company of Jats, under the command of Major "Johnnie" Johnson. The Sikhs and the Jats crossed the "start line" at 4-40 a.m. on May 11 under cover of an intense artillery barrage. Creeping up to the edge of the barrage, at 5 a.m. the Sikhs assaulted their objective, raising the cry, "Sat Sri Akal" while the Jats charged with their war cry of "Jai Hanuman Ji".

From the Battalion H.Q., 11606 L/Nk. Wahid Gul, a Pathan from village Todera, Tehsil Swabi, District Mardan, kept up the enthusiasm of the forward attacking companies by playing the regimental march on "dhols" and "surnais" (pipes). Though subjected to intense and withering fire from the enemy flank and from a concrete bunker made out of the foundations of buildings, one platoon of the Sikhs, commanded by Sub. Dhanna Singh, from village Behala, District Hoshiarpur, managed to reach the objective and remained there for several hours engaging other Jap bunkers. As the other company was held up on the reverse slope by stiff enemy resistance a party was sent round the right flank under Capt. W. Thomson.

In the meantime, tanks which were to support the operation were held up by a minefield. The enemy had constructed a road block made of tank tracks to which were attached 30 mines. A mine-detector detachment under Maj. "Raj" Fowler of King's Norton, Warwickshire, and Jem. Benares Khan, I.D.S.M., went forward killing Japs on the way and, though temporarily unable to reach the minefield, engaged a Jap bunker from 10 yards' range supported by machine-gunner Sepoy Faiz Mohamed and killed many more Japs.

At 2-30 p.m. on May 11, supported by machine-gun fire, another bunker was assaulted at 20 yards' range and more casualties inflicted on the enemy. On the night of May 11-12, a company of Gurkhas commanded by Major Eric May came in to assist in the battle while the Punjabis dug themselves in.



The Ukhrul road being tested for Jap mines before our troops advance.

On May 12 the tanks were brought forward after sappers had cleared the minefield with the assistance of a platoon of the 15th Punjab Regiment under Jem. Benares Khan; at 2-45 that afternoon Gurkhas who went in to the attack while tanks were blasting the bunkers made a little headway. The tank fire was directed by Major R. L. F. Thomas of the 15th Punjab Regiment, who had joined the battalion only the previous day.

During all this intense activity men of the battalion H.Q. under Major Arthur Marmant of Cardiff kept on supplying ammunition and collecting casualties.

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By the night of May 12-13 such Japs as remained seemed demoralised. A patrol which went round on the morning of May 13 found a mass of wreckage, several Japs dead and a considerable amount of equipment. The positions had been vacated by the enemy under cover of night.

Japs Counter-Attack in Rain

On the night of May 15-16, the enemy made four counter-attacks on our newly won positions but was driven off every time with heavy casualties.

"It was raining hard, the trenches were full of water and the men were soaked to the skin when the attacks were repulsed", Major Patrick Thomson of the 1st Gurkha Rifles told me while we took cover from Jap shells in a trench.

There is more sign of enemy artillery activity to-day (May 16), although it has been raining hard. Nevertheless the speed with which the Fourteenth Army troops advanced to take up new positions give an indication of the tempo of the fighting. The enemy, who is entrenched not far away from Kohima, has to be cleared before the monsoon breaks and, judging by the weather, it is not far off.

KING GEORGE'S FUND FOR SAILORS

Contributions to King George's Fund for Sailors up to the end of 1943 totalled nearly £1,460,000, of which India contributed some £122,000. Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, President of the Fund, says in a message:

"We are most grateful for all this help; but our task is by no means at an end, as we have to be prepared to ensure that the Fund is in a position to help these same men and their families when, at any time in the years to come after the war ceases, they may be in need of a helping hand. These men, whether of the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy or the Fishing Fleets, have done their task nobly; therefore, I ask for the continuance of your generosity."

GRANT FOR ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

H. E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,75,200 from the War Purposes Fund for various welfare projects for the benefit of the Royal Indian Navy.

A grant of Rs. 2,42,500 was also made last year for this purpose.

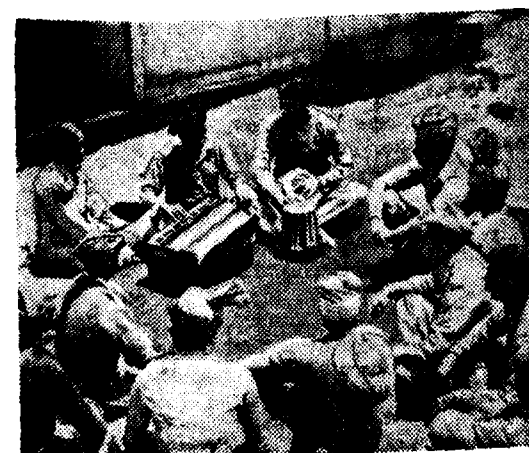
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ENTERTAINMENT FOR INDIAN TROOPS

A NEW scheme to provide entertainment to Indian troops at a cost of Rs. 24 lakhs a year has been launched under the auspices of an Indian organisation at General Headquarters called the Fauji Dilkhush Sabha. Under this scheme it is expected to raise 20 concert parties in the immediate future to tour India and overseas.

Seventeen Indian concert parties staging regular programmes of music, dancing and drama in the various armies and Commands in India and overseas have been organised in the last two years at an expenditure of Rs. 5,40,000 excluding travelling expenses. Four parties have toured Eastern Army area, five in Southern Army, two in North-Western Army, one in Central Command, two in Ceylon, eight in Iran and Iraq and three in the Middle East.

Concert parties are also organised by several of the Armies and Commands and Indian troops themselves. Eastern Army have been organising parties through the Bengal Entertainment of Services Association since the middle of 1942. Seven Indian concert parties are constantly on tour among the men of this Army area.



A group of soldiers listening to Indian music at a Convalescent depot in Assam.

The Central Government has approved the election of Dr. Sir Zia-ud-Din Ahmad, C.I.E., M.A. (Cantab), Ph.D. (Gottingen), D.Sc., M.L.A., to be Vice-Chancellor of the Aligarh Muslim University, said a Press communique issued on May 8, 1944.

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Shattered entrance to a tunnel on the Maungdaw-Buthidaung road, to which the Japs clung tenaciously.

"RAJPUT HILL"

Following combined attacks by Rajput and Gurkha troops, Hill 551 is tonight completely our hands. Occupied exactly a year ago by Japanese and continuously held by them since, presenting a formidable obstacle of bunkers and defensive positions of great depth, it has now fallen to combined attacks by Rajputs and Gurkhas, wrote an Indian Army Observer from the Arakan Front on May 4.

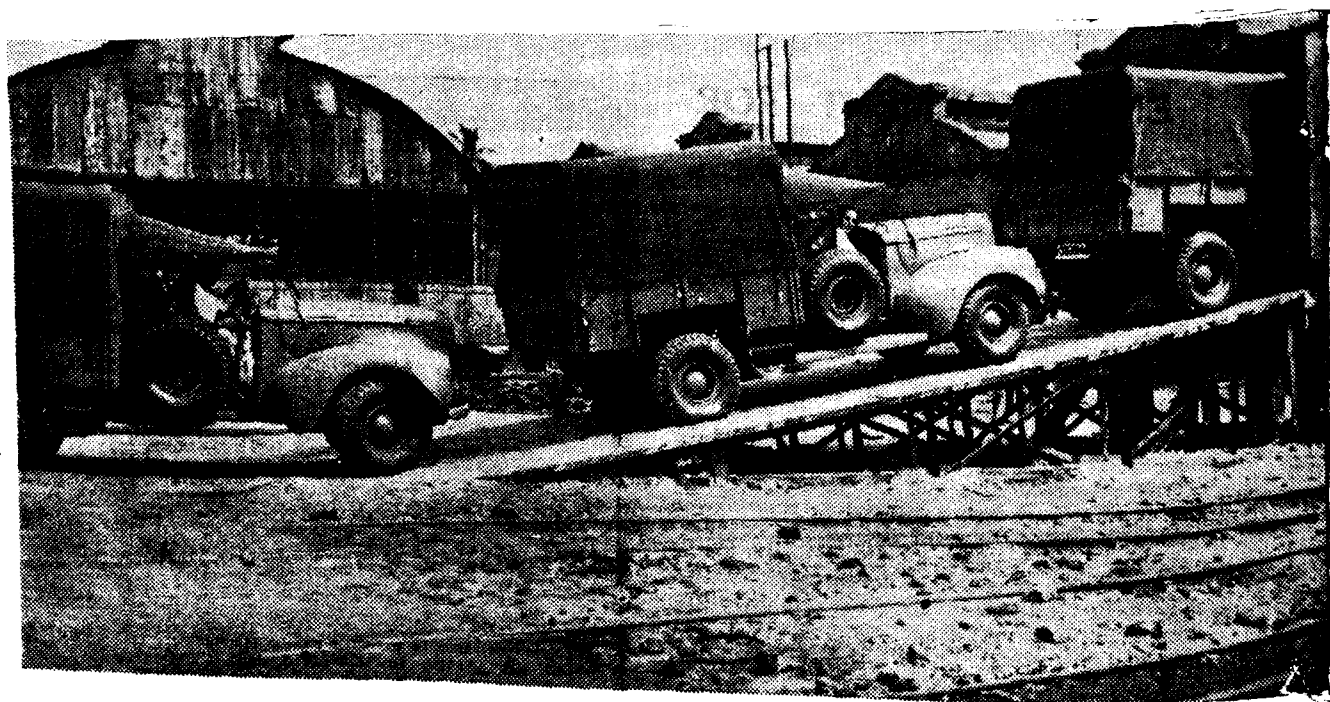
From this small, precipitous hill the enemy have denied us the use of an important stretch of the Maungdaw-Buthidaung road. Possession by us now means that communication is simplified between our troops on the eastern and those on the western ridges of the Mayu range.

I watched the attack go in in the early hours of yesterday morning along a ridge swept clear of cover by the shell-fire and bombing of previous attacks. Preceded by intense shelling by British and Indian gunners, the attacking force approached their objectives silently in the darkness in seven separate columns. In the face of stiff resistance from Jap bunker positions, the Gurkhas occupied three knolls and systematically mopped them up with grenades and kukris.

The Rajputs went in shouting their war cries, climbed the eastern slopes, carried the position after a bitter struggle and proceeded to consolidate their holding. Two determined Jap counter-attacks were repulsed and although isolated pockets of resistance remained in the

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Lorries built for the Army in an Indian Railway workshop being loaded for despatch to the Front.

MOUNTING DEMAND ON RAILWAYS

THE steadily mounting demand on India's railway transport to-day is reflected in the increased traffic over the Great Indian Peninsular Railway, in 1942-43, as compared with 1939-40. The tonnage of goods traffic moved was 35 per cent. more and there was an increase of over 36 per cent. in the number of passengers carried.

With the further intensification of war operations in the East, heavier responsibilities will naturally devolve on the railways for movement of increasing volumes of essential freight traffic. The magnitude of this task can be realised from a recent statement of a high military authority who said that a single division engaged in active fighting consumes 400 tons of stores per day. According to another authority, a modern division going overseas takes with it a weight of about 12,500 tons including cases of equipment and ordnance stores.

Again, as compared to two years ago, Indian output has grown enormously, necessitating the provision of transport on an increasing scale for raw materials to the manufacturing centres on the one hand and for the distribution of the finished products on the other. There is the

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further problem of providing adequate transport facilities for essential foodstuffs and other daily requirements of the people.

Viewed against this background, the importance of the value of wagon-space and wagon-time grows each day. It is necessary, therefore, to call for more active co-operation from the mercantile community in facilitating a quicker turn-round of wagons than before, which will help the railways to obtain the utmost out of the available resources.

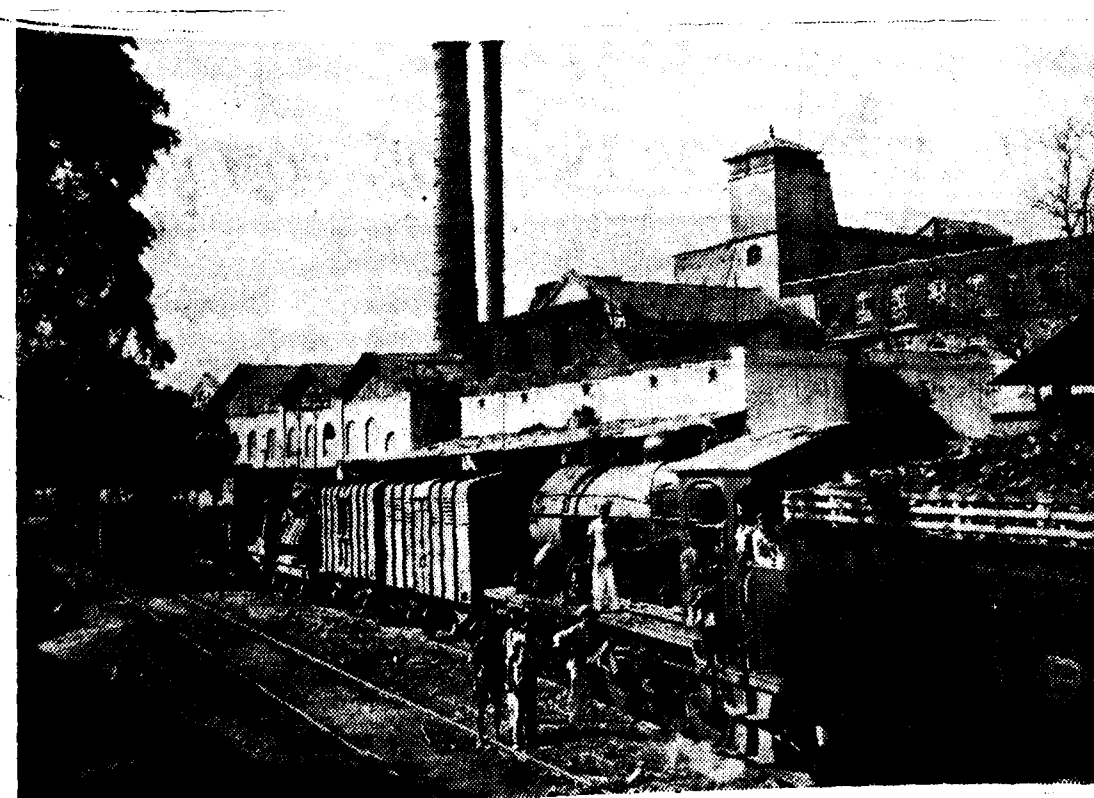
Increased Tempo of War

The year 1943 has added another chapter to the war-time record of Indian railways. Despite the increased strain, the volume of traffic has been progressively great. On the G. I. P., for instance, in spite of the fact that passenger train services have been severely curtailed, the demand for passenger accommodation has steadily increased. The shortage of engine power and coaching stock renders it impossible for the railways to augment the present facilities for passenger travel. It is, therefore, imperative that the public cut down their rail travel to the absolute minimum.

As the tempo of war quickens, certain notable reactions on transport and industry seem inevitable. It may not be long before the railways, as the vital arteries of the nation's transport system, are called upon to make their supreme effort. It becomes more and more insistent that

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 604)

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Loading wagons outside a cotton mill. The Railways have appealed to the mercantile community to help in speeding-up turn-round of wagons.

FUEL ECONOMY ON RAILWAYS

AS a result of the steps taken by the Fuel Economy Committees on the Railways, economy in the consumption of coal by railways has been achieved. This is of enhanced importance in view of the increased demand for coal by the industries turning out essential war materials.

While since the outbreak of war there has been a 29 per cent. increase in passenger miles and a 27 per cent. increase in net ton miles, the total coal consumed by the railways during 1942-43 represented only an increase of under 13 per cent. over the pre-war figure.

The importance of fuel economy has been impressed upon all grades of staff by carefully thought-out propaganda, and by maintaining close personal contact between them and those in a position to educate them in improved methods. Since 90 per cent. of the coal consumed by railways is burnt in locomotives, records are maintained of the coal consumed by the different types of locomotives and, where consumption in excess of an agreed standard is observed, special investigations are undertaken. Instruction classes

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in economy methods are held for the running staff. Close attention is paid to the repair of locomotives, since deterioration in the standard of maintenance is immediately reflected in increased coal consumption.

Coal of the lowest suitable grade, consistent with efficiency, is supplied for locomotive purposes; the better quality coal being sent to those railways farthest from the sources of supply, as otherwise transportation would be wasted.

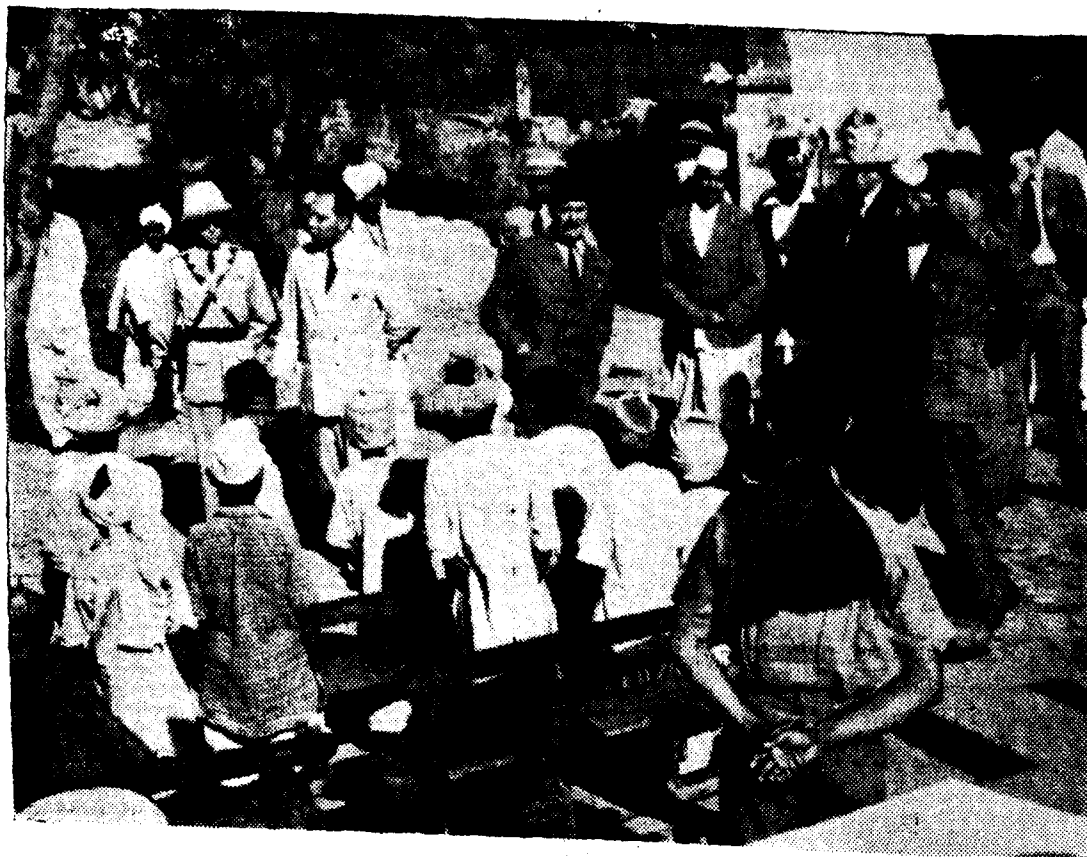
Workshops and Power Houses are under constant inspection, to see that such points as leaky water taps, leaking compressed air lines, badly lagged steam mains, etc., all of which are directly or indirectly fruitful sources of fuel loss, are given systematic attention.

FOODGRAINS FOR DECCAN STATES

To relieve the acute food position in the Deccan States where there has been a steep rise in the prices of rice and wheat, the Central Food Department made a special allocation early in May of 16,000 tons of foodgrains. The Bombay Government was asked to advance 4,000 tons of grains to the Deccan States, pending the arrival of the special allotment, for the transport of which high priority was arranged.

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"EDUCATION FOR INDIA OF TOMORROW"



H. E. the Viceroy at an open air village school in Sind.

MILLIONS are being enfranchised and unless those millions are educated, popular government will be a curse and not a blessing to the country," said MR. M. RUTHNASWAMY in a discussion on "Education for the India of Tomorrow," broadcast on April 24, in the A.I.R. series, "India Tomorrow."

Various phases of education—elementary, secondary and higher—which should be available for all the people of India to equip them for the new era of responsibility were discussed by the speakers—Sir C. V. Raman, Mr. Ruthnaswamy and Dewan Bahadur Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar—with Prof. J. H. Cousins presiding.

It was recognised that school education should be intimately connected with the daily life and the environment of the pupils; that from the early stages of education physical fitness of the boys and girls should be given primary consideration; that the sense of obligation or

duty to one another and to life at large must be encouraged in the young; and that stress should be laid on the development of productive skill and artistic taste.

Sixth broadcast in the A.I.R. Series—"India To-morrow"

As regards the proper basis for the expansion of secondary education, SIR C. V. RAMAN was for establishing technical high schools intended for vocational education. MR. RUTHNASWAMY held that secondary education should also take account of the social and cultural needs of the pupils and of the country, and should undertake the development of character.

The speakers then proceeded to discuss higher education. SIR C. V. RAMAN said that he would like to see students provided for in independent institutions following other than the

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traditional University methods and less weighted down by the examination system. "Our Universities, he suggested, "might devote much more attention than they do at present to advanced teaching and research."

DR. MUDALIAR believed that technological studies of an advanced type could be stimulated and would benefit by closer association with the study of pure sciences in the Universities just as the pure sciences would benefit by such contact.

MR. RUTHNASWAMY thought that the universities ought also to provide higher education of a less advanced character to all those who were fit for it or were able to afford it. It was admitted that, while certain specialised courses of study would be of greater value to them, women students should not be denied access to any of the courses of study open to men. The needs of Public Services in relation to higher education were also discussed.

In concluding the discussion Prof. Cousins made it clear that it was not intended that the artistic aspect was to be left out of the higher grades of education.

MILITARY SECRETARY TO VICEROY

A Press communique issued by the office of the Military Secretary to the Viceroy on May 10, stated:

Colonel D. H. Currie, C.B.E., M.C., D.C.M., I.A., has been appointed Military Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy with effect from May 3, 1944, in succession to Lieut.-Colonel A. F. W. Humphrys, I.A.C., who has been granted permission by His Excellency to return to his regiment on active service on completion of six months service as Military Secretary which was the period for which he was appointed.

Colonel Currie was formerly Director of Recruiting at G.H.Q. (India), which appointment he vacated on March 1, last.

MR. GEORGE CRAWLEY

The Information Department of the India and Burma Offices, which is under the direction of Mr. A. H. Joyce, C.I.E., O.B.E., has recently been strengthened by the appointment of Mr. George Crawley to the senior post of Information Officer. He is a journalist of considerable experience overseas, including 13 years in Calcutta as News Editor of *The Statesman*. Returning to Fleet Street after the outbreak of war, Mr. Crawley joined the Foreign Desk at the *Daily Telegraph* whence he crossed the street to Reuters' Overseas Desk as a prelude to special correspondent work in Portugal, India, Turkey and the Middle East.

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Can Unemployment be Uprooted?

SEVERAL million men will come back from the war looking for jobs, and there will be other millions no longer required because war production will be at an end.

This state of affairs in post-war India was postulated by one of the speakers in the course of a discussion on "Can Unemployment be Uprooted?"—fifth in the A.I.R. series, "India To-morrow"—broadcast on April 17.

Sir Raghunath P. Paranjpye was in the chair and those who took part were: Col. S. S. Sokhey, Dr. John Matthai and Prof. R. Choksi.

Fifth broadcast in A.I.R. Series—"India To-morrow."

"How are we going to deal with our millions in India?" asked PROF. CHOKSI.

"Industrialise," suggested COL. SOKHEY. "When I speak of Industrialisation. I am thinking of production as well as distribution," he explained. "Let production be planned for predetermined ends, and there will be no unemployment."

PROF. CHOKSI was for radical changes in the whole set-up of education. An ignorant people, he explained, have no armour against unemployment; and those who are armed by our system fight with obsolete weapons; and without an occupational bias we invite chaos and unemployment. If we remedied the faults, we would remedy education, and incidentally curtail unemployment.

DR. MATTHAI, who thought that Col. Sokhey's idea of planning implied that men must accept the service motive instead of profit, was of opinion that education might do a lot to inculcate the service motive.

The discussion was wound up by SIR RAGHUNATH who said that both short-range and long-range planning seemed to be absolutely necessary. As a long-term objective he wanted to see the service motive become more powerful than the acquisitive motive. This could only be done by planning education and requiring equal personal sacrifice from all. He concluded by saying that the Russian example was sure to have an immense effect upon the moral, social and economic outlook of the whole world.

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A breach in the double track to Calcutta.



Piles being driven into the bed of the river for constructing a bridge.

INDIAN RAILWAYS' FEAT

The photographs on this page and the page opposite tell the story of one of the greatest feats in the history of Indian Railway engineering. In July last the Damodar River, swollen by heavy monsoon floods, suddenly reverted to a course it had deserted hundreds of years ago, and struck at one of India's most vital railway systems—the double track linking Calcutta with North India.

Engineers and workmen of the East Indian Railway, assisted by other railways, the Government and the Army, set to work in the most difficult conditions. Frequently, after good progress had been made, the angry river crashed down on the work, necessitating a complete restart.

Within three months the situation had been restored to normal, and what might have been a blow to India's and the United Nations' war effort, averted.

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The pile bridge completed. (See story on opposite page.)

THEFTS OF ELECTRIC BULBS IN TRAINS

An important railway system of India complains that train lighting for the comfort of passengers on local and through services is being seriously handicapped due to thefts of electric bulbs in running trains.

The type of electric bulbs used in trains is of little use to anybody as the bulbs are of such a low voltage that they are unsuited for most domestic purposes of lighting. Such thefts only frustrate the efforts of the administration to provide adequate lighting in trains under present conditions, when fresh supplies of bulbs in sufficient numbers are not available for quick replacements.

The inevitable consequence is that little improvement is possible in the existing lighting arrangements until such thefts completely cease. It is hoped that the travelling public will actively co-operate with the railway authorities in their efforts effectively to stop these thefts and provide better lighting for passengers.

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OVERCROWDING OF TRAINS

The curtailment of passenger train services, in order to conserve coal and engine power, has inevitably led to a certain amount of overcrowding on Indian railways. It may, therefore, be of interest to the travelling public to know that the position of intending travellers in other countries is far more acute than in India.

In South Africa, for example, on some of the main line routes, it is not possible to obtain a berth on a train unless accommodation is reserved three to five weeks ahead. In England the reservation of seats on passenger trains is restricted to a few preferred categories of travellers and the Executive Committee of the British railways recently issued an order by which no member of the Railway staff in uniform can reserve a seat for an intending traveller by depositing his luggage on it unless the traveller himself is present on the spot.



I.E.M.E. "Wrecker" (Mobile recovery vehicle) pulling a lorry from a ditch.

I.E.M.E.: GEN. AUCHINLECK'S TRIBUTE

A TRIBUTE to the Indian Army's youngest Corps, the Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, was paid by General Sir Claude Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief, India, on their first anniversary on April 30. In a message to all ranks of the Corps, Gen. Auchinleck said:

"Yours is a vital task—the maintenance of service equipment at such a pitch that, no matter what operations develop, our soldiers go into the fray. You have responded splendidly to every call made upon you during the past year. I am confident that the high standard reached will be maintained and improved upon in the coming months. On the first anniversary of the Corps I send you my best wishes for your future welfare and success in your great task."

A Job Well Done

"It has been a year of great progress on which all of you can look back with pride for you have accomplished much," said Lt.-Gen. Sir Clarence Bird, Master-General of the Ordnance in India (who has now proceeded on leave, preparatory to retirement, as reported elsewhere in this issue) in a message to all I.E.M.E. personnel.

"One of the outstanding events has been the passing out of the first class of young Indian

Electrical and Mechanical Engineers—a notable milestone on India's road towards technical development.

"Thousands of you craftsmen who, a year ago, were in the villages or the technical training centres, are now skilled, and are proving by your ability that Indian technicians can hold their own with any competitors. On the battlefields of Italy, the Arakan, the Chin Hills and in the heart of Burma, the I.E.M.E. has won honour by doing its job well. You celebrate this your first anniversary on a day when the pace of war is quickening. Much more will be asked of every one of you in the days ahead and I have complete confidence that you will go on doing your best."

Team Spirit

The Corps' team spirit is praised by Major-General Duguid, Director of Mechanical Engineering and head of the Corps. "That we are a team, working for efficiency of our unit, our Corps and our Army and not for individual glory is very important," says Gen. Duguid, "and as head of the Corps, I rejoice that so early in our history we have learned and practised this spirit of 'all for one and one for all.' In war it saves lives and wins victories. It is this spirit which has gained high renown for our personnel in Italy, Burma and elsewhere as technicians and

soldiers. We are on the threshold of a decisive year. Great events will happen. The utmost will be asked of all of us. I have no fear that you will respond in the most creditable manner."

"BATTLE CASUALTIES" PUT BACK ON ROAD

Nearly 70 per cent. of all vehicle battle casualties inflicted by the Japanese during their "siege" of the 7th Indian Division, and evacuated to mobile workshops for repair are now back "in the front line" writes an Indian Army Observer from the Arakan front.

About another 13 per cent have been sent further to the rear for "third line" repairs. The remainder have been written off. But the written-off vehicle is only a skeleton. All serviceable parts are stripped from it. With these parts the workshops have replenished their own stores and in addition 20 lorry-loads of serviceable components have been sent to the rear.

Moving the vehicles needing major repair back to third line workshops was in itself a tricky task. With the casualty in tow the giant recovery vehicles had to negotiate the sharp gradients and spiral curves of the Ngaykyedauk Pass. These figures give some idea of the work of the I.E.M.E. mobile workshops which, moving everywhere with the division in the field, deal with an unending flow of vehicle casualties. "We won't let it beat us" is the motto of the workshop personnel.

In one case three damaged "Matador" vehicles were put back on the road in running order by using the parts of a fourth which had suffered more serious structural damage. Often complete engines are lifted out of damaged vehicles to replace unserviceable power units. British officers, warrant officers, and N.C.O.s of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers supervise the workshops' activity. Indian personnel of the I.E.M.E. carry out a multitude of tasks. They are fitters, electricians, carpenters, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, upholsterers and instrument mechanics. The giant 9-ton mobile machine shops, generating their own electric power for the plant, are often at work day and night. Recovery personnel who bring back the vehicle casualties to workshops often work under shell-fire in the forward areas.

The outstanding achievement of the I.E.M.E. in recovery was the hauling of a "Matador" and a medium gun out of an 80-foot deep "khud" (ravine) on the Ngaykyedauk Pass. Two recovery vehicles had to be used and a road cut down the side of the "khud" to enable the "Matador" to be dragged out. It took 36 hours' constant work to recover the "Matador." The gun was hauled out in 12 hours and was in action against the Japanese the following day.



Lt.-Gen. K. M. Loch, who has succeeded Gen. Bird.

LT.-GEN. SIR C. BIRD RETIRES

After 40 years' service in the Army, Lt.-Gen. Sir Clarence Bird, K.C.I.E., C.B., D.S.O., Master-General of the Ordnance in India, has proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement.

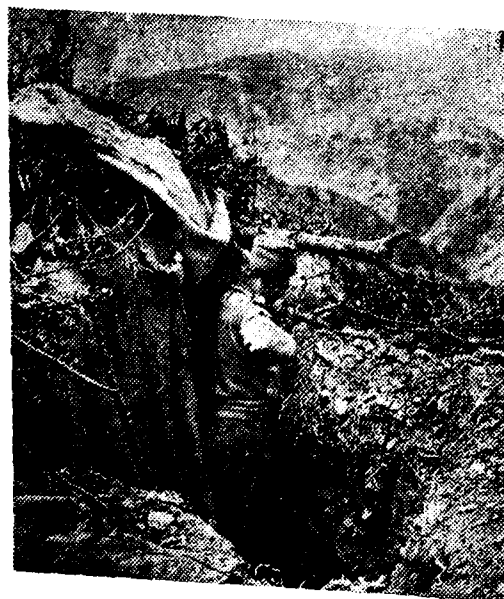
General Bird joined the Royal Engineers in 1904 and came to India three years later. Since then, with interruptions for periods when serving in France in the last war and holding appointments in England, he has spent 22 years in India. He served with both the British and Indian Expeditionary Forces during the first World War.

General Bird is succeeded as M.G.O. by Lt.-Gen. K. M. Loch, C.B., M.C., who has been Deputy Master-General of the Ordnance for the last two years. Commissioned in the Royal Artillery in 1910, General Loch was with the British Expeditionary Force in France and was posted to the first anti-aircraft battery formed in that country during the war. He was an instructor at the Staff College, Quetta, for about five years from 1930. For a year in 1937 he was G.S.O. 1 with Fighter Command, R.A.F., and then became Director of Anti-Aircraft and Coast Defences at the War Office. His last appointment before coming to G.H.Q., India, was as Overseas Inspector of Anti-Aircraft and Coast Defences.

RIDGE RENAMED IN HONOUR OF GURKHAS

SITA RIDGE, one of our defensive positions on the Tamu road, amongst the hills south of Palel, where the 1st Gurkhas slew nearly 200 Japanese in an epic battle, has been renamed in honour of the battalion by the Division Commander, writes an Indian Army Observer.

The ridge is now called Malawn, after Fort Malawn near Sabathu, south of Simla, where in 1815, at the close of the Second Gurkha War, a garrison of Gurkhas put up heroic resistance against the British. The garrison held on until



Gurkha soldier keeps watch on Jap positions on opposite hill.

it could fight no more and, so impressed by the fighting qualities of the Gurkhas was the British commander, that he allowed the garrison to march out with full honours of war. The survivors of this garrison were formed into the 1st Gurkha Regiment, named the Malawn Regiment after the scene of the battle.

After being shelled by enemy artillery for two hours, a force of Gurkhas on the Sita Ridge threw back continuous enemy attacks for another hour and three-quarters.

The bombardment started at 3-30 a.m. The first infantry assault supported by fire from eight medium machine-guns came in just before dawn. In this action and the patrol clashes

which followed when reinforcements after a 14 mile march arrived to assist the gallant garrison, 200 Japanese were killed. These were counted dead. Many more casualties were got away by the enemy after the action under covering fire from snipers and during the following night. Amongst the dead were seven officers.

Our position was wired and mined. Against these defences, wave after wave of Japanese hurled themselves in a vain endeavour to break through. As they reached the wire they were mown down by rifle and machine-gun fire and shattered by grenades.

Outstanding deed was that of Havildar Minbahadur Rana who, with orderly Nurbahadur Gurung, dashed out of the positions with sandbags full of grenades to deal with a party of the enemy who came up to the wire and tried to blow it with "Bangalore torpedoes". When the grenades ran out they threw rocks at the enemy. The Havildar was sniped and killed. The orderly shot the sniper and brought back the Havildar's body.

Three Madras signallers, Naik Sreedhara Menon of Cochin, Signalmen Thomas of Travancore and Signalmen Moideen of Malabar, continued calmly to work their wireless link when, during the artillery bombardment, a shell landed in their trench and failed to explode. They did not even pause to remove the dud.

A company officer, Lieut. C. U. Blascheck, eliminated a sniper behind a tree by firing an anti-tank weapon at the tree. Grenades in the sniper's ammunition pouches exploded and the sniper and tree disintegrated.

Lieut. S. D. Dutta of Khairala, Tippera, Bengal, a young medical officer attached for training to the battalion, worked amongst the wounded during the whole action and went without sleep for two nights.

"RAJPUT HILL"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 581)

neighbouring features the majority of their bunker positions were cleaned up in fierce hand-to-hand fighting. By dusk to-day all enemy opposition had been smashed.

Magnificent work has been done by the sappers in making a track through almost impassable country to enable ammunition, food and water to be supplied to the fighting troops. Hill 551 has now been renamed "Rajput Hill" while the ridge along which the Gurkhas made their attack is to be called "Gurkha Ridge".

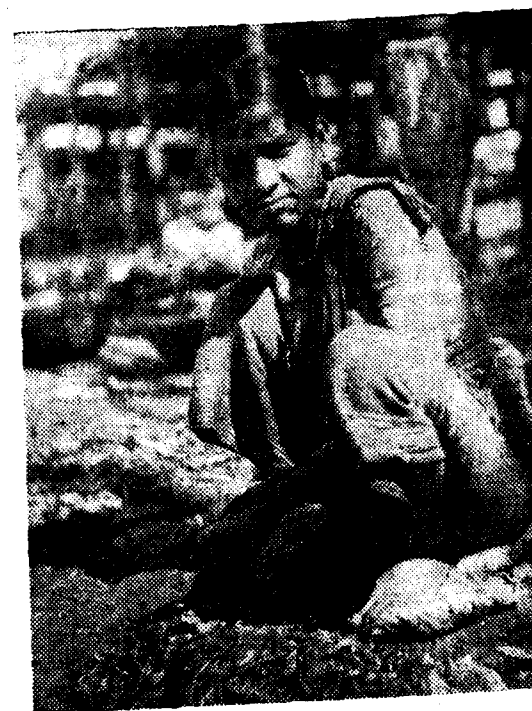
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PLAN TO DEVELOP INDIA'S FISHERIES

A FIVE-YEAR plan for the proper development and exploitation of fisheries of India has been prepared by DR. BAINI RASHAD, Director, Zoological Survey of India, for submission to the Reconstruction (Policy) Committee on Agriculture, Forests and Fisheries.

The plan provides for a comprehensive survey of the development of fisheries and the steps necessary to hasten their development along proper lines. This includes the promotion of fishery research and of fundamental biological research; development of fisheries in fresh waters, estuaries and the seas; continuation of marine survey work; harthing of fishing banks and fishing areas; devising ways and means for the preservation, manufacture, storage, etc., of fish and fishery products; training of teachers and demonstrators; and the training of the fishing communities as sailors, fishermen and craftsmen.

The scheme suggests the appointment of an ad hoc Expert Committee to draw up a detailed plan of enquiry the results of which would form the basis of all future scientific and experimental work. A Fishery Research Institute would then be set up to act as the administrative and research headquarters for fishery research in India.



A fisher girl.

In the first year, according to the plan, a central organisation will be established to guide research and to prepare plans for the development of fisheries. The second year will be devoted to the preparation of detailed reports on the possibility and the best method of exploiting Indian sea, river and lake fisheries. The establishment of demonstration farms, training of teachers and demonstrators and research on marketing, cold storage, preservation, and craft best suited to operate in the various fisheries will be undertaken in the third year. In the fourth year small model fish factories will be established. In the fifth year of development, a review of the first four years of work will be undertaken besides the co-ordination of inter-provincial activities, enactment of legislation, if necessary, to protect fisheries from excessive or improper exploitation, provision of patrol boats and the construction of fish-passes in rivers, streams and canals.

The Central Government have promulgated an Ordinance called Service in Ships (Requisition) Ordinance under which a duly authorised officer will have powers to direct British seamen domiciled in the United Kingdom, who are for the time being in British India, to serve in a British ship registered in the United Kingdom. Contravention of the direction will be an offence punishable with imprisonment which may extend to two years or with fine or with both.



Fishing boats at anchor off Bombay.

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POST-WAR FOREST PLAN FOR INDIA

A POST-WAR plan for forestry, to increase the area under forest to about 20 to 25 per cent. of land in each Province and State, is suggested in a note prepared by SIR HERBERT HOWARD, Inspector-General of Forests, for the consideration of the Reconstruction Committee on Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

This percentage of forest land is commended as appropriate in the interests of proper land management, to control floods and erosion and to secure a very desirable measure of afforestation of the dry belt in the west. Secondly, this would provide the necessary timber and fuel for the ordinary agricultural village consumer, both to supply his direct wants in the matter of small timber and at the same time to release cowdung for manure.

It is estimated that the cowdung thus released would adequately manure approximately 15 per cent. of the cultivation.

Sir Herbert emphasises the importance of the provision of timber and fuel for the village consumer. At present, he says, there are numerous areas devoid of forest where the wants of the ordinary agricultural villager remain entirely, or almost entirely, unfulfilled.

The plan visualises the creation of another 100,000 square miles of forests in British India. At present, only 106,000 square miles of land is dedicated to forests which represents something like 13 per cent. of the total areas of British India.

Even in Provinces where the problem of supplying the agricultural village consumer with his timber and fuel is most acute, it is stated that there are great possibilities of increasing the area under forests to supply these particular wants, and for that area to be properly distributed throughout the province so that every agricultural village has its neighbouring minor forest. These minor forests would be under quite short rotations of 15 to 20 years and the first return of fuel should come from thinnings within five years of formation. At present in the Provinces of Northern India the forests generally occupy only a narrow strip along the Himalayas.

One of the chief reasons for the destruction of forests over large portions of India and the prevention of reafforestation and regeneration, Sir Herbert Howard says, is the excessive grazing which takes place over such large areas. Grazing, he says, must be regulated while the tree crops



Sir Herbert Howard.

are being established. If grazing is regulated, the areas will give a far greater weight of grass in a few years than they ever produced while being continually grazed.

Sir Herbert endorses the existing forest policy that areas necessary for the preservation of the general climatic and physical conditions of the country must be kept as forest and that the minimum amount of forest necessary for the general well-being of the country must be preserved or created. He suggests that the working plan position should be examined immediately after the war and steps taken to rectify over-felling which, though not excessive as a total, has been sufficiently concentrated to upset existing plans of management. In some Provinces fresh working plans can be made immediately, whereas in others it may be necessary to start with rough working schemes, to be converted into proper working plans at leisure.

To a large extent, the note adds, the proposals in the note itself will have automatically done what is necessary for erosion, floods and desiccation. Proper classification of the land is recommended and it is stated that a very large proportion of the problem in India is afforestation where possible and proper control of grazing where afforestation is impossible. Proper control of grazing will make afforestation unnecessary over large areas where control alone will allow nature to re-establish forest.

It is recommended that the problem of floods, erosion and desiccation should be dealt with together under the Forest Department, in close liaison with agricultural and irrigation officers. A small Reconstruction Forest Policy Committee should be set up in each Province to draw up their own programme. Heads of these Committees should meet together so that common problems can be discussed and brought into a similar plan for each province.

The note also deals with the organisation of Forest Research and the future of Forest Education.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS MOTOR VEHICLES

AN indication of the general policy which Government were trying to evolve for the disposal of surplus stocks held for war purposes was given by the HON'BLE SIR RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR, Member for Supply, Government of India, in his opening address to a conference at the Bombay Secretariat on May 8, to consider the question of disposal of surplus motor vehicles.

The conference was called by the Government of India to consult and take into confidence the interests concerned; representatives of manufacturers and trade interests from all over India attended the conference, besides nominees of the Government of India. Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar presided.

In the disposal of surplus stocks, said the Supply Member, two conditions that must be met were that Government should not lose unduly and that the peace economy of the country should not be seriously disturbed. All Governments had learnt some lessons from the way in which surplus stocks had been disposed of in the last war. From the point of view of industry and of commerce and from the point of view of labour, the disposal of surplus stocks available at any time, he said, had been a matter of some concern to them. At the end of the war, generally speaking, a large number of things become redundant so far as the needs of Government were concerned and the disposal of these surplus stocks would mean problems of a very serious character affecting intimately both labour conditions and production and commercial conditions. Therefore, it had been a matter of some anxiety to Government to have always a proper disposal policy.

Value of Products

Continuing Sir Ramaswami said: "There are two things which stand out—two questions which are clearly marked out—in the consideration of this problem. The first is naturally that Government wants to get the best value for the surplus that it disposes of. It does not want to throw away its property cheaply on the market. It is not in the interest of the Government—and thereby I mean the taxpayer generally—to dispose of these things for a song, and therefore, Government, through such organisations as it will have for the disposal of these things, is anxious to get a fair value for the products that it throws on the market. On the other hand, there is another consideration which affects not merely the trader and the business men but the Government indirectly. Large

quantities of stocks of various kinds thrown suddenly on the market, to get rid of them as early as possible, will create chaotic conditions in the economy of the country. We are keenly alive to this consideration also.

"At a time when it is necessary for various industries to step down from war production and to adjust themselves to peace production, and to produce things which are necessary for the peace economy of the country, if a large number of goods or other things are thrown on the market by the Government, the results will be disastrous to the economy of the country. It will create very difficult conditions for labour which all Governments are agreed should be kept at the maximum employment immediately after the war, and for as long a period as possible thereafter. It will upset the standards of living. Problems of a very acute character will face not merely the industrialists and the industrial worker, but, if only a long view is taken, the Government also. In this matter the interests of the Government and the producer—whether the agricultural producer or the industrial producer—and the worker—whether he is an agricultural labourer or an industrial labourer—the interests of all these three parties are the same.

"Therefore, we have been trying to evolve a policy which will meet the two conditions that have been laid down—that Government should not lose unduly and that the peace economy of the country should not be seriously disturbed. I am not still in a position to state that Government has finally come to a decision on these questions. There is a Post-War Reconstruction Policy Committee on surplus stocks and we have to place our tentative conclusions before that policy committee before arriving at a final conclusion on these matters. But I have indicated to you the general lines on which our mind is working at the present time."

Immediate Problem

The Supply Member then dealt with the immediate problem of disposal of a large number of vehicles which were surplus to military requirements and were now available for disposal to the public. These motor vehicles, he said, had become unserviceable so far as our war needs were concerned. "As the tempo of the war increases in the East," he continued, "motor vehicles will come in larger numbers month after month. It has, therefore, become necessary, even at this stage, to take up this question urgently and to try to evolve a method for

disposal which will be in line with the general proposal that I have indicated. I do not want to embark on a policy with reference to the immediate problem which will clash with the more deliberate policies which we hope we will adopt shortly in regard to the disposal of all kinds of surplus stock.

"We believe that within a few months about 20,000 vehicles will be available for disposal and when I say vehicles I do not mean the nice buses and lorries that are running about the streets of Bombay in such large numbers, but vehicles in all sorts of condition—vehicles which cannot be distinguished as such, war vehicles knocked off, some of them in a fair condition and many of them unrecognisable. When some of you visit our depots you will be in a better position to classify these vehicles and give them proper names. But I am told they are in all sorts of condition and in all sorts of state. The problem is how to dispose of the whole stock.

"This is only a first instalment and in course of time there will be many tens of thousands of such war-battered, knocked down vehicles for disposal one way or the other. I and the experts in my department have considered it proper and advisable to put the problem before the interests concerned directly in the matter.

"One of the questions that will arise immediately is, how far vehicles which are in a condition to go on the road can be supplied with those scarcities which are affecting all vehicular traffic in this country to-day, scarcities about which we in the Supply Department are only too acutely conscious—petroleum to a certain extent, though perhaps not to that acute extent as other things, and other necessities. These are all in great demand now and are not readily available and in the disposal of these vehicles, to a certain extent, we will have to take into consideration the availability of these necessities.

Disposals Organisation

"I do not suggest for a moment that it will be quite easy to recondition and run the vehicles in the streets. To a certain extent, we have also to be guided, in the disposal of these things, by the availability of these various scarce commodities. Again, as I said, the condition of the cars is such that while some of them can be reconditioned, many of them can be used only in other different ways. How they can be used and what suggestions can be made for their disposal are some of the questions on which I should like to have your opinion. Our chief aim will be as far as possible to take the interests concerned into confidence, to avail ourselves of any advice that they may have to give and

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if possible to try to see whether our disposals organisation cannot be built up so as to function through these interests, whether it will not be possible to have a committee of your own organisation to advise us constantly on the method according to which disposals can take place."

CENTRAL AND REGIONAL COMMITTEES

A scheme for the disposal of a large number of used vehicles which have been in military service and are now available for disposal to the public was accepted by the conference.

It is expected that nearly 20,000 vehicles will be made available for disposal during the next few months and a much larger number will be made available in 1945. Only a small number of these will be fit for reconditioning and putting on the road. Others will be fabricated into trailers or bullock carts, or will be scrapped. Representatives of the motor industry agreed to the following scheme:

The country should be divided into five zones and each zone should have a Regional Committee consisting of three members elected by the industry and a representative of the Supply Department. This Committee will act as technical advisers to advise the Government in respect of vehicles which are likely to be reconditioned and as to those which should be broken down and the components fabricated into trailers and bullock carts or sold as scrap. The five Regional Committees will be at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta, Cawnpore and Lahore.

A Central Committee should be set up (in Delhi) consisting of an elected representative from each of the five Regional Committees, three representatives of the importers and three representatives of the Government. The Central Committee will deal with all policy matters concerning motor-cars, lorries and other vehicles reported by the Services as being no longer fit for use and surplus to requirements. It will issue directions for the disposal of those vehicles to the Regional Committees.

It is expected that the first meeting of the Central Committee will take place early in June.

The general policy for the disposal of surplus stocks is: (a) to disturb as little as possible the economy of the country, (b) to utilize the usual channels of commerce and industry, (c) to obtain a reasonable price for the material, and (d) to endeavour to ensure the most beneficial use of the material made available.

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The keynote of the disposal policy is not to injure industrial and commercial interests but to assist them and, wherever appropriate, utilise trade channels for the disposal of surplus stocks. In the disposal of motor vehicles the Government has in view the requirements of road transport. This would be improved considerably if large numbers of effective vehicles are made available. Another aspect in view is the popularisation of pneumatic-tired bullock carts. The Supply Department is giving a lead by making 100 four-wheel pneumatic-tired bullock carts from the surplus stocks.

MOTOR VEHICLES SPARE PARTS: NEW CONTROL ORDER

A Press Note issued by the War Transport Department, Government of India, on April 28, stated:

To eliminate the dual control, which gave rise to certain difficulties, exercised on the distribution and sale of motor vehicles spare parts by the Motor Vehicles Spare Parts Control Order, 1943, on the one hand, and the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance on the other, the Government of India have promulgated a New Motor Vehicle Spare Parts Control Order, 1944, which is published in the Gazette of India, dated April 29, 1944.

The old Control Order controlled the prices of only those parts the distribution and sale of which to essential operators were controlled. The promulgation of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance brought the prices of motor vehicles spare parts under dual control, that is a limited control under the Spare Parts Control Order, as mentioned above, and under the control of the Ordinance in respect of other parts. The new Order ends this dual control.

It also provides for modifications and amplifications in the original Order found necessary as the result of experience gained in the working of the Order.

The new Order 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 specified parts that are only distributed through registered dealers and approved sub-dealers. It simplifies the definition of what is a controlled spare part. Parts for pre-1937 vehicles are removed from control as to distribution and final buyer.

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SERVICE ARCHITECTS ORGANISATION

TO interest British and Indian troops in the discussion of post-war problems, in the planning and reconstruction of towns and cities, is the main idea behind the formation in India and Ceylon of the Service Architects Organisation.

Architects, many of whom are outstanding in their profession, now serving with engineers units and formations in the two countries, have, in a working arrangement with other technicians, decided to pool their expert knowledge of the building industry and regional and town-planning and place it at the disposal of troops of India and Ceylon.

Propaganda among the services is the primary aim of the Organisation which was started a little over a year ago by Captain P. J. Marshall, R.E., who, until he was called up for active service, was planning architect in charge of the New City Replanning Office at Coventry. The Service Architects Organisation to-day is a large organisation with groups in many parts of India and Ceylon.

Groups are arranging open discussions, debates and "Brain Trusts" on post-war planning. Broadcasts are also given and qualified lecturers are sent to various units. It is hoped to increase the scope of this work with a short subject film, the use of a mobile propaganda unit complete with film apparatus, publications and town lay-outs and plans.

Technical education of student-architects in the Services and a scheme for the completion of studies and for the holding of examinations in India are other objects of the Organisation. A full report and syllabus on a "School of Architecture and Regional Planning" is now being considered by Calcutta University while there is a possibility of forming new Indian Schools of Architecture with a view to interesting Indian members of the Forces in the future development of their country.

The Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, has issued a leaflet on "Fireplaces" containing suggestions about the location of the fireplace, its size and opening, its combustion chamber, its throat, the smoke chamber and the flue, and the introduction of a "smoke shelf." Drawings show how improvement can be effected both as regards absence of smoke in the room and better radiation of heat.

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COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

"IT is a matter of great pleasure to His Highness the Maharaja of Kashmir and myself to represent India at this meeting of the British Commonwealth of Nations," said SIR FIROZ KHAN NOON, addressing the opening meeting of the Commonwealth Conference at 10, Downing Street, on Monday, May 1. Sir Firoz continued: "India's position is unique in the sense that she does not belong to the same race as the United Kingdom and the Dominions. She is united to the Empire by bonds even stronger than blood and relationship—by the love of freedom and democratic institutions that Great Britain has developed in India over the last hundred years."

"Few outside India realise how much India has already achieved by being a partner in the Empire. There are no two opinions in India so far as the maintenance of ties with Great Britain and the prosecution of the present war are concerned. There is no one in India, not even Mr. Gandhi himself, who does not want the United Nations to win. And there are no two opinions regarding the maintenance, when the war is won, of India's connection with Great Britain and with the other Dominions. For all time she will stand as an equal and free member of this community of nations; she is gaining in political and economic stature all the time."

"The Princes of India have ties with the Empire closer even than those of British India. I am very happy to see representatives of other Dominions here to-day and to think we will all be united, not only through the war but through many generations to come, and that India will be able to play her part in solving problems that confront us all. If there are any differences of opinion between Great Britain and India or between India and the Dominions, they are only such differences as occur from time to time between kith and kin. I am confident these will be solved to the satisfaction of all parties."

"India looks forward to an equal and growing partnership in which she hopes to play her full part."

H.H. THE MAHARAJA OF KASHMIR said: "I desire to associate myself wholeheartedly with what has been said by Sir Firoz Khan Noon. This is a great day and I am indeed privileged to be present on it. The Indian States have been, are, and will be, with the Empire heart and soul throughout."

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INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AVIATION

RECENT discussions between representatives of the Government of the United States and His Majesty's Government were characterised as satisfactory by the Lord Privy Seal in the course of a debate on Civil Aviation in the House of Lords. He hoped for an International Conference this year at which India and the Dominions would be represented.

The Lord Privy Seal mentioned that the American delegation at first proposed the constitution of an International Authority on a non-executive basis with no powers to enforce its regulations, at least during the interim period. His Majesty's Government's representatives put forward a Draft Convention, prepared by Canada, containing detailed plans for International Authority, allocation of frequencies of air services and national quotas. This was considered too rigid by the American representatives who agreed that further progress could be made on the basis of proposals agreed at the Commonwealth conversations last year.

His Majesty's Government's broad purpose, the Lord Privy Seal pointed out, would be to secure an International Convention to be implemented by an international organisation which would evolve standards, eliminate uneconomic competition, work out for each nation an equitable participation in world air transport and maintain broadly equilibrium between air transport capacity and traffic offered. The powers of enforcement were open to further discussion.

The President of the U.S.A. had declared for the right of innocent passage for all nations throughout the world and for the right to land anywhere for refuelling and non-traffic purposes. His Majesty's Government joined with the President to the fullest extent in subscribing to these principles.

The principle of cabotage had been accepted. It would apply, for example, to the traffic between the United States and Hawaii and between the United Kingdom and Crown Colonies. The Dominions and India would set up a similar system.

(The Government of India's post-war plans in regard to Civil Aviation were outlined by the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, in a speech at the first meeting of the Reconstruction (Policy) Committee for Posts and Aviation on April 21. The speech was published on page 524 of our issue dated May 15, 1944.)

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WHY LETTERS GO ASTRAY

EVERY day in India nearly 25,000 articles are posted with insufficient indistinct, or incorrect addresses and about 250 articles without any address at all. YOU can help to remedy this by bearing in mind the following points, in addressing correspondence:

Affix the postage stamps in the upper right-hand corner only.

The name of the addressee, the street with number, the name of the post town in Block Letters (this is important), and the name of the country in the case of foreign articles and the name of the Province or Indian State, in the case of inland articles, should be given in this order.

Insert your name and address in the left-hand bottom corner.

FROZEN MEAT FOR TROOPS IN INDIA

Frozen meat from Australia and New Zealand will soon be issued to British troops on the Burma border. First shipments are expected to arrive in India shortly. Dehydrated meat will also be imported into the country. Refrigerator ships will now bring frozen meat to the principal Indian ports where it will be kept in cold storage.

Distribution to troops will be made by all available means of transport, including specially equipped railway trucks and motor lorries fitted with refrigerator plants. Some of the refrigeration equipment has arrived from America and Britain and the personnel to operate it is now being trained.

A regular supply of good-quality meat to troops will thus be ensured and at the same time will relieve the burden placed on the sources of supply in India.

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CENTRAL CONSUMERS' COUNCIL

THE Government of India in the Industries and Civil Supplies Department have decided to set up a Central Consumers' Council composed of prominent non-official men and women, said a Press Note issued on May 18. The functions of the Council will be to advise Government on the types of consumer goods required by the public, on the working of price control measures and on suggestions regarding distribution and economy in the use of such commodities as are in short supply.

The following have agreed to serve on the Council, which will meet in New Delhi on July 17 and 18:

Syed Abdullah Brelvi, Editor, *The Bombay Chronicle*, Mrs. Mary Clubwallah, The Hon'ble Mr. M. M. Dalal, Sir Dattar Singh, Mr. A. E. Foot, Mr. Tushar Kanti Ghosh, Editor, *The Amrita Bazar Patrika*, Miss S. B. Gupta, Mrs. M. S. A. Hydari, Mr. Yusuf Abdullah Haroon, M.L.A. (Central), Professor A. B. A. Haleem, the Hon'ble Mr. Hussain Imam, Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A. (Central), Sir Frederick James, O.B.E., M.L.A. (Central), Qazi Mohammad Ahmad Kazmi, M.L.A. (Central), Khan Bahadur Kull Khan, Sir Francis Low, Editor, *The Times of India*, Lady Protima Mittar, Mrs. M. A. Momen, Mr. K. C. Neogy, M.L.A. (Central), Mr. K. Srinivasan, Editor, *The Hindu*, Mr. Abdur Rahman Siddiqui and Mr. S. M. Yakub.

The Chairman of the Council will be the Hon'ble Sir Mohammed Azizul Haque, Member for Industries and Civil Supplies, and Commerce.

USE OF WHEAT FLOUR IN SOAP MANUFACTURE PROHIBITED

A Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on April 28, stated:

Under Sub-Rule 2 of Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules published in the Government of India Gazette, on April 28, the use of wheat flour in the manufacture of soap has been prohibited. The Government of India are satisfied that wheat flour is used only as a filler to increase the weight and is not a necessary ingredient in the manufacture of soap. In the Punjab alone the quantity of maida thus consumed approximates to 5,000 tons a year.

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DISTRIBUTION OF PULSES

WITH the formulation of a tentative plan for the control and distribution of pulses from surplus to the deficit *dal* areas, the Central Food Department has taken a step further in the control of the country's food resources. Preliminary figures which are subject to revision in the light of experience gained, indicate that as against the declared surpluses of 338,000 tons of *dals*, the requirements of the deficit areas, defence services, etc., are 422,000 tons.

The major surplus *dal* areas are the United Provinces and Central Provinces and Berar, with a declared surplus of 98,000 tons and 94,000 tons respectively, while the two most heavily deficit areas are Bombay and Bengal with a demand of 73,000 tons and 70,000 tons respectively.

The Government of India's present plan covers the period, November, 1943, to October, 1944, in respect of most *dals*, except *masur* for which the period is May, 1944, to April, 1945.

GRAIN DESPATCHES TO DEFICIT AREAS

The Government of India's plan for the distribution of *rabi* grains came into force from May 1, 1944. Despatches including foreign imports of all grains to principal deficit areas under last year's food plan from July 15, 1943 to the end of April, 1944, were 17,19,800 tons. The chief beneficiaries were Bengal, Bombay and Travancore-Cochin, receiving 780,000 tons, 376,000 tons and 232,000 tons respectively.

MOVEMENT OF U. P. GUR

The Government of India have decided, in consultation with the United Provinces Government, that the export of *gur* from the U. P. to the Punjab and the Punjab States, Rajputana States, Central India States, Central Provinces and C. P. States, Baroda and Gujarat States and Kathiawar States will, henceforth, be open to any merchant under a permit issued by the U. P. Government subject to the quotas and priorities allotted by the *gur* Controller, said a Press Note issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on May 1.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF FRUIT PRODUCTS

THE manufacture of fruit products in India should be permitted only if the products are of a certain standard and their manufacture is undertaken under hygienic conditions.

This principle was accepted at a Conference recently called by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to consider ways and means of improving the quality of fruit products manufactured in India. The Conference was attended by representatives of manufacturers of fruit products from all over India, the Fruit Specialist, Lyallpur, the Central Marketing Staff, the Food Department and the Public Health Commissioner.

It was unanimously agreed that legislation should be undertaken to ensure that fruit products manufactured in India conform to certain standards of hygiene and quality. Until such legislation was enacted, it was suggested that manufacturers should adopt the Agmark system under which certain conditions and standards of manufacture are laid down. The Conference agreed that a levy of Re. 1-4-0 for 100 labels of Agmark should be collected and the income utilised for the maintenance of a suitable inspection staff and for carrying on the necessary propaganda so that the public may be sure of obtaining articles of quality manufactured under hygienic conditions.

SUGAR CANDY RESEARCH

To develop the manufacture of sugar candy as a subsidiary industry to sugar in India, a Sugar Candy Research Scheme, financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, has been working under the direction of the Director, Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore, at Ravalgaon, Nasik District (Bombay Province) for the last three and a half years. Outstanding improvements such as the use of steam and modern machinery have been effected in the process of the manufacture of sugar candy. The process developed reduces the cost of production considerably and increases the output of candy. In quality, some of the varieties excel imported candy. The plant developed at Ravalgaon is the first of its kind in India.

Arrangements have now been made to impart training in sugar candy manufacture at Ravalgaon to chemists and *kariars* employed or intending to be employed in this industry. The period of training is one month. Copies of the prospectus can be obtained, free of charge, from the Director, Imperial Institute of Sugar Technology, Cawnpore.

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A Cochin State Labour Unit, engaged in military construction, work to "music", the man in the foreground beating a tin can.

DR. B. R. AMBEDKAR VISITS LABOUR SUPPLY DEPOT

THE Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, accompanied by the Collector and other local officials inspected the Labour Supply Depot at Gorakhpur on May 2—the first depot of its kind set up in 1942 in pursuance of the Central Government's scheme to recruit skilled labour from surplus areas for export to other areas.

On arrival at the depot, the Labour Member saw about 500 labourers clad in grey uniforms and ready to go to various regions where they were required. The party included labourers for work on quarrying projects in coal-fields.

The Labour Member was informed that the present strength of Gorakhpur labour working on different projects was 43,787. These projects included railway construction, construction of certain strategic roads, quarrying work in coal-fields and aerodrome construction.

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The labour supplied from the depot included over 7,000 workers for quarrying work in coal-fields. The depot authorities expected that 5,000 more workers would be supplied to collieries between May 15 and 30, thus bringing the total to 12,000. It was stated that the depot had also supplied about 1,000 men for underground work in collieries in Hyderabad State. In all, 68,699 labourers had been sent from the depot to different provinces since its inception in 1942.

All the labour recruited at the depot is organised in gangs, groups and units—a gang consisting of 50 workers under a Gang Leader or Sardar and formed into basic units of 500 to 800 under a Unit Commander. Labourers are provided with tools and equipment like spades, pick-axes, crowbars, hammer and chisels.

The Labour Member visited the hatted accommodation provided for the labourers at the depot. Each worker is provided with a mat, a blanket and other necessities of life. A medical officer accompanies the units wherever they are sent.

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INDUSTRIAL CAPITAL ISSUES IN 1943

THE Control of Capital Issues Scheme came into operation in the middle of May, 1943; from that period till 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 528 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 amounted to about 14 per cent. of the total number of applications and 28 per cent. of the total amount of capital asked for.

Of the proposals for which permission has been granted, 226, with a capital of Rs. 744 lakhs, were initial issues by new companies, while 362, with a capital of Rs. 925 lakhs, were further issues by old companies. Of the refusals, 59 related to initial issues, the capital asked for being Rs. 465 lakhs and 40 to further issues, with Rs. 234 lakhs as capital asked for.

Major Industrial Groups

Grouped in terms of major industries, permission was granted to 81 proposals with a capital of Rs. 448 lakhs to the cotton textile industry, to 66 proposals with a capital of Rs. 177 lakhs to the iron, steel and engineering industries and to 77 proposals with a capital of Rs. 174 lakhs to industries connected with the manufacture of chemicals, drugs and medicines.

Permission was also granted in the case of 364 concerns, involving capital of Rs. 870 lakhs, coming under the category of "miscellaneous industries." These mainly consisted of industries relating to printing and stationery, soaps and vegetable oils, leather goods, public utilities, timber, tobacco and cigarettes, non-ferrous metals, paper and straw-board mining and quarrying, sugar and gur, food preservation, transport, pottery and glass, film production and distribution and others.

The work of examining applications and giving consent orders was particularly heavy during the last 2½ months of the year. The total number of cases on which orders were passed during the period was 311. Of these, cases classified as "Industrial" amounted to 123, involving a capital asked for of Rs. 514 lakhs. In 90 of these cases consent was given, the capital agreed to being Rs. 210 lakhs; 33 applications were refused, the capital asked for being Rs. 265 lakhs. Among non-industrial applications, 132 were consented to and 56 refused consent.

In the great majority of cases in which consent was refused during the period, the decision

was, as before, based upon the desirability of discouraging enterprises which threatened to aggravate pressure on materials and services in short supply, including coal and transport. Particular mention may be made of the important amount of capital represented by refusal orders under the heads "Cotton textile industry" and "Chemicals." As before, a number of textile proposals had to be discouraged because they involved the transport of machinery over long distances and the setting up of second-hand machinery which would involve a disproportionate demand for mill stores and spare parts already in short supply. In the case of "Chemicals" refusals, non-availability of supplies of sulphuric acid and coal formed the main consideration.

INDUSTRIAL STOPPAGES IN BRITISH INDIA

The number of man-days lost as a result of industrial stoppages in British India dropped from 19,14,372 in the first quarter of 1942, to 18,54,263 in the same quarter of 1943. The total number of stoppages of work during the first quarter of 1943, including 15 in progress at the close of the quarter, stood at 311 as against 184 in the corresponding period of the previous year. During the period under review 2,86,515 workers were involved as compared with 2,33,694 workers involved in the stoppages which occurred in the first quarter of 1942. The figures also include statistics for several stoppages unconnected with trade disputes.

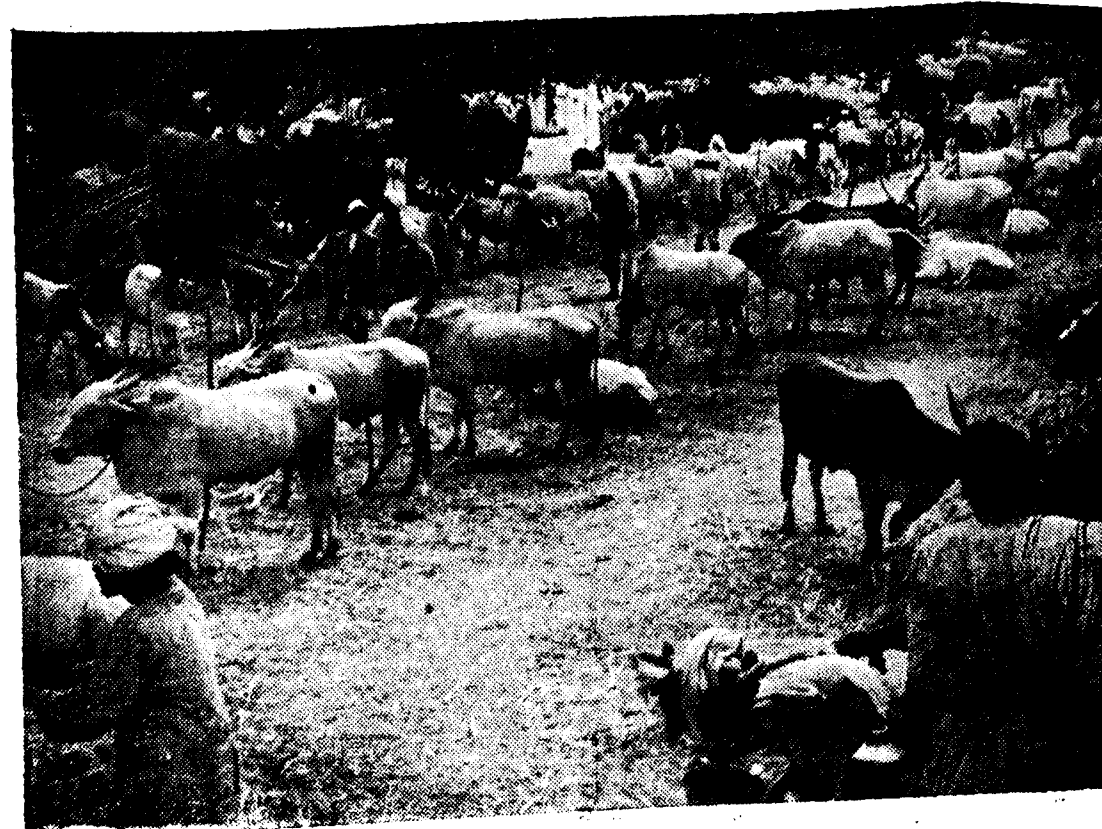
There were 6 stoppages involving 5,000 or more workers but less than 10,000, and three involving more than 10,000 workers. Ten thousand or more man-days were lost in 13 stoppages which occurred during this period. Textile (cotton, silk, woollen and jute) mills accounted for 38 per cent of the number of stoppages, 76 per cent of the workers involved and 75 per cent of the loss in man-days.

In 170 stoppages, or 44 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 121, or 41 per cent of the total number of stoppages which ended during the quarter; and 50 per cent workers were wholly unsuccessful.

India's Baisaki lac-crop in 1944 is estimated to be 719,250 maunds as compared to 372,000 maunds last year, showing an increase of nearly 100 per cent. The 1944 crop estimate, however, is still 100,000 maunds less than the average crop produced during the years 1938 to 1942. The crop in 1943 was markedly poor.

The improvement in the current year's crop which is harvested during April-June, is attributed to good quality and a sufficient supply of Katiki brood-lac, which serves as seed for this crop, and favourable climatic conditions.

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A cattle fair.

MORE MILK AND BETTER CATTLE

A RAPID survey of *Gaushalas* (lit., home for cows) in the country is to be undertaken to ascertain how far they can help in the production of more milk and better cattle. This was decided at a meeting in New Delhi of representatives of important *Gaushalas* in all Provinces held under the auspices of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, presiding.

The meeting appointed a sub-committee to prepare a questionnaire and carry out the survey. It is estimated that there are 3,000 *Gaushalas* in the country with an annual income of about Rs. 5 crores.

The meeting recommended that *Gaushalas* which can conveniently do so should maintain three sections, namely (1) for the production of milk and good breeding bulls; (2) for maintaining dry city cows during intervals between lactations; and (3) for old and infirm animals. These institu-

tions would then be able to help in the production and distribution of good bulls.

It was further recommended that Government might assist *Gaushalas* by supplying a few good bulls for breeding, providing grazing lands where practicable, arranging for technical advice in the management of animals on scientific lines and placing the income of these institutions on a more stable basis if on enquiry it is considered necessary and feasible.

The meeting suggested that a central organisation should be set up for co-ordinating and guiding the work of *Gaushalas* and this should be supplemented by provincial committees and unions of the smaller institutions.

INDIA'S TRADE COMMISSIONER IN U.S.A.

Mr. S. K. Kirpalani, C.I.E., I.C.S., assumed charge of his duties as Indian Government Trade Commissioner in New York, on May 13, 1944.

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India's Women Help the Navy

THE Navy once was a purely masculine institution, but in Great Britain the Women's Royal Naval Service ("Wrens" for short) have long played an important part in releasing men for combatant duties afloat, and more recently the Royal Indian Navy has followed suit. There are women serving with it as officers and auxiliaries.

Not long ago men—and men only—paraded in their hundreds on the quarter-deck of H.M.I. Signal School at Bombay. They are now joined



Officers and Auxiliaries of the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing.

by women, each dressed in a white sari, or blouse and skirt, crowned by a Naval cap perched at a saucy angle. These are members of the Naval Wing of the Women's Auxiliary Corps, and they attend the Signal School for two weeks, preliminary training in Naval organisation, followed, if they are destined for the Communications Branch, by six weeks' instruction in cyphering and coding.

A revolutionary change for a Naval establishment, but the girls take their work very seriously, and have won golden opinions for their keenness to learn. They attend their own classes, and, when the day's work is over, have a pleasant and roomy hostel to return to, situated just north of Malabar Hill within sight of the sea. After serving for six months, an auxiliary—as a woman rating is called—can apply for a commission, or she may be recommended for one earlier if she has shown special aptitude. She then takes a two weeks' course in H.M.I.S. Feroze, the training establishment at Bombay for officers of the Royal Indian Navy. And that's a big change too, for until the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing was formed, no woman had entered the establishment.

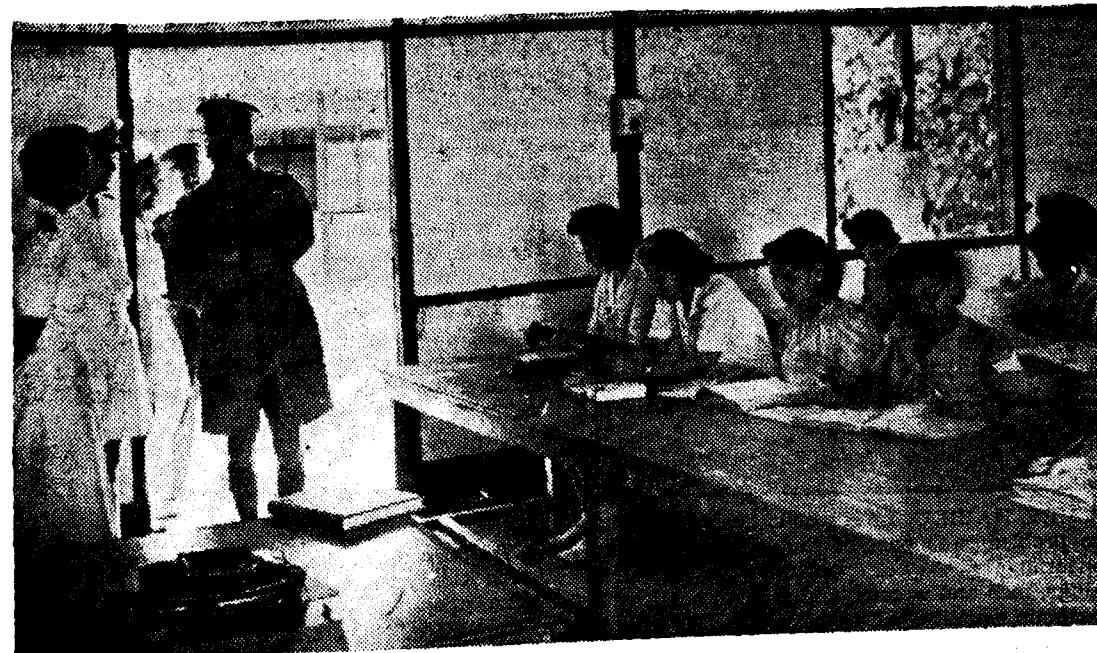
But one fine day the prospective W.A.C. (I) Officers marched firmly in and started to learn about the administration of a warship, about bells and dog watches, and what a "make and mend" is (that, at all events, must have struck a familiar note).

Later, they were taken round the Dockyard and were shown over Warships, where bearded sailors gasped at the unwonted spectacle, but recovered their equanimity in the face of such a business-like desire to learn. For living quarters the W.A.C. (I) Officers were given the pleasant building known as Admiral's House, where the nautical atmosphere is enhanced by stirring pictures of sea battles and other mementoes of India's long Naval history.

Every woman who joins the W.A.C. (I) Naval Wing serves in a shore establishment in India either at a port or at Naval Headquarters in New Delhi—and so releases a man for active service. Auxiliaries act as cypher and teleprinter operators and in other ways help to keep the worldwide network of Naval communications functioning smoothly. Others are engaged in secretarial duties. With promotion, responsibilities increase, leading to key appointments at Naval Headquarters and elsewhere.

Serving in the Naval Wing are women from Madras, Bengal, Rajputana, the Punjab, Bombay Presidency and other Provinces and Indian States as well. There are Hindus, Muslims, Parsees and Christians among them.

More members are wanted, to help relieve the strain on India's man-power, and they may either volunteer for local service only, or else elect to be posted to a port or to N.H.Q. as required by the Navy.



The C-in-C. pays a visit to the R.I.N. Signal School in Bombay, where girls of the Naval Wing of the W.A.C. (I) are trained.

LADY WAVELL OPENS NEW W.A.C. (I) HOSTEL

Breaking the seal on the main gates, H.E. Lady Wavell, W.A.C. (I) Commandant-in-Chief, opened the new hostel for 400 Auxiliaries of the Delhi Army Company, in New Delhi, on April 30.

Met and shown round this largest and most modern W.A.C. (I) hostel by acting Chief Commander M. E. Douglas, Regional Commander E. M. Dennys and the Company Commander, Senior Commander Woodhouse, Lady Wavell evinced great interest in the excellent living arrangements.

Moving from table to table in one of the dining halls, she chatted with the girls. The kitchens and pantries were closely inspected. Her Excellency asking numerous questions. Capt. Miss Heath, the Unit Medical Officer, then conducted Lady Wavell over the hospital which is attached to the Hostel and Her Excellency was delighted with the arrangements. Discussing the proposed garden, Lady Wavell offered to send plants from the Viceregal nurseries.

Later she visited the officers mess, where Delhi Army Company's officers were introduced to her, also prominent visitors, including four well-known Indian ladies from South India who are in Delhi to gather first-hand knowledge of the Corps.

So rapidly has the Corps expanded that it has outgrown its previous accommodation. A comfortable mess for officers was recently opened on Sikandra Road. The Irwin Stadium, opened in February, 1943, for 184 auxiliaries and 36 officers, will now accommodate mainly the Naval and R.A.F. Wings. Girls of the Burma Platoon, among whom are some of the Corps' first members, live in the large and comfortable Jantar Mantar Road Hostel.

A. F. (I) TO BE MECHANIZED

The Auxiliary Force (India) is being mechanised. Indian and European volunteers, mostly business men, are now learning how to drive and maintain motor cycles and armoured scout cars. More volunteers are wanted by the A.F. (I), the Delhi Contingent in particular having sent out a call for new members.

Formed for internal security purposes, the A.F. (I) does 64 hours a year compulsory training. A six-day camp arranged by the Army, is held once a year near the centre from which the contingent operates. Army officers supervise the training and Army instructors direct the parades. A small-scale military exercise is held each month and the members also attend the rifle ranges in their areas.

Sometimes the members are employed on permanent duty with the Army for work at prisoner-of-war camps, censoring, telephone duties or mess catering.

"THE STATUS OF WOMEN"

That socio-economic changes on a large scale were needed to revolutionise the status of Indian women, was emphasised by RANI LAXMIBAI RAJWADE, Chairwoman, at the outset of a discussion entitled "The Status of Women"—seventh in the series, "India Tomorrow"—broadcast from A.I.R. Stations on May 1. According to Rani Laxmibai Rajwade the problem of status was not political alone.

Those who took part in the discussion were: Lady Rama Rai, Mrs. Atiya Habibullah and Mr. S. Natarajan.

Seventh broadcast in the A.I.R. Series—"India Tomorrow".

MRS. HABIBULLAH was of the opinion that the problem was part of the general problem concerning equality of opportunity for all human beings, men and women, and that, to begin with, economic equality had to be ensured by specific action. The speakers dealt with the question of women's right to equal pay, equal opportunity to enter the professions and equal rights of inheritance etc.

Purdah Mentality

MR. NATARAJAN pointed out that making women economically independent was not enough in India where even the most advanced seemed still to suffer from the Purdah mentality. This led to a discussion on education for women, their legal rights, the joint family system and the existing marriage and inheritance laws. Suggestions were then made to remove the disabilities which prevented women from sharing in full the privileges and duties of citizenship.

Concluding the discussion, RANI LAXMIBAI RAJWADE expressed the hope that in their desire for equality, women would bear in mind their duties as mothers of the race, guardians of beauty and perpetrators of the spiritual values of life.

H. E. SIR MAURICE HALLETT

His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve that His Excellency Sir Maurice Hallett, G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., Governor of the United Provinces, shall continue to hold office for a period of one year from December 7th next, on which date his normal five years' tenure of office expires, said a Press communique issued on May 12, 1944.

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CENTRAL LEGISLATURE'S LIFE EXTENDED

H. E. the Governor-General has decided to extend the life of the existing Council of State and the Legislative Assembly for a further period of one year from October 1, 1944, when the extensions effected in his orders dated May 29, 1943, will expire, said a communique issued on May 23.

His Excellency has also decided not to summon a session of the Central Legislature in the monsoon period of this year and to defer the commencement of the Autumn session until the beginning of November.

PREVENTING EVASION OF CLOTH CONTROL ORDER

To prevent evasion of the provisions of the Cotton Cloth and Yarn (Control) Order fixing ceiling prices, an amendment to the Order has been published in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary*, dated April 28, 1944, laying down that no manufacturer shall, except with the permission of the Textile Commissioner, sell any cloth or yarn to any person who did not as a dealer buy cloth or yarn from him at any time during the years 1940, 1941 and 1942.

It is further laid down that no manufacturer shall during any quarter deliver to any dealer cloth or yarn in excess of a quota determined on the basis of the proportion the value of the manufacturer's total deliveries to such dealer bore during the years 1940, 1941 and 1942 to the value of his total deliveries to all dealers.

MOUNTING DEMAND ON RAILWAYS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 593)

the transport of the mounting volume of war supplies for the fighting forces is maintained in a ceaseless flow, in addition to meeting the increased demand for the movement of industrial equipment, raw materials, fuel and other essential civilian requirements.

The Indian railways have given every possible consideration as far as it has been practicable to the satisfactory operation of essential passenger train services, which have been maintained under very difficult conditions. The burden carried by them to-day is the greatest in their history, but present indications show that they have yet to reach the peak, and, under the stimulus of war, new conditions may emerge which will tax transport resources even further. It is, therefore, of the highest importance that a policy of curtailing every description of non-essential traffic should be pursued relentlessly.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 1, 1944

AIR VICE-MARSHAL T. M. WILLIAMS

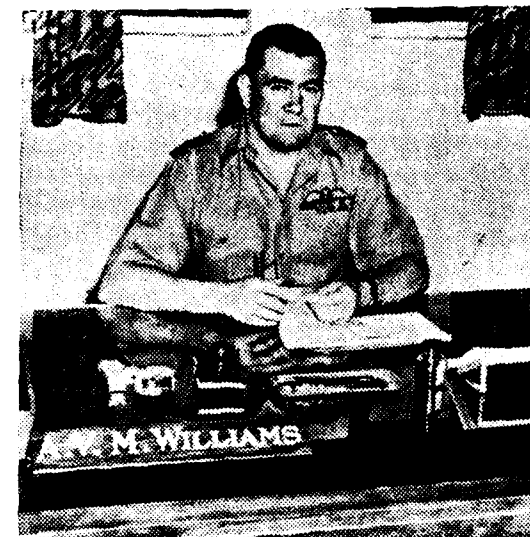
WHEN the Eastern Air Command was formed under Major-General George E. Stratemeyer, Commanding General U.S.A.A.F. in India, last December, Sir Richard Peirse, Air Commander-in-Chief, nominated some of his most able and experienced officers for General Stratemeyer's air staff. Senior of the R.A.F. group who for the past four months have worked side by side with their American colleagues is Air Vice-Marshal T. M. Williams.

No R.A.F. senior officer in Air Command, South-East Asia, had greater first-hand experience of the Japanese Army Air Force than Air Vice-Marshal Williams who took up staff duties in the Pacific Theatre one month after Pearl Harbour. In the 26 months since that time his knowledge, in planning and in operational control, have been a decisive factor in the halting of the Japanese thrust south and west, in the transition period when the Allied air forces held the enemy while gathering strength, and in the present when air supremacy over Burma is ours.

A South African, Air Vice-Marshal Williams served as a private in the XIIth South African Infantry in the German East Africa campaign from January, 1916, to March, 1917. It was at that time that the first stories of the pioneer airmen in combat over the Western Front were becoming known to a world that then only dimly realised a new element had arrived in warfare. The Air Vice-Marshal Williams transferred to the Royal Flying Corps as a Second Lieutenant. He served in France to the end of the war, attaining the rank of Captain. When peace came to western Europe he carried on operational flying, seeing service with the British forces in the Baltic in 1919.

He shot down 17 German aircraft over the Western Front and was awarded the Military Cross, the Distinguished Flying Cross and bar. and was mentioned in despatches. From 1919 and was mentioned in despatches. From 1919 to 1931 he served with the Fleet Air Arm. Flying the crazy kites of that time, he carried out many experiments in the early days of aircraft carriers. Then for three years he was with the Cambridge University Air Squadron, becoming a Squadron-Leader in 1934. The whole of the next year he was a student at the R.A.F. Staff College and in the next two years he was at the Air Ministry.

Promoted Wing-Commander, he commanded the R.A.F. bomber station at Andover in 1938, and next year became Senior Operations Officer to No. 1 Bomber Group. That appointment he still held when he went to France at the out-



break of war. He served in France until the evacuation, being awarded the Order of the British Empire and again being mentioned in Despatches. On his return to England, he commanded a bomber station and became Group-Captain. In 1941 he was appointed Deputy Senior Air Staff Officer at Headquarters, Bomber Command, as an Air Commodore.

Service Against Japanese

In January, 1942, began his service against the Japanese. He went to Java as Senior Air Staff Officer to Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse and served with Lieut.-General George H. Brett and Major-General Lewis H. Brereton of the U.S.A.A.F. until Java was evacuated. In March of that year he came to Delhi as Senior Air Staff Officer, R.A.F. India Command, holding that appointment until December.

From January to December 1943 he was Air Officer Commanding, R.A.F., Bengal Command, the air arm responsible for the defence of Eastern India and in conjunction with the 10th U.S. A.A.F., for striking against the Japanese in Burma. That was the time when the R.A.F. night fighters effectively stopped the raids on Calcutta and when the ever-increasing air power of the U.S. A.A.F. was being aligned with the R.A.F.

In May, 1942, he became Air Vice-Marshal and in January this year was awarded the C.B.E. When on December 15, the Supreme Allied Commander, Lord Louis Mountbatten, made General Stratemeyer the Commander of Eastern Air Command, responsible for the operational control of all Allied aircraft in Eastern India, the Air Commander-in-Chief appointed Air Vice-Marshal Williams to become General Stratemeyer's Assistant Air Commander.

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Men of the 13th Frontier Force Rifles hold Nippon Hill, while the Devons collect enemy dead. (Below) Men of the Devons autograph captured Jap flags.

BATTLE OF NIPPON HILL

WEARY after days of heavy fighting near Imphal, officers and men of the Devon Regiment, told me the story of the battle on Nippon Hill, writes an Indian Army Observer.

The whole of the enemy garrison which occupied this hill are believed to have been killed by artillery and air bombardment in the attack and in counter-attacks on our troops after their occupation of the position.

The Japs had tunnelled twenty feet underground and, two days after our occupation, some of their wounded were still in the position. Many were buried alive when their positions were destroyed in the bombardment. The day after our occupation one Japanese emerged from a fox-hole and threw a hand-grenade. He was quickly liquidated.

Lieut. T. S. Atkinson of Old Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was brought up with his guerilla platoon to work round the right of the position. "We lay up in shell craters holding grenades with the pin out," he said. "As soon as a Jap poked his head out of a fox-hole he threw a grenade. When I found that they were vanishing from one hole only to pop out at another, I moved some men round and got all the holes covered. It was for all the world like a rat hunt with our men playing the part of the terrier."

The reserve company which occupied the position after wiring it was attacked from just after nightfall until the early hours of the morn-



ing by three waves. The first two waves were beaten off but so heavy had been the fighting that when the third wave came in, our men found themselves short of ammunition. An artillery barrage was brought down and caught the Japs on the wire. In the morning 68 bodies were counted outside the perimeter.

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Men of the 3rd Madras Regiment exhibit a Jap flag captured on the Imphal front.

THIRD MADRAS REGIMENT'S EXPLOITS

HAVING failed for 12 days by mortaring, machine-gunning and sniping to shake a detachment of Indian troops holding Sita Ridge, south-east of Imphal on the Tamu Road, the attacking Japanese tried a verbal barrage. Intermittently throughout a whole day an enemy propagandist hidden in the jungle 200 yards away yelled abuse, threats and lies through a megaphone.

He spoke in Urdu. He might have saved his breath. The majority of our troops did not understand a word of it. They were all Tamil, Telugu and Malayalam-speaking Madrasis. They gave him their answer in bullets.

In this action and in many other clashes with the enemy, these South Indian troops have proved their worth. The battalion of the 3rd Madras Regiment, to which they belong, claims 180 Japs killed in recent fighting and treasures a number of swords and flags as battle trophies.

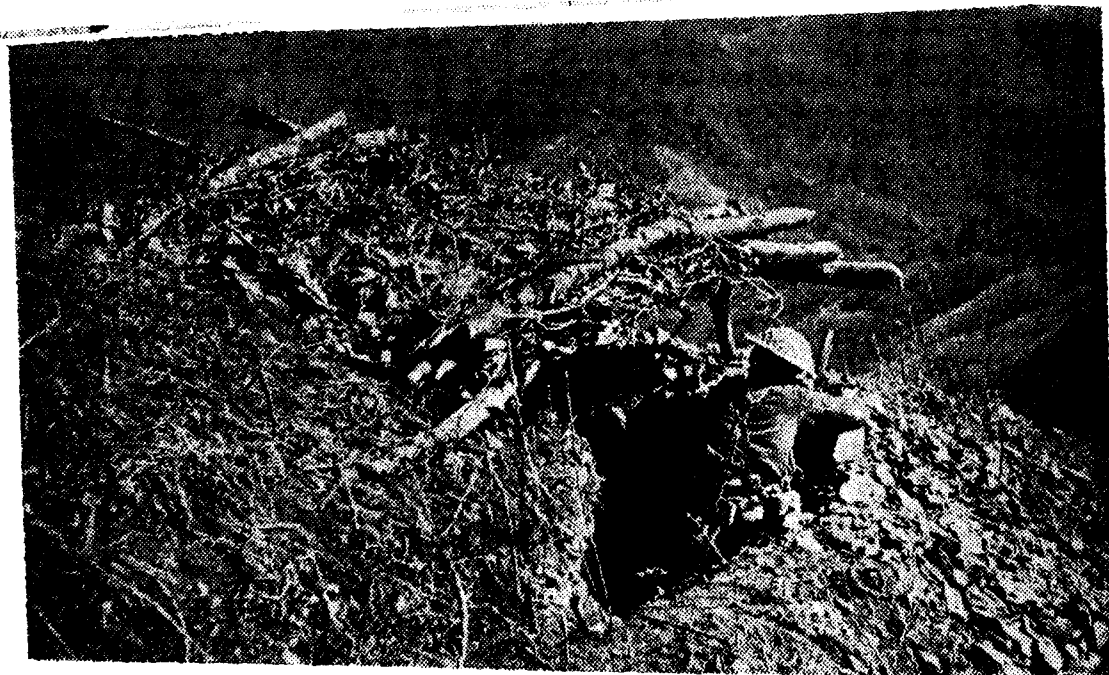
It is the first battalion of the Regiment to draw blood from the enemy, writes an Indian Army Observer. Raised in Bangalore in 1940 as a territorial unit, it became part of the Regular Army in October, 1941. It made its first contact

with the Japs in December, 1943, when, at four hours' notice, a company moved 30 miles to take up a position at Tilaungwya, near the Yu River.

Still on active service with the battalion with fifteen years' territorial and four years' regular service to his credit is Subedar Major Sudalammuthi, once a school teacher at the Board High School at Kollipatti, Tinnevely district, Madras. Of the officers, two-thirds are Madrasis carrying on regimental duties performed in most battalions of the Indian Army by a high proportion of British officers.

The two actions in which the battalion has distinguished itself were on "Shark" and Sita Ridge. On "Shark", a platoon held out against heavy enemy attacks and killed 50 and wounded 60 Japs. The prelude to the Japanese assault was an attempt by an officer with drawn sword and ten men to cut off a Lance Naik and a sepoy who were returning to the platoon position with water. As the enemy emerged from the jungle a well-aimed burst of light machine-gun fire killed the Jap officer and wiped out half his section.

From then on the post was continuously attacked by 200 Japs with mortar support. At



Sepoy of the 3rd Madras Regiment trains his rifle on Jap positions across the valley. In the background is Sita Hill.

midday, ammunition in the post was running low and an urgent message was sent for more supplies. A column of British troops with officers from the Madras Regiment was sent out to get the ammunition through. Approaching the post they came under heavy fire and it was found impossible to get the ammunition mules through the gate in the perimeter wire. Eventually the ammunition boxes were lobbed over the wire on the "blind" side of the post. Carrying parties from the post then ran the gauntlet to and from the position to fetch in the ammunition.

Capt. J. B. Jesudasan, of Madras one of the company officers, was wounded in the leg while accompanying one of these parties and lay up all night outside the post with a faithful V.C.O., Jemadar Krishnamurthi, as his companion. The post was again attacked and the British company commander who killed three officers in hand-to-hand fighting and showed inspired leadership throughout, was killed.

For 16 days Major R. S. Noronha, of Golden Rock, Trichinopoly, and his company, held out on Sita Ridge. Their water point was 500 yards outside the perimeter and after the water stocks in the post had been exhausted, all supplies had to be fetched up by carrying parties with protective pickets which the enemy regularly sniped. The water ration was half a bottle a day for drinking. There was no washing. Rations had to be brought up along the road by a strong column with an artillery detachment.

When the Madrasis occupied this ridge there were no defences. They had to dig the post and

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 622)



Water in these two-gallon bamboo "phagals" remains cool and sweet all day.



Gnr. Kandaswami from Trichinopoly is No. 1 elevation-layer. (Right) Gnr. Sgt. Wasi

MADRASI GUNNERS AT KOHIMA

FROM manning anti-aircraft guns on lonely Assam airfields to driving bulldozers through virgin jungle to enable infantry columns to reach the Japs—these and a hundred more are the tasks undertaken by Madrasis on this front. writes an Indian Army Observer from Kohima.

Eighteen months ago, Lance-Naik Chotte Jan of Salem, Madras province, was a beedi-maker. To-day he is Number 1 on an anti-aircraft gun. His whole detachment, like the rest in this regiment, are Madrasis and, in the words of Gunner Sgt. Washer of County Hall, Lewes, Sussex: "These Madrasis are excellent. They are as keen as any gunners I have ever met." And Sgt. Washer should know. He was an anti-aircraft gunner throughout the Battle of Britain.

Everywhere Madrasis are doing their piece. You find them doing a host of specialist jobs—Lance-Naik Padari Gownder, of Coimbatore, is operating a unit switchboard, Fitter P. N. Naidu, of Madras, is repairing electrical equipment.

There are hundreds of drivers in charge of all types of vehicles, from my own jeep driven by Abraham of Guntur District to Bulldozer Operator Pichat of Madura.

Many of them were in the Kohima garrison which held out against superior Jap forces for



L/Naik Chotte Jan of Salem, before the war a beedi-maker, is No. 1 on the anti-aircraft gun.

12 days until relieved. A colonel thanked them for the excellent work they had done. His speech was interpreted by a young Madras doctor.



Lady Wavell inspected the W.A.C. (I.) during her recent visit to Bihar with H.E. the Viceroy.

BASIC ARMY TRAINING FOR W.A.C.(I)

GIRLS joining the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) will in future be given basic army training at recruit training centres, specially chosen and equipped for the purpose. These will serve as an introduction to Service life.

When Japan overran the Far East and advanced to India's threshold, every pair of hands was so urgently needed that girls joining the Corps were put straight into posts for which their civilian training had fitted them. The recent rapid growth of the Corps now makes it possible to send recruits to training centres, in line with the procedure for Women's Corps throughout the Empire.

At training centres established in each of the five Army Commands, recruits will receive a preliminary basic training. Correct dress, drill, saluting, a knowledge of Service terms, together with lectures on hygiene, current affairs, colloquial English and other useful subjects, will be part of the course.

With the object of making the fullest possible use of woman power, the girls will be tested to determine the work to which they are best suited. At the end of the course some will be

posted direct to units, others will go to various centres for specialised training. Girls of the Naval Wing will go on for special training with the Navy.

WOMEN HELP NAVAL GUNNERS

Members of the Naval Wing of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) are now playing their part in ensuring the fighting efficiency of India's Naval Gunners.

At the Royal Indian Navy's Gunnery School—H.M.I.S. *Himalaya*—at Karachi, women auxiliaries are helping to train Naval officers and ratings in close-range weapons. While practice firing against targets towed by aircraft is in progress, all data associated with "training" and "laying" the guns are mechanically recorded on ingenious instruments, the girls attending to their proper working.

Other Naval W.A.C. (I)s plot the details recorded and estimate the accuracy of each shot. In this way, when the "shoot" is completed, the gun's crews can see, at a glance, what results they have achieved and where and why faults occurred.

Naval W.A.C.(I)s also work as operators of a special cinema apparatus that assists men to obtain accuracy in anti-aircraft gunfire by training them to aim at aircraft projected by means of a fast-moving film.

By taking over these tasks women enable a corresponding number of men to be released for active service. Other duties are contemplated for them in the Navy's Gunnery Branch as the necessary number of recruits comes forward.

W.A.C. (I)'s FIRST FIELD EXERCISE

W.A.C.(I)s have just held their first field exercise—a real soldiering test in which they were required to march with full packs, dig themselves in and eat hard rations.

At the end of the exercise the feminine touch asserted itself. The girls had included cosmetics in their "battle" kit and remedied the ravages of their baptismal campaign.

The exercise took place at the W.A.C. (I) Officer Cadet Training Unit, at Dagshai, in the Simla hills. Orders were to retreat to the polo ground, dig in and prepare a hot meal. They carried blankets, rain-capes, mess tins, iron rations, firewood and poles and sticks for their bivouac camp.

When the Commandant arrived they had settled in in front-line fashion, were well-entrenched with bivouacs built and camouflaged, and had a field meal ready—stewed bully beef with fresh vegetables, rice pudding, and bread and butter. "The rice pudding was equal to any cream of rice in a London club," said a senior officer.

Designed to teach the girls how to act in an emergency, and to bring out latent powers of leadership and organisation, the exercise was so successful that these will now be a regular feature of the course.

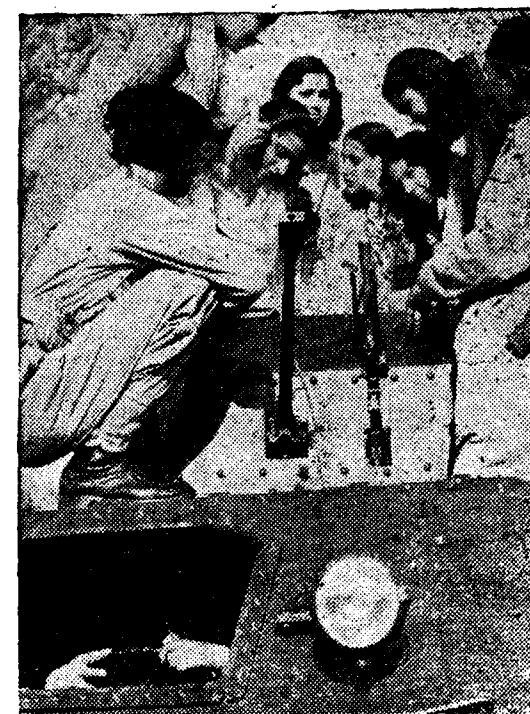
C-IN-C.'s VISIT

The Commander-in-Chief, India, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, recently paid his first visit to the new W.A.C. (I) Officer Cadet Training Unit at Dagshai, in the Simla Hills.

The visit was included in a tour of military establishments at Simla, Kasauli, Dagshai and Sanawar. The C-in-C. also went to Gilbert House, Kasauli, which is shortly to be opened as a leave hostel for girls of the W.A.C. (I) and the nursing services.

At the O.C.T.U. the C-in-C. saw the accommodation, which has been arranged for the girls and walked through their masses. At the time of his visit the girls were working on the concluding examination of the second course at the O.C.T.U. from which they will shortly emerge as qualified officers.

While at Dagshai the C-in-C. visited the depot of the Indian Army Corps of Clerks, where he saw Indian non-combatants, enrolled as havil-



Earphones on, an Indian girl "listens in" to the wireless of an Indian-made armoured car, while others anxiously wait their turn, at the War. Exhibition held recently at the C-in-C.'s residence, New Delhi.

dars by Technical Recruiting Officers, being taught shorthand, typing and military office routine. Some of the men were on a drill parade, which enabled the C-in-C. to see something of the military training each man is given in addition to the office instructional work which he learns at the depot.

Indian Army officers, Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers attending the Army School of Physical Training at Kasauli showed the C-in-C. the body-development course which is held for recruits at training centres in India. He spoke to several officers and British Other Ranks who a few months ago were instructors in Great Britain and were sent to India specially to help run the physical training classes for the young men of India's two million volunteer army.

At Simla the C-in-C. received senior officers from the military directorates, with each of whom he had a long talk. Later he spoke to a gathering of officers stationed at Simla.

Lady Auchinleck accompanied the C-in-C. on a visit to the Lawrence Royal Military School, Sanawar, where General Auchinleck took the

salute and inspected a parade of the boys, on which he congratulated them. The C-in-C. and Lady Auchinleck stayed at "Snowden", their Simla house, which General Auchinleck has given for use as an officers' leave hostel.

During his tour the C-in-C. also visited the Lady Linlithgow Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Kasauli, where he spoke to soldiers in a special services ward, and the Simla Headquarters of the Indian Red Cross, where Major-General Sir Gordon Jolly, head of the Red Cross in India, took him through the packing rooms, in which workers were making up parcels for Indian prisoners of war.

FASHIONS FOR W.A.C. (I)

Further modifications have been made in the dress of Indian members of the W.A.C. (I).

Following the news that a softer and more graceful sari will be worn, comes the announcement that an abbreviated bush-shirt, will accompany it. Pocketless, the bottom edge will tuck under the sari. Sikh girls need not wear caps. The badge which is usually worn on the cap will be pinned to the sari on the left shoulder, rather as the Highlander pins his plaid. Chaplins may be worn by Indian personnel all the year round. Other members of the Corps only enjoy this privilege during the hot weather.

The girls are delighted with these changes. "We have been hoping for them for some time," said an Indian officer.

GURKHA GIRLS JOIN UP

Following the example of their famous Gurkha brothers, Nepalese girls are joining the Colours. For the first time in their lives they have travelled by train and plane.

In their schools high up in the snow-topped Himalayas, teachers, students and ex-students followed closely the progress of the war, especially the fighting on India's eastern front.

When the enemy came over the border near Imphal, they decided it was time for them to act. So the Gurkha girls set out for the plains.

Never before had they been on a train, but they travelled along the twisting mountain roads to the nearest station. Teachers and students together boarded a train for Calcutta. There they went to see the Women's Auxiliary Corps' chief recruiting officer for Eastern Army.

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Scrap Worth Over Rs. 4 Lakhs!

By salvaging bits and pieces among scrap thrown out by the Middle East War and brought to India, railwaymen at an Indian Railway Stores retrieved material worth nearly Rs. 4,30,000 last year.

An amazing assortment arrived, ranging from complete parts of motor cars of all kinds, many of them of Italian and German origin, aeroplanes, machine-guns, small arms and other weapons, marine engine parts, ship fittings, shell cases and endless other items, including some live bombs.

Here are the results of the "Salvage operations":—

Rs. 4,29,000 worth of scrap retrieved.

540 tons of serviceable articles re-issued to the various Services.

1,000 tons of unserviceable scrap sent to steel mills for conversion into steel sections.

80 tons utilised for the Railway itself and other Government Departments.

In addition, a lot of material was found to be in good condition, capable of re-use in the repair of lorries, aeroplanes and arms of various sorts and in the manufacture of rifles and machine-guns.

This work of assortment and classification, which is just another of the services rendered by Railways during this war, has enabled similar organisations to be set up in other parts of the country for scrap collection.

A Nepalese unit was formed immediately. The O.C. is one of their school-teachers. So are some of their officers. They live in their own hostel, with a Nepalese Mess Sgt. to see that they get the food to which they are accustomed.

The girls will be a most valuable addition to the W.A.C. (I). A number of Nepalese Signal sections are being formed. Already a contingent has flown half across India to receive training for urgent signal duties.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 16, 1944



Sgt. Rosalind Kongara (Ranchi, Bihar), Pte. Lila Rao (Bombay) and Pte. Bhagawathi Moses (Colombo) recently broadcast from New Delhi on life in the W.A.C. (I).

OPPORTUNITY FOR INDIAN GIRLS

FOUR ladies well-known in South India for their wide interest in women's movements recently visited Delhi to see for themselves the work of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) and the facilities extended to girls living in the various hostels in the city. They are Mrs. Sreshta, Mrs. Aranha, Mrs. Shantabai and Miss K. Parvati, all from Mangalore.

To obtain first-hand knowledge of the conditions in which the girls live, the ladies were the guests of the W.A.C. (I) and stayed in the Irwin Stadium hostel. They were also entertained at the other five hostels, including the largest and most modern W.A.C. (I) hostel in India, recently opened by Lady Wavell.

Mrs. Sreshta, who has considerable experience of social and welfare work as Honorary Secretary of the Ladies Club at Mangalore, one of the largest of its kind in South India, which she started 25 years ago, said that she and the other members of the party had watched girls at work and play. They were more than satis-

fied with all they had seen and were very impressed with the domestic arrangements and recreational facilities, all of which combined to make the girls happy and comfortable.

She herself had volunteered to recruit girls for the Corps in Mangalore because she felt that this afforded a great opportunity for girls who had plenty of time at their disposal to do some useful war work and at the same time earn a living and learn a trade or profession which would be useful to them after the war.

"The W.A.C. (I) provides a great opportunity for our girls to stand on their own feet," was the view expressed by Mrs. Shantabai while Miss Parvati and Mrs. Aranha were particularly interested in the many avenues of service the Corps opened to Indian girls.

During their stay in Delhi the ladies met and had a long talk with Lady Wavell, who is Commandant-in-Chief of the W.A.C. (I).

The Central War Committee of the Cochin State have contributed a sum of Rs. 1,335-8-5 to the King George's Fund for Sailors.

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INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 16, 1944

Food Wanted NOT Cotton

THE final Cotton Forecast discloses a marked reversion in the past season to cotton, largely at the expense of food crops. The extent of the reversion to cotton is estimated at 1,195,000 acres, two-thirds of it being in areas exclusively or predominantly given up to the cultivation of short-staple varieties, said a Press communique issued by the Education, Health and Lands Department on May 30. It continued:

Short-staple cotton is not in heavy demand. It is needed much less than food. In the national interest a substantial diversion of acreage from short-staple cotton to food crops is imperative. The Government of India consider that of the 10½ million acres under short-staple cotton last season 3¼ million acres, or roughly 30 per cent, should in the forthcoming season be producing food crops.

The principal alternative crops to short-staple cotton are *jowar* and *bajra*. To protect the interests of producers the Government of India have decided to announce their willingness to accept from the crop of 1944-45 all *jowar* and *bajra* of fair average quality offered for sale in the main assembling markets of the United Provinces, Central Provinces and Berar, Madras, the Punjab, Sind and Ajmer-Merwara at prices of Rs. 5-8 and Rs. 6 a maund respectively, should prices fall. (Prices for Bombay will be announced later.) Current prices are generally higher and the all-India maxima are Rs. 7 and Rs. 7-8 respectively for these crops.

For an unwanted crop, like short-staple cotton, Government can guarantee neither a minimum price nor adequate transport facilities. Considering the existing pressure on transport and the risk of food shortages in areas which are not self-sufficient, it is the course of wisdom to grow a food crop, which can be either sold or consumed, rather than a commercial crop which may prove unsaleable. Those who put land under short-staple cotton, hoping to buy food with the proceeds, may find they have grown something they can neither consume nor sell. Government wish it to be clearly understood that they have no intention of entering the market during the forthcoming season merely to support the price of an unwanted short-staple cotton crop.

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The Hon. Sir Jwala Srivastava (left), Food Member, recently inspected the working of the Delhi rationing scheme. Here he is seen, accompanied by the Director of Civil Supplies, leaving a grain godown.

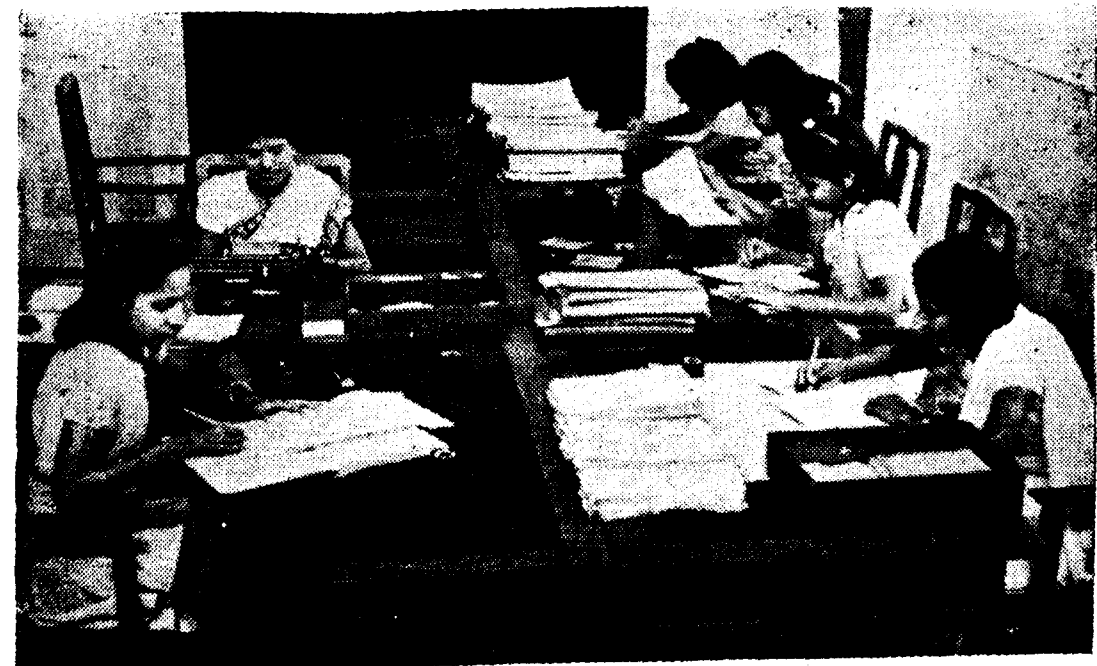
FISH TO SUPPLEMENT URBAN FOOD

To supplement the food requirements of urban areas, the Government of India have decided to launch schemes for increasing the production and supply of fish as part of their "Grow More Food" campaign. Dr. Bainsi Prasad, Director of the Zoological Survey of India, has been appointed Fisheries Development Adviser to assist Provincial Governments in preparing suitable schemes of development and co-ordinating plans on an all-India basis.

Besides technical assistance, Government will give financial assistance to the extent that such assistance is considered necessary to put the development schemes into early operation. In the earlier stages, it is suggested, Provincial Fisheries Departments can establish a series of rearing ponds in suitably situated areas where fry can be put in and fingerlings of various species of carp grown and obtained for supply to other areas.

The Central Food Department has arranged for the immediate despatch of about 5,000 tons of wheat from the Punjab to the North-West Frontier Province, where the harvest has been delayed.

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About 150 cities and towns (with a total population of over 25 million) are fully rationed or in active preparation for rationing. As in other cities, hundreds of women are employed in Bombay, to help in working the scheme.

CENTRAL FOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

TO associate public opinion as closely as possible with the Central Government's policy for food administration, the Government of India (said a Press Note issued on June 2), have reconstituted the Central Food Advisory Council to advise the Food, and Education Health and Lands Departments on matters connected with the protection, procurement and distribution of foodstuffs, including rationing and the nutritional aspect of food supply. The following have already accepted invitations to serve on the new Council:

Begum Shah Nawaz, the Raja of Jehangirabad, Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya, Sir Manilal B. Nanavati, Sir R. K. Shanmukham Chetty, Sir Purshotamdas Thakardas, Sir Datar Singh, Sir William Roberts, Major Jamshed Ali Khan, Dr. L. C. Jain, Dr. W. R. Aykroyd, Khan Bahadur M. Abdul Momin, Messrs. Syed Aizaz Rasool, B. Ramachandra Reddy, Mukhtar Singh, Vivek Singh, Santokh Singh, J. C. Setalvad Fazal I. Rahimtoola, M. H. Hasham Premji, C. W. Tosh, K. W. Mealing, J. W. Dougall, S. R. Jariwala, B. H. Zaidi, Yusuf Abdool Haroon, Neville N. Wadia, H. N. Kunzru and Hooseinbhooy A. Lalljee.

The date of the first meeting is under consideration, but it is hoped that it will be possible



Newcomers to Bombay taking their ration cards, which have to be returned at railway station kiosks when they leave.

to assemble the Council towards the half of July.

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A LONG 3,000 miles of metalled highway, across burning desert and barren land through mountain passes 7,000 feet high, thousands of vehicles are running a 24-hour continuous service carrying supplies to Russia overland through Iraq and Iran.

Operated by Allied military personnel and with Allied equipment, combined with the efficient organisation of the United Kingdom Commercial Corporation, fleets of lorries manned by Britons, Americans, Indians and Russians form an endless stream of traffic.



Convoy with Indian drivers of the R.I.A.S.C. awaits the order to move off.

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From the assembly point, large convoys begin a journey which by comparison would reach from Calais to Warsaw in length and would rival the precipitous mountain passes of Italy, under climatic conditions where the temperature varies from 120 degrees Fahrenheit to 40 degrees below freezing point.

The struggles of the early days with few vehicles and indifferent roads have given place to a smooth-running supply system on a vast scale. Harbour installations have been extended, deep water berths constructed, heavy lifting cranes erected, roads made and workshops built. This has involved the services of Pioneers, transport drivers, watermen, stevedores and railwaymen of the engineers. Other troops engaged include Field Security and Military Police in their ceaseless watch for thieves and saboteurs; Signals, responsible for the erection and maintenance of communications throughout the entire route, and the provision of huge telephone exchanges capable of handling thousands of calls a day. Some of the calls are over a distance equal to that between London and Moscow.

Men of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, and Indian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Indian Army Service Corps, the Royal Army Ordnance Corps and the Indian Army Ordnance Corps, engaged in servicing, driving

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Russian officer orders his men to man vehicles ready to start for the U.S.S.R.

and organising supplies, are helping to keep open the route to Russia. It has not always been easy as, for instance, when a radiator or an engine freezes overnight. The story is told of one resourceful officer who had a trench made at a safe distance to windward of his lorries, filled it with fuel, which is plentiful in that area, and which, when burning freely, caused a warm wind to cover the frozen vehicles. This did the trick. So severe are the winter conditions that it is often found necessary to detail a squad to start up all the engines every half hour throughout the night.

"INDIA BEATS AMERICA"

India beats America, in the words of an American officer, in one of those unrecorded activities which are just another day in the life of the railways, at a port in India.

The story is of a ship, a port and over 11,000 tons of vital "awkward" cargo, which arrived.

From ship to rail involved the use of lighters, lorries, and plenty of pushing and shoving.

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Working night and day, railway gangmen cleared the ship in record time, each gang accounting for over 900 tons, an outturn which evoked from an American officer the tribute, "This even beats the record in America."



Supplies for Russia being loaded on a lorry. Note the Kurdish guard.

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VICEROY VISITS CHINDITS' H.Q.

H. E. the Viceroy recently paid a flying visit to the Chindits at whose base he met officers and men who had served, earlier in the war, under him in the Middle East. Lord Wavell flew down to the Special Force Headquarters from New Delhi.

In the Operations Room in front of the battle map he discussed operations with General Lentaigne, the Force Commander, and other senior officers.

Lord Wavell met R.A.F. and American Air Force officers who are carrying out the air war phase of the Chindits operations against the Japs.

His Excellency spent over an hour in the Special Force Hospital, where he talked with patients and Matron McGearay, and also saw the Signals at work, sending out messages to fighting columns inside Burma.

At a supply base, Lord Wavell heard of the good work done by the Sikh, Punjabi Muslim and Madrasi packers.

A famous Scots Regiment provided an Officer Guard of Honour for the Viceroy.



Major-General W. D. A. Lentaigne, D.S.O., who succeeded the late Major-General Wingate as Commander of the Special Force ("Chindits").

THE CHINDITS GET THEIR MAIL

Men of the Special Force, the Chindits, operating in Central Burma, get their home mail regularly.

Reports received from an officer of the Army Postal Service attached to the Special Forces reveal that both an inward and outward mail service has been set up with results highly satisfactory to the men whether on column or in a stronghold. Outward mail is brought out by light plane used for the evacuation of wounded.

As an instance of how well this unique service behind the Jap lines is working, an airgraph posted in the U.K. on February 27 was received and answered by a member of the column on March 10.

GIFT FOR I.A.F. AMENITIES

The Raja of Khandpara has given Rs. 30,000 to establish a Khandpara State Trust Fund to provide amenities for the Indian Air Force. The Fund will be administered by a Committee which will make grants each year out of the interest accruing from the capital sum.



Senior Under Officer Maq Nawaz Kayani, of the King George's Royal Indian Military School, Jhalum, has won the Cardiner Medal, awarded annually to a Cadet chosen by his colleagues for loyalty, truth, self-reliance and leadership.



A steamer which has towed supply barges for a thousand miles up the Brahmaputra, ties up at a river port.

INLAND WATER TRANSPORT IN ARAKAN

STEAMING into the mouth of the Naaf River with supplies and ammunition for our forward troops, Inland Water Transport vessels have often run the gauntlet of enemy shelling. These convoys sailing from Chittagong have on many occasions been attacked from the air also and although they have suffered damage from strafing, very few craft have been totally lost. Sometimes they are provided with air cover by the R.A.F., but whatever the circumstances, these ex-fishermen from Chittagong stick to their posts.

During early February, a brigade situated on the banks of the Kalapanzin, cut off from land, had to be supplied entirely by the Inland Water Transport vessels. The company operating there quickly supplemented its local river-craft by making bamboo rafts in large numbers, the Bengali personnel proving most ingenious in this type of work, and they kept up the supplies to the brigade.

Two steel cargo flats run up and down the chaungs and rivers of the Arakan to repair and overhaul the Inland Water Transport vessels. This floating workshop of the dock operating companies is fitted with up-to-date machinery and is capable of carrying out all jobs including the beaching of tugs up to 150 feet in length

to take off propellers, draw the tail-end shafts and renew plates in the hulls.

This new principle of the "hospital going to the sick" has been adopted to keep the ships moving. But two hospitals for a fleet of river-craft, including paddle steamers, tugs, steam and motor launches, lighters and steel and wooden barges would not be enough if the Inland Water Transport fitters and mechanics were not first-rate workers. They willingly keep long hours and frequently do their repair work up to their waists in mud and water.

Men of the I.W.T. once saved Rs. 6,000 worth of sulphanamoids and Rs. 8,000 worth of false teeth from a hill in the Mowdok area.

An Indian casualty clearing station on a feature known as Lingthan Hill had to be evacuated hurriedly on account of an enemy threat to that position. During this move some medical stores had to be left behind and men of an Inland Water Transport Company were entrusted with the task of recovering this material. On arrival they found all the stores scattered about in the jungle, among them a large quantity of false teeth in sets mounted on metal strips.

One Inland Water Transport Company operating on the Sangu River—"the Trout Stream"



Supplies of ammunition, carried down the rocky river bank, are packed into native boats by soldiers and Burmese.

—between Dohazari and Mowdok, has shipped upstream, during the last four months, 1,000 tons of stores, ammunition, explosives and rations.

Cargoes shipped downstream by means of tiny sampans, which at times had to be dragged over numerous rapids, included parachutes, casualties and empties of all descriptions. This line of communication on water was of great help during the advance through Mowdok when in four days, over 300 personnel with 14 days' rations and 80 boatloads of stores and equipment were shipped upstream.

REGIONAL PORT DIRECTOR FOR CALCUTTA PORT

It has been decided by the Government of India to create a new post of Regional Port Director for the Port of Calcutta to co-ordinate and control the activities of the various authorities concerned with the operation of the Port. Mr. F. A. Pope, Chief Commercial Manager of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway Company has been appointed to fill it and for this purpose his services have been lent temporarily to the Government of India. He recently left the United Kingdom to take up his post, said a Press Note issued by the War Transport Department on May 21.

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SCHOOLS FOR SOLDIERS' WIVES

Schools for soldiers' wives, who wish to write to their husbands, have been started at army training centres in Northern India.

As they are for the most part in "purdah", the women are taught by male teachers from behind a curtain which divides the class-room. Besides learning to read and write in some centres these women are also taught to knit and sew—the output being used as war comforts for troops.

"Wives want to write to their husbands without having to get someone to phrase their letters for them", said an officer at one of the centres. "They also want to learn how to draw their allowance."

The schools were started by unit commanding officers. In addition to learning Hindi, Gurmukhi or Urdu, many wives are being taught English.

Side by side with these "wives' schools" are run children's schools where boys and girls between the ages of three and eight receive instruction.

AIR LETTERS BY THE MILLION

Millions of air letters and airgraphs are handled every month by the Army Postal Service in India.

The total outflow and inflow of air letters has now reached the impressive figure of over 3,500,000 while the number of airgraphs totals about 3,000,000. The number of ordinary air mail letters per month is 365,000, and about 14,290 bags of packets and parcels are handled and despatched.

Among other facilities provided the Forces, especially those in the forward areas, are the transmission of private telegrams, the British postal order and Indian money order services, and arrangements for post office savings bank deposits. A monthly average of 181,600 money orders is issued to troops served by the Indian Army post offices—to the value of Rs. 65,39,000 a month.

GRANT FOR SEAMEN'S CLUB

A grant of Rs. 18,000 has been made from H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund for the establishment of a Seamen's Club at the Port of Cochin.

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JAPANESE HOODWINKED BY INDIAN 'SPIES'

HOW a party of 12 Indian soldiers, consisting of Viceroy's Commissioned Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers, carefully selected by the Japanese from among prisoners captured in Malaya, landed in India by submarine and immediately gave themselves up to the authorities, is now revealed. The story, as told by the men themselves, shows the spirit of loyalty and determination, as well as good sense and resourcefulness, of Indian fighting men captured by the Japanese.

Some months ago, India learned what had happened to a party of selected Indian agents who were landed from a submarine. This party, it will be recalled, consisted of Indian civilians long resident in the Far East who had been persuaded by the Japanese to act as spies. They were all caught on arrival in India and brought to trial. Four were found guilty of espionage and treason, condemned to death and hanged.

Now comes the very different story of a second party which, judging by the trouble the Japs took over it, was even more important in enemy eyes. This party consisted of 12 Indian soldiers, chosen from among prisoners captured in Malaya as being the most intelligent and co-operative of the available personnel. The enemy placed implicit confidence in these men, and expected positive results from their activities in India.

Training in Sabotage

After careful selection and training in intensive courses of sabotage, demolition, propaganda work and wireless transmission for over a year, the party embarked in a Japanese submarine and set out for India. Its leader was JEMADAR MOHD. YUSUF KHAN and among others in it were TECHNICAL WARRANT OFFICER ASAL NUR KHAN and HAVILDAR SAID MOHAMMAD.

Leaving Penang towards the end of February, 1944, they arrived off the coast of Baluchistan on March 17. On the way they met with some adventures, for the submarine attempted to attack Allied shipping and was chased by our warships and depth-charged. On another occasion it was attacked by our aircraft and had to crash-dive.

On the night of March 17, an attempt was made to land the Indian "spies" in two small collapsible boats at a lonely point on the Baluchistan seashore. The submarine took them in tow to bring them within a few miles of land, but it went too fast with the result that one of the boats capsized and the occupants narrowly escaped drowning. All the equipment as well as

the boat was lost. The other boat had to be rescued by the submarine crew and its occupants taken aboard.

The next night they prepared again. This time they were about four miles from the shore and the Captain told them he could not go any nearer as he was afraid of the coast defence watchers. They got out their spare collapsible boat but found it was damaged.

The Captain then suggested that he would capture a fishing boat, kill the fishermen and let the Indians sail the boat ashore. Not unnaturally they objected to this brutal suggestion and, as the weather was rough, they persuaded the Captain to postpone the landing.

After this failure, they had to wait for the weather to clear, which took a week or so, during which time they cruised up and down the coast, remaining submerged by day and keeping clear of Allied shipping for fear of being discovered. During this period they managed to repair their second boat.

Reported to Zamindar

The next attempt was made on March 24 when the Indian party again embarked in two collapsible boats. After rowing about four miles they found themselves a few hours before dawn on a lonely stretch of desert coast. Overjoyed to be back in their native land, the Indian officers and men did not hesitate. They made for the nearest village, which turned out to be Pasni in Kalat State. Here they reported to the Zamindar and explained how they had come and why they had been sent. He helped them, gave them food and reported their arrival to Karachi. Arrangements were then made for the party to be taken to military headquarters.

Arrived in Delhi, they told their story in detail and handed over the equipment and money given them by the Japanese. As reserve funds to finance their espionage activities the Japanese had also given them a few diamonds. These too were handed over.

Since then these officers and men have been in close touch with the authorities. They have given a full account of their experiences and a great deal of valuable information. It is clear that at no time had they the slightest intention of carrying out enemy orders.

In the words of JEMADAR YUSUF KHAN, "I was told there was a chance of getting back to India. I had had quite enough of Japanese prison

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camps and listening to nonsensical Japanese propaganda. My one idea was to get back to India and to take an active part in this war again. This seemed to be a chance, although it was dangerous, and I took it."

Most of the others joined in similar circumstances, though two or three of them had been given no choice in the matter but were simply drafted into the party by the Japs.

"It really made it easier for us," said one. "We were delighted to find ourselves posted for this task." That being so, they gave themselves up at the first opportunity and have since done all they can to assist by supplying information, much of it of a secret nature. In addition, they have described something of conditions in Jap-ruled Malaya.

The comparative ease with which the Japanese were hoodwinked by these officers and men of the Indian Army throws light on enemy claims to have won the co-operation of Indian prisoners of war. These prisoners are proud of having defeated the Japanese in a battle of wits, just as successfully as their compatriots are now out fighting the Japs in battle.

3RD MADRAS REGIMENTS EXPLOITS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 600)

then wire and mine it. Proof of the efficiency of their work came when, subsequently manned by Gurkhas, the post held out against artillery bombardment and constant assault for nearly four hours at the cost of 200 killed to the enemy.

During their occupation the Madras were subjected to constant mortaring, sniping and intermittent attacks. On one occasion a party of Japanese came up by night and attempted to blow a hole in the perimeter wire with a "Bangalore torpedo." Lance-Naik Sengani of Pudupet, Madras, killed the lot with a well-aimed burst of light machine-gun fire.

During a previous spell of garrison duties, the battalion was inspected by both Lord Wavell as Commander-in-Chief and by Gen. Sir Claude Auchinleck. It also provided a Viceregal Guard for Lord Linlithgow, the late Viceroy, in Calcutta. Now, after its first successful clashes with the enemy, officers and men—and observers—feel that the battalion has justified the praise bestowed upon it on these former ceremonial occasions and has written a worthy chapter in the history of the regiment.

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VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

CONTRIBUTIONS of Rs. 28,00,473 during April, 1944, have brought the total of H. E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to Rs. 10,23,37,531 while payments in the same month, amounting to Rs. 6,24,956, raised the total of payments to Rs. 8,61,33,536 leaving a balance in hand on April 30, 1944, of Rs. 1,62,03,995 of which about Rs. 1½ crores represented unearmarked money.

Notable donations during the month were Rs. 10,00,000 from the United Provinces, Rs. 3,00,000 from the Bombay Provincial Joint War Committee, and Rs. 1,00,00 from the Rewa State, for the Central Joint Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Association War Organisation; Rs. 5,00,000 from the Junagadh State Rs. 2,00,000 from the Jaipur State, Rs. 1,50,000 (the usual monthly donation) from the Hyderabad State and Rs. 1,00,000 from Mayurbhanj State, all for general purposes.

Welfare of Service Women

Of payments in India, Rs. 1,00,000 went to the Young Women's Christian Association, Lucknow, for the welfare of Service women in India. Rs. 1,00,000 to the Welfare Officer, Royal Indian Navy, New Delhi, for the Royal Indian Navy Benevolent Association. Rs. 1,75,200 for welfare projects for the benefit of the Royal Indian Navy, Rs. 50,000 to the Director-General, Welfare and Amenities, Simla, for the Viceroy's Amenities Fund for officers, Rs. 25,000 to H. E. the Viceroy's Distress Relief Fund, New Delhi, and Rs. 20,608 to the Polish Children's Fund. Payments overseas included Rs. 70,000 to the Royal Air Force and Rs. 13,333 for Mrs. Churchill's Fund for Aid to Russia.

The St. Dunstan's Section of the Fund increased to Rs. 13,44,230 plus £263, the whole of which sum, apart from Rs. 1,00,094 (the balance in hand) has been disbursed to the Committees formed for relieving the War-blinded in India and the United Kingdom.

BOMBAY FIRE DAMAGE

Damage to goods and factories insured under the War Risks (Goods) Insurance Ordinance and War Risks (Factories) Insurance Ordinance which have been affected by the occurrence in Bombay on April 14, 1944, is not covered under the definition of 'war risks' prescribed under these two Ordinances. No claim lies, therefore, under these Ordinances in respect of such damage. Similarly no claim lies under the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act in respect of personal injuries received in the same incidents, said a Press communique issued by Commerce Department on May 31, 1944.

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INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR REVOLT; SHOT BY JAPANESE

IN the course of a talk (delivered in Urdu) broadcast from All India Radio, Delhi, on May 21, JEMADAR MOHD. YUSUF KHAN, one of the 12 Indians who recently landed in India from a Japanese submarine, said:

To-day, after an absence of two years I find myself in my beloved homeland talking to my friends. This period I spent as a prisoner of war with the Japanese. Two years of misery; of utter helplessness. Back in my own country, I feel as if I have suddenly stepped out from a dark grave into a new world—a world full of life and freedom. I have a story to tell—the story of a dead man resurrected.

On March 25, at 9 a.m. we landed on Indian soil from a canvas boat. It was a place called Pagni. We buried our boat in sand and proceeded on foot to the village of Pagni. We met the Zamindar of the village to whom we told our story. We had been sent to India by the Japanese but we never had any intention of doing what the Japs asked us to do, and asked him to report our arrival to the Military authorities. We showed him the things that the Japanese had given us—six revolvers and ammunition, dry rations, and two wireless sets (one hidden in a bucket and the other in a hookah) and money. Each one of us had Rs. 500, and packets of diamonds worth thousands of rupees. The Zamindar gave us food and drink and sent a message to Karachi. Next day a Major arrived and took us to Karachi. From there we came to Delhi. This is the end of my story, a happy ending to a tragic tale.

Protests Ignored

For the beginning I shall have to go back to the fateful day of February 15, 1942, when we were made prisoners by the Japanese. I was attached to the 8th Infantry Brigade Transport Company. All the personnel of this unit were sent to various Prisoner of War Camps and I was sent along with some of my comrades to Bidadari P. W. Camp where I was employed in looking after the supply and rationing of the prisoners. These places were strictly guarded by Japanese sentries and their inmates could only go out when required for labour, that is, to work on roads, aerodromes, removing of debris and heavy stones from one place to another, working for nine hours a day without respite. We had to live on very meagre rations. The camp commandant later on, however, managed to get for us a quantity of rice and atta (wheat flour)—rice

in the form of coarse powder and mixed with dust. There was no salt, no ghee and no spices.

Affairs became so bad that we were forced to protest to the Japanese authorities in the hope of some amelioration, but our protest was ignored.

The Japanese in the early days would leave no method of persuasion untried to make us fall in with them. They would appeal to our sentiments in the name of so-called Asiatic liberation and offer us various temptations. But when their cunning and persuasion failed they began to resort to torture. Every prisoner was asked to volunteer, and anyone refusing would be sent to concentration camps where they would be chained and subjected to corporal punishment and given most dirty rations, in consequence of which they would fall an easy prey to dysentery and other diseases.

Prisoners Rise in Revolt

During this period, Japanese atrocities had assumed such an alarming aspect that the prisoners sometimes rose in revolt. One morning came the news of a mutiny in a nearby camp. Soon after, we understood that a large number of Indian officers and soldiers were sent to concentration camps.

Such mutinies were not uncommon in Prisoner of War camps and numerous incidents of firing and shooting occurred every week. I spent about six months in Bidadari camp and all the time Japanese excesses upon these helpless victims increased.

One thing, however, I observed: if anyone submitted to the Japanese it was actually in the ultimate hope of finding his way out to India.

After six months, I was transferred from Bidadari to "Saleter" P.W. Camp. Prisoners here would cheerfully undergo all the sufferings and miseries the enemy could inflict, rather than tarnish the fair name of their country by becoming his agents. Hardly a week had elapsed after my transfer when this camp was visited by a Major to select persons for special jobs. I took it as a heaven-sent opportunity to escape from enemy hands, and so volunteered for special service. I was attached to a group of Muslims who had been selected for espionage work. Our team was sent to Penang where we were given details of the work. All of us received training in propaganda, swimming, rowing, and such things. Later on, Mr. Subhas Bose interviewed us individually and

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instructed us on how to present the picture to the Muslims of India.

After a few days we were ordered to move to Singapore. We were kept in Singapore for about two months and again a party of 20 was selected and ordered back to Penang. I was one of them. Here we underwent a further course of training and 12 out of the 20 were finally chosen for espionage work in India.

Taunted by Japs

So on the happy morning of February 27, 1944, we commenced our journey to India. You can imagine very well how happy I felt, even though our journey was full of peril.

The commander of our submarine looked more like a cook than an officer. Extraordinarily short statured, with glaring eyes and long buck teeth, with a small towel round his neck and a shirt half covered by his knickers and half outside, his face looked as if unwashed for many days. Had I not known that our Mr. Musaka was the submarine commander, I would have never believed him to be an officer. The only symbol of his rank were the two stripes on his cap and they too were covered in dirt. Fortunately for us, none of the Japanese crew understood our language, so we were able to make fun of them. Every day that passed brought us nearer home. Night after night I would keep watch on the compass and see how far was our country's shore. One day the Japanese submarine crew had a feast and we were invited. While dishes were being served, to our surprise and anger we found pork dishes on our table. Naturally we objected and refused to take it, at which the Japanese got annoyed and tauntingly remarked that as soon as they were in India, all such superstitions would be done away with.

At last on the night of March 16-17 we got somewhere near our shores and the Japanese tried to land us on the coast. They launched two boats into the sea but one of them overturned. Next night we again tried, but the other boat also got damaged. So Mr. Musaka suggested that we should kill some fishermen and use their boat. Naturally we wouldn't consent to such an abhorrent act.

A week or so passed and the boats had by then been repaired, so we got into them and made for Pasni. Landing on the sacred Indian soil we embraced each other and there were tears of joy in our eyes.

The Jubbulpore Ambulance Fund have presented Rs. 3,275 for the purchase of another ambulance for the Army, which will be named "Harda & Seoni-Malwa 2."

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BENGALI DOCTOR'S ORDEAL

The terrible hardships suffered by Indian prisoners of war, who fell into Japanese hands after the surrender of Singapore, are described by A. A. Macartney, War Correspondent of *The Argus*, Melbourne, in a despatch to his paper from Hollandia.

Among a further batch of Indian prisoners liberated by the United States Forces in New Guinea was CAPT. A. K. DAS, Indian Army Medical Corps, of Calcutta, says Macartney, and his story like many others was an epic of courage and endurance in the face of great privations.

Indians were the worst treated of all prisoners according to Capt. Das who described the days following the fall of Singapore as terrible. The Japs went mad. They looted the city and raped Chinese and Malayan women and, in the words of Capt. Das, "We were treated like animals."

From Singapore, Capt. Das was sent to Rabaul to look after Indian and Dutch East Indies prisoners who had been sent there as labour. They were always short of food and Allied air raids on Rabaul were a godsend to these people. While the Japs sheltered in their foxholes, the Indians would brave the fury of the raids and steal food from Japanese larders.

Tied to Tree and Whipped

Capt. Das's next move was to Wewak and here the enemy found that he was keeping a diary. The diary was immediately destroyed and he was warned not to keep one again. When they discovered that he had started another, they stripped him, tied him to a tree and whipped him. For two days he was left bound to the tree. Macartney saw the third diary which Capt. Das had started and managed to keep from the enemy. It is a terrible indictment of the Japanese to be paid in full some day, he writes.

The Japanese had started partially to evacuate the Madang-Alexishafen area in March and when mass evacuation started Capt. Das and other Indian prisoners were forced to march to Hollandia through the swampy coastal area. With barely any food and little protection the march was a grim nightmare.

MADRAS AMBULANCE FUND

Another gift to the Army of a fully equipped ambulance has now brought the total contribution by the Madras Ambulance Fund to 125 since the inception of the Fund in 1942. All subscriptions to the fund are voluntary.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUN

JAPANESE EXECUTE SICK INDIAN PRISONERS OF WAR

STORIES of cruelties and hardships inflicted upon them by the Japanese are told by a party of Indian prisoners of war rescued from the enemy in the recent Allied attack on the Admiralty Islands, north of New Guinea in the South West Pacific. Some are men of the 5-11th Sikh Regiment taken prisoner in Malaya in February, 1942.

When the Americans landed in the Admiralties, they did not expect to find any Indians there and, therefore, when first approached by the two emissaries whom they could not identify, the Americans shot them. But the Indians were determined to get away from their oppressors; they sent two more emissaries and this time, convinced as to their genuineness, the Americans agreed to help the escapees. The whole party then made their way into the American lines and were overjoyed to find themselves once more among friends and civilised people.

According to the Indians, Chinese patriots who helped them in Malaya were crucified and at least 15 Indians who were ill at Rabaul were executed by the Japs by means of lethal drug injections.

As a result of their cruel treatment at the hands of the enemy, they regard the Japanese with bitter hatred and are anxious only for a chance to continue the fight against them.

"We were Slapped and Abused"

Subedar Gulzara Singh (5-11 Sikhs) one of those who escaped, said: "The Japanese are nothing but barbarians and India could expect nothing but humiliation and misery at their hands. We Indians were nothing but beasts of burden for them.

"I was captured at Singapore with a number of other Indian troops. We were separated from our officers and put into coolie camps. We were made to work like slaves and the Japs showed no respect for us. Frequently we were slapped and abused, and very seldom did we receive any food from our guards. The Chinese were often kind to us, but only at great risk to themselves. Those who helped us were often killed or tortured.

"On the ship which took us to the Admiralties we were herded below deck like cattle 2,000 of us. We were allowed out on the hatchways once a day and inevitably became the sport of Japanese, who inflicted indescribable indignities upon us from the decks above. Japanese treatment of us Indians should give all India some idea of its fate if ever it came under Japanese control."

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Jemadar Shingara Singh, of the same regiment said: "On the 18 days' march from Singapore to Kuala Lumpur, we were herded along the road like cattle. At one place we saw a number of Chinese nailed to palm trees with iron spikes driven through their foreheads. The guards told us they were suspected of helping the guerillas, mostly Australians, who at that time were still fighting determinedly in the interior.

"The Japanese tried to make us shave off our beards. When we got meat, it was unclean. On our way to Manus Island, 35 Sikhs died and were thrown overboard. We were kept under hatches and allowed two cups of water a day for everything—washing and drinking. At Manus we had to dig slit trenches for the Japs but were never allowed protection for ourselves."

"To us, the Japanese are worse than beasts and lars. They can bring only ruin and desolation to India. They show only contempt for us Indians."

Nursing Orderly Mohammad Afsar, formerly of the 19th Indian General Hospital, was taken to Rabaul. He said: "The Japs made slaves of us. They trampled on all our religious beliefs and customs. We were frequently beaten with sticks and rifle butts. Few of us had ground sheets and we were made to sleep out in pouring rain. Many became ill through exposure and insect bites."

Lance Naik Gurnam Singh told the story of the putting to death, at Rabaul, of 15 Indians who fell ill. He said: "A close friend told me of the death of Havildar Bahadur Khan. When he became ill, the Japanese decided it was useless wasting time and precious medical supplies in attempting to save him.

"Bahadur Khan was given an injection which killed him almost immediately. The same thing was done to at least 14 others whom I knew."

CONDITIONS IN JAP-RULED MALAYA

In the course of a broadcast (delivered in Urdu) from All India Radio on May 23, HAVILDAR SAID MOHAMMAD, 5-14th Punjab Regiment, one of the 12th Indians who recently landed in India from a Japanese submarine, said:

I am thankful to God, who has granted me this opportunity to expose the barbarous Japanese. The Japs sent me here to do their propaganda, which I am doing now, but with this difference that I am saying, not what the Japs asked me to say, but what I saw with my own eyes while I was a prisoner in Japanese hands.

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My Regiment, the 514th Punjab, which is also known as the "Forty Pathans," was stationed in Penang in 1939. In 1941, when the war with Japan started, this regiment was sent to Kuri (Malaya). When we reached the river Saetern, the enemy encircled the whole of our battalion. Two hundred men of my battalion and some men of the brigade attempted to escape through the jungle. For three whole days we wandered in the jungle without food and water and at last we were made prisoners by the Japs at Tonjong Malum. Being without food for the last three days, we asked the Japs for some rice to eat. They refused to give us anything, but in the morning, they doled out to each of us two handfuls of rice.

Women Assaulted

From Tonjong Malum, we were taken in lorries to Ipoh, where we saw a sight that made our blood boil with rage. At a little distance, a Chinese lady was going from one house to another, when a Jap soldier shouting "khurre" rushed towards her. He caught hold of her, threw her down on the ground, and raped her in the presence of all.

We were lodged in the Ipoh Anderson School. Close by, there was a small stream. One day, along with my companions, I was standing on the bank of this stream. Nearby, a Chinese lady was washing her clothes. Her child was playing on the ground. Just then there appeared some Jap soldiers who dragged the woman to the guard room leaving her child behind. After some time, a man, probably some relative of the Chinese lady, came and took the forlorn child away. The woman was kept in the guard room for the whole day. On enquiring, we came to know that the Jap soldiers often carry their victims to the guard room and outrage their modesty there. Every day we used to witness the barbarous deeds of the Japs.

In our vicinity there was a hospital. It was quite common for the Japs to belabour and rob convalescent patients who went for a walk on the road outside the hospital.

Saluting Order

From Ipoh, we were transferred to Kuala Lumpur. Here a new humiliation was in store for us. In this city, the Japanese promulgated an order that every person passing a Jap sentry should salute him with a bow of his or her head. The Japs adopted brutal measures to enforce this order. Anyone, whether civilian or military, who omitted to salute a sentry, was given a severe thrashing.

I saw one such incident. A Sikh civilian and his wife passed by a Jap sentinel. The Sikh

did salute the sentinel, but his wife forgot to do so. Thereupon the Jap sentinel caught her by the neck, beat her and kicked her. When her husband tried to save her, he was arrested and ruthlessly beaten. The Sikh lady was sent to the guard room where she was subjected to that very treatment which all victimized women receive at the hands of Jap soldiers.

Incidents of Chinese women being treated in this manner by the fiendish Japs were common. In order to save themselves from the Jap soldiers, young Chinese girls disguised themselves as men with their hair cut in western style.

Prisoners Whipped

Those who have not seen the atrocities perpetrated by the Japs can never believe that man could be so cruel. If labourers, employed by the Japanese, committed the slightest mistake or were slow to understand their orders, they were slapped and kicked mercilessly. After thrashing them, the Japs made them stand in the sun. Sometimes they put the leader of the gang to death.

The concentration camps presented the worst spectacle of Japanese tyranny. Though I did not stay in them, yet I had opportunities to visit them. A Jap soldier with a stick in his hand always stood at the gate. When the prisoners came out of the camp he always struck each soldier's head with his stick.

These prisoners were made to work very hard. If they were tired and showed signs of sluggishness, down came the whips and sticks. These unfortunate creatures got half rations as compared with those of other prisoners of war. Their personal effects were confiscated. They could not get anything from outside, not even their religious books. They had to construct roads, to fill or dig pits in the scorching sun. At night, they slept on the grass exposed to mosquitoes. Many developed malaria and wasted away without any medical treatment.

This is just an incomplete picture of the Inferno from which we have escaped. I could tell you many more eye-witness accounts of Jap atrocities for which they are sure to be punished very soon. "The mills of God grind slowly, but they grind exceeding small."

H. H. the Nawab of Bahawalpur has placed at the disposal of the army authorities in India a sum of Rs. 20,000 to be utilised for amenities for troops of the 14th Army.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 15, 1944

NEW INTERNATIONAL MONETARY PLAN

"THE Government of India are extremely anxious that India's position should receive due recognition in the constitution of the Fund, that full weight should be given to her importance and that no effort will be spared at the Conference to secure for India a quota which is appropriate to her general status and her importance in the international field."

Thus observed the HON'BLE MR. C. E. JONES, Acting Finance Member to the Government of India, presiding over the fourth meeting of the Consultative Committee of Economists, which was held in New Delhi on May 19, 1944, to consider the "Joint Statement by Experts on the Establishment of an International Monetary Fund," published on page 632 of this issue. The Hon'ble Member said:

You are all aware that the early plans which were put forward as a basis for international monetary co-operation after the war indicated very divergent lines of approach on the part of the experts of the different countries, and it seemed that these divergences would take a great deal of bridging. We naturally anticipated that every effort would be made to bridge those gaps and to secure some general basic principles agreed at the technical level as soon as possible. But agreement was reached, at least so far as I am concerned, with unexpected rapidity. In fact the agreement was reached so early that there seemed a possibility, of what at one stage seemed almost impossible, of an international discussion in America to at least approve or modify these basic principles before the fever-election heat in America rendered the possibility of an international conference out of the question.

Public Opinion Being Sought

We have not yet received a formal invitation to a conference in America, though we hope and expect that one will come. If it comes it will come in the traditional American fashion, abruptly and with very short notice; and the Government of India were desirous in the short time available to them to secure such measure of informed public opinion in India as was possible within the short time at our disposal.

We ourselves received the authentic text of this agreed statement only on the 22nd or 23rd April last, and we took immediate steps to print it and broadcast it over the country, with special circulation to interested parties, so as to invite expressions of public opinion and with a view

to securing discussion with us of such bodies as the General Policy Committee of the Reconstruction Committee and this Consultative Committee of Economists. We regret that we have asked you to face this statement in your hands for a longer period; but I think you will agree that in the circumstances we have adopted the only course which was open to us.

Experience after the last war, I think, has brought home to all nations and all thinking men the desirability of international co-operation and collaboration in economic matters for the benefit of all, and that no country would contemplate with equanimity allowing events to run their course as they did after the last war, which might have effects still more disastrous than those which occurred in the inter-war period. And consequently there is a general body of world opinion that international collaboration in economic matters in a number of fields is essential if the world is to go straight ahead for prosperity after this calamitous war has come to an end.

Trend of Opinion in India

The first approaches to this general question of international co-operation have taken place in the monetary sphere and it is in that sphere that the most progress has been made. The plans which have already appeared and which were discussed by the Finance Sub-Committee of this Committee last January at least served this purpose, that they gave a general idea of the trend of public thought on this question and indicated possible ways of tackling the problem. Public reaction in India has generally been, broadly speaking, that it would be to India's advantage to participate in an international monetary system, provided that India's special requirements were taken into account and provided that certain important aspects of her economy were duly safeguarded. That is the reaction that we found in the Reconstruction General Policy Committee, and I find that your Finance Sub-Committee came to the same conclusion in their report which is now before this General Committee meeting, in which, if I may quote from it, it is stated that "the establishment of a multilateral trading system was in India's best interest, and for this purpose adherence to an international monetary agreement was clearly desirable."

Of the alternative forms which were originally put forward, Indian opinion on the whole

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favoured the stabilization fund type of scheme as being more practical than the more idealistic scheme put forward by Lord Keynes of an International Clearing Union.

The British Government's report on the Keynes Plan was published on pages 337-8 of "Indian Information" dated May 1, 1943.]

The stabilization fund scheme was based on the familiar and well-understood principles of deposit banking, whereas the overdraft principle on which the Keynes Plan was based was entirely novel, at least in the international sphere, and many thought it involved too great a risk, at any rate in the early post-war years, as a basis for a new and untried international organisation. The Reserve Bank Board in particular felt that developments might in due course render the switch over to an out and out Clearing Union Plan desirable, but they were firmly of opinion that in the early years at least something more moderate, more conservative and more in accordance with familiar principles was desirable, at any rate to make a start along the lines of international co-operation.

Features of the New Plan

We have before us now this joint statement of principles, agreed at the expert level, on which an International Monetary Fund might be established. This is the statement which will form the subject of deliberation at an international conference if, as we hope and as we expect, one is shortly called. You will understand of course, gentlemen, that to secure the measure of agreement which is indicated by this joint statement, many features of the previous plan have had to be sacrificed and those sacrifices of characteristic features of the earlier plans will be apparent to you who have studied both earlier plans and this joint statement. The joint statement follows the stabilization fund type of scheme rather than the Clearing Union Plan, but it definitely relaxes the rigidity of the original American draft in respect, for instance, of exchange variations, and it certainly trenches less on the sovereign rights of the participating countries. In both these respects the draft which is now before us accords with the views which have been expressed in this country. The report of your Sub-Committee refers to the sacrifices of autonomy involved, but considered that the advantages of an international co-operative scheme outweighed those disadvantages and it will be a source of satisfaction and gratification, I am sure, to see that the loss of autonomous sovereign rights which is involved have now been reduced to the barest minimum.

If I were asked what in my view are the main outstanding characteristics of the plan now before us, I would say they were three: Its

simplicity, its elasticity and its freedom. Simplicity, the first of these characteristics, has been achieved by strictly confining the scheme to its barest essentials and eliminating all extraneous matters and matters of purely temporary interest or importance. We must recognise, and we should remember, that what is aimed at here is a scheme which is long-range in purpose, designed to achieve and maintain the objectives which are set out in Section I of the Draft, with the main object of eliminating hindrances through monetary causes to international trade with a view to securing a high level of employment and of real income in all countries and a corresponding increase in the standard of living in those countries. The plan does not concern itself with, say, the question of relief and rehabilitation of war devastated countries. This is a problem of immense importance to the future of the world, but the plan recognises that it is a matter of comparatively temporary importance which should not suitably find place in a long-range scheme. Neither does the plan cover the question of international investment, which question also is a matter of supreme importance to the future economic peace of the world and the future economic development of the world, but it is regarded as extraneous to the essential purposes of this particular scheme.

Liquidation of Sterling Balances

It is for the same reason that this plan does not provide for the liquidation of the large war balances which have come into being, and for their conversion into universal purchasing power. In this respect the draft, as it now stands, will probably be disappointing to Indian opinion, especially as the earlier schemes envisaged the possibility of the utilisation of the post-war international monetary machinery to facilitate the solution of this great problem. The mere fact that the original plans provided or made some reference to this matter shows that every effort was made to embody a solution of this problem in the international monetary scheme; but the final conclusion of the technical experts was that the problem of war balances was so vast and so complicated that it would have to be dealt with separately like those other matters which I have mentioned, and that any attempt to embody a solution of the problem of war-indebtedness in a monetary scheme would overload the whole scheme, rendering any practicable scale of resources inadequate and generally throwing the whole thing out of balance.

This subject of war indebtedness is so important from India's point of view that I would again stress that this feature of the original schemes has been dropped only after every effort had been made to accommodate it in the joint statement.

The Keynes Plan made reference to it in a general sort of way; the White Plan gave a fairly detailed indication of how a solution of the problem might be embodied in an international monetary plan. It is a fact, however, that the fairly detailed suggestions in the White Plan met with a considerable body of opposition in this country, and it is not difficult to understand the reasons why ultimately it was found necessary to abandon the attempt. The final view taken by the Experts was that the settlement of the problem of abnormal war balances will have to be settled separately after the war in the early post-war years and some solution found as between the countries concerned, and not embodied as part of a permanent international monetary plan.

New Plan will Fortify Sterling

Referring to India's sterling balances, if a negotiated settlement should take the form of liquidation of those balances by annual instalments, I think we may reasonably assume that the annual payment of sterling in accordance with that scheme of liquidation would be treated as current transactions for the purposes of this present monetary plan. Meanwhile, however, I would like to point out that there is ground for assuming that an international monetary arrangement on the lines indicated in the joint statement now before us would definitely fortify and strengthen sterling, and in the future of sterling India has a very real interest because that is the currency in which her large external balances are held. I think it is also reasonable to assume that the institution of an international monetary organisation on the lines contemplated would assist in bringing about the multilateral convertibility of sterling at a date earlier than otherwise would be the case. If these are granted, then I would suggest that it is a logical corollary to say that a plan of this sort will definitely assist in the solution of the problem of India's sterling balances and in that sense and to that extent would be to the advantage of India.

Elasticity of Scheme

The second characteristic, which I mentioned, the characteristic of elasticity, is best exemplified in the provisions of Section IV regarding variations in the rates of exchange. Sub-section (4) allows unilateral variation up to a certain percentage, while under sub-section (3) of Section IV the Fund is debarred from questioning the domestic, social or political policies of member countries. The Fund has to accept these as facts of the situation and has to give its decisions in a quasi-judicial capacity on the basis of these facts. In other words, the exchange value of a currency must be adjusted

to conform to the domestic policy of the country—say, a policy of full employment, or a policy of intensive economic development, or a policy of intensive industrialisation. The exchange value of the currency must be adjusted to the domestic policy of the country rather than the domestic policy of the country having to be adjusted to a rigid rate of exchange. In this connection, also like to refer to Section X(4) which lays down that in the transitional period the Fund must give the benefit of the doubt to proposals presented by any member country.

Withdrawal Facilities

There remains the third characteristic which I mentioned—that of freedom—and this is chiefly exemplified in the provisions of Section VIII which permit any member country to withdraw from the Fund without notice and without penalty. Thus the association of any member country with the Fund will be on a purely voluntary basis and only for so long as it works to the advantage of that country. Since withdrawal from the Fund would be a serious matter, I think you will agree that a provision of this nature is the best guarantee that could be furnished of fair and reasonable treatment to all member countries on the part of the management of the Fund. And while mentioning this establishment of freedom, as indicated in the Draft before us, I would like again to refer to Section X which deals with transitional arrangements, and which safeguards the necessary freedom of action of member countries during the early post-war difficulties.

No Reversion to old Gold Standard

It seems unnecessary for me to go further into details of the plan at the present moment, the more so as I am speaking to a body of trained economists. I need hardly take the trouble, for instance, to explain such elementary matters as one which has been mentioned in the Press, that the mere fact that each member country's currency is expressible in terms of gold in no sense implies a reversion to the old gold standard. I should perhaps, in concluding my remarks, mention what you will already have noticed, that the provisions in the Statement regarding management of the Fund and regarding the fixation of quotas are extremely bald in outline and leave much to be filled in in the conference itself. The question of quotas is an extremely important one, since voting power will almost certainly be related in some way or other to quotas.

I should like to give this assurance to you, gentlemen, that the Government of India are extremely anxious that India's position should

receive due recognition in the constitution of this Fund, that full weight should be given to her importance and that no effort will be spared at the conference to secure for India a quota which is appropriate to her general status and her importance in the international field.

DISCUSSED BY GENERAL POLICY COMMITTEE

A special meeting of the General Policy Committee of the Reconstruction Committee of Council was held in Bombay on May 4 and 5, 1944, to discuss the joint statement by experts of the United and Associated Nations on the establishment of an International Monetary Fund.

The Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman, Finance Member, Government of India, attended the meeting.

INDIA INVITED TO CONFERENCE

An official communication has been received by the Government of India from the President of the United States cordially inviting the Government of India to send a delegation to participate in a formal monetary and financial conference of the United Nations and the nations associated with them, to be held in the United States beginning on July 1, 1944, said a Press Communique issued by Finance Department on May 31, 1944. It continued:

The conference is being called for the purpose of formulating definite proposals for an international monetary fund and possibly a bank for reconstruction and development. In this connection the Statement of Principles, as prepared by experts and recently published in India and elsewhere, will be taken into consideration. The invitation adds that it would be understood that the delegates would not be required to hold plenipotentiary powers and that the proposals formulated at the conference would be referred subsequently to the respective Governments and authorities for their acceptance or rejection.

Personnel of Delegation

The actual venue of the conference has not yet been decided upon.

The Government of India have gladly accepted this invitation and have expressed the hope that a scheme will be evolved which will prove acceptable to all the Governments concerned and which will constitute the first step towards the

SIR ARDESHIR DALAL Member for Planning and Development

A Press Communique issued on June 1 stated: "The Governor-General has decided that planning for the post-war period has now reached a stage at which it requires the attention of a Member of his Executive Council who is free from ordinary departmental responsibility. He has accordingly decided to establish a new Department of Planning and Development. His Majesty the King has been pleased to approve the appointment of SIR ARDESHIR DALAL to be a Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council, and the new Department will be placed in his charge. Sir Ardeshir Dalal will take up his duties as Member of the Executive Council on or about August 1, 1944."

Sir Ardeshir Rustamji Dalal, who is 60 years of age, was educated at the Elphinstone College, Bombay, and St. John's College, Cambridge. He entered the I.C.S. in 1904 and after serving in various capacities acted as Secretary to the Government of Bombay; later, he acted as Secretary to the Government of India in the Education, Health and Lands Department. He was a member of the Bombay Legislative Council in 1922 and a member of the Indian Legislative Assembly in 1927. He has been President of the Rotary Club, Calcutta, and of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta. He was knighted in 1939. Sir Ardeshir is a Director and Partner, Tata Sons Ltd., Bombay, and Director of other companies.

MORE WHEAT IMPORTS

About 24,000 tons of wheat are reported to have arrived in India from overseas during the last week of May.

goal of international economic co-operation on which the future peace and prosperity of the world depends.

The Government of India's delegation consists of: SIR JEREMY RAISMAN, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., Hon'ble Member for Finance, Government of India, SIR CHINTAMAN D. DESHMUKH, C.I.E., Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, DR. SIR THEODORE GREGORY, Economic Adviser to the Government of India; and SIR SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, K.C.I.E., and MR. A. D. SHROFF, Non-officials.

The delegation will be accompanied by Dr. Madan as their Secretary.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 16, 1944

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND: JOINT STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

REPRODUCED below is the provisional text of a Statement of Principles for an International Monetary Fund which has recently been published in the United Kingdom and America. It is the result of close study over many months at the expert level. It in no way commits the Governments concerned and it is conceived as part of a general plan for international co-operation the objectives of which as a whole would be the progressive development of international trade, the maintenance of a high level of employment and reasonable stability of prices and the provision of machinery for orderly adjustment of exchanges.

The purpose of publishing it at this stage is to promote informed discussion in all quarters from which valuable guidance can be obtained by the Governments of the United Nations in preparation for the formulation in due course of their policies by the Governments concerned.

A conference of representatives of these Governments is to be held in America. Representatives of all the United Nations, including India, will be invited to this conference. As the Government of India have already announced, they do not propose to undertake any commitments until an opportunity for discussion has been afforded to the Legislature.

JOINT STATEMENT BY EXPERTS

Sufficient discussion of the problems of international monetary co-operation has taken place at the technical level to justify a statement of principles. It is the consensus of opinion of the experts of the United and Associated Nations who have participated in these discussions that the most practical method of assuring international monetary co-operation is through the establishment of an International Monetary Fund. The principles set forth below are designed to constitute the basis of this Fund. Governments are not asked to give final approval to these principles until they have been embodied in the form of definite proposals by the delegates of the United and Associated Nations meeting in a formal conference.

I.—Purposes and Policies of the Fund

The Fund will be guided in all decisions by the purposes and policies set forth below:—

(1) To promote international monetary co-operation through a permanent institution which provides machinery for consultation on international monetary problems.

(2) To facilitate the expansion and balanced growth of international trade and to contribute in this way to the maintenance of a high level of employment and of real income, which must be a primary object of economic policy.

(3) To give confidence to member countries by making the resources of the Fund available to them under adequate safeguards thus giving members the time to correct maladjustments in their balance of payments without resorting to measures destructive to national or international prosperity.

(4) To promote exchange stability, to maintain orderly exchange arrangements among member countries and to avoid competitive exchange depreciation.

(5) To assist the establishment of multilateral payments facilities on current transactions among member countries and the elimination of foreign exchange restrictions which hamper the growth of world trade.

(6) To shorten the periods and lessen the degree of disequilibrium in the international balance of payments of member countries.

II.—Subscription to the Fund

(1) Member countries shall subscribe in gold and in their local funds amounts (quotas) to be agreed, which will amount altogether to about 8 billion dollars if all the United Nations and the Associated Nations subscribe to the Fund (corresponding to about 10 billion dollars for the world as a whole).

(2) Quotas may be revised from time to time but changes shall require a four-fifths vote and no member's quota shall be changed without its assent.

(3) The obligatory gold subscription of a member country shall be fixed at 25 per cent of its subscription (quota) or 10 per cent of its holdings of gold and gold-convertible exchange, whichever is the smaller.

III.—Transactions with the Fund

(1) Member countries shall deal with the Fund only through their Treasury. Central

Bank, Stabilisation Fund, or other fiscal agencies. The Fund's account in a member's currency shall be kept at the Central Bank of the member country.

(2) A member shall be entitled to buy another member's currency from the Fund in exchange for its own currency on the following conditions:—

(a) the member represents that the currency demanded is presently needed for making payments in that currency which are consistent with the purposes of the Fund;

(b) the Fund has not given notice that its holdings of the currency demanded have become scarce, in which case the provisions of VI below come into force;

(c) the Fund's total holdings of the currency offered (after having been restored, if below that figure, to 75 per cent of the member's quota) have not increased by more than 25 per cent of the member's quota during the previous 12 months, and do not exceed 200 per cent of the quota;

(d) the Fund has not previously given appropriate notice that the member is suspended from making further use of the Fund's resources on the ground that it is using them in a manner contrary to the purposes and policies of the Fund, but the Fund shall not give such notice until it has presented to the member concerned a report setting forth its views and has allowed suitable time for a reply.

The Fund may in its discretion and on terms which safeguard its interests waive any of the conditions above.

(3) Operations on the Fund's account will be limited to transactions for the purpose of supplying a member country, on the member's initiative, with another member's currency in exchange for its own currency or for gold. Transactions provided for under (4) and (7) below are not subject to this limitation.

(4) The Fund will be entitled at its option, with a view to preventing a particular member's currency from becoming scarce—

(a) to borrow its currency from a member country.

(b) to offer gold to a member country in exchange for its currency.

(5) So long as a member country is entitled to buy another member's currency from the Fund in exchange for its own currency, it shall be prepared to buy its own currency from that member with that member's currency or with gold. This requirement does not apply to currency subject to restrictions in conformity with IX (3) below or to holdings of currency which have accumulated as a result of transactions of a current account nature effected before the removal by the member country of restrictions on multilateral clearing maintained or imposed under X(2) below.

(6) A member country desiring to obtain, directly or indirectly, the currency of another member country for gold is expected, provided it can do so with equal advantage, to acquire the currency by the sale of gold to the Fund. This shall not preclude the sale of newly mined gold by a gold producing country on any market.

(7) The Fund may also acquire gold from member countries in accordance with the following provisions:

(a) A member country may repurchase from the Fund for gold any part of the latter's holdings of its currency.

(b) So long as a member's holdings of gold and gold-convertible exchange exceed its quota the Fund, in selling foreign exchange to that country, shall require that one-half of the net sales of such exchange during the Fund's financial year be paid for with gold.

(c) If at the end of the Fund's financial year a member's holdings of gold and gold-convertible exchange have increased, the Fund may require up to one-half of the increase to be used to repurchase part of the Fund's holdings of its currency, so long as this does not reduce the Fund's holdings of a member's currency below 75 per cent of its quota, or the member's holdings of gold and gold-convertible exchange below its quota.

IV.—Par Values of Member Currencies

(1) The par value of a member's currency shall be agreed with the Fund when it is admitted to membership, and shall be expressed in terms of gold. All transactions between the Fund and members shall be at par, subject to a fixed charge payable by the member making application to the Fund, and all transactions in member currencies shall be at rates within an agreed percentage of parity.

IV.—Par Values of Member Currencies

(2) Subject to (5) below, no change in the par value of a member's currency shall be made by the Fund without the country's approval. Member countries agree not to propose a change of the parity of their currencies unless they consider it appropriate to correct a fundamental disequilibrium. Changes shall be made only with the approval of the Fund, subject to the provisions below.

(3) The Fund shall approve a requested change in the par value of a member's currency, if it is essential to correct a fundamental disequilibrium. In particular, the Fund shall not reject a requested change, necessary to

restore equilibrium, because of the domestic, social or political policies of the country applying for a change. In considering a requested change, the Fund shall take into consideration the extreme uncertainties prevailing at the time the parities of currencies of member countries were initially agreed upon.

(4) After consulting the Fund, a member country may change the established parity of its currency, provided the proposed change, inclusive of any previous change since the establishment of the Fund, does not exceed 10 per cent. In the case of application for a further change, not covered by the above and not exceeding 10 per cent, the Fund shall give its decision within two days of receiving the application, if the applicant so requests.

(5) An agreed uniform change may be made in the gold value of member currencies provided every member country having 10 per cent or more of the aggregate quotas approves.

V.—Capital Transactions

(1) A member country may not use the Fund's resources to meet a large or sustained outflow of capital, and the Fund may require a member country to exercise control to prevent such use of the resources of the Fund. This provision is not intended to prevent the use of the Fund's resources for capital transactions of reasonable amount required for the expansion of exports or in the ordinary course of trade, banking and other business. Nor is it intended to prevent capital movements which are met out of a member country's own resources of gold and foreign exchange, provided such capital movements are in accordance with the purposes of the Fund.

(2) Subject to VI below, a member country may not use its control of capital movements to restrict payments for current transactions or to delay unduly the transfer of funds in settlement of commitments.

VI.—Apportionment of Scarce Currencies

(1) When it becomes evident to the Fund that the demand for a member country's currency may soon exhaust the Fund's holdings of that currency, the Fund shall so inform member countries and propose an equitable method of apportioning the scarce currency. When a currency is thus declared scarce, the Fund shall issue a report embodying the causes of the scarcity and containing recommendations designed to bring it to an end.

(2) A decision by the Fund to apportion a scarce currency shall operate as an authorisation to a member country, after consultation with the Fund, temporarily to restrict the freedom of exchange operations in the affected

currency, and in determining the manner of restricting the demand and rationing the limited supply among its nationals the member country shall have complete jurisdiction.

VII.—Management

(1) The Fund shall be governed by a Board on which each member will be represented and by an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall consist of at least nine members including representatives of the five countries with the largest quotas.

(2) The distribution of voting power on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee shall be closely related to quotas.

(3) Subject to II (2) and IV (5) all matters shall be settled by majority of votes.

(4) The Fund shall publish at short intervals a statement of its position showing the extent of its holdings of member currencies and gold and its transactions in gold.

VIII.—Withdrawal

(1) A member country may withdraw from the Fund by giving notice in writing.

(2) The reciprocal obligations of the Fund and the country are to be liquidated within a reasonable time.

(3) After a member country has given notice in writing of its withdrawal from the Fund the Fund may not dispose of its holdings of the country's currency except in accordance with the arrangements made under (2) above. After a country has given notice of withdrawal, its use of the resources of the Fund is subject to the approval of the Fund.

IX.—Obligations of Member Countries

(1) Not to buy gold at a price which exceeds the agreed parity of its currency by more than a prescribed margin and not to sell gold at a price which falls below the agreed parity by more than a prescribed margin.

(2) Not to allow exchange transactions in its market in the currencies of other members at rates outside a prescribed range based on the agreed parities.

(3) Not to impose restrictions on payments for current international transactions with other member countries (other than those involving capital transfers or in accordance with VI above) or to engage in any discriminatory currency arrangements or multiple currency practices without the approval of the Fund.

X.—Transitional Arrangements

(1) Since the Fund is not intended to provide facilities for relief or reconstruction or to deal with international indebtedness arising out

restore equilibrium, because of the domestic, social or political policies of the country applying for a change. In considering a requested change, the Fund shall take into consideration the extreme uncertainties prevailing at the time the parities of currencies of member countries were initially agreed upon.

(4) After consulting the Fund, a member country may change the established parity of its currency, provided the proposed change, inclusive of any previous change since the establishment of the Fund, does not exceed 10 per cent. In the case of application for a further change, not covered by the above and not exceeding 10 per cent, the Fund shall give its decision within two days of receiving the application, if the applicant so requests.

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(3) Not to impose restrictions on payments for current international transactions with other member countries (other than those involving capital transfers or in accordance with VI above) or to engage in any discriminatory currency arrangements or multiple currency practices without the approval of the Fund.

X.—Transitional Arrangements

(1) Since the Fund is not intended to provide facilities for relief or reconstruction or to deal with international indebtedness arising out

the war, the agreement of a member country to III(5) and IX(3) above shall not become operative until it is satisfied as to the arrangements at its disposal to facilitate the settlement of balance of payments differences during the early post-war transition period by means which will not unduly encumber its facilities with the Fund.

(2) During this transition period member countries may maintain, and adapt to changing circumstances, exchange regulations of the character which have been in operation during the war, but they shall undertake to withdraw, as soon as possible, by progressive stages any restrictions which impede multilateral clearing on current account. In their exchange policy they shall pay continuous regard to the principles and objectives of the Fund; and they shall take all possible measures to develop commercial and financial relations with other member countries which will facilitate international payments and the maintenance of exchange stability.

(3) The Fund may make representations to any member that conditions are favourable to the withdrawal of particular restrictions or for the general abandonment of restrictions inconsistent with IX (3) above. Not later than three years from the coming into force of the Fund, any member still retaining any restrictions inconsistent with IX(3) shall consult the Fund as to their further retention.

(4) In its relations with member countries, the Fund shall recognise that the transition period is one of change and adjustment, and in deciding on its attitude to proposals presented by members it shall give the member country the benefit of any reasonable doubt.

EXPLANATORY NOTES BY U.K. EXPERTS

Some of the most important respects in which the joint statement as agreed between British and American technical experts differs from or resembles the proposals for an International Clearing Union published as Command 6437 are explained below:—

(1) Under the Clearing Union Plan member countries might have been said to bank with the Union with which they were to keep balances or run overdrafts. Under the International Monetary Fund Scheme on the other hand the Fund may be said to bank with member countries which undertake to grant the Fund facilities to hold and draw on their local funds. Thus if under the Clearing Union Plan a member country drew resources from the Union, this meant that its own balance with the Union would be diminished and the balance of some

other member would be increased, whereas if a member country draws resources from the Fund this means the Fund's balances with that member are increased and its balances with some other member decreased. These two arrangements represent alternative technical set-ups capable of performing precisely the same functions. The same purposes and provisions in all other respects can be carried into effect under the one as under the other. It has, however, proved easier to obtain agreement on the mechanism of the proposed Fund which has the appearance of being closer to what is already familiar.

(2) As a consequence it is no longer necessary to introduce a new international unit whether *bancor* or *unitas* since it is only if the member countries bank with the Fund that the use of a new common unit becomes unavoidable.

(3) The provisions of the Clearing Union Plan under which only the Central Banks of member countries were in a position to engage in transactions with the Union, are replaced by the analogous provisions of clause III(1) (2) and (3) under which the Fund can only engage in transactions with the monetary authority of member countries and is not free to enter the market or deal with other banks or persons.

(4) The aggregate facilities guaranteed by the initial subscriptions of members under clause II(1) are smaller than those proposed for a Clearing Union. But they are substantial and if necessary can be increased later on by general agreement. It has been argued that the present proposals involve as large a commitment as is prudent to ask in favour of an as yet untried institution. Moreover in estimating sufficiency of the facilities proposed it is necessary to bear in mind clause X(1) where it is made clear that the facilities of the Fund are not intended to provide facilities for relief or reconstruction or to deal with international indebtedness arising out of the war.

(5) The Clearing Union proposals were criticised on the ground that they made insufficient provision for elasticity of exchange rates and for subsequent modifications in the rate initially established. The new proposal explicitly provides for alteration in the exchange rates whilst maintaining the general principle that exchange rates being two ended, so that change in parity of any currency affects the currencies of all countries, not only that of the country making the change, a proposed change is a proper subject for international consultation. The Fund acting in its judicial capacity, is required

under clause IV(3) to approve any change essential to the correction of a fundamental disequilibrium and shall in determining the matter accept the domestic, social or political policies of the country applying for a change as facts of the situation to be accepted and not criticised. Moreover during the transitional period immediately after the war it shall under clause X(4) give the member country presenting a proposal the benefit of any reasonable doubt and shall under clause IV(3) at all times take into consideration the extreme uncertainties prevailing at the time the parities of exchanges were initially agreed upon. In addition member countries are allowed under clause IV(4) a certain margin for making unilateral changes. Finally, if a member feels unable to accept the decision of the Fund on this or any other matter, it is entitled under clause VIII(1) to withdraw from membership without notice or penalty, apart from the undertaking under clause VIII(2) to liquidate any outstanding obligations to the Fund within a reasonable time. Thus no member is under any obligation to continue its adherence to the conditions of membership if it comes to the conclusion that, taken as a whole, they are no longer to its advantage.

(6) Provision for securing, apart from certain temporary relaxations, eventual free inter-convertibility of all national currencies on the basis of the parities of exchange rates established for the time being are the same in effect as those under the Clearing Union Plan.

(7) Clauses III(5) and IX(3) provide that a member's obligation to maintain the free convertibility of its currency applies only to transactions of a currency account nature. It does not apply to capital transfer or removal of any balances accumulated prior to acceptance of the obligation of convertibility. Clause V(1) of the obligation of convertibility. Clause V(1) contemplates the control of outflow of capital by members using the resources of the Fund so as to ensure that the Fund shall not be drawn upon to finance a large or sustained outflow of a capital nature. Thus the proposal allows the maintenance of exchange control in so far as it is required to carry out the above defined purposes and may even require a member to exercise control of some kind.

(8) The proposals of the Clearing Union Plan to prevent a country from using up its quota too rapidly and from drawing on the Fund too freely in a condition in which its own resources are adequate without drawing on the Fund, are worked out more fully in clauses III(2) and (7) but without any difference of intention. The provisions of II(3) and III(6) and (7) are new, under which the Fund has some gold resources which may be gradually increased

with the intention that such gold in the hands of the Fund will be freely available in the interests of equilibrium.

(9) It was a feature of the Clearing Union Plan proposals that they introduced certain provisions for placing on creditor countries as well as on debtor countries some pressure to share the responsibility in appropriate circumstances for maintaining reasonable stability in the balances of international payments. These have been replaced in the new proposal by a different but perhaps more far-reaching provision with the same object in view. This is under clause VI which provides that if the requirements of the Fund for the currency of a country in an unbalanced creditor position with the rest of the world seem likely to exceed the supply of that currency which the Fund is in a position to acquire to meet applications of other members, the Fund shall issue a report covering the clauses of the unbalanced position and containing recommendations designed to bring it to an end. Meanwhile the available supplies of the scarce currency will be apportioned and other members will become entitled to resume complete freedom of action in relation to the affected currency. They are allowed to take any steps at their discretion to curtail imports from the country in question and to restrict and regulate exchange transactions so as to keep their purchases in terms of the affected currency within the limits of their ability to pay. Rather than allow such a situation to develop it would be open to a creditor country to use any of the various means to prevent development of an unmanageable unbalanced situation with the rest of the world as a whole.

(10) The provisions for the management of the new institution have not been worked out in detail in the Statement of Principles. This is an important matter left over for further discussion and development at a later date.

(11) The Clearing Union Plan proposals which were put forward at a relatively early state of the war did not attempt to deal adequately with transitional arrangements in the period following the conclusion of hostilities. Whilst there are still too many uncertainties in other directions to allow of clear-cut conclusions, clause X of the joint statement carries matters somewhat further. It is there provided that a member need not assume the full obligations of membership until satisfactory arrangements are at its disposal to facilitate a settlement of its balance of payments difficulties arising out of the war. Furthermore clause X(2) contemplates a gradual evolution towards attainment of the objects of the Fund by pro-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 640)

SIR A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR ON UTILISATION OF STERLING BALANCES

"THERE are two quite contradictory views put forward about these sterling balances. One is the view that these represent the blood and the toil and the sweat and the tears of the people. The other view is that they are a windfall and that we have done well out of the war. I respectfully dissent from both these extreme views. In the ultimate analysis of the accumulation of the sterling balances you will find that if these balances, or at least some portion of it, had not accumulated, the economy of this country would have been seriously jeopardised."

Thus observed the HON'BLE SIR A. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR, Supply Member, addressing the fourth meeting of the Consultative Committee of Economists in New Delhi on May 19. The Hon'ble Member said:

This plan of the International Monetary Fund is now put before this meeting for discussion. We are awaiting an invitation, as the Chairman said, from the United States at short notice, to send a delegation for the preliminary conference which will discuss this agreed statement of the experts of the two countries. It is proposed, as you will have seen from the House of Commons debate, that no commitments will be made on behalf of any of the Governments at this international conference, but that whatever results from the conference will be reported back to the Governments concerned and the Governments will then make their decisions. It has also been stated by Sir Jeremy Raisman at another meeting, and I do not think I am divulging any secret when I repeat it, that it is our intention to consult the Legislature before the Government of India make their decision with reference to any proposed international scheme for the regulation of the monetary system.

At this stage what is therefore required is your help and guidance as to what the delegates of the Government of India should state at this conference.

Proposals are there in skeleton form no doubt; but I should think that if any particular questions have to be raised, this is the stage at which this committee of expert economists can give some sort of guidance to the delegates as to what sort of questions should be raised and how the difficulties that you are faced with, might be met. Our delegates are not going there merely to give their express consent to all that is contained in this memorandum or to refuse to give their consent. The memorandum may be modi-



Sir Ramaaswami Mudaliar.

fied, may be added to and in some respects some of the clauses might even be deleted. And that is exactly the sort of question on which we should like to have the help and guidance of this Committee.

It is of no use saying merely that as this does not provide for something, therefore there is no use looking at it. If you feel that some provisions have to be included, that will be a sort of indication to the delegation as to what points they should press at this conference and what they would desire to be included at the discussions of this conference. What the results of these discussions will be we cannot say at present. But our delegates must have some indication of the viewpoints that have to be pressed at this conference. If as a result of their putting forward those viewpoints the conference comes to some decisions and those are not acceptable to us, the people of India, and to the Government of India, the stage would then be set for considering the question whether it is worthwhile our entering this monetary fund association or not. That would be the logical order in which I take it this discussion should proceed. Therefore I would very earnestly suggest that when

we are considering these clauses the attention of this Committee should be adverted to the question of what modifications might suitably be made—modifications not in the language or phraseology but modifications of a substantial character, which might be added to or removed from the scheme.

Sterling Balances

Listening to the discussion this morning I felt that two questions were raised prominently by most of the speakers: one, the question of the sterling balances and how they can be liquidated; and the other, the question of quotas and of voting rights under this fund. Now the technical character and consideration of these questions will be dealt with by Sir Theodore Gregory who is an expert on this subject. But I as a layman, without committing anybody and certainly not the Government of India, would like to make just a few observations on each of these questions.

The question of the sterling balances has been front-page news in our newspapers, and in our economic and financial journals also. The question has become almost a political issue. Let me tell you quite briefly what I, as a layman and one quite inadequately equipped to deal with these questions, feel regarding these sterling balances. These balances have accumulated to a large extent and by the end of the war we may have about £1,000 million balances in London. Into the origin of these sterling balances I do not wish to go; most of you here at least are perfectly aware of how these balances have accumulated.

Two Contradictory Views Examined

There are two quite contradictory views put forward about these sterling balances, however, and their source, which I would like briefly to dwell upon. One is the view that has been put forward that these sterling balances represent the blood and the toil and the sweat and the tears of the people of India. The other view was curiously given expression to by my friend, Dr. DeSouza, when he said that this is a windfall and we have done well out of the war. I respectfully dissent from both these extreme views. In the ultimate analysis of the accumulation of the sterling balances you will find that if these balances, or at least some portion of it, had not accumulated, the economy of this country would have been seriously jeopardised. And that is my answer to those who say, stop further accumulation of the sterling balances. I feel that the whole economic structure of this country would be seriously jeopardised if without any consideration we merely took the view that no more sterling balances should be accumulated.

The accumulation of these balances, on the one hand, does represent a certain amount of

rigour which our people have undergone during these last four years. I do emphasise this aspect. On the other hand, it also represents a certain portion the accumulation of which was essential under the conditions prevailing, if our own economy was not to be seriously jeopardised; that is to say, if our production in this country which could not have been exported to various parts of the world were not allowed to be exported in directions which resulted in the accumulation of some amount of sterling balances. As regards that portion which represents the tightening of the belt of the people, in a way that may be regarded as an indirect benefit, or whatever it is called, of the war.

Those who have studied the Russian system during the last 20 years and how they have built up their external resources are aware that the Russian people, and particularly the agriculturists, have had to go through a very severe strain on account of the policy that was adopted by the Soviet Government to obtain external resources for their capital developments. In a way, though indirectly, and without that objective being before us in a concrete manner, we have attained some of those results during these four years, and to a certain extent the tightening of the belt which was the result of other circumstances has benefited us in that way, if I may say so.

That is the only way in which we can feel that the war has been a benefit to this country. We have accumulated external resources; not only that, we have wiped off practically all our external Governmental debt in any case and we have a certain amount of accumulated balance. I wish to say that from my own study of the position because both in some financial journals in England, and even more in this country, there is a great deal of misunderstanding about the nature of these sterling balances and how they have accumulated.

Repayment of Sterling Balances

Let me say one thing more because this question so often impinges on politics. There is a certain school of thought in this country which thinks that these sterling balances have accumulated but we may never see them back again; the debt may be wiped off and may not be paid; it may be repudiated. Round this table at any rate, with economists who are concerned with how these sterling balances can be liquidated and the orderly liquidation of these sterling balances, I think we need not assume that these sterling balances will not be repaid. That may be said on political platforms, but here at any rate the economists are concerned not with what may happen from the political angle but from the economic angle.

We take it for granted that the sterling balances will be paid and the only question that one has to consider from the point of view of economists is how it can be paid. And if that is borne in mind I think we come to the next question as to how far the recognition of or adherence to any international monetary fund will help us or will detract from our ability to get liquidation of these sterling balances. I have no doubt whatsoever that even though the question of sterling balances is excluded from the purview of the international monetary fund at the present moment, some adherence to a system like this will help us in the orderly liquidation of our sterling balances.

India and the Sterling Bloc

A great deal has been said about the sterling area and whether we should continue to be in that sterling area or not. I speak with great hesitation again. I cannot contemplate for a moment the idea that the sterling area which has existed for such a long time can disappear overnight; and it is not in the interest of any party that it should disappear overnight. It must take time to disentangle all the tangled and woven threads that bind the various countries of the sterling area. And let us remember—the economists know it—that the sterling area is not merely the United Kingdom and the Dominions or the Commonwealth or India and the colonies. The sterling area is a very much wider organisation than is implied in the British Commonwealth and the British Empire. It comprises many other countries beyond the Dominions and India and the colonies and the United Kingdom; and therefore inherently I find no difficulty in reconciling myself to a continuance of the conditions prevailing in the sterling area for some time after the coming into existence of an international monetary fund.

My friend, Dr. Gadgil, thought that it would reduce us to the position of making bilateral contracts—bilateral contracts in the sense that we can trade with no other country and so on, or in the sense that predominantly we should trade only with the United Kingdom. I myself do not take that view. The existence of the sterling area or the existence of a connection between India and other countries and the United Kingdom does not, in my opinion, preclude the idea of a wider organisation in which one can play a part and in which the multilateral currency of the rupee will be an assured fact.

Now let me say one thing more. As I said, the sterling area represents a much wider organisation than the British Commonwealth and the Empire. It means that at the present time sterling balances are accumulated not only by India—and many who talk about sterling

balances think that India is the only country which has accumulated sterling balances in London—but by a number of countries. I believe the Argentina has got over 300 million in sterling. Other South American countries are also similarly situated. Australia itself has got sterling balances in England, and so on.

International Problem

Therefore, the ordinary liquidation of sterling balances is not merely a problem as between Great Britain and India itself, but it is a much wider problem embracing the problems of countries other than India. I do not want to minimize for a moment the significance of these sterling balances to ourselves and our post-war economy, particularly with reference to industrialization, but let me say one thing more. I think we have definitely to recognize, howsoever we order the liquidation of the sterling balances—by order I do not mean 'command,' but by orderly method we have to liquidate, whether we have it through the International Monetary Fund or through the Stabilization Fund or through any other monetary organisation, whether we bring it within the compass of this Fund, or not—we have to recognize that this sterling balance will be liquidated in larger amounts every year and, therefore, much more quickly if we recognize that imports from the United Kingdom are the essence of the liquidation of these sterling balances.

I want to be sure that we may buy wherever we can and at as cheap prices as possible—that is perfectly legitimate; that will have to be recognized and that is our objective. But since we have got into the position of creditor and debtor as between ourselves and the United Kingdom, I think we are blinding ourselves to obvious facts if, at the same time, we encourage the idea that is being spread in some parts of the country through some people that trade with Great Britain is not going to be a feature of post-war trade between India and other countries and as far as possible we should buy elsewhere. The objective should be—I suggest this, not because I am an ultra-loyalist of Great Britain but as one who tries to understand something of the problem—the objective should rather be to get whatever possible from Great Britain so long as the sterling balances are at our credit. And I think if you agree with me it must be the duty of economists particularly to educate our countrymen in this elementary proposition, as I conceive it, and try to tell them that there is no use of thinking that Great Britain alone is trying to push into this country imported goods and that we are handicapped because of our sterling balances.

We have built up those sterling balances; we want to liquidate them and I think in that liquidation the one essential proposition that we have to remember is that, as far as possible, we could liquidate it only if we allow the country to sell goods to us. I do not thereby mean that we should allow the country to dump consumers goods in this country and thereby jeopardize our industrial development. By no means. I believe myself that in the years following the war, at any rate I have taken the view, for some time an orderly import and export of goods is necessary. In other words, that the control should continue in some form or other both on imported goods and on exported goods. Therefore, under those conditions, it should be possible for the Government of the day to order what goods should be imported into this country and if capital goods can be imported and are to be imported we ought to get, as far as possible, such capital goods at reasonable competitive prices from the U.K., so as to extinguish the sterling liabilities of that country. As regards consumers goods, we ought to have a hand in the nature of the consumers goods we import and thereby see that the industrial development of this country is also safeguarded.

Let me say this also in passing—I hope I am not quite irrelevant to the consideration of the questions at issue, but I would like to present a wider background than has been so far given with reference to these monetary problems—there is the necessity to import a certain amount of consumers goods. In the interest of industrial development, we ought not to concentrate wholly and solely or exclusively on merely importing capital goods. That was the mistake which Russia committed and for which its people paid severe penalties. A certain amount of admixture of consumers goods is also necessary, but the test should be the importation of that kind of consumers goods which will not militate against the existing industrial capacity of the country.

Quotas and Voting Rights

Now, let me say one word about the quotas and the voting rights. I am one of those who have taken the view that India should have its proper quota, and I shall put my own views on what it should be based. But let me say this that when one takes up the position that unless a proper quota is given to India and India is assured of a proper place in the executive committee of this organization it is not worthwhile joining this International Monetary Fund, one does take a very exaggerated view of the right of the vote.

Let me take the extreme case where India can be in the most favourable position: 'The

management will include representatives of the five countries with the largest quotas.' Can India claim a better position than to be one of the five or, if that number is to be increased, one of the six? If India is one of the five or six of the executive committee all legitimate aspirations in that direction at least will be satisfied. But supposing India is one of these permanent six and the total number of the executive committee is nine, does anybody imagine that the rights of India will be completely safeguarded? I attach weight to this quota and I attach weight to the fact that India should be on the executive committee. I myself will propose that it may be one of the permanent members of the executive committee for various reasons which I shall state in a few moments, but I do not want any of us to be under the misapprehension, because we are a member of the permanent body of the executive committee, that thereby all our problems are solved or that we shall have such a determining voice that nothing can go against us, nothing can be done by the Fund which will in any way jeopardize our interests.

By no means. And why? Because the others will be European countries with the exception of China which may be another of these two. The economy of China and India is, comparatively speaking, far different from the economy of most of the other countries. If, therefore the suspicion is that the executive committee may consider matters without any reference to our economy, I suggest to you that even being a permanent member of that executive body is not going to save the situation to the extent that one imagines. Therefore, I would deprecate any thought that unless we are a member of this executive body there is no use of thinking of this Fund at all. That is one of the considerations no doubt but there are, as I have suggested, various other factors to be taken into account in considering the general question, whether we may adhere to a scheme like this or not.

How Quota should be Determined

As regards the quota itself, I may say that we have always taken a very serious view of the quota which India should have and of the place which India should have in the management of that body. This idea of quota was discussed in connection with the International Clearing Union. It is no secret that, at that meeting at which Sir Theodore Gregory and I represented India, we laid very great stress on the quota which ought to be granted to India. We certainly conveyed to them that the idea of internal production, population, future industrial prospects and various other ideas should

be taken into consideration and not merely the past international balance of payment or the gold reserves of the country, or things which have been suggested in the Stabilization Fund itself. This question has still to be determined and the quota question will, I am certain, be thought out hard and fast in any International Conference that will have to consider this question.

India and China

And I put our claim on this further ground—now that Japan is not in the picture and will not, I hope, be given a place in the executive committee at any rate even if later it joins this International Monetary Fund—there are only two Asiatic countries that can play any leading part in Asia. The one is India—I put India first—and the second is China. Of the other countries, 7 or 8, or whatever the number may be according to the size of the executive committee, will be either European countries or countries of the Western Hemisphere who are more or less European in industrial and other matters. Therefore, it seems to me that it is our right to consider that India and China ought to be, apart from all other considerations—from the place that they hold by their population and in the economy of the Eastern Hemisphere—that India and China ought to be permanent members of this executive body, and I would suggest to our delegation that they should urge as strongly as possible that India and China, and we are concerned with India, that India should be on the permanent executive body.

In no case can India be placed behind China because any test that you may apply will apply with greater force to India, and if there are any political considerations and if America wants to back China I hope for the same reason India will get her rightful place. At any rate, I am perfectly certain that we will not take second place in this economic structure. That will be, I hope, the view that our delegation will take.

VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

The Honourable Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, K.C.S.I., was appointed Vice-President of the Governor-General's Executive Council on May 7, 1944.

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CERAMIC RESEARCH

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India), have decided to establish a Central Glass and Silicate Research Institute for investigating problems relating to the Ceramic Industry, e.g., glass, pottery and porcelain, enamels and refractories, etc.

A Committee to prepare plans for the establishment of the Institute has been constituted with Dr. Sir S. S. Bhatnagar, F.R.S., as Chairman. At its last meeting, held at Calcutta, the Committee decided that, before drawing up plans for the Institute, it would be necessary to collect information on the present position of the Industry and its future requirements.

A note, describing the various items under which such information was desired, was circulated to manufacturers, consumers and importers of these goods and scientific and technical institutions, who were asked to correspond with Dr. Atma Ram, Secretary, Central Glass and Silicate Research Institute, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, University Buildings, Delhi.

EXPERTS ON MONETARY FUND

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 635)

gressive stages and no country is committed to the immediate removal of war-time restrictions and regulations. Whilst the Fund may within three years of the Fund's coming into force make representations that the time has come for further withdrawal of restrictions, no member is committed as to any fixed date for this final removal and each member is entitled to use its own judgment as to when it is strong enough to undertake free convertibility of its currency which it has accepted as a desirable aim. The drafting of this clause as the experts on both sides understand it, allows during the transition period for the maintenance and adaptation by members of the sterling area of the arrangements now in force between them. Nor is the scheme intended, when the obligation of free convertibility has been accepted, to interfere with the traditional ties and other arrangements between members of the sterling areas and London.

(12) In most other respects the general aim and purposes of the new scheme are the same as those set forth in Command 6,437 in presenting the Clearing Union Plan proposals.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 16, 1944

INTEREST ON GOVERNMENT SECURITIES

Income-Tax Deductible at Source

THE position regarding refunds of tax deducted at source and the grant of abatement or exemption certificates in respect of income-tax deductible at source from interest on Defence Bonds or other forms of Government securities requires clarification, particularly for the benefit of small investors, said a Press Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on May 27. It continued:

As regards tax already deducted at source any person whose total income during 1943-44 from all sources (including interest on Government securities) fell below Rs. 1,500 is entitled to refund of the entire tax deducted from the interest on securities held by him, while a person whose total income was Rs. 1,500 or more and who is liable to tax at a rate lower than the maximum rate is entitled to a refund representing the difference between the tax deducted at the maximum rate and that leviable at the rate appropriate to his total income.

How to obtain a Refund

To obtain a refund of tax, an application in Form I.T. 22 should be made to the Income-tax Officer of the circle in which the investor ordinarily resides accompanied by a return of income in Form I.T. 130 (if the total income is less than Rs. 1,500) or in Form I.T. 11 (if the total income is Rs. 1,500 or more). Copies of these forms may be had from the Income-tax Officer free of charge.

To ensure that no more tax is deducted in 1944-45 or that tax is deducted at the appropriate rate, the investor should, at the time of making the application for refund, supply the Income-tax Officer with a full description of the securities held by him and request him to issue an exemption or abatement certificate in respect of them. This certificate when received should be sent to the person responsible for the payment of interest on the securities held by the investor.

The investor may also apply to the Income-tax Officer for an exemption or abatement certificate even if no tax has been deducted in 1943-44 and no refund is due to him. In that event he should make an application to the Income-tax Officer giving a full description of the securities held by him, accompanied by a return of total income for 1943-44 in Form I.T. 130 or I.T. 11, according as the total income is

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 16, 1944

up to Rs. 2,000 or more (during 1944-45 persons whose total income does not exceed Rs. 2,000 are exempt from income-tax) and request him to issue an exemption or abatement certificate as the case may be. It should be noted that exemption certificates are issued only on the basis of the income during the preceding year and usually to persons whose incomes are more or less fixed.

TRADE UNION TRENDS

Registered Trade Unions in India increased from 727 to 747 and their membership rose from 5,13,832 to 5,73,520, according to the statistics* relating to the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (1926) for the year 1941-42.

As compared with the previous year, the figures indicate increases in membership from 1,71,572 to 2,19,086 in the case of Railways, from 1,54,867 to 1,55,007 in the case of Textiles, from 20,036 to 56,628 in the case of seamen and from 25,036 to 27,564 in the case of Docks and Port Trusts. There was, however, a decrease in the number of Trade Unions representing workers in tramways, printing presses, municipalities and engineering industries. The number of Central Trade Unions, whose objects are not confined to one Province, also dropped from 46 in the previous year to 25 in 1941-42.

The total income and balance in hand of the Unions increased from Rs. 12,12,927 and Rs. 7,86,120 in the previous year to Rs. 17,67,446 and Rs. 12,26,900 respectively in 1941-42.

The Textile Labour Association, Ahmedabad, continued to be the only registered federation of Trade Unions with large financial resources and income which increased from Rs. 50,091 in 1940-41 to Rs. 63,566 in 1941-42. This Association also maintained a political fund with a balance of Rs. 11,111. The number of Trade Unions which submitted returns decreased from 433 in the previous year to 462 in the year under review.

*General publication of statistics has been discontinued as a measure of paper economy.

SPECIAL SHORT-TERM ISSUE

As there appears to be a strong demand on the part of institutional investors and the market generally for a short-term investment, the Government of India have decided to create a special issue of the 2% per cent Loan, 1948-52, for Rs. 50 crores.

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, said a Press communique issued on June 2, 1944.

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His Excellency the Viceroy recently visited collieries in Bihar.

HEALTH CONDITIONS IN COALFIELDS

HEALTH conditions in the major coalfields at Raniganj and Jharia were on the whole satisfactory, according to the annual report for 1941, of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India.

The report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health, which operates in the Raniganj coalfields, indicates that the standard of health in collieries in the Raniganj coalfields was at a much higher level than that of the general population. The death rate for the Asansol mining settlement rose slightly from 17.8 per thousand in 1940 to 18.4 per thousand in 1941. There was also a small increase in the death rate in the Jharia coalfields, it being 14.20 per thousand in 1941 as against 13.85 per thousand in the previous year. Cholera appeared in an epidemic form in the Jharia coalfields in April, 1941, and continued till October.

Reference is also made in the report to the isolation of depillaring areas in order to restrict and isolate those areas which are likely to be affected by spontaneous combustion. The workers



The Viceroy dons a safety hat before entering a coal-mine.

made increased use of "safety hats" as a safeguard against small falls of roof and sides particularly in the depillaring areas.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 15, 1944

ALL INDIA RADIO'S GIANT TRANSMITTER

TEN times as powerful as any other A.I.R. short-wave station and giving a beam signal capable of girdling the globe, a new transmitter at Delhi has been broadcasting a 20-hour programme service since May 1. This is All India Radio's 100 kilometer short-wave transmitter.

This new high-power transmitting station is located outside Delhi on a site extending over 300 acres of land. This large area is needed mainly for the special aerial system which projects the energy in the form of a beam, search-light fashion, to the various parts of the world being served at any particular time. This concentration of energy in a single direction results in a very great increase in the strength of the transmission. Beaming, in fact, multiplies the power about twenty times. To produce this wireless beam seven structural steel towers have been erected on the site and between these towers curtains of wires are supported in a special way which has the effect of focussing the energy in a particular direction.

Beams are pointed to different parts of the world—a North-East beam covering Japan; a South-East beam covering the area from Malaya eastwards; an East-West beam covering the nearer countries to the east and west of India; a North-West beam covering the British Isles and Europe; and a South-West beam covering South Africa, Madagascar and Mauritius.

The new transmitter is of 100 K.W. power. This is the highest power which is generally in use anywhere in the world for short-wave transmission. The B.B.C. transmitters are also of 100 K.W. power.

This represents the energy which is sent out into space. When the energy, instead of being radiated equally in all directions, is projected as a beam in one direction, its effectiveness is twenty times greater. It then gives as powerful a signal as would be received from a 2,000 K.W. transmitter operating without a beam aerial. When operating, the transmitter absorbs 400 K.W. from the electric supply mains. To provide this energy, special electric power lines have been run to the site from the Central Power Station.

To this high-power transmitting station—located well outside Delhi—programmes originating from the A.I.R. studios at the Broadcasting House in Parliament Street, New Delhi, are conveyed by telephone cable, to be radiated by beam to selected parts of the world.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 15, 1944



Visitors to the Peshawar War Services Exhibition "listening-in" to friends broadcasting from their village.

PREHISTORIC MAN

A rich prehistoric microlithic and bone industry, besides remains of several partly fossilized mammalian bones and three incomplete human skeletons, has been discovered in Gujarat by the Second Gujarat Prehistoric Expedition organised by the Director-General of Archaeology in India.

The discovery of so many human and animal remains and a bone industry comprising tools and articles of decoration, such as heads, in association with microliths, is the first of its kind in India.

The expedition worked with the co-operation of the Director, Deccan College, Post-graduate and Research Institute, Poona, and the staff of the History Department. It has been conducting extensive excavations at Langhnaj, Mehsana Prant, Baroda State (Gujarat).

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PROGRESS OF INSURANCE IN INDIA

THE total number of insurers registered under the Insurance Act, 1938 (excluding those whose certificates of registration have been cancelled) up to December 31, 1943, was 314, of which 220 insurers were constituted in India. Most of the Indian insurers carry on life insurance business only. They are 155 in number, and of the remaining 65 insurers, 34 carry on life insurance along with other insurance business and 31 carry on insurance business other than life.

The total new life insurance business effected during 1942 amounted to 1,78,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 42,83,00,000 and yielding an annual premium income of Rs. 2,22,00,000, as compared with 2,00,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 39,51,00,000 and yielding an annual premium income of Rs. 2,10,00,000 in 1941 according to the Indian Insurance Year Book for 1943. Of this, new business done by Indian insurers amounted to 1,69,000 policies, insuring a sum of Rs. 36,47,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 1,91,00,000, as compared with 1,89,000 policies, insuring a sum of Rs. 34,14,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 1,77,00,000, in the previous year.

The total life insurance business effected in India and remaining in force at the end of 1942 amounted to 16,61,000 policies insuring a total sum of Rs. 3,22,94,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 16,06,00,000 as compared with 15,92,000 policies insuring a total sum of Rs. 2,91,65,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 14,53,000 at the end of 1941. Of this, the share of Indian insurers was represented by 14,64,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 2,50,68,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 12,07,00,000, as compared with 14,27,000 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 2,37,24,00,000 and having a premium income of Rs. 11,27,00,000 in the previous year.

Increase in Life Funds

The total new sums insured by Indian life offices in 1942 amounted to Rs. 37,89,00,000, as compared with Rs. 36,68,00,000 in the previous year. The total business remaining in force at the end of the year was Rs. 2,66,60,00,000, as compared with Rs. 2,56,43,00,000 at the end of the previous year. The total revenue income of Indian life offices during the year amounted to Rs. 16,54,00,00, as compared with Rs. 15,89,00,000 in 1941.

Life insurance funds increased by Rs. 7,15,00,000 and amounted to Rs. 75,94,00,000 at the end of the year. The rate of interest

earned on life funds during the year after deductions of income-tax at source was 3.94 per cent, as compared with 4.17 per cent in the previous year. The total expenses of management, expressed as a percentage of the premium income during the year, worked out at 26.7 per cent, as compared with 27.4 per cent in the previous year.

Some Indian Life Offices had been operating outside India also. The total new sums insured by these offices outside India in 1942 amounted to Rs. 1,42,00,000, yielding an annual premium income of Rs. 8,00,000, as compared with Rs. 2,54,00,000 yielding an annual premium income of Rs. 15,00,000 in the preceding year. The total sums insured remaining in force at the end of 1942 amounted to Rs. 15,92,00,000 having a premium income of Rs. 59,00,000, as compared with Rs. 19,19,00,000 having a premium income of Rs. 97,00,000 in the previous year.

Non-Life Business

The net Indian premium income of all insurers under insurance business other than life insurance during 1942 was Rs. 7,38,00,000, as compared with Rs. 4,16,00,000 in 1941. Of this the Indian insurers' share was Rs. 2,06,00,000 as compared with Rs. 1,51,00,000 in the previous year. Indian insurers received Rs. 1,09,00,000 (Rs. 78,00,000) from Fire, Rs. 61,00,000 (Rs. 35,00,000) from Marine, and Rs. 38,00,000 (Rs. 38,00,000) from Miscellaneous insurance business. Non-Indian insurers received Rs. 1,38,00,000 (Rs. 1,15,00,000) from Fire, Rs. 3,26,00,000 (Rs. 94,00,000) from Marine and Rs. 68,00,000 (Rs. 56,00,000) from Miscellaneous insurance business.

Indian insurers had a net premium income of Rs. 1,14,00,000 in 1942 (as compared with Rs. 1,03,00,000 in 1941) from non-life insurance business outside India.

Provident Societies

On December 31, 1943, there were in existence 143 provident societies which had made at least the initial deposit under the Act. The total new business effected by these societies during 1942 was 11,600 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 37,34,000, as compared with 18,800 policies insuring a sum of Rs. 68,68,000 in 1941. The total business remaining in force at the end of 1942 amounted to 58,700 policies insuring a total sum of Rs. 1,59,75,000, as compared with 89,700 policies insuring a total sum of Rs. 1,94,89,000 at the end of the previous year.

However, the life insurance funds of these societies increased by Rs. 1,34,000 during the year under review to Rs. 53,24,000 at the end of

1942. The net rate of interest realised by the societies was 3.8 per cent. About 34 per cent of the societies, which submitted their accounts for the year 1942, had their renewal expense ratios in excess of 100 per cent and about 24 per cent had between 50 per cent and 100 per cent. The life funds of 29 societies were negative.

The 1943 Year Book which refers to conditions in 1942, has interesting observations on certain insurance problems of topical importance, such as new flotations and requests for additional capital, pitfalls of life insurance business, negotiations with Indian States for reciprocal arrangements, etc.

New Flotations

Surveying the growth of insurance business in India, the Superintendent of Insurance draws attention to the warning issued 15 years ago by the then Government Actuary against indiscriminate flotations of insurance companies, particularly life insurance companies. Countering the argument advanced by some that since the per capita insurance carried by the population in India is very small there is room in this country for several more life insurance companies, the Superintendent says, "the economic condition of the population is also admittedly very poor and unless there is considerable improvement in this respect we cannot look forward to any great increase in the total volume of business available."

Referring to the anticipated industrial regeneration in the post-war period, the report says, "It is an inevitable economic law that there is always a time lag, a fairly large one at that, between industrial activity and the consequent general rise in the economic level of the population. It is feared that this time lag itself, even if other things are satisfactory, may upset the calculations of some of the new company promoters." He also warns that, "if the hope that the post-war period will witness a period of high degree of industrial activity and consequently prosperity is not actually realised to the large extent the hope is entertained, the struggle for existence among the insurers may take an acute form and some companies established in the past and who are at present struggling on the margin of solvency may be caught in the vortex of competition and be pulled down."

Commenting on the requests made by insurers for permission to raise additional capital the report gives a timely reminder that the purpose of the control of capital issues is not only to check inflation but also to ensure that investable funds are not lured into enterprises which appear to be transacted rather for the

benefit of the promoters than for any advantage to the general public interest. The Superintendent of Insurance will, therefore, require to be satisfied that the above danger is not present before he can recommend to the Government any request for issues of further capital.

Some Pitfalls

The report makes reference to (a) Inadequacy of Premiums, (b) Heavy Expenses and (c) Heavy Early Lapses.

Discussing the subject of premium rates of life insurance policies, the report strikes a note of warning that it would be unwise to sell these policies at a low price, taking too optimistic a view of the cost of production which in this case will be determined by the future experience of the company as regards interest, mortality and expenses. "It is possible," says the report, "to take too optimistic a view of the future trend in these three elements and quote rates of premiums which on the average would not provide even the sum assured, let alone bonuses to participating policy-holders, when the policy becomes a claim. If that is so, the concern will sooner or later find itself in great difficulties."

As regards the rate of interest used in the compilation of premium rates the report stresses the fact that any premiums calculated at a rate of interest higher than 3½ per cent would be unsound to-day, and the Superintendent of Insurance hopes that companies will take immediate steps to re-calculate their premiums to conform to the yield on the type of investments in which alone life insurance companies can safely invest their funds. "The downward trend in the rate of interest alone," says the report, "is such as should give great concern to the executives of life insurance companies and make them give very great consideration to the question as to whether the premiums that they are now quoting under the various tables are adequate to provide the benefits to the policy-holders and also disclose a profit."

The Superintendent of Insurance hopes that insurers will pay particular attention to the factor of Expenses which is so vital for the successful conduct of life insurance business, the more so as it is one which is to a larger extent within their control and a definite index of efficiency of management.

Commenting upon the very heavy lapse ratios of most Indian insurers the report says, "For any company to function economically it must get a minimum quota of well chosen new business but merely getting business will not be of any benefit to the insurer, unless the business

continues to remain on his books." Insurers in general and young insurers in particular, are advised to realise that sound selection of risks is not confined to the element of mortality alone but also extends to the question of persistence of the policy and that they should devote as much attention to the question of conserving existing business as they do to getting new business.

Allocation of Surplus

The report deplores the practice of some insurers providing in their Articles of Association that dividends on the share capital at a certain rate is the first charge on surplus and only the balance, if any, will be divided between share-holders and policy-holders in a ratio of, say, 1 to 9; or the Articles of Association not providing for any minimum percentage to be allocated to policy-holders. "None," says the report, "will grudge the share-holders a small proportion of the distributable surplus as a return for the guarantee the capital provides and the services initially rendered by them but any proportion higher than ten per cent would be hard to defend." Insurers with such undesirable features are urged to fall in line with the general practice and have their Articles amended to ensure that such inequitable allocations are avoided.

As a result of negotiations with Indian States a number of concessions, on a principle of strict reciprocity, have been obtained for insurers and provident societies registered in British India and transacting business in Indian States also. Further negotiations are in progress and it is hoped that ere long sufficient concessions will be achieved to remove all unnecessary hardships in the way of insurers and provident societies operating anywhere in India.

The report also refers to the very generous concessions given by insurers generally in respect of the policies of persons who were left behind in Enemy-Occupied Territory (including Prisoners of War) and Evacuees.

EXCHANGE OF WOUNDED PRISONERS

The Government of India announce that a further exchange of disabled prisoners and protected personnel of the United Nations has been arranged with Germany. Several hundred American, British, Indian, Australian, New Zealand and South African soldiers are included. The exchange will take place at Barcelona in Spain and the Indian personnel concerned will be repatriated to India as soon as possible, said a Press Note issued by the Public Relations Directorate, General Headquarters, on May 17.

LEPROSY: MODEL ISOLATION CENTRE

PLANS for a model isolation centre in a rural area are being worked out by the Indian Council of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association which has been working in India for the last 20 years. The centre is to demonstrate how leprosy in a locality can be controlled by isolating infected cases.

The object of the Indian Council is to rid the country of leprosy. It is linked with the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association which was founded in London in 1924 to provide improved methods of treatment to persons suffering from leprosy throughout the Empire. With the help of its provincial organisations, the Indian Council has carried on research on the causes, treatment and control of leprosy; the training of medical men, diagnosis and treatment of leprosy and educating the public to adopt a rational attitude towards the disease. It has also carried out a number of surveys and has advised on the best methods of anti-leprosy work in different parts of India.

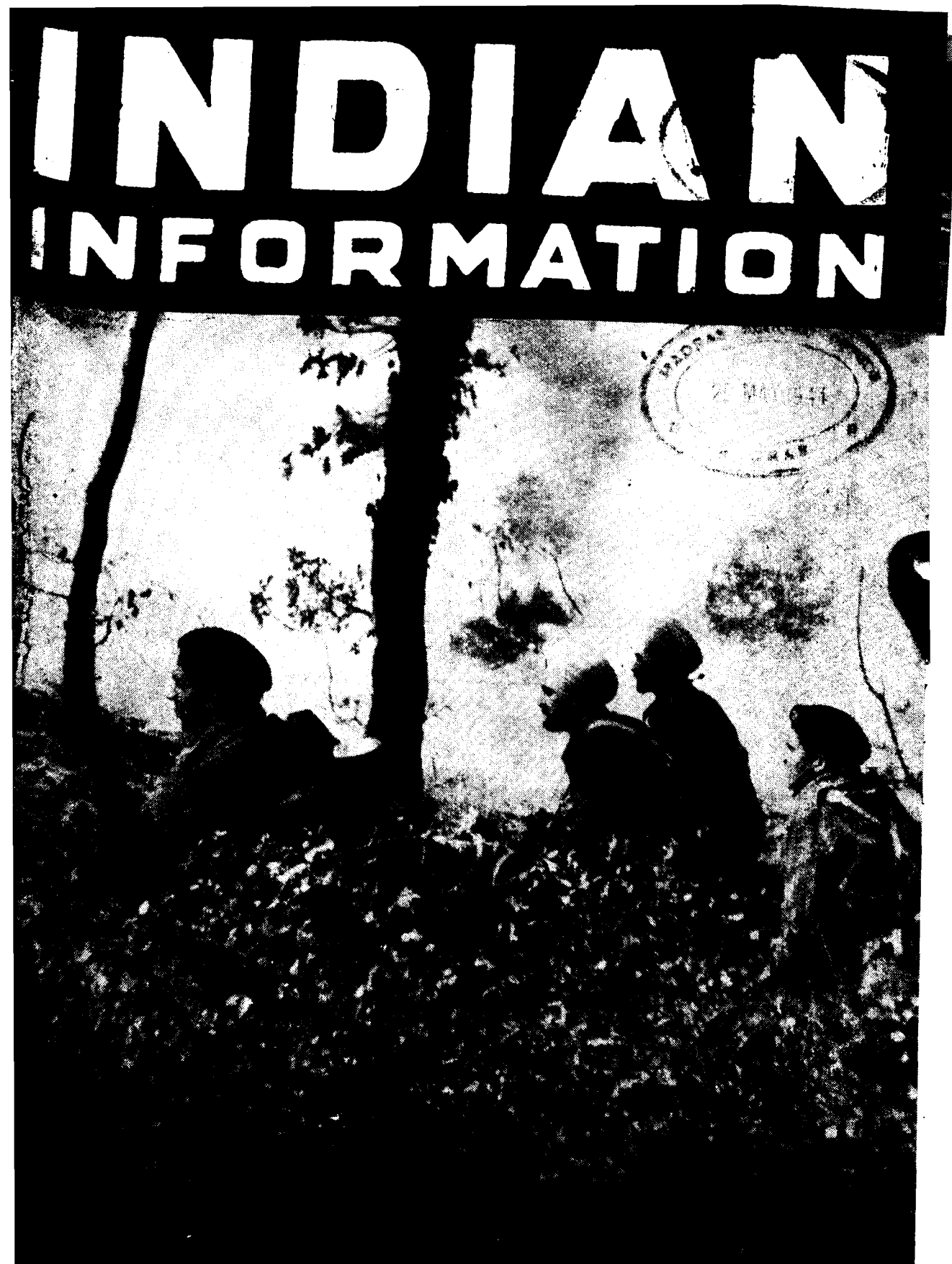
The Council lays emphasis on the part individual members of society could play in eradicating disease. Books, pamphlets, posters and lantern slides have been prepared to educate people and secure their co-operation. "The Truth about Leprosy" by Prof. Jagadisan, published by the Madras Provincial Council of the Association, is its latest propaganda booklet.

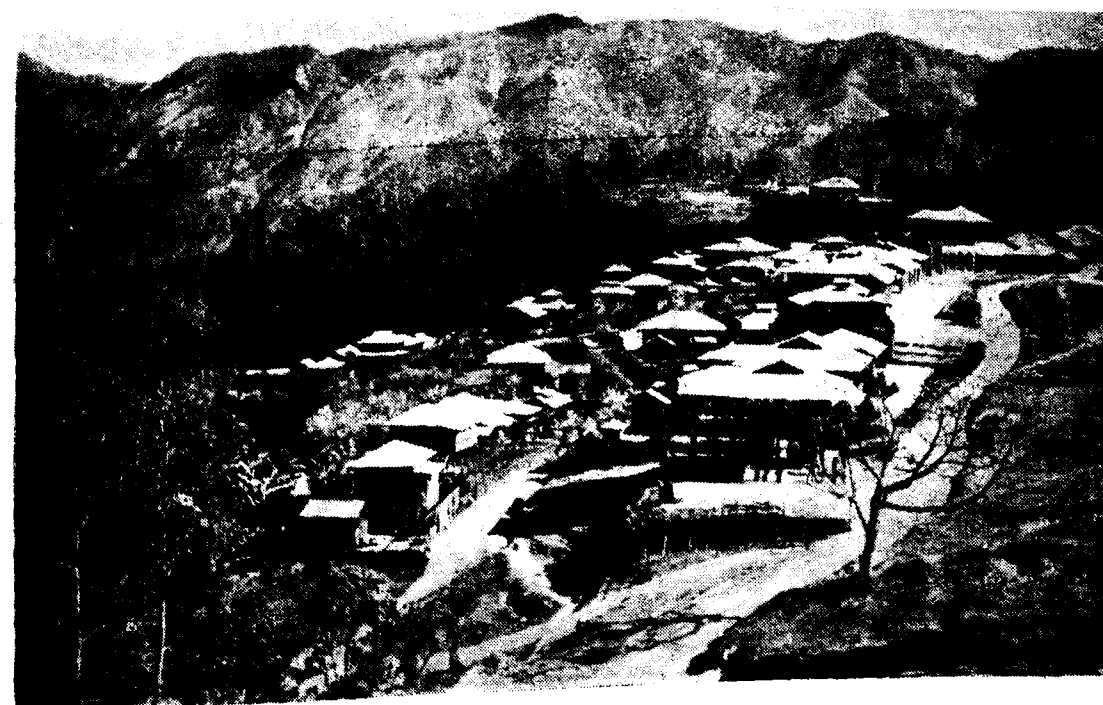
NEW OIL DISCOVERY

The Attock Oil Company are reported to have struck oil in quantity at one of their drilling sites outside their present main producing fields. Increased supplies of crude oil at the present time are particularly welcome both as an addition to India's and the United Nations' resources and because, as was stated by the Company's Chairman in his last annual report, the output of Attock's main field at Dhulian has dropped owing to the incursion of water, largely caused by the Company's efforts to maintain production at a high level during the war years.

It must be some considerable time before the ultimate significance of this new production can be estimated and before material benefits are obtained in the way of refined petroleum products. The drilling of this new well was undertaken as a joint measure by the Company and the Government of India.

INDIAN INFORMATION, JUNE 15, 1944





Tiddim village, from which the 17th Indian Division fought its way through Japanese road blocks to Imphal.

KOHIMA MAY BECOME A SECOND KEREN

KOHIMA may well become a second Keren if the strong Jap forces, firmly established on high ground in the township, stay to fight it out, wrote an Indian Army Observer from the Kohima Front on April 23. Our position daily grows better in the battered red-roofed residential area near the District Commissioner's bungalow, from which the inner "box" defenders were relieved on April 18. These bungalows are built on a steep ridge, which is over 5,500 feet high, and where our troops, in strongly-defended positions are being shelled by Jap 75 mm. guns in a Naga village at a point overlooking them.

There was fierce fighting before our main body linked up with the British and Indian troops who had manned the perimeter in the residential area without rest and under constant artillery and mortar fire for 12 days. The enemy were so determined to capture the town that they launched several strong attacks. Ever since the first attack developed on April 5-6, the Japs attempted infiltration. On the second night, one enemy Company got between two of our Company positions but they were finally driven off. On April 7, 49 bodies were

counted though many more casualties were certain. Our forward sections reported seeing many enemy wounded rolling down the hillside. Small parties left behind that night were wiped out during the next day.

The enemy tried again on the night of April 8-9 with three massed infantry attacks, with heavy artillery support. Our men held their fire so well that not only were these attacks beaten off, but we also successfully counter-attacked to the south.

On April 18, the defenders were relieved by a column of Indian and British infantry, headed by Punjabis, who smashed their way through a series of obstacles in their advance southwards from Dimapur (also known as Manipur Road).

Hillock Captured

The fox-holed hill, jutting out of the deep valley on the east side of the Dimapur-Kohima road, was the main obstacle. A terrific bombardment of more than a thousand rounds from field guns, fired at less than 800 yards' range for a quarter of an hour, was followed up by hard-hitting tank fire. Then infantry rushed the

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PUBLIC:—All those persons and institutions whose general role is to inform the public, <i>e.g.</i> , 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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COVER PAGE PICTURE. Whilst spotting for our mortars, Capt. Raghujit Singh and his party came under German mortar fire, in Italy.

CONTENTS PAGE PICTURE: One of the many bends on the Ngakyedauk Pass in the Arakan, scene of heavy fighting.

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



positions. In a matter of minutes the hillock was ours. It was the main position checking our progress along the only road.

It was absolute slaughter. Seventy lead Japs were claimed and many more must have died from wounds as they attempted to crawl through a *nullah* to the east. Some fled when the attack first started. Those who were not killed in the bombardment were killed by our men. The Japs were absolutely dazed, some sitting in their positions with staring eyes. Lt. R. M. Arnott, of Edinburgh, led his platoon from fox-hole to fox-hole. He shot six and bayoneted three. Whilst this short severe action was proceeding, 12 Japs snipers, who were bold enough to fire at our infantry in reserve, were killed by men of a Midland Counties Unit.

I moved along the road to meet an officer of a forward unit. Our tanks were in line of battle, their guns pointing across the valley towards an enemy-held track which for several miles runs parallel to and east of the Dimapur-Kohima road. Infantry too were on patrol. Most surprising thing of all was to meet a middle-aged Naga couple—a tailor and his wife who had fled from the enemy—sitting underneath an

umbrella five yards from a tank in battle position and only a little farther from a still smouldering bridge, the last obstacle, which our sappers were repairing.

The defenders' job was tough. It is still tough. The perimeter had to be big enough to hold hundreds of ancillary troops. There was never a shortage of food or ammunition, but early on, when the enemy overlooked the water-point, water was rationed at one pint a day.

It is difficult to assess Jap casualties but they were extremely heavy. Ours had not been light—probably the hardest hit was one platoon which was reduced to four wounded, including the subaltern and platoon sergeant and two unhurt. But many more Japs were claimed in recompense.

“Hospital Hill”

The walking wounded were the first to get away from the hill which has been their home, their hospital and battlefield for 12 days. Only in the last three days had the fighting relaxed at all—and that not much for the Jap made determined efforts to capture the position before our troops were relieved. "Hospital Hill,"

as the ridge is now known, gives us a footing from which our troops can strike at the Japs.

Doctors, the unit's padre, Capt. Randolph, and stretcher-bearers were praised to a man. It was not easy looking after the many casualties lying about in trenches which formed the field hospital. The outer covering was never more than a tarpaulin, even at night when the cold at 6,000 feet is extremely unpleasant.

Of the seven doctors headed by a young Lieutenant Colonel—officer commanding an Indian Field Ambulance—two Indian doctors were killed and two other doctors were wounded. Despite their own wounds they worked unceasingly amongst the wounded Indian and British.

The doctors had their difficulties added to by the bombing of their stores but deficiencies were quickly made up by supply dropping.

Rajput Heroism

When his company commander was killed, Subedar Multan Singh for a week commanded Rajputs who fought side by side with men of a Home Counties Regiment. During a particularly severe enemy attack on the part of the perimeter held by the Rajputs, enemy shells landed on several section positions, killing nine men and wounding 12. Subedar Multan Singh rallied his men and restored the position.

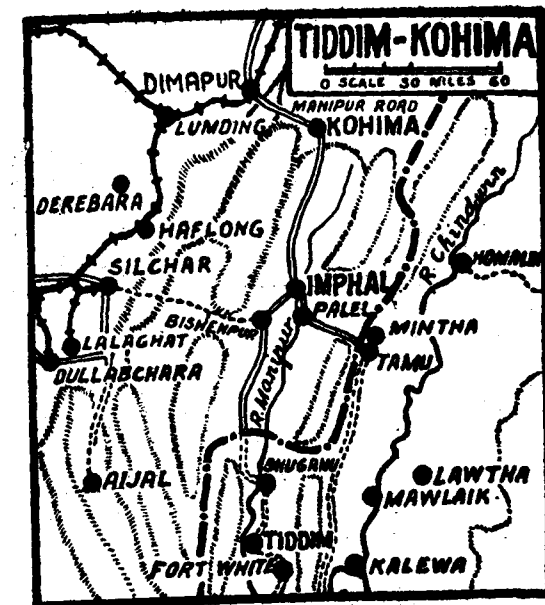
Later, when the Japs had overrun the forward positions, the Subedar held his sector despite heavy machine-gun fire and mortaring which lasted for over two hours. When our troops were forced to vacate high ground overlooking his position, the Subedar maintained his own position until he received direct orders to withdraw half an hour later.

An officer of the Home Counties Regiment, who for days commanded a company on the same sector as the Rajputs, told an Indian Army Observer: "The Subedar had absolute control of his men and was of tremendous help to us. Had he not stood fast, the position at one time may have become critical."

Jemadar's Achievement

Probably the best story I was told at the headquarters of the "outer ring"—Indian troops who held on to the ridge two miles north of Kohima—was about **Jemadar Ghulam Mohammed**. Early in the battle he spotted the enemy in ones and twos sneaking down a hillside into a deep nullah. The officer assemble his men

He saw the Jap officer assemble his men and then the Jemadar asked for artillery support from guns manned by Sikhs. "It appeared that the Jemadar had gone mad," an officer told me. "He would call one, two, five, seven degrees right; then four, two, five degrees left."



But the Jemadar was not mad. The Japs, after our first half-dozen shells had landed in their midst, ran up and down the nullah; some trying to climb the hill. Wherever they were seen the guns registered and probably 70 enemy were casualties during this short shooting bout.

Kohima A Second Keren?

The Jap still holds the Naga village on the high ridge, a mile to the east of our most southerly positions, despite the merciless bombardment by air and massed artillery that is directed against him there. What will make Kohima a second Keren are the similar difficulties facing our commander. As in Eritrea, he has limited ground from which he can deploy his troops for the attack. Our main line of communication along the winding Manipur Road from Dimapur, 46 miles north, leads to a bottleneck hemmed in by steep hills and flanked to the east by the V-shaped deep Zubza valley of which Kohima's ridges form the watershed to the south.

From where a notice warns drivers that they are in full view of the enemy henceforward—the Japs are several miles north of Kohima scattered along the Bokajun track which snakes high up the ridge on the east of the 1,500-foot deep Zubza valley—you find a series of offensive bases rather than defensive boxes. Infantry guns and tanks are sited for a push as well, of course, as against Jap infiltration which is now treated as a nuisance and for which, one could almost say, standing orders exist in all units just as they do for camouflage or malarial precautions. The enemy is given no rest.

BALUCHIS ROUT JAPS ON ARAKAN FRONT

VIGOROUS action with bayonet and grenade by young troops of a battalion of the Baluch Regiment, brilliantly supported by accurate shooting by British gunners, neatly turned the tables on the Japanese attempting infiltration tactics in the foothills of the Mayu range, wrote an Indian Army Observer, from the Arakan Front, on April 29.

The Baluch battalion had hardly taken over from another unit when the Japs, dug in on high ground, began to attempt to repeat their Ngakyedauk Pass infiltration tactics on a smaller scale by pushing in between company positions. The results were just as disastrous. At the end of several days' fighting the Japs had to withdraw, leaving 85 dead on the field with a further estimated 50 per cent casualties removed by them under cover of darkness.

One of the Baluch companies fought for 48 hours, with no food and little water against repeated Jap attempts to dislodge them. Frustrated again and again, the Japs resorted to setting fire to the jungle to burn the Baluchis out.

Here again they failed due largely to the conduct of L-Nk. Noor Shah Gul and Sepoy Bahawar Shah who beat out the flames, although under heavy fire. In the same action Naik Lajbar and Naik Didan Shah did gallant work in bringing in wounded from a forward post, also under enemy fire.

Baluchis Attack

It was now decided to concentrate the battalion in a smaller area in order to punch the enemy harder. Outstanding in this phase of the battle was the support given by British gunners. When their officer became a casualty the guns were still fought with deadly effect by a sergeant who took over command. In the furious fighting that marked the battalion's occupation of their new positions, Company Quartermaster Havildar Raja Ram, of Hoshiarpur, Punjab, and a party of cooks killed four Japs in a running fight. Meanwhile, the enemy had been attempting by the use of mines and harassing raids on our lines of communication to interrupt the forward flow of supplies. Here again, prompt and powerful aid by elements of a North Country regiment supported by British guns and tanks successfully cleared the area.

It was now the Baluchis' turn to go out after the Japs, and this they did with a ven-

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Maj.-Gen. D. T. C. Cowan (wearing cap), Commander of the 17th Indian Division, in conference with some of his staff during the fighting withdrawal from Tiddim.

geance! The first hill feature which they assaulted fell to them after a hand-to-hand struggle in which a company commander grappling with a Jap was bitten in the hand but succeeded in throwing him to the ground where he was promptly bayoneted by a sepoy.

The Baluchis looked for more Japs. They found them on another hill feature, stalked them and then, shouting war-cries, went in with bayonet and grenade. Naik Abdul Khalid and his section overwhelmed an enemy light machine-gun post and occupied it themselves although sniped from 200 yards away.

Four days later the Japs put in a very heavy attack in an attempt to regain his lost positions but enfilade fire from our light machine-guns cut his men down before they could gain a foothold and accurate artillery fire blasted those that survived. That night the Japs withdrew.

BATTLE NEAR TRACK LEADING TO SILCHAR

Tanks on to of a 5,000-foot hill switched on their headlights to assist defending infantry to pick out objects during a battle last night for Hampton Hill—a feature west of Bishenpur on the Tiddim road, overlooking the track which runs west through the hills to Silchar. They

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No. 7831 Havildar Shakti Chand Pathrania, of Kangra district, Punjab, checks over a Jap sword and other spoils of war captured on the Imphal Front.

also joined in the battle with their machine-guns, wrote an Indian Army Observer from the Imphal Front on April 19.

To take part in this battle the tanks climbed more than 2,000 feet along a five-mile "corkscrew" track up the hillside. To enable them to reach the crest of the hill the sappers in half a day hewed out a pathway through the bamboo jungle.

The Japanese attack was launched at 9-30 p.m. After several hours' desperate fighting—much of it hand-to-hand—Gurkhas and British troops, fighting side by side, threw it back. Twenty-five Japs, including four officers, were killed. A heavy mist shrouded the hilltop when the attack came in. But soon the night was bright with the glare of the tank headlights, the brilliant white light of flares sent up by our troops and the vivid red pattern of tracer ammunition.

One Japanese officer got into our position in the first wave of the attack and for three-quarters of an hour sat in a trench near a

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C.-IN-C's MESSAGE TO LORD MOUNTBATTEN

Replying to Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's message of thanks for the help rendered by India Command to South-East Asia Command, His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief, General Sir Claude Auchinleck, has assured the Supreme Commander that he and those under him will continue to do all they can to help him complete his task of crushing the enemy as speedily as possible.

General Auchinleck has thanked Lord Mountbatten for his reference to their personal friendship which he values greatly and adds that the smooth working and close co-operation of the two Headquarters is largely due to the Supreme Commander's personal influence.

British soldier, Pte. R. Jeffreys, who shammed dead. When the Jap attempted to escape he was shot by the colonel of the Gurkhas with a Sten-gun.

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LAHORE WAR SERVICES EXHIBITION

Sir Sultan Ahmed's Speech

IT is with pride that we see the women of India now in a hundred new spheres of life, giving all that they can to ensure the safety of their country and the defeat of the common foe," said the Hon'ble SIR SYED SULTAN AHMED, Member for Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, addressing visitors on Ladies Day (April 20) at the War Services Exhibition in Lahore.

I have often felt that any machinery for propaganda would be more effective if an approach to men is made through the finer instincts of women. I have always been of the view that women are endowed with clear vision, with a true sense of realities and with a great sense of patriotism, and it is this realisation which enabled me to create a Women's Section in my Department which is in the charge of a distinguished daughter of the Punjab, Begam Shah Nawaz. That Section has already played and is likely to play a very important part during the war and after the war. I, therefore, deem it a privilege to be presiding at the presentation of the Exhibition this afternoon. It is, believe me, a great satisfaction to all those who are running it that within the short time that the Exhibition has been in existence over a crore (1,00,00,000) of people have already visited it with an average daily attendance of a lakh



With a barrage balloon in the background, H.E. the Governor of the Punjab, Lady Glenny, Gen. Hutton and the Premier of the Punjab photographed in the Indian Air Force section.



The Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed and Brigadier Carpendale watch a Red Cross demonstration at the Exhibition.

(1,00,000) or more. The achievement is unique in every way and all those who have contributed to its great success are entitled to our sincerest congratulations. The success of the Lahore Exhibition was a certainty for more reasons than one. When His Excellency the Governor acceded to my request to open the Exhibition, I knew that his patronage and wise lead would make its success an absolute certainty.

Here before your eyes is a clear picture of the splendid contribution that India is making to the defence of the world against the most determined, the most savage and the most degrading onslaught on human liberty in all history. To the people of the Punjab, I presume to think this Exhibition has a special interest. Not only have you a proud and distinguished record in the great wars of the past, but also in this, the greatest of all wars, there are few of you, I know, who have not a son, a brother, a husband, a father actively engaged in the fight for good against evil. Here to-day you can see with your own eyes, and touch with your own hands, the weapons with which they are waging that fight. You can see the clothes they wear, the equipment they use. You can see the arrangements made to carry them, to supply them, to feed them and to care for them when they are sick or wounded.

I want you to see all these things for yourselves; I want you to satisfy yourselves that we are doing everything in our power to give your gallant men the finest weapons to fight with, the finest supply system to rely upon, the finest tools for the best soldiers in the world.

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You have heard of the Japanese attempt to invade India across the Burmese frontier into Manipur. Some of you may even have listened to what the Japanese themselves have been saying about it in their broadcasts. I think you, like myself, will have derived not a little amusement from these truly astonishing combinations of bombast and imagination. It is interesting, I think, to remark that even in this matter the Japanese have displayed that outstanding lack of inventiveness which has characterised their economic and industrial development. For years now they have made a habit of copying someone else—perhaps they find that easier than doing their thinking for themselves—and in this matter of broadcasting they have shown themselves to be slavish imitators of their Nazi friends and allies. I expect you will remember that in the old days, before the United Nations were able to call a final halt to Hitler's boundless ambitions, the Germans frequently used to claim the capture of a place long before they got there, let alone captured it. The habit has become so ingrained that I notice they now sometimes speak of having evacuated a place long before, in fact, they are ignominiously driven out of it.

So it is with the Japanese. What they would like to do, they boastfully proclaim as already done. But you and I know that they have against them those hearts of steel who will not tolerate the desecration of an impudent invader's foot upon India's dear soil. You can see here all the means with which those brave men are giving the Japanese the lie in the throat, giving them too such a taste of their mettle as will cause those of them that get away to rue the day when they dared to place their heads within the jaws of the Indian tiger. On that Burma frontier, we have all that matters to defeat the Japanese schemes: the best equipment, the finest weapons and the bravest men. Don't be at all anxious about events on the North-Eastern Frontier of India. I have heard some foolish people enquiring as to where our troops are and what they are doing. Why have they allowed the Japanese to set foot on the soil of India? These are the identical questions which the Japanese would like us to answer: if we could only tell them the disposition of our troops and tell them where we would like them to come and where we propose to finish with them altogether. Such questions can only be answered by the events as recorded. It will not take very long before such curious-minded people will get their answer. Just wait and see.

Defending India's Frontiers

Every day we think of our soldiers, airmen and sailors defending India's frontiers. We picture them manning their guns, toilfully making their way through jungle and mountain country, and pouncing from the air upon enemy troops and positions, or sweeping the wide seas for enemy

submarines, minelayers or merchant shipping. I should like to ask you to think for a moment, because something of that is shown here too, of what it means to enable them to do that. You will see a little of what is done in India's workshops, and that is something of which we may all be justifiably proud. It looks simple enough to load goods into a lorry, to thrust a shell into a gun or to press the button that brings an aeroplane into roaring and menacing life. But these things are not simple. They require the utmost devotion and skill of tens, nay hundreds, of thousands of ordinary men and women. In war, there must be no mistakes, no failures. The guns must be in the right place at the right moment; to enable them to operate, the ammunition and the rations must be there too. And to get them there, they must be protected against enemy attack from the air or on land.

Think now what that means. Every weapon has a multitude of small parts, each of which must be exact and precise. Any failure there will not only put that weapon out of action, but may well mean the lives of the troops depending upon it. Every transport vehicle has a multitude of components, from tyres to engine and engine to hood, which must not fail if the troops are to get the supplies they must have. Every aeroplane has a myriad accessories of the finest and most delicate construction, and when the enemy is in the sky, the airman must rely utterly upon these accessories so that he can concentrate upon his duty, to destroy the enemy. To provide all these things and to make certain that our fighting men have the best, and only the best, millions of men and women in Russia, in America, in England, in all the United Nations are working day and night. In this great work, India is playing an honourable part and to our men and women engaged in it, our thanks and respect must be paid.

Women's Part

I should like to say a word particularly about the women of India. It is with pride that we see them now in a hundred new spheres of life, giving all that they can to ensure the safety of their country and the defeat of the common foe. There is one sphere for which they are peculiarly fitted, nursing. Many have come forward but there is room, indeed there is a demand, for very many more. I have just spoken of the devotion and skill of those who see to it that our men get the equipment they need. But what better or nobler service can our women undertake than to help those men back to life and health again when they have suffered for their country.

His Excellency Lord Wavell said the other day, "We need for the nursing services every suitable woman that can be found, and I trust we shall not appeal in vain. The comfort, perhaps the lives of many who have fought well for us will depend upon the result." I too wish

to add my humble appeal in the same worthy cause. The preservation and restoration of human life is a sacred duty which transcends all considerations of community, caste, creed, or politics. Here is an opportunity for our women to render India a service for which we shall ever be grateful. I too trust and believe that this appeal will not be in vain. Just before I came in this Pandal, I witnessed a spectacle which will remain green in my memory for a long time to come. How proud I felt when I saw the women of India, along with their British sisters, marching past and showing to the world what an important part women can play in the prosecution of this war. No one can deny the earnestness with which women of all classes and all communities are sharing the burden of responsibilities, in the prosecution of the war, all over India.

Before I leave this subject I should like to offer my most grateful thanks to Lady Glancy for donating Rs. 5,000 for amenities for the troops working at the Exhibition. No higher appreciation of the splendid work that is being done by the Services Exhibition would have been possible and I deeply appreciate her generosity and consideration.

Houses for Soldiers

And now I should like to invite your attention for a moment to another aspect of what you will see at this Exhibition. Tanks, guns, aeroplanes, weapons, armoured cars, jeeps, wireless sets—all these are here. And you may be sure that these are better than anything the enemy possesses. The most careful comparisons have been made and our experts are entirely satisfied that the Indian soldier meets his Japanese enemy, not only knowing that he himself is the better man but knowing too that he is better supplied and has better weapons and equipment. But the Indian soldier, like you and me, is thinking too of what life has in store for him when the Japanese have been finally and completely defeated. In war time, war requirements come first—that is as it should be. But we have also a duty to

think ahead, and that we are doing. What is it that our soldiers will ask for, and have a right to ask for, when they come home again, with their battle honours thick upon them? They will ask for a home they can be proud of and work worth doing. I am not going to speak to-day of the work there will be for them to do, except to say that it must be obvious that there will be plenty of it.

We all know that India stands on the threshold of big developments, economic, industrial, and social. There is unlimited scope for work for the country's good. But I should like to say a word about the home that the soldier will come back to. You will find here two models, one of a village, one of an industrial town. Here are ideas that I hope you will ponder. The problems India has to solve are neither new nor insoluble, and many of them centre in that humble place, the individual home. Now is our great opportunity to which all of us can contribute, to which we have a duty to contribute if we are fully to repay the debt we owe to our gallant men. Each man has a pride in his own family, his own home; all that is needed is to extend that pride to his village or his town as well. I ask you to examine these models, see how the individual's good can contribute to the common good and *vice versa*.

The Common Good

The man who takes a pride in his village as well as in his own home is not neglecting his responsibility to his own folk; on the contrary, he is discharging it in the best and fullest sense and by working for his neighbours is adding to his own stature as well as theirs. There are millions of people, all the world over, whose eyes have been opened by the catastrophe of this war, and we in India like people elsewhere feel the stimulus of the new ideas which are now abroad. How these ideas are to be translated into practical benefit is a question to which many different answers will be given. Some have been published already; I am certain that many more will appear. But I venture to prophesy that all will

A view of an Ideal Home built at the Lahore War Services Exhibition at a total cost, including materials and labour, of Rs. 900. This is the type of home which the ex-soldier can build in his village out of his savings when he returns from the war.



An exterior view of another Ideal Home built at the Lahore War Services Exhibition and aimed at the man with slightly larger means. This bungalow cost under Rs. 5,000.

contain the same basic ingredient, namely, the overriding necessity for the subordination of individual interests to the common good. That does not mean that individual tastes and predilections must disappear; on the contrary it means that they will contribute to the building of a better India. Who shall say that the people of the Punjab must reap their wheat or feed their cattle at certain times or in certain ways because that is how they do it in Bihar or Madras? That is plain nonsense; but what is sense is that the people of the Punjab will co-operate to do what is good for the Punjab, and the people of India to do what is good for India. It is in that spirit that I ask you to examine the ideas that are offered to you here; how the village can be planned, how the housing can be arranged, how the transport in town or village can be directed or controlled so that all may reap the advantage and in the years to come we may see a busy, happy India not only taking her rightful place upon the world stage, but contributing, from her natural genius, to the solution of the problems of a world determined to abolish war and aggression.

I do not wish to detain you any longer. An exhibition is a place where you come to see and to touch rather than to listen.

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This is your exhibition; it is an Indian exhibition. Here India tells the people of India what they are doing over all this great sub-continent to keep their country safe. Here, too, India asks the people of India to think of the peace to come and to determine that India tomorrow shall be worthy of the great efforts and sacrifices of India to-day.

In conclusion, I could do no better than read out to you the following message from Lady Glancy, who has done so much for women's work in the Punjab.

"It is with great pleasure that I send my sincere congratulations to the organisers of the War Services Exhibition on their truly magnificent display. I know that this Exhibition will be of special interest to women, so many of whom have husbands and sons on active service. "This Exhibition holds out both a welcome and a challenge to you, women of India, calling on you to take your share with your menfolk in the victory to come. Now that you have seen the Exhibition, you must surely be convinced that your men are being given equipment worthy of their skill and bravery. You can see that the authorities do not underestimate the valuable part played by women at this time in the war, and are giving us every encouragement. I beg of you to continue to throw yourselves wholeheartedly into those branches of war work that still so urgently need you. Give to your tasks the selfless devotion to duty and the steadfast courage so essential in times of trial. By so doing you will help lighten the burden that we are asked to bear in the present emergency."

FINANCING OF FUTURE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

A PRESS Note issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, on April 23, stated:

Recognising that the future industrial development of India, when the pressure of wartime conditions is eased, is likely to be greatly helped if corporations are already in existence with adequate amounts of capital at their disposal ready for use in furthering that development at short notice, the Government of India have decided to allow issues of capital for such purposes with some freedom, even if the schemes are still in an indefinite form. One of the most important purposes of control of capital issues, the countering of inflation, will at the same time be furthered if capital is raised now and the great bulk of it invested, until actually required, in Defence Loans.

This important decision in respect of the control of capital issues has special reference to industrial schemes which it is either impracticable or undesirable to put through in war conditions but for the future realisation of which companies wish to raise capital at once. Hitherto the raising of capital for such long-range schemes has been allowed only if their promoters have carried their plans to the extent of a definite scheme, revealing the nature of the plant required and have also carried negotiations with suppliers of machinery up to a certain degree of definiteness. A relaxation of this condition will not only provide the advantages already mentioned but will also meet the difficulty which prevents industrialists from carrying important schemes to the state of final planning in present conditions when the best expert advice is obtainable with difficulty, if at all, and when suppliers of industrial plant are too preoccupied with war work to give proper attention to enquiries.

Protection to Public

The condition relating to the investment of the new capital raised for such long-range schemes in Defence Loans until it can be made use of to further the purposes of the schemes in the post-war period is of fundamental importance; but it is necessary to impose certain other conditions with a view to protecting the investing public and to safeguarding the essential requirements of post-war planning and development.

In the first place, the public must be protected from plausible but irresponsible "financiers"

whose only interest is to make a quick profit on the assumed readiness of the public to invest and who will themselves be unscathed if the venture fails. The Government cannot undertake the invidious task of discriminating between promoters and have, therefore, decided to introduce a general rule that in these cases no prospectus or other invitation to the public to subscribe shall be issued until a prescribed proportion of the securities for issue has been privately subscribed by and allotted to the promoters themselves and their friends, or, in the case of old companies, has been allotted to existing shareholders in the company.

In the second place, it is impossible to foresee to-day what regulation of certain industries may be called for by the future progress of industrial planning and it will have to be made clear to the public in every case that the collection of the capital will not create a vested interest entitling the company to claim exemption from any such regulation or any special priority under such regulations, when the time comes to ask for release of the invested amount in order to make actual disbursements. To take an extreme instance, it would be disastrous if the Legislature were to decide that any particular business should be a Government monopoly and if it were faced with a claim that this could not be achieved because there were corporations in existence which had been allowed to collect capital for the purpose of embarking on the same business. Similarly, difficulties might arise in connection with any future policy placed before the Legislature in connection with such matters as the location of factories or with the granting of priorities for the importation and supply of plant. It will, therefore, be made clear to promoters, boards of directors and the investing public that the grant of consent to the proposed issues will be entirely without commitment as regards restrictions imposed under the Defence of India Act or that may be imposed in future under other laws and for purposes different from the objects of that Act. No part of the capital raised and invested in Government securities, therefore, will be released until the Government are satisfied that the time has come to make corresponding payments for purposes which are consistent with the enforcement of any measures of control or restriction that may be in operation at the time when such release is applied for. Applications for release of funds to make good sums already advanced by the promoters out of other resources (e.g., unsecured loans, without the previous approval of the Central Government) are liable to be rejected.

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PRODUCTION OF ARTIFICIAL FERTILIZER TO INCREASE INDIA'S FOOD SUPPLIES

REPRESENTATIVES from the six major provinces met the Hon'ble Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, Supply Member, Government of India, and officers of various departments of the Government of India on April 29, to discuss action necessary to implement the aim of producing in India 350,000 tons of artificial fertilizer as a short-term measure to increase food supplies.

There was general agreement that Government-controlled units should be established for the production of fertilizer on a non-profit basis, and that these units should be large enough to allow for the most economical cost of production possible. The major part, if not all, of the capital would be provided by the Central and Provincial Governments and by Indian States willing to participate, and the fertilizer produced would be allocated to the various Governments according to their demands, as far as possible.

The possibility of independent enterprise was not precluded, but in the national interest, it was considered necessary that substantial State-controlled enterprises should hold first place. The arrangements for distribution of fertilizer to cultivators would be for the individual Governments to decide, but the programme would aim at an all-India wholesale ex-factory cost of the fertilizer.

The Government of India representatives gave details of offers of assistance received from the

United Kingdom and (through the India Supply Mission) from America. It was felt that there might be scope for utilizing from both sources such part of the plant as can only, at present, be manufactured overseas, after inquiry as to costs. In view of the necessity of obtaining the services of experts acquainted with the erection and the working of these complex fertilizer-manufacturing plants and of training men in India in their operation and management, it was unanimously agreed to accept the offer of the Secretary of State to send out, at an early date, a team fully experienced in the design and operation of plants and in the requirements of power and materials, for the purpose of examining which form of artificial fertilizer can most suitably be manufactured, the type of plant which should be erected, and the conditions in respect of power, and raw materials which would most suitably fulfil the aim of economic production.

The Government of India propose to appoint a Committee, including representatives for Indian State interests and experts, to provide information and for discussion with the visiting team. The Provinces will each appoint an officer to co-ordinate their own information and suggestions, and to deal with inquiries and tours by the visiting team and the Government of India's Committee.

WHOLESALE PRICES OF FOOD ARTICLES: NEW INDEX

A Press Note issued by the Office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India on April 22, stated:

The abnormal events of recent months have greatly impaired the representativeness of the existing index numbers of food prices and in view of the immediate need for a more reliable indicator of food price movements, the Economic Adviser to the Government of India has now initiated a new and broad based index covering as many as eleven important articles of food, viz., rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, gram, dal, tea, coffee, sugar, gur and salt.

So long as the individual price variations do not show any considerable dispersion it does not make much difference how these are averaged; but when the dispersion exceeds a certain limit, the statistical operation known as "Weighting" becomes necessary. Such a stage has now been reached and the new Index has accordingly been worked out on a weighted geometric mean basis, the weights being pro-

portionate to the estimated value of the marketable surpluses of the various commodities.

The base period for the index is the week ended August 26, 1939.

The compilation of the new food index started on a weekly basis from the beginning of February, 1944. The weekly index numbers are given below:

Week Ended.	New Food Index.
5-2-44	238.6
12-2-44	243.2
19-2-44	247.1
26-2-44	244.7
Average for February	243.4
4-3-44	242.8
11-3-44	233.6
18-3-44	234.8
25-3-44	233.7
Average for March	236.2
1-4-44	231.8

It is proposed to release later figures for publication as soon as they are ready every week.

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FOODGRAINS: RESEARCH FOR IMPROVEMENT OF QUALITY AND YIELD

SCHMES to increase production of foodgrains by intensive cultivation, growing improved varieties, controlling insect pests and fungal diseases were financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research during the year 1942-43, according to its annual report.

The chain of rice research stations, started by the Council over a decade ago for the purpose of undertaking a variety of tests and experiments with the object of evolving high-yielding and better quality types of rice, yielded important results which have been made available for the guidance of paddy growers. Assam, the United Provinces and Kashmir may be mentioned as some of the areas where practical results have already been achieved.

The Council further financed, during the year under review, a number of developmental schemes with the object of increasing the area under improved varieties of rice evolved at the various research stations. It is estimated that these improved varieties will yield about 10 to 20 per cent. more than the local varieties, and will be introduced in a considerable area.

Rust Infection

In the case of wheat, investigations were carried out on breeding rust-resistant varieties and on estimating rust infection. These investigations are expected to minimise the huge loss which the wheat crop at present suffers on account of rust infection.

A co-ordinated plan of investigation dealing with the botanical, agronomical and disease-resistance aspects of pulses and millets was adopted and a number of schemes initiated in some of the Provinces and States.

To provide the Defence Services in India with their large requirements of pyrethrum for insecticidal purposes, a scheme was initiated to produce pyrethrum in Madras, the Punjab, Assam and Kashmir. Work on fruit and vegetable preservation, dehydration, canning and preparation of fruit juices continued during the year and has been of great utility for the industry and the Supply Department.

Drug Plants In India

To meet the shortage of imported vegetable seeds the Council subsidised certain nurseries for seed production. The Council also undertook a comprehensive review of sugarcane research in order to develop, to the utmost,

the potentialities of sugarcane cultivation throughout India. Schemes were also sanctioned to investigate the possibilities of cultivating drug plants in India. Investigations on the possibilities of guayule—a latex-yielding plant said to be suitable for rubber production—were made. Imported seeds from America and Russia have been sown in the Punjab, Sind, Jodhpur and at the Imperial Agricultural Research Institute.

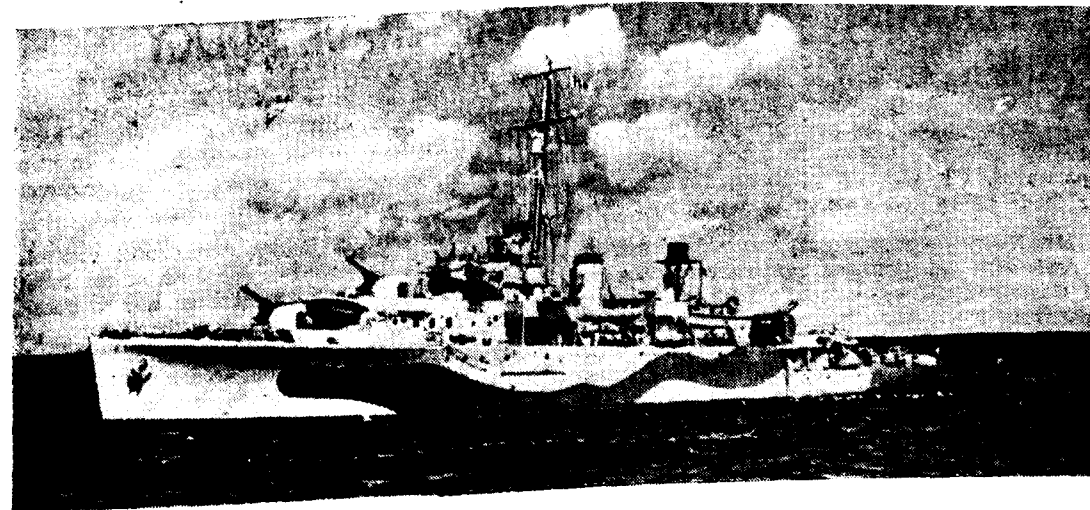
Preparation of cheap synthetic manure from town refuse and other waste material was suggested to be tried simultaneously all over the country. A new method, known as the Bangalore process, was brought to the notice of the Central Food Advisory Council which recommended to the Government that adequate funds be sanctioned to enable staff to be trained and the process extended to a large number of centres in Provinces and States.

The Council introduced a scheme to try out artificial insemination among certain species of livestock. At a number of provincial veterinary research stations, work is in progress to evolve better breeds of wool and meat sheep. The problem of maintaining animals in health received close attention and the Council financed a number of schemes for the investigation of animal diseases and their control.

The Council devoted considerable attention to the problem of urban milk supply. The fundamental work involved in this is being carried out at the Imperial Dairy Research Institute, Bangalore, and studies of the practical problems relating to the production, handling and transport of milk at Lucknow. A scheme for the discovery of a suitable dye for the colourisation of *Vanaspati* ghee was sanctioned.

The increased Army demand for leather goods led to greater attention to hides and skins and schemes for the establishment of village flaying centres in the North-West Frontier Province were adopted. Funds were provided for investigation into the life history and control of various pests.

For the first time graded Indian tobacco was introduced in Egyptian and Australian markets. The Marketing Department also assisted the Defence Services by arranging for the supply of graded foodstuffs.



H.M.I.S. "Narbada," a sloop built and commissioned in the U.K. for the R.I.N., has in recent months been engaged in convoy escort duties in European waters.

GROWTH OF ROYAL INDIAN NAVY

SPEAKING on R.I.N. Day (April 14) at the Lahore War Services Exhibition, VICE-ADMIRAL J. H. GODFREY, Flag Officer Commanding, the Royal Indian Navy, said:

No country geographically situated such as India can be secure without a strong well-disciplined and modern Navy. It is an integral part of the total defence of this country which includes the Land and Air Forces besides civil industry. Those of you who have read history will know that out of six great European Navies existing at the beginning of this century only one remains to-day, the Royal Navy. The others have faded away or been vanquished in battle. It is for this reason, therefore, that the pattern of the Royal Navy must be closely followed in the development of India's Navy, for India cannot afford to adopt any second-rate plan to meet peculiar tastes if her Naval defence is to be fully secured. Indian ships and their crews have already proved their worth in this war. Men from a thousand miles and more from India's shores have come to learn the ways of the sea to ensure the safety of their homeland.

India's Naval Forces have expanded to more than 20 times their strength in ships and men since 1939. Many new weapons have been introduced and new branches of the Service have been

created, but even to-day India's Navy is still in the growing stage.

Unity is strength and in a Sea Service it is essential that there should be a unity of purpose, body and soul running right through from the top to the bottom. Any form of division is bound to be fatal, and it is for this very reason that the R.I.N. from the outset has tried to bring together men throughout the length and breadth of the country of varying castes and creeds whilst, at the same time, giving each one liberty of thought so long as this does not endanger the unity of Naval efficiency and the morale of the Service.

After 4½ years of war we find ourselves at the outset of extensive operations against a relentless and cunning enemy—the Japanese. These operations are going to demand from each one of us, men and women alike, the maximum co-ordinated effort if success and victory are to be ours within a reasonable span of time. The Armed Forces look to the Civil Industry of the country to help to provide them with equipment and transportation which are so essential. The Armed Forces themselves, dependent upon one another as they are, look to the young men and women of India to come forward and join their ranks to make the task as easy as possible under the very trying conditions which lie ahead.

The recent expansion of the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India) to include a Naval Wing as well as an Air Force wing has opened up possibilities with attendant attractions to the women of India to enable them to assist their brothers in obtaining the complete and utter destruction of what is, in fact, the worst possible danger which has ever threatened this land.

PLANNING INDIA'S POST-WAR TRADE POLICY

WITH the appointment of Mr. R. K. Nehru I.C.S., lately Joint Secretary, Supply Department, as the Officer-in-Charge of Post-War Reconstruction in the Commerce Department, the work of planning India's post-war trade policy has entered a new phase.

Mr. Nehru's work, generally speaking, will be to deal with all post-war problems relating to the Commerce Department. He had considerable experience in pre-war years of questions relating to India's foreign trade. He is the author of an important report on the position of small industries of India vis-a-vis competition of Japanese imports, which was becoming a serious menace to local manufactures in those days.

The Trade and Industry Policy Committee and the Consultative Committee of Economists have already discussed certain aspects of India's foreign trade policy in the post-war period. The basis of discussion was a memorandum on the subject prepared by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, which, after analysing the character of India's trade movements in the past, suggested how it might be modified by the structure of post-war world economy and in the light of the spirit of the Atlantic Charter and the Mutual Trade Agreement.

Policy Committee's Opinion

It was generally agreed in the Policy Committee that it was not in India's interests to pursue an isolationist policy and that a system of multilateral trading on a world basis was desirable. India should, therefore, accept the principles embodied in the above two documents, subject to the reservation that (1) she should retain her fiscal autonomy; (2) she should be free to pursue a protectionist policy, if considered necessary, to foster her industrial development; and (3) the main object of her post-war commercial policy should be the industrial expansion of the country, which should not be hampered by India becoming a party to any international agreements. The problem was further examined by the Consultative Committee of Economists. Attention was devoted to the following fundamental considerations:

- (1) Should India agree to an international ceiling, so far as only revenue tariffs were concerned, or should such a ceiling be accepted for protective tariffs also?
- (2) Should each country be free to levy protective tariffs, provided that such tariffs had been found to be justifiable after an accurate and scientific examination?

(3) What should be the attitude to any international suggestion that, instead of unduly high tariffs, each Government should be free to help its industries through subsidies and other direct methods of governmental aid?

(4) The existing import and export controls would have to continue in some form or the other during the transitional period from war to peace. If so, the questions to be considered are: (a) whether a policy of quantitative restriction is desirable for India; (b) what would be the effect on the different classes of the community if such a policy is adopted; and (c) how would such a policy fit in with the world trend towards multilateralism and the principle of free access to raw materials enumerated in the Atlantic Charter?

In the light of the above conclusions and considerations, the Economic Adviser is preparing another memorandum on the detailed issues of policy.

POST-WAR INDUSTRIAL PLANNING

Mr. J. B. Vesugar of the Indian Service of Engineers, until lately Chief Engineer of the Punjab Government, has taken charge as Industrial Adviser to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies. An energetic man (in his early forties) he has travelled widely and taken a keen interest in all that pertains to the economic development of countries. He is reputed to be a man of ideas and of imagination.

Information will be collected and collated by the Industrial Adviser in a form which will facilitate post-war planning. He will be assisted by a panel of distinguished industrialists. It will thus be possible shortly to lay down a realistic policy of post-war development. Such policy will determine the general objectives of economic development, the pace at which industrialisation should proceed, the priorities and State aid, if any, to be given to particular industries, and in particular the location of each project with reference to raw materials, transport, and the needs of individual areas.

Collection of Information

The Industries and Civil Supplies Department has circulated to all industrial and commercial bodies in India a comprehensive questionnaire object of which is to obtain a correct picture of the present structure of industrial organisation in the country and to determine future lines of development. The questionnaire asks for factual information regarding India's post-war requirements

of plant and machinery, the possibilities of fabricating it within India itself, approximate estimates of internal and external demands, dislocations likely to be caused during the transition from wartime conditions to peacetime conditions, etc. It also seeks the views of industrialists and the commercial community on various aspects of future development and the lines of policy to be adopted. Information is also being collected by other Departments also concerned, particularly by Supply Department.

Acquisition of Capital Goods

Unless orders are placed early and under a scheme of priorities sponsored by Government, it will be almost impossible to secure the required capital goods within a reasonable time after the war. Industries have, therefore, been asked to furnish information regarding their requirements of capital goods as soon as possible. These estimates, as well as those relating to Government Public Works, will be scrutinised to determine which of the machinery required could be fabricated in India and the system of priorities to be adopted in placing orders abroad.

As scientific and industrial research is important for proper economic development, the Government of India have agreed to the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research drawing up plans for the establishment of a number of laboratories, on the assumption that a total Government grant of Rs. 1,00,00,000 spread over a few years in the post-war period, will be forthcoming towards capital expenditure. The programme contemplates the establishment of a National Physical Laboratory, a National Chemical Laboratory, a National Metallurgical Laboratory, a National Fuel Research Station and a Glass Research Institute. Work in connection with the last two institutes is to begin immediately and funds for their establishment will be provided by Government in 1944-45.

A Committee of Scientists and Industrialists has been appointed to recommend measures for the promotion of research by research organisations and private firms and to suggest steps for the furtherance of industrial and scientific research after the war.

NATIONAL CHEMICAL LABORATORY

The National Chemical Laboratory Committee of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has formulated a tentative scheme, which has been circulated for eliciting opinion, for the constitution of a National Chemical Laboratory in the post-war period. The suggestion is for a Laboratory specialising in industrial research and developing new processes up to the pilot plant stage. It is suggested that the Laboratory be

located in Poona. A non-recurring expenditure of Rs. 24 lakhs (Rs. 24,00,000) for building, equipment and pilot plant, and a recurring expenditure of Rs. 5 lakhs a year, are proposed.

The report says: "The proposed National Chemical Laboratory in India is expected to follow more or less the lines which have been accepted for the Chemical Research Laboratories in Teddington (England), although the technical nature of our problem may be somewhat different owing to our special needs. It has to be borne in mind that while fundamental problems in various branches of chemistry will be promoted and encouraged, as no new industrial work of any importance is possible without the researchers being engaged in increasing the bounds of fundamental knowledge, greater emphasis will be laid in this laboratory on Industrial Research and the development of new processes up to the pilot plant stage, so that the chemical industry and other industries requiring the aid of chemical research in general will benefit from the investigations carried out in this Laboratory. In India such facilities for research work up to the pilot plant stage are rarely available and such scientific research as has been carried out so far has not been so convincing to industrialists and the would-be manufacturers as it might have been if the success of a process had been demonstrated on a large scale. This aspect of the question will distinguish the National Chemical Laboratory from the rest of the laboratories either in the Universities or in any technical institution run privately or under semi-government control. It will maintain the closest co-operation with existing institutions, particularly as the National Laboratory will be able to initiate those ambitious investigations which are not investigated in University laboratories either for want of funds or for the reason that the problems have a predominantly industrial bias."

Scope of Laboratory

It is proposed that the Laboratory should at present provide accommodation and facilities for the following main branches of Chemistry: Inorganic Chemistry, including analytical investigations; Organic Chemistry, including drugs and chemotherapy; Physical Chemistry, including high pressure technique and electro-chemistry; Biochemistry, including biological products; and Chemical Engineering.

With proper co-ordination of the activities of these Sections, it will be possible, the report states, to deal with new raw materials and problems relating to a number of industries, such as: heavy chemicals (acids, alkali, salts, etc.); minerals particularly from the analytical standpoint and such industries as the non-metal industries, fertilisers, organic and inorganic chemicals includ-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 377)

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON COAL-MINES WELFARE FUND

THE Central Government have set up an Advisory Committee to advise on matters arising out of the administration of the Coal-Mines Labour Welfare Ordinance, promulgated in January last.

The Committee, when fully constituted, will consist of the Secretary, Labour Department, the Coal Commissioner, the Labour Welfare Adviser, the Chief Inspector of Mines; one official each nominated by the Railway Board, the Bengal Government, the Bihar Government and the Central Provinces and Berar Government; two nominees of the Indian Mining Association; one nominee of the Indian Mining Federation; one nominee each of the Indian Mining Federation, the Indian Colliery Owners Association and the Central Provinces and Berar Mining Association; two mining engineers and representatives of interests other than the colliery owners or workmen employed in the coal mining industry.

In addition, there will be five persons nominated by the Central Government to represent the interests of colliery labour. Four have already been appointed and the fifth will be appointed shortly. Under the Ordinance, the Advisory Committee should also include a lady member and this nomination, too, is expected shortly.

The Committee, as so far constituted, includes the following representatives of the Government of India: Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Labour Department; Mr. R. S. Nimbkar, Labour Welfare Adviser; and Mr. W. H. Kirby, Chief Inspector of Mines. The representatives of the Railway Board and of the Bengal, Bihar, and Central Provinces and Berar Governments are: Mr. A. Orr; Mr. A. Hughes, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner, Bengal; Mr. A. G. Bunn, I.C.S., Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dhanbad; and Sardar Bahadur Ishar Singh, Labour Commissioner, Central Provinces and Berar. Messrs. J. Latimer, S. F. Tarlton, M. N. Mukerjee, R. D. Rathore and A. E. Douglas have been nominated to represent the mining industry on the Advisory Committee.

First Meeting

Of the four spokesmen for colliery labour, Messrs. P. Bhattasali and H. Ghosal represent organisations affiliated to the Indian Federation of Labour and Messrs. Nirpada Mukerjee and Chapal Bhattacharya represent those affiliated to the Trade Union Congress. Messrs. S. N. Mallick and W. N. Burch are mining engineers nominated to the Committee.

The first meeting of the Advisory Committee was held at Dhanbad on April 27, the Hon'ble

Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presiding.

In a short opening speech, Dr. Ambedkar recalled the Tripartite meeting held in Dhanbad in December last to consider, first, the problem of coal production and, secondly, the securing of a continuous flow of labour. He said that the suggestions made at that meeting had come to fruition. While the question of production was being dealt with separately, this meeting was convened to consider measures for the welfare of labour in coal-mines. As discussed at the last meeting, the Government of India had promulgated an Ordinance constituting a fund for the welfare of colliery labour and this Advisory Committee had been appointed under the terms of the Ordinance.

The Committee then discussed draft rules, placed before them, relating to the composition of the Advisory Committee and to expenditure and welfare schemes to be financed from the Fund. The rules provide that the Advisory Committee should have a secretariat, with headquarters at Dhanbad, under the executive authority of its Chairman. There will be a number of sub-committees attached to and elected by the Advisory Committee for carrying out its functions—a Finance Sub-Committee to advise generally on all expenditure debitable to the Fund, a Works Sub-Committee to consider all major projects for works and constructions the cost of which is to be met from the Fund, and a separate Coal-field Sub-Committee for each of the main coal-fields in Bengal, Bihar, the Central Provinces and Berar and Assam to advise on all matters relating to expenditure from the Fund in their respective regions. In constituting the Sub-Committees equal representation will be given to colliery owners and workers employed in the coal-mining industry.

Administration of Fund

The rules discussed by the Advisory Committee also provide that, within the sanctioned budget, the Advisory Committee may suggest schemes of expenditure to the Central Government for approval. These schemes will be in two parts—administrative schemes, to cover secretariat expenses and salary, etc. of the staff appointed by the Chairman, and welfare schemes which will be either of an obligatory or permissive nature.

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 coal-mine to

whom a grant is made from the Coal-Mines 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 of the money granted.

Before making a grant from the Fund to a local authority or the executive agent or manager of a coal-mine, the Central Government will require the Party concerned to execute a bond for the fulfilment of these conditions.

The Committee also considered the extent to which the Jharia and Asansol Boards of Health and the Jharia Water Board should be utilised as the executive authority for expenditure of grants from the Fund. It was pointed out that use might be made of existing bodies in coal-fields for carrying out welfare and other schemes for which the Fund had been created. The Committee approved the suggestion put forth by the Chairman that the question whether grants should be made to local bodies or not should be decided by the Advisory Committee in each case individually. The Committee also considered expenditure needs which should be taken up at once and for which the cost should be met from the Welfare Fund. Among the items which were suggested for this purpose were: expenditure on welfare staff, expenditure on secretariat staff to be appointed and expenditure on the anti-malaria scheme at present in progress in certain coal-fields in the Central Provinces and Berar and to be sanctioned for Bengal-Bihar. The Committee also discussed the rate of cess to be levied under the Ordinance.

MAILS TO CHINA

Surface letter mails for unoccupied China from India will now be carried by a shorter route. This route via Sinkiang was opened in March last and is now ready to handle the entire traffic. It is expected that the period of transmission will be reduced to about two months.

The only surface route available since December 1942 was via Persia and the U.S.S.R. Transmission by this route was very slow. It will now carry only those mails which are specially super-scribed for transmission via Persia and the U.S.S.R. Parcels may also be carried by the shorter route in the near future. The air mail route via Calcutta to Chungking carries letters from India to China in less than a week.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944

LABOUR INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE

THREE members of the Labour Investigation Committee, Mr. D. V. Rege, I.C.S., Prof. B. P. Adarkar and Dr. Ahmed Mukhtar, visited Delhi on April 13, after a preliminary tour of industrial centres in British India and Indian States for collecting factual and statistical material about labour conditions. Their programme in Delhi included an exchange of views with representatives of labour and employers. The Committee left for Simla the same night.

During their all-India tour, the Committee's programme included visits to major centres of factory industries, mining, ports, railways and plantations in South India. At Cawnpore, Dhanbad, Calcutta, Tatanagar, Nagpur, Madras, Madurai, Trivandrum, Coonoor, Bangalore, Bombay, Baroda, Ahmedabad, Lahore and other centres, they discussed with officials of the Provincial Governments and States concerned and with representatives of employers' associations and trade unions on the existing conditions of labour and the feasibility of various measures for improving those conditions.

Data on Social Security

To collect data on the social security of labour, the Committee obtained the views of labour and industry on the working of Labour Acts like the Workmen's Compensation Act, the Payment of Wages Act and the Maternity Benefits Acts. They have also collected a mass of opinion on the relations between employees and employers and on security of employment as provided by the Factories' Act and other laws which have been in operation for several years. The tour has also provided the Committee with a bird's-eye view of housing and factory conditions in various industries. Considerable information has also been collected on conditions of plantation labour in South India.

Questionnaire and Surveys

With the end of this preliminary all-India tour, the Committee has completed the first stage of its work. It is understood that they propose to issue a general questionnaire on labour problems to employers and workers' associations and various public and semi-public bodies as well as persons interested in the inquiry. In addition there will be small supplementary questionnaire in respect of special groups of industry. The questionnaire are, however, only a part of the comprehensive inquiry which includes sample and ad hoc surveys and a Wage Census covering most groups of major industries.

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SIR MAHOMED USMAN ON NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF AIR SERVICES

INDIA'S extent of territory makes her peculiarly suitable for the development of air services. Owing to a variety of reasons, the development of air services within India before the war was very limited. War conditions have not only prevented any extension of civil air services but even those in existence have had a hard struggle to continue owing to non-availability of aircraft, spares, air crews, etc. The end of the war will, however, offer peculiarly advantageous opportunities for the development of such services," said the noble SIR MAHOMED USMAN, Member for Posts and Air, Government of India, addressing the first meeting of the Reconstruction (Policy) Committee for Posts and Aviation on April 21 in New Delhi.

On account of India's geographical position, he added, many of the world's routes would pass through this country. India must, therefore, be prepared to meet the needs of such routes and services and to participate worthily and to the full extent in the operation of such services.

Referring to Government's aim in post-war planning, Sir Mahomed quoted from H.E. the Viceroy's address to the Central Legislature—"Our great aim must be to plan for economic and social development so as to raise our standards of living and general welfare. We must lift the poor man of India from poverty to security; from ill-health to vigour; from ignorance to understanding, and our rate of progress must no longer be at bullock-cart standard, but at least at the pace of the handy and serviceable jeep." A reliable and extensive system of speedy communications, said Sir Mahomed, was vital for the development of industry, commerce, culture, and the social well-being of the country.

Equal Rights

Sir Mahomed then outlined the general policy which Government propose to follow in the development of air services. "Discussions", he said, "are now going on with regard to the post-war set-up in the international field. In all such discussions India will take her full part and it may be taken that she will secure equal rights with all the other countries which may finally agree to a convention.

"Our memorandum makes it clear that as regards India's internal air services, they

should be the sole concern of India and that the policy of Government is to develop civil aviation in India with Indian capital under Indian management, and to afford training and opportunities for employment to Indians. In the matter of international services, India will claim full reciprocal rights, and in the case of the participation of India in any through services, such participation shall be not only financial but technical as well as operational."

In planning the post-war development of civil air transport in India, said Sir Mahomed Usman, "we have avoided being mere visionaries and have planned with a view to what is practicable and capable of being achieved within a reasonably short period after the war. We do not visualise this at the end of all development. The air routes which have been planned are those which we consider necessary in modern conditions for the proper development of India as a whole socially, commercially and industrially."

Participation of Indian States

In addition to these services, "we expect independent development of a number of subsidiary routes and services operated by private enterprise to service local needs, apart from taxi and charter services. It will be Government's aim to encourage the development of such services by making available such air route facilities as are practicable, without interfering with the basic plan."

The system of air transport services outlined in the plan, Sir Mahomed continued, required for its successful operation a large and up-to-date ground organisation. The memorandum on the construction and organisation of aerodromes and air routes, he said, had been planned on an all-India basis and included, therefore, the territories of Indian States. For this reason they had invited representatives of Indian States to participate in planning and discussions from the very beginning. He hoped that "the great advantages, nay, the inevitability of a single organisation controlling and regulating the operation and development of air services throughout India on a common standard for the benefit of the country as a whole will be fully recognised and that the necessary assistance, co-operation and sacrifice will be forthcoming from all."

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944

THE 1939-43 STAR

SERVICE during certain operations on the North-West Frontier of India entitles British and Indian officers and men to the ribbon of the 1939-43 Star. The geographical limits of the areas involved on the North-West Frontier are detailed in a Special India Army Order under the general headings: Ahmedzai Valley, June 18 to August 26, 1941; and Datia Wazir Salient, February 3 to May 24, 1940; Tochi Khel, July 26 to August 18, 1942. Service for any length of time in these operations is sufficient qualification.

Service anywhere in Assam, Bengal or Burma between May 16, 1942, and December 31, 1943, counts towards the total of 180 days necessary to qualify in the ordinary way. Other areas, service in which may be included in the total of 180 days, are: France (Sept. 3, 1939 to May 9, 1940), Iraq (April 10 to May 31, 1941), Persia (Aug. 25 to Dec. 31, 1943), China (Dec. 11, 1941 to Dec. 31, 1943), Burma (Dec. 11, 1941 to Feb. 21, 1942), New Guinea (March 7, 1942 to Dec. 31, 1943) and Italy (Sept. 3 to Dec. 31, 1943).

Those who, in the course of these operations, died, were taken prisoner, were evacuated as sick or wounded, or won an honour, decoration or mention in despatches before the completion of six months' qualifying service, are also eligible.

In addition to the specified operations on the North-West Frontier of India, service for any length of time in any of the following is sufficient qualification: Norway (April 14 to June 8, 1940), France and Belgium May 10 to June 19, 1940, Holland (May 12 to 13, 1940), Greece and Crete (March 10 to May 31, 1941), Syria (June 8 to July 11, 1941), Hong Kong (Dec. 8 to 25, 1941), Burma Malaya (Dec. 8, 1941 to Feb. 15, 1942), Burma—Wingate's (Feb. 22 to May 15, 1942), Madagascar (May Force (Feb. 7 to July 15, 1943), Sicily (July 10 to Aug. 17, 1943), Spitzbergen (May 16, 1942 to Sept. 8, 1943), and Combined Operations in the Lofoten Islands, Lucania, Spitzbergen, Vaagso, Bruneval, St. Nazaire, Hardelot, Boulogne-le-Touquet, Dieppe and Sark.

All ranks of the British and Indian Armies, including enrolled non-combatants and civilians in military employ, may be permitted to wear the ribbon, as well as officers, warrant officers and N.C.O.s of the India Unattached List; officers and other personnel of Indian States Forces serving under the Crown; and members of various nursing services.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944



B.I.C. IN INFANTRY ROLE

Acting in a new role, men of the Burma Intelligence Corps, who moved with 17th Division from the Tiddim area recently, had the satisfaction of inflicting considerable casualties on the invaders of their homes.

I met some of them—Nyi Pu, G. Bennett Mealin, Saw Yo Ba, W. Croft and V. David—as they bivouaced near Imphal, writes an Indian Army Observer. They described with great satisfaction two encounters with the Japs south of Tiddim in which almost every man of their little party of 13 claimed a "kill" without loss to themselves.

These men have been over a year with the 17th Division, having transferred to the Intelligence Corps. Their successes in their infantry role included ambushing a party of 15 Japanese and later harassing a much larger body of the enemy who came up to attack a position they had just vacated.

On withdrawing, the Burmese and Anglo-Burmese party had to cross a suspension bridge from which the tracks had been removed by the enemy. They achieved the crossing by clinging to the support which remained, at times being up to their shoulders in water. They managed to join the main body in Tiddim without mishap.

GRAIN SUPPLIES FOR BENGAL

The Central Governments' supplies of food-grains to Bengal are reported to be well on schedule. As against 640,000 tons promised for the year, it is understood that the total imports into Bengal from December 1, 1943, to April 8, 1944, under the Central Food Department's plan were 339,000 tons. Of this quantity 111,000 tons were rice and 168,000 tons wheat.

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CONTROL OF SALES OF USED MOTOR VEHICLES

FOLLOWING is an elucidation of the main provisions of the Used Motor Vehicles Control Order, 1944, published in the *Gazette of India*, dated April 22, 1944:

Government have for some time been watching the very high prices demanded for second-hand motor-cars, which are now in very short supply, and since no new cars are at present being manufactured or imported, the replacement of his worn-out car by an essential user is becoming more and more difficult. It is considered to be contrary to the public interest that the ability to purchase a motor-car should be solely a matter of money, and, as part of their general policy of controlling prices and of counteracting inflation, the Government of India have decided to introduce this Order.

The Order provides that, save with the special permission of the Controller in each Province, no person may sell a motor-car except to an approved dealer and at a price governed by a schedule of maximum prices, and no person may buy a motor-car without a permit from the Provincial Controller.

The figures of prices given in the schedule, which will remain in force to the end of the current year and thereafter be revised at six-monthly intervals to allow for depreciation, represent the maximum price which may be paid for a specified car in first class order, and the maximum price which a dealer may charge a purchaser for such a car plus a commission of 7½ per cent. In determining the prices scheduled, a generous allowance has been made for genuine appreciation in values of cars as implements of transport owing to shortage of new supplies. Against this, also, a very gradual rate of depreciation has been taken, which allows for the fact that, in the absence of new supplies, obsolescence does not come into play to any great extent but merely depreciation due to wear and tear dependent upon the length of the life of the vehicle. The prices arrived at, while below the fantastic prices occasionally advertised in the Press, represent in Government's opinion a reasonable and fair compromise, and the following example will illustrate the effect. A 1939 Chevrolet Saloon will on the introduction of the Order be priced at Rs. 4,029, and a 1939 Ford Super De Luxe V-8 Sedan at Rs. 4,220. A 1939 Austin 10 Saloon is priced at Rs. 3,307, and the Tourer at Rs. 3,146. A 1939 Morris 10 Saloon will also be priced at Rs. 3,307.

In the past, there were no doubt a number of direct sales between owner and buyer, but,

even so, a dealer was frequently introduced in his professional capacity as a valuer, and it is considered that it is necessary, in order to make the Order effective, to require that all sales should be through approved dealers who risk disqualification for malpractices. The Order, therefore, provides that, as already stated, except with the special permission of the Controller, no one may sell a second-hand car except to an approved dealer. It is intended to bring in as many reputable dealers as possible into the scheme, so as to divide the business as fairly as possible and introduce an element of competition as between dealers as to who will give best value and service.

A dealer will not, of course, be bound to pay the full scheduled price, if he does not think that the condition of the car warrants that, even after repairs. He is also entitled to make a deduction in the price tendered on the basis of his estimate of charges for such repairs as he considers will be necessary before he can sell the car. If the seller does not like the quotation by one dealer, he can go to another. If the dealer estimates that certain repairs will be necessary to the car before it can be sold, he must specify those on the appropriate form and state his estimate of what the charges would be. When he sells the car, he is to fill in on the form the repairs actually carried out, and is not entitled to deduct more than his estimate of charges.

Purchase Cars from Dealers

In granting a permit to any person to buy a car, the Controller in each Province will have to have regard to certain considerations, mainly whether or not it is necessary in the public interest that the applicant should have a car; whether he previously owned one for the purposes of his business; whether he has recently sold one at a high price; whether he has any other car already in his possession, or otherwise at his disposal; and so forth. The Controller has discretion also to grant permits for the purchase of cars by or on behalf of infirm persons who previously owned a car, or have recently been disabled or become infirm.

A dealer is bound to exhibit on his premises a list of the cars available with him for sale. An intending purchaser, having obtained a permit from the Controller, may then make a choice from among the cars available which his permit entitles him to buy, whereupon the dealer is entitled to recover from the buyer the cost which he actually paid, plus a commission not exceeding 7½ per cent. but up to Rs. 200 if the actual commission comes to less than that, plus any charges as originally estimated

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BOMBAY FIRE AND EXPLOSIONS

Commission of Inquiry Appointed

THE Governor-General in Council has appointed a Commission 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 Commission will be assisted by five assessors to be appointed by the Government of India.

The Commission will consist of: Justice Sir Leonard Stone, Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court (President); Mr. S. B. Dhavle, I.C.S. (retired), lately a judge of the Patna High Court; and Rear-Admiral C. S. Holland, R.N. Mr. Norman Storr, I.C.S., will be Secretary to the Commission.

In view of the state of war existing and the consequential consideration of security, the Commission will hold its inquiry in camera. Nevertheless, the report of the Commission, except such parts the disclosure of which, in the opinion of the Commission, would be detrimental to the public interest or the successful prosecution of the war, will be published for general information.

The President will have full powers to appoint times of meetings, adjourn meetings, adjust and arrange methods of procedure, settle the course the inquiry shall take, fix the place or places at which the Commission shall sit, hear such persons as he shall think fit, admit or reject, in his absolute discretion, any evidence, oral or documentary, which may be tendered before him, and to call for such evidence, oral or documentary, as he may think fit.

For Relief of Distress

"The Government of India have observed with great concern and distress, the loss of life and property involved in the recent explosions and fire in the Bombay Docks", said a Press Note issued by the War Transport Department on April 27, announcing the Government of India's intention, in consultation with the Government of Bombay, to constitute a Commission of Inquiry. The Note continued: "Measures are already in hand to repair the damage and to resume the normal operations of the Port. The question of granting relief

NATIONAL CHEMICAL LABORATORY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 521)

ing solvents; pharmaceuticals and food; fermentation and biological products; resins and plastics; paints, pigments, lacquers and varnishes; oils, fats, soaps, and lubricants; essential oils; leather and adhesives; rubber; petroleum; high pressure research; and electro-chemical industries.

The workshops and pilot plant equipment suggested for the laboratory ought to enable the Laboratory, according to the report, to undertake, ordinarily any type of industrial research.

Public opinion on the tentative scheme is invited; scientists and scientific bodies and commercial men and commercial bodies interested in the proposals will be supplied with copies of the scheme, on request, by the Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, University Buildings, Delhi.

MEAT DEHYDRATION FACTORIES

On the recommendation of the U.K. Dehydration Mission which toured India last winter, a factory is shortly to be erected at Ranipet (Madras Presidency) for the production of pre-cooked and minced dehydrated mutton.

To meet Quarter-Master General's requirements of dehydrated meat, eight factories have been constructed or are under construction at Amritsar, Madras, Poona, Agra, Anantapur, Patna, Delhi and Nowshera at Government expense with a total capacity of 7 tons per day. The first three will produce *khatta* and the others *khal* meat.

Mr. Mohd. Sarvar, Director of Veterinary Services, Peshawar, has joined the Central Food Department as Joint Director mainly in order to plan, in collaboration with Provincial Governments, the breeding of goats required for these dehydration factories. A second Joint Director to plan production of vegetables required by the vegetable dehydration factories is expected to be appointed shortly.

to those who have suffered loss directly arising out of the disaster, in so far as it is not recoverable from the insurance companies, is under consideration, and a further announcement will shortly be made on the subject. Meanwhile the Government of India are placing at the disposal of the Government of Bombay an immediate contribution of Rs. 5,00,000 for the relief of distress."

PROGRESS OF HEALTH SURVEY COMMITTEE

Sir Joseph Bhore, Chairman, Health Survey and Development Committee, in a broadcast on All India Radio, on April 10, said:

The connection between public health and public and national wealth is intimate and inseparable. The health and well being of the community is not an investment yielding deferred dividends. Its returns are immediate. How many million man hours are lost every year in India to industrial establishments through absenteeism resulting from sickness? This is quite apart from the reduction of a worker's efficiency as the result of ill-health and its debilitating consequences. If this loss could be eliminated or even reduced, the increase in the nation's production and wealth would be direct and immediate. I ask that this aspect of the importance and urgency of health matters in any reconstruction programme should be prominently borne in mind.

My Committee recognises the necessity for completing its investigations and making its recommendations as early as this is possible. The importance of the time factor is always before us but there is another factor which cannot possibly be ignored. Our investigations must be as complete and as thorough as the existing conditions permit. The field we have to cover is immense and if our proposals are not to be out of date before they see the light of day, having regard to developments elsewhere in the world, we must have time for examination and consideration.

The Goodenough Committee in the United Kingdom which is concerned with the task of reporting on Medical Education and Research has already taken two years and its report has not as yet been published. Medical Education and Research are but a single facet of the problem which has been referred to us for consideration. Moreover, the Goodenough Committee is dealing with a more or less homogeneous population living under more or less similar conditions. In India the complexity of our problem is intensified a hundredfold by the diversity which faces us not merely between Province and Province but even between parts of a single Province. Nevertheless, we will see to it and do our best to ensure that a reasonable balance is maintained between the time factor on the one hand and the necessity for ensuring that our report will not suffer unduly in quality and value because we have had perforce to work against time.

I would ask all those who feel that they can help our touring groups in the Provinces

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USED MOTOR VEHICLES

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before repairs were carried out and certified by him to have been carried out on the vehicle.

After the date of this Order, no Registering Authority will register a transfer of a motor vehicle which has not been made according to the terms of the Order. There is a saving for sales effected within the permissible statutory period for registration of transfers, before the date of the Order. The Order includes provision for appeal against the Provincial Controller's orders refusing to appoint any person as registered dealer, or refusing to grant a permit to buy a car. It also specifies the necessary forms in which particulars of all transaction are to be entered.

COFFEE CONTROL: REVISED RETAIL PRICES

The Central Government, after consultation with the Indian Coffee Board, has fixed, with effect from May 1, 1944, in accordance with a Notification published in the *Gazette of India*, dated April 29, 1944, the prices at which coffee may be sold retail in British India, as follows, in supersession of their previous Notification on the subject:

Description.	Price per lb., ex-packing, first quality.		
	In Zone I.	In Zone II.	In Zone III.
Raw Coffee Flats	Rs. a. p. 1 5 0	Rs. a. p. 1 6 0	Rs. a. p. 1 7 0
Raw Coffee:			
Peaberry (PB)	1 7 0	1 8 0	1 9 0
Roasted and ground			
Coffee pure powder loose	1 11 6	1 12 6	1 13 6

Zone I means the Provinces of Madras and Coorg; Zone II means the Provinces of Bombay, the Central Provinces and Berar, Orissa, Ajmer-Merwara and Panth Piploda; Zone III means the rest of British India.

The revision is consequent on the levy of an excise duty of two annas in the pound on coffee as from April 1, 1944.

with information and material of value to be so good as to get into touch with these groups and give them such assistance as they can. This will be deeply appreciated.

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INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS IN INDIA

"I AM sure that the progress that India is making is immense, and in regard to technical training in which I am very much interested, I had an inkling of this progress even in England, where I had the opportunity of meeting several batches of Bevin trainees who went to the United Kingdom for further technical training", observed Mr. S. Lall, Secretary, Labour Department and former Deputy High Commissioner for India in London, in his speech on Technical Training Day (April 16) at the War Services Exhibition in Lahore.

Giving his impressions about the great changes that had occurred in industrial relations in England, Mr. Lall said that it was now fully realised in the West that the worker whose bread and butter depended on industry was as much concerned in its efficient management as the financier or the organiser. It was a principle, he said, on which even the leading industrialists were beginning to lay stress. Another change that he noticed was the desire that industrial undertakings should be worked for the well-being of the country as a whole. Recognition of these principles had brought new privileges for and had imposed new responsibilities on workers and on the management. Both were required to work for the general good rather than for their interests. India, he said, should take notice of this trend.

Referring to the object of the technical training schemes in England, Mr. Lall said that these schemes had been started to make good the deficiency in skilled labour and, in particular, to facilitate the employment of women for work which before the war was done by men. Stressing the importance of training Indian workers in up-to-date methods of production and of disciplining them in the sense that they should bear in mind the general welfare of the country, Mr. Lall said that India could gain a good deal from the wartime experience of England in labour relations.

Earlier in his speech Mr. Lall said that after six years of absence from India he had come back and seen the rapid progress that was being made in various directions. He felt that the foundations of progress had been truly laid and that India should be able to catch up in the race for progress.

Immediately after arrival in Lahore on April 9, Mr. Lall visited the Moghalpura Workshop Technical Training Centre. Giving his impressions of this centre, he mentioned that

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Mr. S. Lall (left) arrives at the Exhibition.

the arrangements made for technical training were very well conceived and he hoped they would be further developed. In the evening, Mr. Lall visited the War Services Exhibition, particularly the Exhibition's technical section where he saw young trainees receiving practical instruction from Indian and British instructors in welding, moulding and turning trades. He was shown specimens of finished products turned out by the trainees.

Before leaving the Exhibition, Mr. Lall distributed prizes for sports competitions among the various technical training centres in India.

RESUMPTION OF TRADE WITH CORSICA

Corsica is no longer enemy territory. Trade with it may be resumed, subject to any Regulations in force in India or in that territory, said a Press communique issue by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on April 21.

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NATIONAL DEFENCE COUNCIL

THE 14th Session of the National Defence Council opened at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on April 17, H. E. the Viceroy presiding.

The Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman presented a memorandum on Canteen Services in India which was discussed. The Council then considered a memorandum on Civil Defence together with a detailed account of air raids on India since the last session of the Council. Consideration of a number of subjects relating to war transport was postponed to April 19 owing to the unavoidable absence at Bombay of the Hon'ble the War Transport Member.

The Council met again on April 18 at the Viceroy's House, H.E. the Viceroy presiding.

The Council considered the food position in the morning and reviewed the progress made in procurement operations and control of prices in the light of a memorandum presented by the Hon'ble Sir J. P. Srivastava. Reference was made to the position in Bombay City as a result of the recent fire and the steps already taken to dispatch additional stocks to Bombay.

The Council then considered a review of the action taken under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance generally and also the working of controls in respect of cotton piece-goods, woollen goods and drugs. In the afternoon, the Hon'ble Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar made a statement on the organisation that has been developed for the purpose of maintenance and repair of the aircraft of the Air Forces in India and for providing them with spare parts and equipment.

His Excellency the Commander-in-Chief presented a general review of the war situation when the Council met for the third day (April 19) at the Viceroy's House, H.E. the Viceroy presiding. The Council heard and discussed a statement by Lt.-General R. D. Deedes, Adjutant-General, on the progress of recruitment to various branches of the Defence Services.

During the afternoon, the Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, War Transport Member, who had just returned from Bombay, gave a first-hand account of the fire damage in the Port and the progress being made in clearance and restoration of normal working conditions. The Council also heard and discussed measures undertaken for co-ordination and control of activities in the Calcutta Port and the re-organisation of lines of communication into Assam. A memorandum on the distribution of coal during the past four months was also considered.

The present session then ended and the Council adjourned.

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PRINCESS ELIZABETH: INDIA'S GREETINGS

His Excellency the Viceroy sent the following message to H. R. H. Princess Elizabeth on the occasion of her 18th birthday on April 21, 1944.

"I send Your Royal Highness congratulations and good wishes from the Princes and people of India."

Her Royal Highness replied:

"I shall be grateful if you will convey to the Princes and people of India my sincere thanks for their very kind message on the occasion of my eighteenth birthday."

RESETTLEMENT OF DEMOBILISED PERSONNEL

Resettlement in civil life in India of demobilised personnel from the three fighting Services, including the W.A.C. (I.), is a primary concern of the Directorate of Resettlement, a new organisation set up under the reconstituted Directorate-General of Welfare, Education and Resettlement, G.H.Q., India.

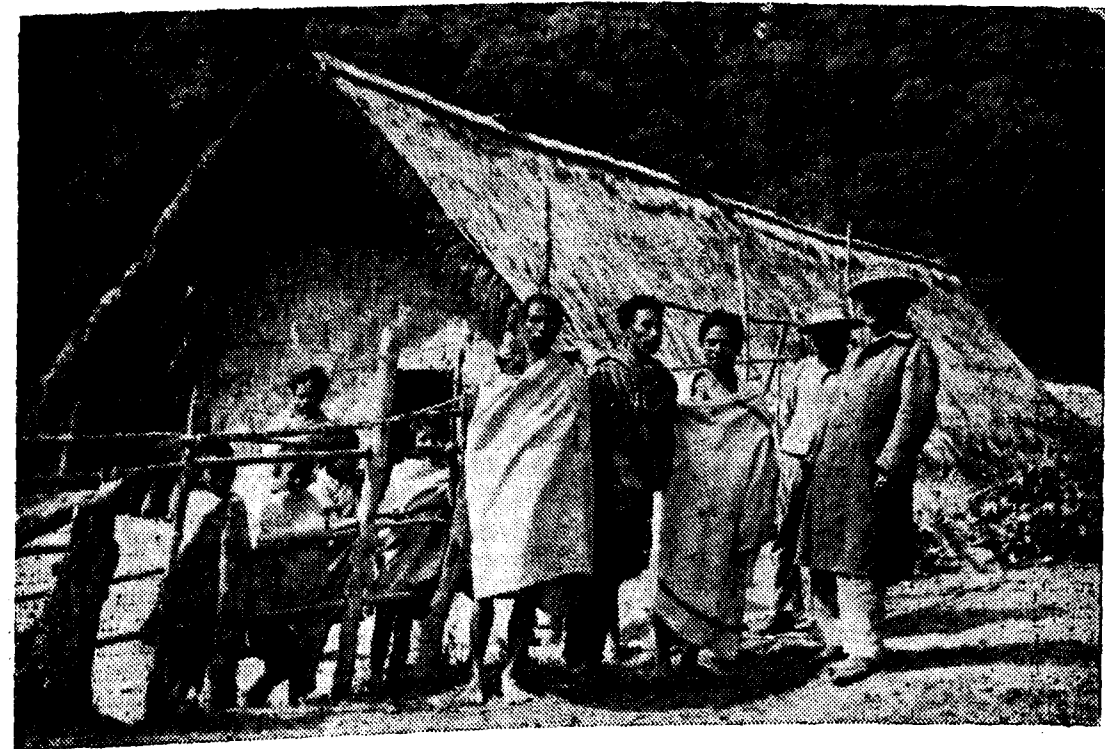
The Directorate of Resettlement is to represent the interests of the Defence Services on civil employment exchanges. It is to be referred to in matters relating to all vocational training for British and Indian personnel who require further training to suit them for civilian occupation.

Part of its functions is to bring about a co-ordination of action arising out of the Central and Provincial Governments' policies regarding post-war vocational training and resettlement and to ensure that ex-service personnel obtain their full share of employment in any reconstruction plans and development projects, by acting as a liaison between the various branches of G.H.Q. (I.), Departments of the Government of India, Provincial Governments and of Indian States.

INCREASE IN PAY FOR V.C.O.'s

Under revised scales announced on April 29, Viceroy's Commissioned Officers will receive increased pay. V.C.O.'s serving in field service or full concessional areas will also receive increased rates of *batta*. These increases which are intended solely as a war measure, and come into effect from April 1, 1944, appear in an Army Instruction published on April 29.

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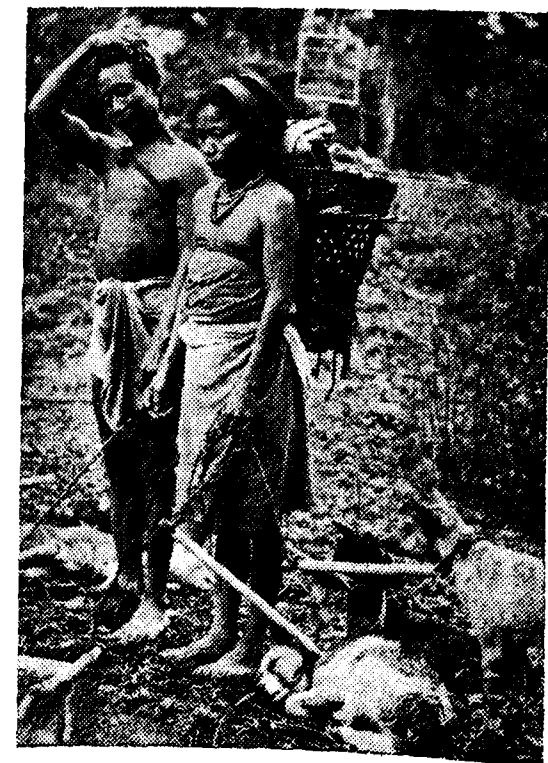
Indian soldiers chatting with Naga village folk. Below: Taking with them dogs and other purchases a Naga couple return to their hill home.

WORLD'S MOST IRREGULAR "HOME GUARD"

WILD Naga tribesmen, forming the most irregular "Home Guard" in the world, are operating against the Japanese in the Kohima area, says an Indian Army Observer in a dispatch from the Naga Hills. Though their work is unspectacular, these Nagas are invaluable as scouts, ambush parties or porters.

At their headquarters I witnessed an amazing sight: scores of loin-clothed tribesmen were besieging the District Commissioner's hut clamouring for arms. Those who during the winter months, when work in their terraced paddy fields in steep-sided valleys is at a standstill had done a minor battle course including movement under fire, were handed weapons. These ranged from shot-guns to sawn-off service rifles to supplement the tribesmen's spears and *dahs*. It was a colourful scene. British, Indian and Gurkha troops, and semi-naked "Home Guards" were sharing a tiny encampment on a ridge 6,000 feet high.

These hospitable, self-reliant sturdy Nagas will not lightly make way for Jap raiders. Some already have destroyed food stocks rather than see them fall into enemy hands.



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NEED FOR MORE RECRUITS

C.-in-C.'s Appeal at War Services Exhibition

PRESIDING over Services Day (April 12) at the Lahore War Services Exhibition, H. E. the Commander-in-Chief, India, said:—

The War Services Exhibition has now existed for 13 months and has visited 11 important cities in this country—Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore, Trichinopoly, Madras, Indore, Nagpur, Patna, Lucknow, Patiala and Lahore. The War Services Exhibition, therefore, cannot be accused of partiality.

It started quietly and modestly in Delhi last year, where I saw it myself. It has since grown and improved beyond recognition. I would like to add that it originated when I was in India before as C.-in-C. in the Exhibition train (organised by my Director of Public Relations, Brigadier Jehu) which toured 15,000 miles in seven months, starting in the capital of the Punjab where its great descendant is to-day. This present Exhibition is being administered by the Information and Broadcasting Department helped by a Committee of representatives from the Director of Public Relations, Director of Recruiting, Department of Labour and other interested Departments.

Objects of the Exhibition

The objects of the Exhibition are to show the fighting services to the nation to whom they belong and on whom they may depend for their existence. Also to inspire everyone to follow their example and to do his or her share to ensure the final defeat of our brutal enemies so that peace may come again not only to India but to the whole world.

We still need men and women—and many of them—for the Navy, Army and the I.A.F. We need particularly young men of education and character as officers to lead and train our men. These men—who have won such a great name for themselves in this war, whenever they have been, on the sea, in the air, in France, in Africa, in Italy, in Burma—deserve the best officers we can give them and I hope India will respond to this call.

We need women, too, for all the women's services. This Exhibition will show you how these men and women can find work to do to help to win the war.

In conclusion, I wish to say how much value I attach to the work of Exhibitions and organisations of this kind as a means of instruction and progress. Finally, I wish to thank, most sincerely, all those connected with the organisation and management of this Exhibition. It is work of high pressure which has continued for many months and the staff of the War Services Exhibition have given unselfishly of their very best labours to make the Exhibition a great success.

I.A.F.: A FINE AND EFFICIENT FORCE

AIR VICE-MARSHAL M. THOMAS, Air Officer Commanding, Air Forces of India Command, speaking on Air Force Day (April 17) said:

Although the Indian Air Force was formed only 11 years ago—a short time in the life of a Service—it now stands erect alongside the other great Services and is taking its part in this War Services Exhibition. During this War the Indian Air Force has expanded to many times its original size and has gained the reputation of being a fine and efficient Fighting Force—an enviable reputation of which the Indian Air Force itself, and the people of this country have good reason to be proud.

In recent months it has gained special distinction in operations in Burma, and it is pleasing to record that the first Distinguished Service Order for the Indian Air Force was recently awarded to a man from the Punjab. But no Service, no matter how glorious its history, can rest on its laurels. To survive, it must progress. In order to progress, the Indian Air Force needs all the help it can get from the best of India's young men—help from men who are prepared to fly and fight, to maintain modern equipment, and, most important of all, to serve their country.

The Indian Air Force is backed by one of the best Flying and Technical Training Organisations in the world, and all instruction is free to those who join the Service.

It offers to young men a healthy, adventurous and progressive life. It offers a unique opportunity to those who wish to prepare for a leading part in the obvious and certain development of military and civil aviation, and all that will go with it in this vast country. But, above all, it enables youth of India to give noble service to their country and real assistance in her peaceful development—that I feel sure, is the heart's desire of all.

On behalf of the Air Forces of India Command I thank all those concerned in organising this splendid Exhibition.

MICA INDUSTRY TO BE PLACED ON A SOUND AND STABLE FOOTING

THE Government of India is prepared to do its best to put this industry on a sound and stable footing," observed the Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, addressing a Mica Conference between representatives of the Government of India, the Bihar Government, trade associations and spokesmen of mica labour, held at Kodarma (Bihar) on April 29.

The Bihar Government was represented, among others, by Mr. E. C. Ansorge, Adviser; Mr. J. S. Wilcock, Secretary, Revenue Department; and Mr. M. Z. Khan, Deputy Commissioner, Hazaribagh district. Mr. D. L. Mazumdar, Joint Secretary, Labour Department, Dr. E. L. G. Clegg, Director, Geological Survey of India, and Mr. J. T. K. Crossfield, Supervisory Field Officer of the Geological Survey, represented the Central Government.

The Government of India, said Dr. Ambedkar, realised that after the war India might not retain its monopoly in mica to the same degree as to-day. He indicated that, with a view to placing the industry on a stable and permanent footing, the Government proposed to set up an Inquiry Committee which would deal both with the immediate and ultimate problems of the mica industry.

The Committee's terms of reference would be: Working of the Mica Control Order, both in regard to war production and the effect of the Order on long-term policy, and the review of any orders that may have been passed by the 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 this country as a principal supplier of muscovite mica and the extent to which other materials that may be used as substitutes for mica may have displaced or are likely to displace mica or its uses in industry; increased utilisation of mica in this country for the manufacture of finished goods; research and development; the desirability of setting up suitable machinery, whether by appointment of a Central Mica Committee or otherwise, to watch the interests of the mica trade and industry.

Dr. Ambedkar said the Inquiry Committee would consist of a whole-time Chairman, two part-time members—one experienced in inland trade

and the other in the export trade—and a whole-time secretary. There would be seven assessors with the Committee, two representing the Government of Bihar, two representing Bihar dealers, one each representing the Madras and Rajputana mica trade, and one representing mica labour. In addition, the Committee would be assisted by two technical advisers, one of whom would be the Director of the Geological Survey of India and the other a representative of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research.

Labour Welfare

Referring to the question of labour and industry, the Labour Member emphasised that if Government was to help the industry it would not allow the industry to exploit labour. It had been said that India's monopoly was based on cheap labour. If this was true it was not a matter of compliment either to the industry or to labour. If Government was to intervene or to take measures in order to stabilise the industry, Government would expect the industry to safeguard the interests of labour.

The Labour Member observed that Government would require that labour must be assured a living wage, fair conditions of employment and general welfare, in the interest of maintaining Labour welfare. He referred to the general policy that had been evolved to maintain labour by collecting money from industry and pointed out the welfare cess on coal as an example. *The industry, he continued, must bear the cost of welfare by a special cess.*

Earlier in his speech, the Labour Member, emphasising the importance of India's mica industry, referred to the fact that electro-technical industries depended on mica for their existence and that mica was strategic material without which defence of the country would be impossible. World production of sheet mica in metric tons in 1913 was 17,018 of which India's production was 14,598—practically 81.7 per cent. And yet the mica industry had played next to no part in the industrial affairs of India.

He said: "We hear a great deal about the cotton, textile and jute industries but it is seldom that one comes across any reference to India's mica industry". Giving reasons for this, Dr. Ambedkar pointed out that there were two sets of causes—first, that mica produced was not consumed in India. Mica was entirely exported and the Indian people, therefore, were unconcerned.

Profits were derived from the outside world and the consuming public were not interested in the mica industry. The second set of causes included the ineffective and unorganised state of the industry. He quoted figures to show that the production of sheet mica in India in metric tons had increased from 1,714 in 1905 to 14,598 in 1937. Another indication of the industry's colossal growth was the fact that in the dry season the industry employed 60,000 workers in mines and factories and about 100,000 as home splitters. In spite of its enormous growth, he said, there was no big organisation in the mica industry comparable with the Millowners' Association or the Northern India Employers' Federation.

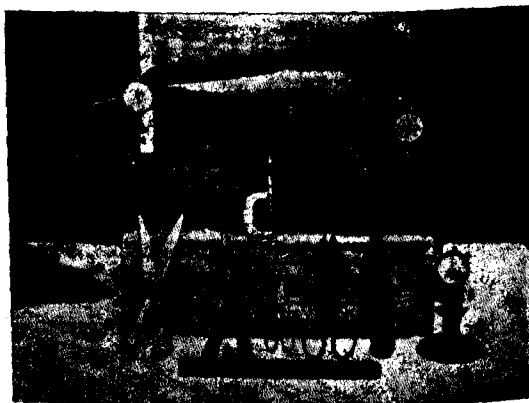
Piracy

Giving reasons for this state of affairs, he observed that persons concerned with the industry were torn by the spirit of mutual jealousy and trade rivalries. Each one was trying to build his place at the cost of others. It was a case of all competition and no co-operation. Referring to the future of the industry, the Labour Member said that the Government of India were prepared to do their best to put this industry on a sound and stable footing. The Government realised that there were two problems before the industry, one an immediate problem and the other the ultimate problem involving long-term policy. The immediate problem was the problem of mica piracy. In ordinary circumstances the Government of India would have thought that ordinary law dealing with theft and the receiving of stolen property was sufficient, but having regard to the importance of mica they were anxious to assist the industry to the best of their ability. The Mica Control Order was in existence and, whatever its defects, it certainly provided machinery whereby the extent of piracy had been reduced. He pleaded for co-operation by those engaged in industry and assured them that the Government were ready to take steps to stop piracy.

Proposal Welcomed

Representatives of the industry at the conference unanimously welcomed the proposal to set up an Inquiry Committee. It was suggested that the Committee might also go into the question of post-war reconstruction as regards the mica industry.

Earlier, the Conference discussed measures intended to meet the immediate needs of the industry. These included proposals regarding prohibition of the purchase, sale or transfer of certain types of mica, the vesting of District Magistrates and Provincial Governments with a certain amount of discretionary authority in granting certificates, prevention of multiplicity of licensed agents, control of the location of godowns for the storage of mica and improvements in the administrative machinery.



TOOLS FOR DRESSING MICA: A sickle, cutting knives, splitting knives, shears, and micrometers.

It was indicated that the Central Government intended to amend the Mica Control Order, 1940, to provide for these, at an early date.

In regard to the welfare of mica labour, existing arrangements for grain concessions and dearness allowance, housing conditions, water supply, medical facilities and wages were reviewed. The Labour Member inquired if there was a certain basic wage for mica labour and emphasised the need to provide medical attention, housing facilities and water supply. It was stated that most of the workers lived in their villages. There appeared to be general agreement on the proposal to impose a welfare and development cess in the interest of mica labour. It was agreed that the Geological Survey of India should be responsible for the distribution of coal to mica mines.

Labour Member Visits Mica Mines

On April 28, Dr. Ambedkar, accompanied by Mr. Mazumdar, Dr. Clegg, and Mr. Crossfield, visited a mica mine and a mica factory. The party went down about 400 feet by means of a ladder installed in the mines. Among various other aspects of mining, the Labour Member saw drilling and boring operations conducted through pneumatic drills worked by lend-lease compressors which had been placed at the disposal of the industry by Government to stimulate mica production. Returning to the surface, the Labour Member visited the labourers' huddled colony. In the middle were two saffron-coloured triangular stones placed against a tree. The Labour Member was informed that the labourers worshipped these stones as "Goddess of Mica."

In the factory at Kodarma, thousands of workers—men and women—squatted in huge dormitories, working on blocks of mica. Here the

party saw various processes of mica manufacture, e.g., slating of mica, knife-dressing, sick-dressing and splitting—performed with unerring judgment and skill, by hand. In one section of the factory, workers were splitting mica into thin sheets of uniform sizes, to be used ultimately as condenser films in spark plugs for aeroplanes. In another section, the Labour Member saw blocks of mica being cut into small sheets for being manufactured into micanite.

SCIENCE HAS INCREASED THE IMPORTANCE OF MICA

India is the world's leading producer of sheet mica, which is mined mainly in the Hazaribagh and Gaya districts in Bihar, and Nellore in Madras, and to a minor extent in other districts in Madras and in Tonk State and Ajmer-Merwara in Rajputana, about 80 per cent. coming from Bihar and most of the remainder from Nellore. This pre-eminence in the world's markets, is due largely to the excellent quality of the so-called "Bengal ruby" mica of Bihar, but also to the great manual dexterity of the aborigines, mainly women, who trim and split the mica with crude soft-iron sickles (or shears in Nellore). So much is this the case that in pre-war years there was an appreciable import of block mica into India, to be re-exported in the form of splittings. Mica has been used in India for centuries for decorative and medicinal purposes.

The mica occurs as "books", giant crystals which have been found, exceptionally, as large as 10 feet in diameter, in great veins of pegmatite traversing mica schists. The mica, which is muscovite, occurs with felspar and quartz, and other minerals such as beryl, which from Ajmer is exported as an ore of beryllium.

Most of the mica exported from India goes to the United Kingdom and the United States.

The advance of science, instead of rendering this natural product obsolete, has increased its importance. With the employment of higher temperatures of voltages in generators, as radio and television are developed, as the number of motor-cars and aeroplanes increases, and even as the electron is brought under control, mica becomes increasingly important.

It is considered indispensable for the following appliances: (1) commutator segments, for motors and generators; (2) commutator V-rings, for motors and generators; (3) armatures (for temperature and high voltage); (4) aeroplane motor spark plugs; (5) radio tubes; (6) transformers; and (7) radio condensers.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944

SUPPLY-DROPPING BY GLIDERS

Supply-dropping by glider 'planes will be seen for the first time in India at the Peshawar War Services Exhibition, from May 18 to 25. A daily feature of the demonstrations accompanying the tank battle will be the release of gliders by Dakotas in mid-air. Ten different types of aircraft will participate.

H.E. the Governor of the North-West Frontier Province, Sir George Cunningham, will open the Exhibition and subsequent days will be presided over, among others, by General Finnis, General Bruce Scott and the Chief Minister, the Hon. Sardar Mohd. Aurangzeb Khan.

Other new features of the Exhibition include sections devoted to the Indian Observer Corps, the Army Catering Department and the Army Educational Corps, besides a series of practical demonstrations by Indian Engineers, including the building of steel box girder and suspension bridges.

GURKHAS' EXPLOITS WITH SPECIAL FORCE

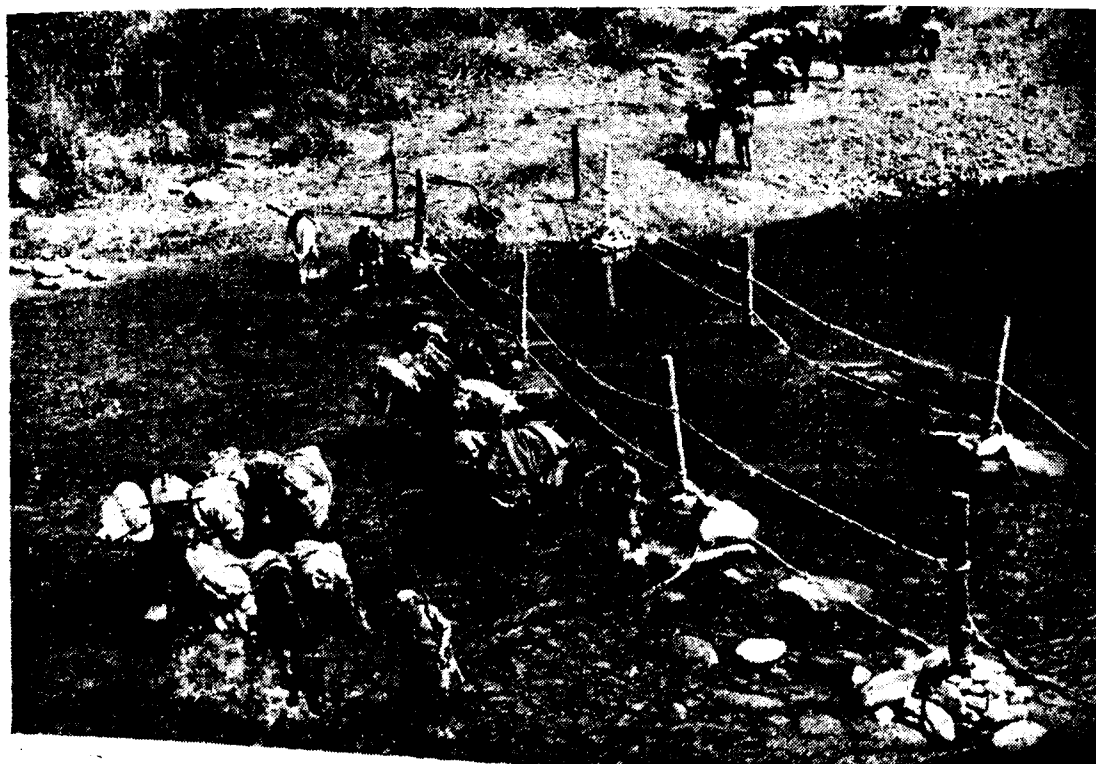
This is the story of the exploits of one party of Gurkhas fighting with the special force behind the Jap lines in Burma.

At dawn one day they were ordered to attack a village. The Japs were deeply dug into foxholes and bunkers when the Gurkhas attacked at first light. They went in with tommy-guns and hand-grenades and then with kukris and bayonets. There was some enemy fierce in-fighting and then the Jap had had enough. Those of the enemy that were left, fled screaming into the village and retreated out rapidly from the other side. Over 500 Japs retreated down the road carrying mortars and any other equipment they could seize in a hurry in a column 300 yards long. After that no Jap was seen in the area for ten days.

Their next battle, writes an Indian Army Observer, was in defence of one of our airstrips in the jungle. The Japs got within 70 yards of the strip across a paddy field when the Gurkhas attacked them with hand-grenades and killed the Jap officer. The enemy then broke off the engagement.

Another party of Gurkhas had in the meantime, taken up their positions on a jungle path to ambush the Japs as they retreated from the airstrip. The enemy came down the trail just as they assumed and they opened up on them with machine-guns and grenades killing and wounding several of them.

At the moment these Gurkhas are still roaming around in the jungle, looking for trouble—and Japs.



Supply mules cross a mountain stream in the Imphal area.

AIR-BORNE MULES

DURING the recent air-borne landings in the heart of Japanese-occupied North Burma, pack animals, including mules, were transported by aircraft for the first time.

The news that mules were successfully moved, not only by transport Dakotas and C-47's—but by glider as well, will be of considerable interest—not only to jungle tacticians, in whose plans the mule looms largely,—but to all who have had to do with the actual handling of the animals.

Transporting mules—even by motor transport or rail—is normally an undertaking not without interest and excitement. Carrying mules in air transports and gliders is something which many experts would have been prepared to describe as impossible. In the recent landings however, many mules were safely taken to the landing strip by air, and they played a valuable part in the construction of the airfield.

For weeks before the operation was due to start our troops had been training these mules to walk up a long ramp into a model aircraft

fuselage. Great patience was shown—and eventually the mules caught on to the idea—and even began to do it without trouble. On the night of the air-borne invasion, however, some of the mules were brought on to the departure airfield and led to the ramp. There several of them squatted and refused to budge. The reason for this obstinacy was easily explained. They had been trained to walk up the ramp with a boarded cover on each side. The ramps on the airfield had no boarded covers.

Troops tried in vain to persuade the obstinate few to negotiate the ramps, but it was all of no avail. Finally, the mules were taken for a walk, during which time long wooden boards were being placed at each side of the ramps. The trick worked. The mules were led back and they then walked proudly up the ramp and into the aircraft.

There were surprisingly few "incidents" during the flights. One mule, however, endangered one of our big troop carriers by starting to lash out—and had to be shot. Another ran wild among the aircraft on the ground, and sat on a Dakota's aileron. Carrying animals by air is part of the regular routine of the Troop Carrier Command. During the recent Arakan campaign live bullocks were frequently flown in to the 7th Division Box and to other isolated Army units.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944

RELEASE OF MR. GANDHI

A Press communique issued by the Home Department, Government of India, on May 5 stated:

In view of the medical reports of Mr. Gandhi's health, Government have decided to release him unconditionally. This decision has been taken solely on medical grounds. The release takes place at 8 a.m. on May 6.

ANZAC DAY CELEBRATED IN INDIA

Australians and New Zealanders in Delhi, both service personnel and civilians, attended a short religious service at the Australian Column, New Delhi, at dawn on Anzac Day, April 25. The service was conducted by Squadron Leader Sargeant, Chaplain in the Royal Canadian Air Force, who gave a short address. Four Australian trumpeters serving in the R.A.F. sounded the "Last Post" and "Reveille." The following cable was dispatched by the High Commissioner for Australia to the Acting Prime Minister:

"Australians in India send sincere greetings and good wishes for twenty-five April and pray for the spirit of Anzac in the struggles ahead. With New Zealand comrades Australians will celebrate Anzac Day in India's capital by a service at dawn and an afternoon reception at the residence of the High Commissioner."

Messages were exchanged with the Australian and New Zealand communities in Calcutta, Bombay and Simla where Anzac Day was also celebrated.

FINANCE MEMBER PLACED ON SPECIAL DUTY

The Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman K.C.S.I., C.I.E., Finance Member, will shortly leave for England on special duty. The Governor-General in Council has appointed the Hon'ble Mr. C. E. Jones, C.S.I., C.I.E. (Secretary, Finance Department) to be a temporary Member of the Executive Council during the absence of Sir Jeremy Raisman, said a Press Note issued on May 1.

H.E. the Viceroy has sanctioned a grant of Rs. 100,000 from the War Purposes Fund to the R.I.N. Benevolent Association. Similar grants have already been made to the Benevolent Funds of the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944



The Hon'ble Sir Feroz Khan Noon chats with Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, before leaving by air for Britain where he is to represent India on the War Cabinet. In his absence, the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, Member for Posts and Air, is in additional charge of the Defence portfolio.

NEW PRESIDENT OF INDIAN SAILORS', SOLDIERS' AND AIRMEN'S BOARD

His Excellency the Viceroy has appointed the Hon'ble Sir Mahomed Usman, to be President of the Indian Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board vice the Hon'ble Malik Sir Feroz Khan Noon. This arrangement is for the period of the latter's absence as one of India's Representatives at the War Cabinet.

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BURMESE WELCOME BRITISH TROOPS

AFTER two years of Japanese rule, of methodically being looted of their possessions; homes, and even self-respect, the peoples of Burma are welcoming troops of the Allied Air-borne Invasion as liberators from oppression, writes an R.A.F. Public Relations Officer who has just returned from covering activities of the Third Tactical Air Force at our forward bases behind the enemy's lines.

For the first time since Japanese overlordship, a British Observer has brought first-hand eye-witness information out of Burma. The facts of Japan's "Enlightened" rule speak for themselves. For two years Burmese villagers have been living under severe hardships imposed on them by the Japanese. Their cattle have been taken away from them; young men were forcibly conscripted into coolie gangs, all the food Japanese can lay their hands on is stolen. Villages have been ransacked. Temples and religious monuments were defiled by Japanese soldiers who swaggered about declaring themselves to be "Lords of the Earth."

"I visited a number of small villages in a valley and found the Headman and villagers were giving every assistance and co-operation to our forces. I talked to these people through an interpreter of the Burma Intelligence Corps and all had the same story to tell—of ill-treatment and poverty at the hands of the Japanese troops. Their once prosperous life in a fertile valley has become a struggle for existence. Their cotton crops were taken away from them. They were only allowed to cultivate their paddy fields on rare occasions. When their hard-earned harvest was ready the Japanese took it for themselves.

One Headman told me he had been in charge of the village since 1934 and had been given a reward of one hundred rupees and a *dah* (a large bush knife) by the British Government. It had always been a mark of social standing for any Burman to carry arms but the Japanese took his *dah* away from him. He had few of his cattle left in the fields as they had all been stolen by Japanese troops. He said material for shirts and *lungis* is very scarce because they had not been allowed to keep their cotton crop. His own shirt was made from a parachute used for dropping supplies and was given him by British soldiers. Salt was unobtainable. Matches were scarce but could be bought for the equivalent of Rs. 2-8 per box. British cigarettes had not been seen since 1942.

I saw for myself the reactions of the Burmans towards our troops and our re-occu-



British Tommyes buying eggs from Burmese villagers in the heart of enemy-occupied territory.

pation of Burma. They were only too willing to help us out. A message was sent to one village that we required thatched grass roofing for a hospital building. Next morning the Headman with some villagers brought thatching grass to the hospital. When they were offered payment for their work, they refused to take it. "We don't want money for helping you," they said. "We just want you to drive out the Japanese and that will be ample repayment for our work."

The friendliness towards our troops is not confined to one particular area. Everywhere I travelled inside Burma I have come across many similar cases. When Japanese troops came near one village, women and children were sent away into the jungle until the enemy left. In all the villages I visited, women and children were busily working or interestedly watching the work of our troops. Engineers clearing stretches of jungle would let children sit on the tractors next to them. One American engineer was given a gift of bananas and eggs after taking a little boy and girl for a ride.

SALT FOR BENGAL

Two ships carrying 13,500 tons of salt arrived at Calcutta during the second half of April. 18,000 tons had arrived previously. Even larger quantities are expected to reach Calcutta in May.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

IN reply to the questionnaire issued each year by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, the Provincial Governments have furnished information relating, among other things, to their composition and legislative activities in the last year. The information supplied by them is set forth in the following 31 pages.

The date given under the name of each province is the date on which the information was drawn up by the Government concerned.



A photograph of Their Excellencies Field Marshal the Viscount Wavell and Lady Wavell with Their Excellencies the Governors of Provinces taken at the Viceroy's House, New Delhi, on November 19, 1943.

Back Row (L. to R.): Sir Hugh Dow (Governor of Sind), Sir Andrew Clow (Governor of Assam), Sir Henry Twynham (Governor of the C.P. and Berar), Mr. R. F. Mudie (then Acting Governor of Bihar), Sir George Cunningham (Governor of the North-West Frontier Province), Sir Hawthorne Lewis (Governor of Orissa).

Front Row (L. to R.): Sir Bertrand Glancy (Governor of the Punjab), Sir Thomas Rutherford (then Acting Governor of Bengal), Sir Arthur Hope (Governor of Madras), Lord Wavell, Lady Wavell, Sir John Colville (Governor of Bombay), and Sir Maurice Hallett (Governor of the United Provinces). (Inset) The Rt. Hon. R. G. Casey, Governor of Bengal.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE TO THE

PROVINCE	BENGAL (4-12-43)
Governor	(Acting) Sir Thomas George Rutherford, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. (now The Rt. Hon'ble Richard Gardiner Casey, P.C., D.S.O., M.C.).
Governor's Secretary	(Acting): E. B. H. Baker, I.C.S.
Chief Secretary to Government	(Acting): J. R. Blair, C.I.E., I.C.S. (on leave); (Offg.) Chief Secretary, H. S. E. Stevens, C.I.E., M.C., I.C.S. (on deputation as Food and Civil Supplies Commissioner); Acting Chief Secretary A. deC Williams, C.I.E., I.C.S.
Ministry (composition, political complexion, etc.)	Coalition: formed April 24, 1943; Personnel: (1) Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, K.C.I.E. (Muslim coalition); Chief Minister; Portfolios: Home and Civil Defence Co-ordination. (2) Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy (Muslim coalition); Portfolio: Civil Supplies. (3) Tulsi Chandra Goswami (Hindu coalition); Portfolio: Finance. (4) Tamizuddin Khan (Muslim coalition); Portfolio: Education. (5) Barada Prosanna Pain (Hindu coalition); Portfolios: Communications and Works. (6) Khan Bahadur Salyed Muazzamuddin Hossain (Muslim coalition); Portfolio: Agriculture. (7) Tarak Nath Mukerjee, M.B.E., (Hindu coalition); Portfolio: Revenue. (8) Khan Bahadur Nawab Musharruff Hossain (Muslim coalition); Portfolios: Judicial and Legislative. (9) Khwaja Shahabuddin, C.B.E. (Muslim coalition); Portfolios: Commerce, Labour and Industries including Post-War Reconstruction. (10) Premhari Barma (Scheduled Caste coalition); Portfolios: Forest and Excise. (11) Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmed (Muslim coalition); Portfolios: Public Health and Local Self-Government. (12) Pulin Behary Mullick (Scheduled Caste coalition); Portfolio: Publicity. (13) Jogendra Nath Mandal (Scheduled Caste coalition); Portfolios: Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness. (1) Khan Bahadur Mohammad Ali (Muslim coalition). (2) Nawabzada K. Nasarullah (Muslim coalition). (3) Abdullah Al-Mahmood (Muslim coalition). (4) Serajul Islam (Muslim coalition). (5) Biren Roy (Caste Hindu coalition). (6) Khan Sahib Mafizuddin Ahmed (Muslim coalition). (7) Atul Chandra Kumar (Caste Hindu coalition). (8) Rasik Lal Biswas (Scheduled Caste coalition).
Parliamentary Secretaries	(Continued on page 548)

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS

PUNJAB (6-3-44)	ORISSA (17-11-43)
Sir Bertrand Glancy, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.; Assumed charge April 7, 1941; Retires April 6, 1946. G. M. Brander, I.C.S. F. C. Bourne, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Appointed October 1, 1941. Unionist; formed December 30, 1942; Personnel: A Unionist Ministry with the late Sir Sikander Hyat Khan as Premier was formed on April 1, 1937. Sir Sikander died on December 26, 1942, and the other Ministers resigned. One, Lt.-Col. Malik Khizar Hyat Khan Tiwana, was then summoned to assist the Governor in the formation of a Ministry. All the former Ministers were included and a new Minister added. The present Ministry was, therefore, technically formed on December 30, 1942, but virtually it is a continuation of the former Unionist Ministry with a new Premier: (1) Lt.-Col. Nawabzada Malik Khizar Hyat Khan Tiwana (Muslim-Unionist), Premier. (2) Rao Bahadur Chaudhri Sir Chhotu Ram (Hindu-Unionist) Minister of Revenue. (3) Sir Manohar Lal (Hindu-National Progressive), Finance Minister. (4) Mian Abdul Haye (Muslim-Unionist) Minister of Education. (5) Sardar Baldev Singh (Sikh-Punjab United Sikh Party) Minister of Development. (6) Major Sardar Shaikat Hyat Khan (Muslim-Muslim League) Minister of Public Works. (1) Mir Maqbool Mahmood (Muslim-Unionist); (2) Mian Allah Yar Khan Daultana (Muslim-Unionist); (3) Raja Ghazanfar Ali Khan (Muslim-Unionist); (4) Sheikh Faiz Muhammad, M.B.E. (Muslim-Unionist); (5) Rai Sahib Thakpur Raipudaman Singh (Hindu-National Progressive); (6) Chaudhri Tikka Ram, M.B.E. (Hindu-Unionist); (7) Sardar Jagjit Singh Man, M.B.E. (Sikh-Punjab United Sikh Party); (8) Sardar Gopal Singh (Depressed Class-Unionist).	Sir William Hawthorne Lewis, M.A. (Cantab.), K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., I.C.S. J.P.; Appointed April 1, 1941; Retires April 1, 1946. V. E. Davies, I.C.S. J. Bowstead, C.I.E., M.C., I.C.S.; Appointed June 8, 1942. Coalition; formed November 24, 1941; Personnel: (1) Captain Maharaja Sri Sri Sri Krishna Chandra Gajopati Narayan Deo (Hindu-National Coalition); (2) Godavaris Misra (Hindu-National Coalition); (3) Maulvi Abdus Sobhan Khan (Muslim-National Coalition). Sri Pyarishankar Roy (Hindu-National Coalition).
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 549)	(CONTINUED ON PAGE 549)

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944

PROVINCE	ASSAM (8-11-43)
Governor	Sir Andrew Gourlay Clow, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Assumed charge on May 4, 1942; Retires May 3, 1947.
Governor's Secretary	Reginald William Godfrey I.P.
Adviser to Governor for Tribal Areas and States	James Philip Mills, M.A., C.I.E., I.C.S.
Chief Secretary to Government	Harold George Dennehy, M.A., C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Appointed April 1, 1939 and confirmed October 3, 1940.
Ministry (composition, political complexion etc.)	Coalition; formed August 25, 1942; Personnel: (1) Maulavi Saliyd Sir Muhammad Saadulla, M.A., B.L. (Muslim League) Prime Minister; (2) Naba Kumar Datta (Assam United Party); (3) Maulavi Munawwar Ali, B.A., LL.B. (Muslim League); (4) Hirendra Chandra Chakrabarti, B.A. (Assam United Party); (5) Khan Sahib Maulavi Modabbis Hussain Chaudhuri, B.L. (Muslim League); (6) Dr. Mohendra Nath Saikia, L.M.P. (Assam United Party); (7) Maulavi Abdul Matin Chaudhuri, B.L. (Muslim League); (8) Khan Bahadur Maulavi Sayidur Rahman, M.A., B.L. (Muslim League); (9) Miss Mavis Dunn, B.A. B.T., B.L. (Assam United Party); (10) Rupnath Brahma, B.L. (Assam United Party). (Appointed Minister on August 28, 1942).
Parliamentary Secretaries	No Parliamentary Secretaries.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 550)

SIND (23-11-43)	BOMBAY (21-11-43)
Sir Hugh Dow, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Assumed charge, April 1, 1941; Retires, March 31, 1946.	The Rt. Hon'ble Sir John David Colville, G.C.I.E., T.D., Assumed charge March 24, 1943; Retires March 23, 1948.
Dermont Campbell Barty, M.A., I.C.S.	David Symington, C.I.E.
Joseph Maurice Sladen, C.I.E., I.C.S.	Kewalram Lalchand Panjabi, I.C.S., Appointed October 11, 1943.
Coalition of Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha Assembly parties. Formed on October 10, 1942. Personnel: (1) Sir Ghulam Hussain Hidayatullah, B.A., LL.B., K.C.S.I., (Muslim League) Premier; Portfolio: Finance. (2) Khan Bahadur Muhammad Ayub Shah Muhammad Khan Khuhro (Muslim League) Portfolios: Revenue Department (excluding Agriculture, Forest, Excise and Rural Reconstruction); Registration and Co-operative Societies, being subjects allotted to General Department. (3) Rao Sahib Gokaldas Mewaldas Rochlani (Hindu Mahasabha) Portfolios: Public Works Department and Local Self Government being a subject allotted to General Department. (4) Pir Illahi Bakhsh Nawazali, M.A., LL.B. (Aligarh) (Muslim League); Portfolios: Agriculture, Excise, Forests and Rural Reconstruction being subjects allotted to the Revenue Department, Labour, being subjects allotted to Political and Miscellaneous Departments and Education being a subject allotted to General Department. (5) Dr. Hemandas Rupchand Wadhwani, M.B., B.S. (Bombay) (Hindu Mahasabha) Portfolios: Medical and Public Health, Veterinary, Civil Defence and Air Raid Precautions and Industries being subjects allotted to the General and Home Departments. (6) Muhammad Hashim Gazdar, B.E. (Bombay) (Muslim League) Portfolios: Home Department (excluding Civil Defence and Air Raid Precautions), Legal Department and Political and Miscellaneous Departments (excluding Labour) and General Department except such subjects of that Department as have been assigned to other Ministers. (1) Khan Bahadur Allah Bakhsh Khudadad Khan Gabole, J.P. (Muslim League); (2) Syed Nur Muhammad Shah Muradali Shah, J.P. (Muslim League); (3) Mrs. Jenubai Ghulamali Allana, J.P. (Muslim League); (4) Muhammad	1. Henry Foley Knight, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S. (Finance) (on leave). 2. Charles Holditch Bristow, C.I.E., I.C.S. (Home). 3. Godfrey Ferdinando Stratford Collins, C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S. (Revenue). 4. Hiranand Khushiram Kirpalani, C.I.E., I.C.S. (Education). [Henry Foley Knight, Adviser (Finance) is on leave from October 11, 1943 and I. H. Taunton, C.I.E., I.C.S. is acting for him.]

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PROVINCE	MADRAS (15-10-43)
Governor	Capt. the Hon. Sir Arthur Oswald James Hope, G.C.I.E., M.C., Assumed Charge March 12, 1940; Retires March 11, 1945.
Governor's Secretary	Post held in abeyance.
Chief Secretary to Government	G. W. Priestley, C.I.E., I.C.S.; Appointed April 17, 1943 (afternoon).
Governor's Advisory Council	Advisory Council formed October 30, 1939; Present Personnel: (1) Sir Hugh Hood, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S. (2) D. N. Strathie, C.I.E., I.C.S. (3) T. Austin, C.I.E., I.C.S. (4) S. V. Ramamurty, C.I.E., I.C.S.
Legislative Assembly	Total Seats 215 (37 vacant).
Legislative Council	Total Seats 55 (15 vacant).
Party Analysis*	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Congress 138; Justice 12; Anglo-Indians 2; Muslim League 12; Europeans 4; National Democrats 2; and Independents 8: Total 178. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: Congress 22; Justice 4; Muslim League 2; National Democrats 2; Independents 7; those who have not intimated their party affiliation 3: Total 40.
Population	49,840,564.
Capital, Population	Madras: 7,77,481.
Summer Capital, Population	Ootacamund: 29,850.
Receipts and Expenditure†	Receipts: Rs. 21,32,62,600. Expenditure: Rs. 21,22,57,700.
Legislation	See Pages 562 to 567.

*The word "Party" or "Group" has been omitted in some cases.
†Estimated ordinary Revenue Receipts and Expenditure on Revenue Account for the current year.

UNITED PROVINCES (18-11-43)	CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR (16-11-43)
Sir Maurice Garnier Hallett, B.A. (Oxon.), G.C.I.E., K.C.S.I., I.C.S.; Appointed December 6, 1939; Retires December 6, 1944. H. S. Stephenson, I.C.S.	Sir Henry Twynam, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Appointed October 2, 1940; Retires October 1, 1945. G. Burgess, O.B.E., I.C.S.; Appointed January 23, 1942.
G. L. Vivian, B.A., J.P., I.C.S.; Appointed September 11, 1943.	T. C. S. Jayaratnam, C.I.E., I.C.S.; Appointed March 1, 1942.
Advisory Council formed November 4, 1939; Personnel: (1) Dr. Panna Lall, M.A., B.Sc., LL.B., (Cantab); D.Litt. (Agra); Bar-at-Law, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Portfolios: Education, Industries, Local Self-Government and Public Health. (2) Sir T. Sloan, M.A. (Glasgow), K.C.I.E., C.S.I., I.C.S.; Portfolios: Home Affairs, Finance, Justice and Jails. (3) A. G. Shirreff, B.A., J.P., I.C.S.; Portfolios: Revenue, Rural Development, Agriculture, Forests, Communications and Irrigation. (Due to retire in December). (4) Sir A. W. Ibbotson, M.A. (Cantab.), J.P., C.I.E., M.B.E., M.C., I.C.S., temporary Additional Adviser to H. E. the Governor, In-charge of Supply.	Advisory Council formed November 11, 1939; Personnel: (1) Sir Geoffrey Pownall Burton, K.C.I.E., I.C.S.; Appointed November 11, 1939. (2) Henry Challen Greenfield, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Appointed November 11, 1939.
Total Seats: 228.	Total Seats 112.
Total Seats: 60.	No Legislative Council.
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Congress 147; Muslim League 36; Independent 24; Unattached 21.	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: This is not known as the normal working of the Constitution is suspended.
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: Congress 14; Nationalist 13; Independent 8; Unattached (including 11 who have not intimated party affiliation) 24; Total 59 (excluding President).	
56,346,456.	16,822,584 (Excluding States).
Allahabad: 2,60,630.	Nagpur: 3,01,957.
Naini Tal: Hot weather population 21,318 (Municipality and Cantonment).	Pachmarhi: 6,696.
Receipts: Rs. 20,26,57,900.	Receipts: Rs. 6,39,61,000.
Expenditure: Rs. 20,18,28,700.	Expenditure: Rs. 6,32,57,000.
See Pages 567 and 568.	See Page 568.

PROVINCE	BIHAR (18-11-43)
Governor	(Acting) Robert Francis Mudie, C.S.I., C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.; Assumed charge September 8, 1943 (afternoon).
Governor's Secretary	W. G. Lacey, C.I.E., I.C.S.
Chief Secretary to Government	Y. A. Godbole, C.I.E., I.C.S.; Appointed November 4, 1939.
Governor's Advisory Council	(1) E. R. J. R. Cousins, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Assumed charge November 6, 1939. (2) E. C. Ansorge, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Assumed charge April 10, 1943. (3) R. E. Russell, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S.; Assumed charge November 4, 1939.
Legislative Assembly	Total Seats: 152.
Legislative Council	Total Seats: 30.
Party Analysis*	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Congress 36; Bihar Nationalist Coalition 25; Muslim Independent 19; Unattached 7; Vacant 5: Total 152. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: Congress 10; Bihar Nationalist Coalition 12; Unattached 6; Independent 1; Vacant 1: Total 30.
Population	37,985,581 (1941 Census).
Capital, Population	Patna; 196,415 (1941 Census).
Summer Capital, Population	Ranchi; 62,562 (1941 Census).
Receipts and Expenditure†	Receipts: Rs. 6,97,01,000. Expenditure: Rs. 6,35,60,000.
Legislation	See Page 569.

*The word "Party" or "Group" has been omitted in some cases.
†Estimated ordinary Revenue Receipts and Expenditure on Revenue Account for the current year.

PROVINCE	N.-W.F. PROVINCE (5-11-43)
Governor	Sir George Cunningham, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., O.B.E., I.C.S.; Appointed March 2, 1937; Retires March 4, 1945.
Governor's Secretary	Capt. O.C.B., St. John, I.P.S.
Chief Secretary to Government	Lt.-Col. G. L. Mallam, C.I.E., I.P.S., Barrister-at-Law: Appointed November 1, 1941.
Ministry (composition, political complexion), etc.	Muslim League Coalition; formed May 25, 1943; Personnel: (1) Sardar Mohd. Aurangzeb Khan, Chief Minister. (2) Samin Jan Khan, Minister of Education. (3) Raja Abdur Rahman Khan, Minister of Information. (4) S. Ajit Singh, Minister of Public Works Department. (5) Sardar Abdur Rab Khan, 'Nishtar', Finance Minister.
Parliamentary Secretaries.	(1) Pir Syed Jalal Shah; (2) Khan Sahib Malik-ur-Rehman Khan Kiani; (3) Khan Nasrullah Khan; (4) Raja Manochher.
Legislative Assembly	Total Seats: 50.
Legislative Council	No Legislative Council.
Population	30,38,067.
Capital, Population	Peshawar; 173,420.
Summer Capital, Population	Nathia gali; Not known.
Receipts and Expenditure	Receipts: Rs. 2,06,94,000. Expenditure: Rs. 2,14,67,000.
Legislation	See Page 570.

PROVINCE	BENGAL (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 540)
Parliamentary Secretaries.	(9) Jatindra Nath Chakravarty (Caste Hindu coalition). (10) Syed Abdul Majid (Muslim coalition). (11) Khan Sahib Hamiduddin Ahmed (Muslim coalition). (12) Banku Behari Mondal (Scheduled Caste coalition). (13) Khan Bahadur A. F. M. Abdur Rahman (Muslim coalition). (14) Fazlur Rahman (Muslim coalition). (15) Meshahuddin Ahmed (Muslim coalition). (16) Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra Das (Scheduled Caste coalition). (17) Yusuf Ali Chowdhury (Muslim coalition). Total seats 250. Total seats 63. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Government Supporters: Muslim League 79; Bengal Swarajya Party 5; Bengal Legislature Scheduled Caste Party 20; European Group 25; Labour Party 2; Independent 4; Indian Christian 1 and Anglo-Indians 4; Total 140. Opposition: Progressive Party 24; Krishak Proja 17; Nationalists 13; Congress (official) 25; Congress (Bose Group) 19; Indian Christian 1 and Scheduled Caste 8; Total 108. (One seat is vacant and the Hon'ble Speaker is not included). LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: Government Supporters: Muslim League 23; Unattached 7 and European 6; Total 36. Opposition: Progressive Party 7; Congress (Bose Group) 5; Congress (official) 6; Nationalists 6 and Unattached 2; Total 26. (The Hon'ble President is not included). LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: First Session: February 12 to April 24, 1943. Second Session: July 5 to July 14, 1943. Third Session: September 14 to September 28, 1943. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: First Session: February 12 to April 24, 1943. Second Session: July 7 to July 19, 1943. Third Session: September 15 to September 28, 1943. 60,314,000. Calcutta: 2,109,000. Darjeeling: 25,900. Receipts: Rs. 18,43,89,000. Expenditure: Rs. 25,80,57,000. See Pages 552 and 553.
Legislative Assembly (Lower House)	..
Legislative Council (Upper House)	..
Party Analysis*	..
Normal dates of Assembly Sessions	..
Population	..
Capital and its Population	..
Summer Capital and its Population	..
Receipts and Expenditure†	..
Legislation	..
*The word "Party" or "Group" has been omitted in some cases. †Estimated ordinary Revenue Receipts and Expenditure on Revenue Account for the current year.	

PUNJAB (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 541)	ORISSA (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 541)
Parliamentary Private Secretaries:— (1) Syed Amjad Ali Shah, M.B.E., (Muslim-Unionist); (2) Bhagat Hans Raj (Depressed Class-Unionist); (3) Sir William Roberts, Kt., C.I.E. (Christian-Unionist); (4) Mian Sultan Mahmud Hotiana (Muslim-Unionist); (5) Suft Abdul Hamid Khan (Muslim-Unionist). LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: No Upper House. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (Lower House). Total seats 175 including the Speaker. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Government supporters: Unionist Party 97; Punjab United Sikh Party 17; Independent 3; National Progressive 4; Total 121. Opposition: Congress Party 36; Independent Members 17; Total 57. Budget Session, mid-February to mid-April; Summer Session, mid-June to mid-July; Autumn Session, mid-November to first week of December. 28,418,819 (1941 Census). <i>British Territory</i> . Lahore: 671,659 (1941 Census). Simla: 18,349. Receipts: Rs. 15,18,98,000. Expenditure: Rs. 14,69,20,000. See Pages 553 to 555.	No Council. Total seats 60. Not given. January-March and August-November. Not given. Cuttack; not given. No summer capital. Receipts: Rs. 2,12,21,000. Expenditure: Rs. 2,16,02,000. See Page 555.

PROVINCE	ASSAM (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 542)
Legislative Assembly (Lower House)	Total seats: 108.
Legislative Council (Upper House)	Total seats: 22 (of which four are nominated).
Party Analysis*	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Congress 31 (including the Speaker); People's Party 10; European Group 9; Independent 4; Assam United Party 54 (of these 54, 32 belong to Muslim League Party). LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: There is no party division in the Council.
Normal dates of Assembly Sessions	February, March, September, November and December.
Normal date of Council	February, March, September, November and December
Population of Province	10,930,388.
Capital, Population	Shillong: 38,192.
Summer Capital, Population	No Summer Capital.
Receipts and Expenditure†	Receipts: Rs. 3,84,20,000. Expenditure: Rs. 3,72,29,000.
Legislation	See Pages 556 and 557
*The word "Party" or "Group" has been omitted in some cases. †Estimated Ordinary Revenue Receipts and Expenditure on Revenue Account for the current year.	

SIND (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 543)	BOMBAY (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 543)
Parliamentary Secretaries (Concl'd.) Yusif Khan Bahadur Khair Muhammad Khan Chandio, J.P. (Muslim League); (5) Seth Lulomal Rewachand Motwani, J.P. (Hindu Mahasabha)	
Total Seats 60.	Total Seats 175.
No Legislative Council.	Total Seats 30.
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY—Muslim League 30, Congress 10, Hindu Independent 9, Azad Muslims 3, Hindu Mahasabha 3, Europeans 3, Independents 1. One seat is vacant. NO UPPER HOUSE	LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY: Congress 86; Muslim League 24; Independents 13; Independent Labour Party 13; Progress Party 12; Peasants and People's Party 6; Peasants and Workers' Party 4; Democratic Swaraj Party 4: Total 162 (plus 13 seats vacant). LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: Congress 10; Muslim League 3; Liberals 1; Independents 8; Progress Party 1; Democratic Swaraj Party 3: Total 26 (plus 4 seats vacant). Note: Except the Congress Party there are no regular parties formed in the Council. Members other than Congress members, however, indicated their affiliation to the parties shown above.
February-March and August-September.	
No Upper House.	
45,35,608.	2,08,49,840.
Karachi: 3,86,655.	Bombay: 14,89,883.
No Summer Capital.	Poona: 2,37,560.
Rs. 4,98,41,000. Rs. 5,09,37,000.	Receipts: Rs. 17,69,20,000. Expenditure: Rs. 17,68,74,000.
See Pages 557 to 560.	See Pages 560 to 562.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION—

Principal Acts Passed by Legislatures, Governors' Acts, Bills Introduced

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
BENGAL	
The Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Act, 1942 (Ben. Act VI of 1942) (November 6, 1942.)	To amend the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 in its application to Bengal to provide for the appointment by the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation from the list of medical referees prepared by the provincial Govt. of official medical referees to whom any medical questions in dispute between employers and workmen may be referred by the said Commissioner for a report and whose report shall be binding on both parties.
The Bengal Land-Revenue Sales (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Ben. Act VII of 1942) (December 3, 1942.)	To amend the Bengal Land-Revenue Sales Act, 1859 in order to allow the defaulting holder of an estate or share of an estate, which has been sold under the said Act, an opportunity to apply to the Collector to have the sale set aside on his depositing the dues with the Collector within a specified period.
The Bengal Agricultural Debtors (Second Amendment) Act, 1942 (Ben. Act VIII of 1942) (December 22, 1942.)	To amend the Bengal Agricultural Debtors Act, 1935 in order to extend the period of five years during which an application can be filed before a Debt Settlement Board, to seven years.
1943	
The Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Ben. Act I of 1943) (April 6, 1943.)	To amend the Calcutta Police Act, 1866 and the Calcutta Suburban Police Act, 1866 for the purpose of ensuring proper control of seamen's lodging houses and thereby to protect the seamen who take shelter therein.
The Bengal Land-Revenue Sales (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Ben. Act II of 1943) (April 7, 1943.)	To amend the Bengal Land-Revenue Sales Act, 1859 in order to provide for the issue of notice of sale of estates to the proprietors individually or where the number of proprietors is more than five to at least five of them by registered post informing them of the particulars of sale.
The Bengal Local Self-Govt. (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Ben. Act III of 1943) (April 10, 1943.)	To amend the Bengal Local Self-Government Act of 1885 in order to provide Government with power to abolish any Local Board without the consent of the District Board.
The Bengal (Rural) Primary Education (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Ben. Act IV of 1943) (April 10, 1943.)	To amend the Bengal (Rural) Primary Education Act, 1930 in order to provide for the representation of ladies in the Central Primary Education Committee and for the representation of special interests in any areas and also to remove certain other minor defects in the said Act.
The Bengal Finance Act, 1943 (Ben. Act V of 1943) (April 12, 1943.)	To raise additional revenue for a certain period by varying the rates of the following taxes—(1) Entertainments Tax, leviable under section 3 of the Bengal Amusements Tax Act, 1922; (2) Totalisator Tax, leviable under section 15 of the said Act; (3) Betting Tax, leviable under section 18 of the said Act; and (4) Electricity Duty under section 3 of the Bengal Electricity Duty Act, 1935.

PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION—

By Provincial Governments and Ordinances Promulgated by Governors

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
BENGAL	
The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Act, 1943 (Ben. Act VI of 1943) (August 3, 1943.)	To extend the operation of the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1940 for one year more from the 29th May, 1943 pending the introduction of permanent and more comprehensive legislation on the subject.
The Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943 (Ben. Act VII of 1943) (October 23, 1943.)	Is to provide Government with powers to collect all genuine vagrants and place them in homes and in these homes to provide (a) food, shelter and clothing for all; (b) medical treatment for the sick; (c) work for the able bodied; and (d) education for the children and also for such adults as appear to be likely to benefit by it.
BILLS	
The Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Bill, 1942.	To amend the Calcutta Police Act, 1866, and the Calcutta Suburban Police Act, 1866 for prohibiting the use of cycle-rickshaws in Calcutta.
The Bengal Agricultural Income-Tax Bill, 1943.	To provide for the imposition of a tax on agricultural income derived from land and buildings situated in Bengal.
The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Extending Bill, 1943.	To extend the operation of the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1940, for one year from the 29th May, 1943.
PUNJAB	
Legislative Measures Pending before the Punjab Legislative Assembly.	
The Sugarcane (Punjab (Amendment) Bill.	To amend the Indian Sugar Cane Act, 1934, in its application to the Punjab with a view to protecting the growers of sugarcane, to provide for the better organisation of cane supplies to sugar factories and to prevent unhealthy competition between them.
The Punjab District Boards Bill.	To repeal the District Boards Act, 1833. The proposed Bill gives full liberty to the Boards to elect non-official Chairman and extends their life to five years. A provision has also been made for prompt discharge of executive duties by the Executive authority.
The Punjab Electricity Duty Bill.	To levy a duty on electrical energy consumed for lights and fans and other appliances.
The Punjab Court of Wards (Amendment) Bill.	1. To make it obligatory for a decree holder to file a certificate of his having notified his claim under section 26, in order to continue a suit or resume or institute execution proceedings against a ward. 2. To make it clear that no suit or execution proceedings shall be maintainable to set aside or modify the order of a Deputy Commissioner affixing a date for payment of a claim or regulating the order in which claims are to be paid.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
PUNJAB	
The Punjab Trade Employees (Amendment) Bill.	To remove certain difficulties brought to light in the working of the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940, by amending the Act, so as to empower the employer to take overtime work from his employees subject to certain restrictions and by omitting sections 11 and 14(2) which empower an employer to impose fine and require notice from the employee before quitting service, respectively.
The Punjab Maternity Benefit Bill.	To regulate the employment of women in factories for certain periods before and after confinement and to provide for the payment of maternity benefit to them.
The Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill.	To apply the principles of the Land Preservation (Chos) Act II of 1900, to the whole Province and to empower the Government to require landowners to take positive measures necessary to arrest erosion, failing which the Government shall have the power of executing those works themselves.
The Punjab Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Bill.	To provide for the licensing of ginning and pressing factories in order to eradicate the malpractices of mixing, watering, adulteration with seed etc., prevailing among cotton producers.
Legislative Measures Passed by the Punjab Legislative Assembly from October 28, 1942 to October 11, 1943	
The Press and Registration of Books (Punjab Amendment) Bill (November 3, 1942.)	To remove doubts arising out of the absence of time limit for the validity of declarations under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1887, and making the filing of a fresh declaration obligatory if a press is restarted, after having ceased to function.
The Punjab General Sales Tax (Second Amendment) Bill. (November 3, 1942.)	To amend the Punjab General Sales Tax Act, 1941, so that the tax shall become payable by the dealer in the year immediately following the year for which it has been charged.
The Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Bill. (November 3, 1942.)	To extend the Punjab Land Preservation (Chos) (Amendment) Act, 1900, so as to bring the whole of Kangra District within the scope of its application.
The Punjab Local Authorities (War Service) Bill. (March 26, 1943.)	To remove such disqualifications as may arise from the employment on war service of members or office holders of local authorities.
The Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Validation of Lists) Bill. (March 26, 1943.)	To validate certain draft valuation lists prepared under section 8(1) of the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940, before the expiry of the full period of 30 days allowed for the delivery of returns.
The Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax (Amendment) Bill. (March 26, 1943.)	To set at rest doubts by providing that the term "local authority" as defined in Section 2(b) of the Punjab Urban Immovable Property Tax Act, 1940, includes municipal committees superseded under Section 236 of the Punjab Municipal Act, 1911.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
PUNJAB	
The Punjab Urban Rent Restriction (Amendment) Bill. (March 26, 1943.)	To make it clear that the Punjab Urban Rent Restriction Act 1941, is enforceable in a municipality, even when its committee has been superseded and to set at rest all doubts in that connection.
The Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands (Amendment) Bill (March 26, 1943).	To amend the Punjab Restitution of Mortgaged Lands Act, 1938, so as (i) to permit an officer other than the Commissioner to be invested with the latter's powers; (ii) to give the right of appeal before the Financial Commissioner to the party against whom the Commissioner accepts an appeal and (iii) to recognise clearly the revisional jurisdiction of the Financial Commissioner.
ORISSA	
The Orissa Local Authorities Extension of Office Act 1942 (Orissa Act III of 1942) (December 24, 1942.)	To provide for extension of the term of office of Local Authorities in the province during the continuance of present hostilities and for a period of six months thereafter.
The Orissa Legislative Assembly (War Service) Act, 1942 (Act IV of 1942) (December 27, 1942.)	To prevent membership of any of His Majesty's Forces or employment directly concerned with the present war being a disqualification for membership of the Orissa Legislative Assembly.
The Orissa Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Orissa Act IV of 1943) (March 27, 1943.)	To place the Sub-Deputy Collectors on the same footing as Deputy Collectors in regard to trying of suits under the Orissa Tenancy Act, 1913.
The Bihar and Orissa State Aid to Industries (Orissa Amendment) Act, 1943 (Orissa Act V of 1943), (March 31, 1943.)	To ensure quick disposal of applications for State aid so that Director of Development may sanction small loans without reference to the meetings of the Board of Industries.
The Orissa Stamp (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Orissa Act VI of 1943) (April 10, 1943.)	To unify the rates of Stamp duty chargeable in the Province.
The Orissa Weights and Measures Act, 1943 (Orissa Act VII of 1943) (April 22, 1943.)	To fix a scale of standard measures with reference to the standard weights for the Province.
The Bihar and Orissa Municipal (Orissa Amendment) Act, 1943 (Orissa Act XI of 1943). (July 24, 1943.)	To exempt Dharmasalas, where pilgrims are allowed accommodation for limited periods free of charge from payment of water, lighting, latrine and drainage taxes.
The Utkal University Act, 1943 (Orissa Act XIII of 1943), (August 2, 1943.)	To establish and incorporate a University in the Province.
BILLS	
The Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Extension to Agricultural Land in Orissa) Bill, 1942 (November 24, 1942.)	To give Hindu women the same rights in respect of agricultural land as they enjoy under the Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act, 1937 in respect of property other than agricultural lands.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
ASSAM	
The Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act I of 1943). (March 26, 1943.)	To amend the Assam (Temporarily-Settled Districts) Tenancy Act, 1935 in order to remove difficulty in realising rents from tenants and in paying Govt. revenue by Managers of lands pertaining to temples or other religious institutions, etc.
The Assam Forest (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act II of 1943). (March 30, 1943.)	Further to amend the Assam Forest Regulation 1891 in order to remove unnecessary harassment and inconvenience and to penalise any Forest officer or Police Officer who vexatiously and maliciously arrests any person on the pretence that he is suspected of having been concerned in any forest offence or otherwise as provided by Section 86 (1) of the Regulation.
The Assam Land and Revenue Regulation (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act III of 1943). (March 30, 1943.)	Further to amend the Assam Land and Revenue Regulation, 1886 in order to empower Govt. to frame rules for the custody of attached movable property.
The Goalpara Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act IV of 1943). (May 29, 1943.)	Further to amend the Goalpara Tenancy Act 1929 to provide relief for all classes of tenants by reducing the rate of interest, abolition of damages on arrears of rent and facilitating the division of tenancies and distribution of rents, etc.
The Sylhet Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act V of 1943). (May 29, 1943.)	To amend the Sylhet Tenancy Act, 1936 in order to provide relief for all classes of tenants by reducing the rate of interest, abolition of damages on arrears of rent and facilitating the division of tenancies and distribution of rents, etc.
The Assam Money Lenders' (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act VI of 1943). (June 25, 1943.)	To amend the Assam Money Lenders' Act, 1934 with a view to give further relief to the debtors.
The Assam Finance Act, 1943 (Act VII of 1943). (July 2, 1943.)	To fix the rates at which agricultural income shall be taxed under the Assam Agricultural Income-tax Act, 1939.
The Shillong (Attachment of Salaries) Act, 1943 (Act VIII of 1943). (July 2, 1943.)	To amend the Rules for the Administration of Justice in the British portion of Shillong, in order to secure uniformity in the matter of attachment of salaries.
The Assam Court of Wards (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act IX of 1943). (July 16, 1943.)	To amend the Bengal Court of Wards Act 1879 in its application to Assam, to make provisions of Section 10C of the Court of Wards Act 1879 applicable in respect of execution of decrees or orders passed by the High Court in regard to all pending suits or proceedings.
The Assam Court of Wards (Delegation of Powers) Act, 1943 (Act X of 1943). (July 16, 1943.)	To amend the Bengal Court of Wards Act 1879, in its application to Assam, in order to enable the Collector to delegate such of those powers as the Court approves to a Special Officer appointed to assist him in the management of the Estates under the Court of Wards.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
ASSAM	
The Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Act XI of 1943) (July 16, 1943.)	Further to amend the Assam Legislative Chambers (Members' Emoluments) Act, 1938, in order to fix the daily allowance for members of the Legislature in accordance with the upper category of First Grade officers.
The Shillong (Execution of Decrees) Act, 1943. Act XII of 1943 (September 14, 1943.)	To provide the Civil Courts having Jurisdiction over the British portion of Shillong with the power to send decrees for execution to the Civil Courts having jurisdiction in the Khasi States, and also power to execute decrees sent to them for execution by the Civil Courts having jurisdiction in the Khasi States.
SIND	
The Bombay Entertainments Duty (Sind Amendment) Act, No. I of 1943 (March 25, 1943.)	Increased the rate of entertainment duty to 25% of the payment for admission and altered the method of levy by prescribing recovery of the duty at 20% of the gross amount received by the keeper of the entertainment.
The Bombay Finance (Sind Amendment) Act, No. II of 1943 (March 25, 1943.)	Increased the rate of electricity duty and discontinued certain exemptions and increased the stamp duty on certain classes of instruments executed in the City of Karachi.
The Ratodero Municipality (Extension of Term) Act, No. III of 1943 (March 25, 1943.)	Extended the term of the Ratodero Municipality by six months so as to allow time for holding the election.
The Karachi Joint Water Board Act, No. IV of 1943 (March 26, 1943.)	Constituted a Joint Water Board, to implement the Haleji Water Storage Scheme for supplying a permanent source of water to supplement the existing supply for the City of Karachi.
The Bombay Weights and Measures (Sind Amendment) Act No. V of 1943 (March 26, 1943.)	It made an enabling provision that a trader or agent in possession of a weight, measure or weighing or measuring instrument should be presumed, until the contrary is proved, to have been in possession of it for use for trade.
The Sind Consumption of Intoxicants Restriction (Amendment) Act, No. VI of 1943 (March 26, 1943.)	Provided that appeals from the orders passed under section 21 by the Collector should lie to the Revenue Commissioner and by the Assistant or Deputy Collector to the Collector.
The Sind Opium Smoking (Amendment) Act, No. VII of 1943 (March 26, 1943.)	Removed the limitation imposed by section 31 that the payment of rewards for detection of offences under the Act should be made available out of the fines.
The Bombay Village Sanitation (Sind Amendment) Act, No. VIII of 1943 (March 26, 1943.)	Validated the nominations by Government in certain cases where the nominations at the general elections were less than the seats allotted.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
SIND	
The Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Sind Extension to Agricultural Land) Act, No. IX of 1943 (March 30, 1943).	Extended the provisions of the Hindu Women's Rights to Property Act, 1937, and the Hindu Women's Rights to Property (Amendment) Act, 1938, to agricultural lands in the Province with retrospective effect restoring the presumed intention of the Legislature nullified by the Federal Court of India in their decision in case No. 1 of 1941.
The Bombay Land Revenue Code and the Government Occupants (Sind) Amendment Act, No. X of 1943 (March 30, 1943.)	Permitted the occupants to lease or mortgage their lands held by them on restricted tenure under the Land Revenue Code or Government Occupants (Sind) Act, 1938, for a period not exceeding ten years without the sanction of the Collector.
The Bombay Irrigation (Sind Amendment) Act, No. XI of 1943 (March 30, 1943.)	Postponed (i) the date for the recovery of water-courses expenses without interest from the due date and (ii) the recovery of instalments towards such expenses without charging penal interest.
The Sind Medical Practitioners' (Repeal) Act, No. XII of 1943 (April 8, 1943).	Repealed the Sind Medical Practitioners' Act, 1940, regulating the qualifications and providing for the registration of practitioners of Indian systems of medicine.
The Bombay Primary Education (Sind Amendment) Act, No. XIII of 1943 (April 8, 1943.)	Fixed the minimum age for admission to primary schools at six years; Made it eligible for ex-Chairmen and ex-Presidents for election to the Provincial Board of Primary Education; Prescribed some educational qualifications for the representatives of women, minorities and backward communities on the School Board; Made some other unimportant changes in the Act of 1923.
The Sind Legislative Assembly Members' Salaries and Allowances Act, No. XIV of 1943 (April 8, 1943).	Supplied the omission of not providing for the return fare after the close of the session or meeting; Put some limitations on the subsistence allowance during the period of adjournment.
The Sind Nurses, Midwives, Health Visitors and Dais Registration (Amendment) Act, No. XV of 1943 (April 8, 1943.)	Substituted the expression "trained-dai" into "assistant midwife" and omitted the provision with respect to "nurse-dai." Withdrew the application of the Act in certain areas; and Made changes in the constitution of the Council.
The Bombay Co-operative Societies (Sind Amendment) Act, No. XVI of 1943 (April 10, 1943.)	Introduced the definition of "Financing Bank" in the Act and provided inspection of books of the societies by the Financing Banks; Made special provision for membership of Resource Societies; Made provision on the lines of the Arbitration Act empowering Registrar to modify or correct an award without affecting the decision on the matter referred to arbitration;

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
SIND	
The Sind (Police) Rifles Force Act, No. XVII of 1943 (April 15, 1943).	Gave finality to certain orders passed by Government in appeal or revision; and Gave arbitration awards or orders of liquidator status of a decree to enable to proceed against persons leaving British India and going to Indian States.
The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories (Sind Amendment) Act, No. XVIII of 1943 (April 18, 1943).	Enabled the appointment of a single person to administer the affairs of a suspended society.
The Sind Agriculturists Relief (Amendment) Act, No. XIX of 1943 (April 23, 1943.)	Provided for the constitution of a force on a semi-military lines.
The Bombay Abkari (Sind Amendment) Act, No. XX of 1943 (May 15, 1943).	Made it an offence for admixture of cotton produce of two or more seasons.
The Sind Legislative Assembly (Prevention of Disqualification) (War Service) Act, No. XXI of 1943 (July 17, 1943).	Amended the definition of an 'agriculturist' by increasing the limits of the qualifying holding; Took away the period of 90 days provided for application for amendment of a decree and revived applications dismissed on that account. It provided for one right of appeal against order passed under section 13.
The Temporary Postponement of Execution of Decrees and Orders Act, No. XXII of 1943 (July 15, 1943).	Empowered Government to issue orders in respect of grant of licences and to revise orders passed by the Abkari Officers; Made a provision similar to that contained in the Madras Prohibition Supplementary Act.
The Bombay Weights and Measures (Sind Second Amendment) Act, No. XXIII of 1943 (July 17, 1943).	Provided that holding of offices certified by the Governor to be offices concerned with the prosecution of the present war will not involve disqualification under section 69 of the Government of India Act, 1935.
The Bombay District Municipal and Local Boards (Sind Amendment) Act No. XXIV of 1943 (July 17, 1943).	Provided that owing to large tracts of lands having been damaged by floods on the right bank of river Indus and cultivation affected by Hur trouble and damage to crop by locusts execution of Civil Court decrees and orders under the Co-operative Societies Act, 1925, be postponed up to the 31st January, 1944.
	Restricted within reasonable limits the scope of the presumption of possession for use for trade drawn under the Explanation added to section 34 by Sind Act No. V of 1943.
	Empowered the President or Vice-President to call a meeting of a Committee when the Chairman of that committee was absent from the local limits for a period exceeding 15 days; Empowered Government to invest a District Municipality with power to control effectively the nuisance caused by milch cattle stables; Removed certain restrictions on a town being declared as a notified area.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
SIND	
The Special Commissioner's Powers Act, No. XXV of 1943 (July 17, 1943).	Provided for the appointment of an officer as Special Commissioner to maintain effective control of law and order in the Hur area after the withdrawal of martial law and for investing that officer with the powers of a Commissioner under the Bombay District Police Act.
The Bombay Local Boards (Sind Amendment) Act, No. XXVI of 1943 (July 17, 1943).	Empowered the local boards to contribute a sum not exceeding Rs. 300 in a year to the Wakf Administration Fund under the Mussalman Wakf Act No. XLII of 1923.
BILLS	
The Sind Money-Lenders Bill, No. VII of 1943.	Provides for the regulation of money-lending transactions in the Province by registration and licensing of money-lenders and regulating the accounts.
The Sind Alienation of Agricultural Land (Restriction) Bill, No. XVIII of 1943.	Proposes to impose certain restrictions on alienation of agricultural land with the object that small land holders should preserve their holdings and that transfer of land from agricultural to non-agricultural classes should be restricted within certain limits.
The Sind Rat Pest Bill, No. XX of 1943 (published in Sind Government Gazette, dated June 17, 1943).	Proposes to carry out the operations of rat-killing in the Province for a period of five years to remove the evil of rat-pest.
The Bombay Town Planning (Sind Amendment) Bill, No. XXVII of 1943 (Published in Sind Government Gazette, June 24, 1943).	Proposes to remove certain defects in the Bombay Town Planning Act which came to notice in the working of the Act.
The Sind Deti Leti (Amendment) Bill, No. XXVIII of 1943 (Published in Sind Government Gazette, June 24, 1943).	Proposes to remove certain defects in the Sind Deti Leti Act observed in the working of the Act.
The Sind Hakims and Vaidis Bill, No. XXIX of 1943 (Published in Sind Government Gazette, July 15, 1943).	Provides for the registration of qualified Hakims and Vaidis in the Province to raise the standard of practice in the Indian systems of medicine and formation of a Council for that purpose.
The Sind Boll-Worm Bill No. XXX of 1943 (Published in Sind Government Gazette, August 19, 1943).	Provides for the eradication of Boll-worm insect-pest causing damage to cotton crop in the Province.
The City of Karachi Municipal (Amendment) Bill, No. XXXI of 1943 (Published in Sind Government Gazette, September 15, 1943).	Provides for reducing matter for publication in the Sind Government Gazette of quarterly accounts of the Karachi Municipal Corporation as a measure of economy.
BOMBAY	
The Bombay District Municipal Local Boards and Municipal Boroughs (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Bom. XIX of 1942), November 6, 1942.	To remove the deadlock resulting from the detention of presidents and vice-presidents of certain local bodies in prison under the Defence of India Rules by empowering the Collector in such contingencies to authorise a member of the local body or the Chief Officer to perform all functions of the President or Vice-Presidents. The life of the Act is up to April 1, 1944.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
SIND	
The Bombay Ferries (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Bom. XXI of 1942) (December 2, 1942).	To institute better control over vessels plying on any river, stream, creek, tank, lake or other collections of water affording passage for a vessel so as to prevent recurrence of accidents like the boating tragedy that occurred at Surat in August 1938 as far as possible.
The Bombay Power Alcohol and Petroleum Act, 1942 (Bom. XXIII of 1942) (December 17, 1942)	To regulate the manufacture of power alcohol and for the compulsory admixture of power alcohol with petrol for use as motor fuel in the Province of Bombay and for certain other purposes.
The Coroners (Bombay Amendment) Act, 1942 (Bom. XXV of 1942) (January 4, 1943.)	To preclude inquests by the Coroner in cases of deaths resulting from enemy action as this procedure is likely to cause great inconvenience and delay in the disposal of bodies.
The Bombay Small Holders Relief (Second Amendment) Act, 1942 (Bom. XXVI of 1942) (January 6, 1943.)	To protect persons in the Defence Services of the Crown who cannot cultivate lands themselves from eviction on account of subletting of the lands in contravention of the conditions of their respective leases.
The Bombay Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Bom. XXVII of 1942) (January 6, 1943.)	To safeguard the interests of persons in the Defence services of the Crown whether they be landlords or protected tenants. Section 23 and Section 5, sub-section (2) (d) of the Bombay Tenancy Act, 1939, intended to safeguard the interest of protected tenants and landlords operate harshly against persons joining the military naval and air services of the Crown during the War.
The Bombay Land Improvement Schemes Act, 1942 (Bom. XXVIII of 1942) (January 25, 1943.)	To provide for the making and execution of schemes relating to the construction of tanks, embankments and other works, the prohibition and control of grazing for the purpose of preservation of soil erosion, improvement of water supply and other matters in order thereby to protect and improve lands and crops in the Province of Bombay.
The Bombay Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Bom. XXIX of 1942) (February 11, 1943.)	To legalise the practice mentioned below. Members taking loans from salary earners' co-operative societies sign an agreement authorising the officer disbursing the salary to deduct from it the amount of instalment due on the loan and to remit the amount deducted to the society. It is also usual, by the same agreement, to undertake not to revoke the authority thus given so long as any part of the loan and interest thereon remains unpaid. The Bombay Co-operative Societies Act, 1925, did not contain any provision in this behalf.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
BOMBAY	
The Bombay Cotton Control Act, 1942 (Bom. XXX of 1942) (March 2, 1943.)	To maintain the quality and reputation of the cotton grown in certain areas, and for that purpose in these areas, to fix the variety of cotton to be grown, to prohibit the cultivation of any variety of cotton, to prohibit the mixing of the prohibited variety of cotton with any other cotton and to prohibit or restrict the possession or use of, or trade in, the prohibited variety of cotton, in the best interest of the growers of cotton in these areas in the Province, the cotton trade and economic prosperity of the Province.
1943	
The Bombay Rationing Preparatory Measures Act, 1943 (Bom. I of 1943). (January 8, 1943.)	To provide for the numbering of premises and collecting information about persons as measures preparatory to the rationing of articles or things essential to the life of the community.
The City of Bombay Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Bom. II of 1943). (March 5, 1943.)	To invest the Municipality with the power to control the keeping and rearing of dogs on private premises by providing for licensing of dogs kept in the City.
The Bombay Finance Act, 1943 (Bom. III of 1943) (March 30, 1943.)	To extend the life of the Act of 1932 by one more year.
The Bombay Rent Restriction (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Bom. IV of 1943) (March 30, 1943.)	To extend the life of the Act of 1939 by one more year.
The Bombay Small Holders Relief (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Bom. V of 1943) (March 30, 1943.)	To extend the life of the Act of 1936 by two more years.
The Bombay Prevention of Prostitution (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Bom. VII of 1943) (May 6, 1943.)	To make landlords punishable for the repeated and continuous letting out of their premises to prostitutes and to enable the Police to clear specific areas effectually.
The City of Bombay Municipal Corporation (Extension of Term) (Amendment) Act, 1943. (Bom. VIII of 1943). (June 11, 1943.)	To extend the life of the Corporation for a further period of one year, i.e. till the 1st April, 1945. (In view of Section 93 conditions in this province, no Bill has been introduced since November 3, 1939.)
MADRAS	
The Madras City Municipal and District Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 1942, (Madras Act XXVII of 1942.) (November 22, 1942.)	To empower the municipal executive authority to require owners of buildings to construct house drains not only where a public drain or outfall has actually been provided but also in cases where one is about to be provided or is in the process of construction.
The Madras Hereditary Village-Offices (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXVIII of 1942). (November 26, 1942.)	To provide that the ordinary presumption applicable to service <i>inams</i> namely, that they consist only of the assignment of revenue, should not extend to <i>inam</i> lands actually in the possession of artisans on or after the 14th July, 1942 that the nature of the <i>inam</i> should be determined in each case with reference to the facts thereof

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
MADRAS	
The Madras University (Fourth Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXIX of 1942). (December 5, 1942.)	and that the minor heir to a village artisan office may sue at any time within three years from the date of attaining his majority. To give power to the Syndicate of the University of Madras to continue to recognise constituent colleges as such, notwithstanding their removal to places outside the limits of the University on account of the situation created by the War.
The Madras Prohibition (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXX of 1942) (December 10, 1942.)	To enhance the maximum penalty for illicit distillation and distribution of liquor.
The Madras City Police (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXXI of 1942) (December 7, 1942.)	To make Deputy Commissioners of Police ex-officio Presidency Magistrates for certain limited purposes.
The Andhra University (Second Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXXII of 1942). (December 17, 1942.)	To make certain amendments to the Andhra University Act, 1925, for the purpose of removing difficulties experienced in working the Act.
The Madras University (Fifth Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXXIII of 1942). (December 17, 1942.)	To enable the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University to hold elections to University bodies in anticipation of vacancies arising by efflux of time, not earlier than two months from the date on which they arise.
The Madras Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXXIV of 1942) (December 12, 1942.)	To provide that a person accused of a minor offence under the principal Act may appear before the court by pleader instead of in person or may plead guilty of the offence by a letter addressed to the court remitting at the same time the sum specified by it.
The Madras Prohibition (Second Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXXV of 1942) (December 28, 1942.)	To exempt from the provisions of the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, troops and members of medical and other staffs attached to them, who are stationed in, or pass through prohibition areas, as well as canteen keepers and others duly empowered to supply liquor and intoxicating drugs to them.
The Madras City Municipal and District Municipalities (Second Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXXVI of 1942) (December 30, 1942.)	To empower the Government to frame rules for the valuation of Government and railway buildings as well as of certain other buildings for the purpose of assessing them to property tax under the principal Acts.
The Madras Cotton Control (Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXXVII of 1942) (December 30, 1942.)	To enhance the penalty for certain offences against the principal Act and to provide for the custody and examination of cotton seized under that Act and for the destruction of 'pulichai' cotton (a prohibited variety) or of cotton mixed with 'pulichai' cotton.
The Madras District Municipalities (Third Amendment) Act, 1942 (Madras Act XXXVIII of 1942) (January 29, 1943.)	To amend the principal Act with a view to remove the difficulties encountered in working the Act and to improve the municipal administration.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
MADRAS	
The Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act I of 1943) (January 9, 1943.)	To provide for the transfer of the administration of the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act 1939, from the Land Revenue to the Commercial Taxes Department.
The Madras Electricity Duty (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act II of 1943) (January 22, 1943.)	To amend the principal Act so as to bring it into strict accord with the provisions of section 154-A of the Government of India Act, 1935.
The Legal Practitioners (Madras Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act III of 1943) (February 6, 1943.)	To empower the High Court to make an order as to costs in cases of professional misconduct by legal practitioners and to provide for the more effective suppression of the toutting evil.
The Madras Medical Registration (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act IV of 1943), (February 13, 1943.)	To provide for the constitution of an Executive Committee of the Madras Medical Council, to raise the fee levied for registration of medical practitioners from Rs. 15 to Rs. 20, to levy a fee of Rs. 5 for the registration of practitioners registered elsewhere in British India or for the registration of a registered practitioner under a new name and to define the functions of a Committee of the Council while making an enquiry under the principal Act.
The Presidency Towns Insolvency, (Madras Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act V of 1943) (February 13, 1943.)	To make the Official Assignee and his establishment part of the staff of the High Court and to authorize the transfer to the account of the Provincial Government of all moneys likely to be surplus in the hands of the Official Assignee without impairing in any way the rights of persons having claims against those moneys.
The Madras District Municipalities (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act VI of 1943) (February 22, 1943.)	To amend section 84 (1) of the principal Act so as to enable municipal councils to levy the property tax on lands used exclusively for agricultural purposes at a rate higher than that at which property tax is levied by them on buildings.
The Madras Court of Small Causes (Validation of Proceedings) Act, 1943 (Madras Act VII of 1943) (February 28, 1943.)	To validate the proceedings and acts of the Court of Small Causes of Madras during the period from the 13th April 1942 to the 13th June 1942 (both days inclusive) when the Court was located outside the Presidency-town of Madras.
The Madras Finance Act, 1943 (Madras Act VIII of 1943). (March 14, 1943.)	To reduce the General Sales Tax payable for the year 1943-44. The Act has since been repealed by the Madras Finance (No. 2) Act, 1943.
The Madras Debt Conciliation (Amendment) Act 1943 (Madras Act IX of 1943) (March 12, 1943.)	To provide that where a creditor does not furnish to the Debt Conciliation Board a statement of the debt due to him by a debtor as required by section 10 (1), the debt itself is not discharged but that the creditor should not challenge the accuracy of the particulars as to the debt given in the debtor's application.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
MADRAS	
The Annamalai University (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act X of 1943) (May 8, 1943.)	To amend the principal Act so as to enable the Vice-Chancellor to hold anticipatory elections to University bodies not earlier than two months from the date of their reconstitution.
The Madras City Municipal (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act XI of 1943.) (June 8, 1943.)	To amend section 91 of the principal Act so as to prohibit the Corporation of Madras from considering any proposals for the amendment of the establishment schedule of the Corporation of Madras except at the instance of its Commissioner.
The Indian Lunacy (Madras Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act XII of 1943). (May 17, 1943.)	To provide also for the temporary discharge of lunatics who have been detained under the provisions of section 7 or 10 of the principal Act when such discharge is necessary in the interest of the health of the lunatics.
The Madras Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act XIII of 1943.) (June 25, 1943.)	To make specific provision in section 63 of the principal Act for the resumption of control over endowments which have been transferred to district boards under that section and also to provide that the rent value of lands in proprietary estates should be fixed once in three years.
The Madnapalle Tuberculosis Sanatorium (Regulation of Buildings) Act, 1943 (Madras Act XIV of 1943). (June 27, 1943.)	To provide for the control of the construction of buildings in the neighbourhood of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Madanapalle, and for the exclusion, modification or restriction of enactments relating to public health from or in such neighbourhood.
The Madras Agriculturists Relief (Amendment) Act, 1943 (Madras Act XV of 1943) (August 4, 1943.)	To validate certain rules issued under the Act enabling the parties concerned to apply to the court for a declaration of the amount of the debt as scaled down due by the debtor and to prefer an appeal against such declaration and certain orders of the court.
The Madras Stamp (Increase of Duties) Act, 1943 (Madras Act XVI of 1943) (September 22, 1943.)	To increase the taxation leviable in this Province as an anti-inflationary measure. The stamp duty payable has been doubled in the case of certain instruments which are exclusively or principally connected with business and raised by fifty per cent. in certain other cases.
The Madras Finance (No. 2) Act, 1943 (Madras Act XVII of 1943) (September 8, 1943.)	(i) To amend the Madras Betting Tax Act, 1935, so as to raise the maximum of the totalizator tax and the tax on bets made with bookmakers from 4 to 6½ per cent; and (ii) to amend the Madras General Sales Tax Act, 1939, with effect from 1-10-1943, so as to restore the original rate of 5 a month in the case of dealers whose turnover is between Rs. 10,000 and Rs. 20,000 and to raise the rate to 1 per cent of the turnover where it exceeds Rs. 20,000.
The Madras Irrigation Works (Repairs, Improvement and Construction) Act, 1943 (Madras Act XVIII of 1943) (September 29, 1943.)	To authorize the Government to repair and improve any existing irrigation works and to construct new irrigation works on private lands (the cost being met by the Government in the first

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
MADRAS	
The Madras Pawnbrokers Bill, 1940.	istance and recovered later from the person concerned) and also to supply water from Government irrigation works and to charge fees for such supply.
The Madras Village Panchayats Bill, 1940.	To regulate and control the business of pawnbrokers in the province of Madras.
The Madras Local Boards (Second Amendment) Bill, 1941.	To make better provision in a separate enactment for the administration of village affairs by panchayats.
The Madras Industrial Disputes Bill, 1942.	To remove panchayats from the scope of the Madras Local Boards Act, 1920, and confine the operation of the Act to district boards and to make certain other amendments to the Act either for the purpose of removing certain difficulties encountered in working the Act or for the purpose of improving the administration of district boards.
1943	
The Criminal Tribes (Madras Amendment) Bill, 1943.	To make provision for the promotion of peaceful and amicable settlement of industrial disputes by conciliation and arbitration.
The Madras Restriction of Habitual Offenders Bill, 1943.	To make certain amendments to the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924, which are considered necessary by the experience gained so far in the working of the Act and to liberalize the provisions of the Act wherever possible.
The Madras Co-operative Societies (Amendment) Bill, 1943.	To provide for the application of the provisions of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1924, to individual habitual offenders, so that where necessary, restrictions may be placed on the movements of such offenders or a duty laid on them to notify their residences, etc., as provided in that Act.
The Madras Proprietary Estates' Village Service and Hereditary Village-offices (Amendment) Bill, 1943.	To amend the principal Act with a view to facilitate the recovery of sums due to co-operative societies in Orissa from members of such societies residing in this Province.
The Tambaram Tuberculois Sanatorium (Regulation of Building) Bill, 1943.	To allow the minor, registered as heir to a village-office under the two principal Acts, a period of five years from the termination of his war service to qualify himself for the office.
The Annamalai University (Second Amendment) Bill, 1943.	To provide for the control of the construction of buildings in the neighbourhood of the Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Tambaram, and for the exclusion, modification or restriction of enactments relating to public health from or in such neighbourhood.
	To amend the principal Act so as to secure the more efficient working of the Act, the main changes being abolition of the Academic Council, alteration of the constitution of the Senate so as to make it a more representative body, grant of effective powers to the Vice-Chancellor, etc.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
MADRAS	
The Madras Public Health (Amendment) Bill, 1943.	To amend the Madras Public Health Act, 1939, for the purpose of making separate provision for the treatment and control of leprosy, which is now regulated, along with other infectious diseases, by the provisions of Chapter VII of the Act.
The Madras Estates Land (Temporary Amendment) Bill, 1943.	To provide for the temporary assignment, subject to certain conditions, of waste lands situated in estates for periods ranging from 3 to 5 years for the cultivation of food crops during the present emergency.
The Andhra University (Amendment) Bill, 1943.	To remove the prohibition imposed by Section 26 (c) of the Andhra University (Second Amendment) Act, 1942, in the case of vacancies in seats on the Syndicate and the Finance Committee to which nominations are made by the Chancellor.
The Madras University (Amendment) Bill, 1943.	To enable the Madras University to institute, maintain and manage colleges and laboratories of its own outside the limits of the University and to confer degrees and other academic distinctions on students who have perused approved courses of study in such colleges and laboratories and passed the prescribed examinations.
UNITED PROVINCES	
The United Provinces Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1942, (December 4, 1942).	To remove the hardship felt by the smaller landlords, permanent tenure holders and under-proprietors on joining the military, naval or air services of the Crown by not being able to let out their <i>khudkasht</i> without allowing the tenants to acquire hereditary rights.
The United Provinces Famine Relief Fund (Amendment) Act, 1943, (January 22, 1943).	To provide that if in the subsequent year the balance in the Famine Relief Fund has reached the limit of 55 lakhs, the deficiency occurring in the previous year need not be made good.
The United Provinces District Boards (Amendment) Act, 1943, (February 26, 1943).	To enable the district boards suffering considerable decrease in the income from local rate to increase the local rate.
The Court Fees (United Provinces) (Amendment) Act, 1943, (March 2, 1943).	To delete the provision made by the Court Fees (United Provinces Amendment) Act, 1941, for the fees to be paid in the United Provinces in respect of certain applications and appeals under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (IV of 1939) as the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Act, 1942, (XX of 1942) overrode the provisions of Clause (b) of Section 8 of the Court Fees (United Provinces Amendment) Act, 1941.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
The United Provinces Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1943, (April 3, 1943).	To remove the difficulties felt by persons in the military, naval or air services of the Crown holding land jointly with others in sub-letting of holdings and to exempt such persons from the penalty provided for in Sub-Section (1) of Section 171 of the U. P. Tenancy Act, 1939.
The United Provinces Tenancy (Second Amendment) Act, 1943, (April 7, 1943).	To allow Government to fix from time to time the sale price of receipt books kept for sale to land-holders for use in granting receipts for every payment made to them on account of rents of sayars, at a rate not exceeding the cost of production.
The United Provinces Maintenance and Restoration of Order (Indemnity) Act, 1943, (April 9, 1943).	To protect Government servants who, in connection with the movement designed to paralyse Government launched by the Congress party in August, 1942, were obliged, in some instances, by the imperative need of restoring order in the interests of the defence of India, to take measures not covered by a provision of law.
The United Provinces Entertainment and Betting Tax (War Surcharge) Act, 1943, (July 7, 1943).	To empower Government to impose a surcharge to a maximum of one hundred per cent on the present rate of tax to check inflationary tendencies.
The Court Fees (United Provinces Second Amendment) Act, 1943, (July 8, 1943).	To enable Government to impose a surcharge of approximately 25% on all court fees leviable under the Court Fees Act (VII of 1870) with a view to combat inflation.
The Indian Stamp (United Provinces Amendment) Act, 1943, (July 18, 1943).	To enable Government to impose a surcharge of approximately 25 per cent on all stamp duties leviable under the Indian Stamp Act (II of 1899) with a view to combat inflation.
United Provinces Encumbered Estates (Amendment) Act, 1943, (September 7, 1943).	Empowering the Commissioners instead of the Board of Revenue to decide the appeals under the United Provinces Encumbered Estates Act, 1934, with a view to expedite the disposal of cases under the Act and to enable the Board to correct mistakes, etc., in the liquidation awards declared final by the Collectors.
CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR From November 1, 1942, to September 30, 1943	
The Berar Land Revenue Code (Amendment) Act, 1942, (I of 1943), (December 29, 1942).	To extend the term of "settlement" in Berar from 40 years to 45 years so as to avoid the necessity of starting settlement operations during the present period.
The Central Provinces and Berar Postponement of General Elections to Local Boards (Amendment) Act, 1942, (XV of 1942), (December 31, 1942).	To provide for the postponement of General Elections to Local Boards until the termination of the present war and for such period thereafter as the Provincial Government may, by notification, direct.
The Central Provinces and Berar Postponement of Elections (Municipal Committees and Notified Area Committees) (Amendment) Act, 1942, (XVI of 1942), (December 31, 1942).	To provide for the postponement of General Elections in Urban areas until the termination of the present war and for such period thereafter as the Provincial Government may, by notification direct.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
BIHAR	
The Bihar Municipal (Temporary Extension of Term of Office), Act, 1942, (Bihar Act IX of 1942), (November 26, 1942).	To secure power to postpone for the duration of the war all general elections in municipalities by extending the term of office of municipal commissioners and other officers of municipalities.
The Bihar Public Demands Recovery (Amendment) Act, 1943, (Bihar Act I of 1943), (March 11, 1943).	To provide for the recovery as a public demand of arrear dues payable under the Dehri-Sasaram Electrification Scheme and Dehri-Sasaram Lift Irrigation Scheme.
The Bihar Refund of Cess (Amendment) Act, 1943, (Bihar Act II of 1943), (March 12, 1943).	To allow refunds of cess to landlords in respect of rents reduced under the Bihar Tenancy Act, 1885, the Champaran Agrarian (Amendment) Act, 1938, the Kosi Diara (Reduction of Settled Rents) Act, 1939, and the Cess Act, 1880, where the effect of the operation of these Acts has been to reduce the money rent of a holding below the figure that was adopted as the basis of the last cess revaluation of the estate.
The Bihar Maintenance and Restoration of Order (Indemnity) Act, 1943, (Bihar Act III of 1943), (April 9, 1943).	To afford protection to officers of Government who were, during the civil disturbances of August, 1942, obliged by the imperative need of restoring order, in the interests of the defence of India, to take measures not covered by a provision of law.
The Bihar Sugar Factories Control (Amendment) Act, 1943, (Bihar Act IV of 1943), (July 16, 1943).	To give statutory recognition to the sugarcane varieties advisory Committee and to empower Government to declare that particular varieties of plant cane or ratoon cane are unsuitable for use by factories in specified areas.
The Patna City Municipality (Emergency Assessment and Recovery of Taxes) Act, 1943, (Bihar Act V of 1943), (August 6, 1943).	To remove the difficulties caused by the destruction, during the civil disturbances of August, 1942, of a part of the records of the Patna City Municipality, by empowering the municipal commissioners to reconstruct both the arrear and current demands in a suitable manner.
The Bihar Village Collective Responsibility Act, 1943, (Bihar Act VI of 1943), (August 17, 1943).	To give statutory recognition to the organisation of village patrols acting under headmen appointed by the District Magistrate for the guarding of lines of communications and Government property which were extensively damaged during the civil disturbances of August, 1942.
The Bihar Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Act, 1943, (Bihar Act VII of 1943), (September 1, 1943).	To check the thefts of certain articles, particularly iron and steel, from mines, railways and other industrial places, which have become very common in Bihar.

Title of Act or Bill and date of Assent or Introduction	Object or Objects
N.-W.F. PROVINCE	
The N.-W.F.P. Motor Vehicles Taxation (Amendment) Act, 1943, (August 18, 1943), (H. E.'s Assent August 26, 1943).	To authorise the Provincial Government to prescribe the form of token and for the issue thereof and their duplicates.
The N.-W.F.P. Village Council (Amendment) Act, 1943, (August 18, 1943), (H. E.'s Assent August 26, 1943).	To authorise the Provincial Government to extend the life of village councils and the term of office of councillors.
The N.-W.F.P. Pre-emption (Amendment) Act, 1943, (August 18, 1943), (H. E.'s Assent August 26, 1943).	To bring the N.-W.F.P. Pre-emption Act into line with the N.-W.F.P. Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1935.
The N.-W.F.P. War Services (Exemption from Disqualification) Act, 1943, (August 18, 1943), (H. E.'s Assent August 26, 1943).	To re-enact and consolidate the N.-W.F.P. War Services (Exemption from Disqualification) Act, 1940, and the N.-W.F.P. War Services (Exemption from Disqualification) Ordinance 1943.
The N.-W.F.P. Legislative Assembly Speaker's and Deputy Speaker's Salaries (Amendment) Act, 1943, (August 18, 1943), (H. E.'s Assent August 26, 1943).	To increase the salaries of Speaker and Deputy Speaker.
The N.-W. F. P. Ministers' Salaries (Amendment) Act, 1943, (August 18, 1943), H. E.'s Assent August 26, 1943).	To increase the salaries of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister and Hon'ble Ministers and to provide suitable conveyances for them at Government cost.
The N.-W.F.P. Legislative Assembly (Member's Allowances) (Amendment) Act, 1943, (August 27, 1943), (H. E.'s Assent September 12, 1943).	To increase the amount of daily allowances admissible to the Members of the N.-W.F.P. Legislative Assembly.
The N.-W.F.P. Trade Employees Bill.	Introduced on August 18, 1943, and circulated for eliciting public opinion.

Rescued Pilots From Blazing Planes



Sepoy Zawal Uddin, 13th Frontier Force Rifles, rescued an Indian Air Force Pilot when his plane crashed and burst into flames during a recent army exercise in South India.



Lt. Aitizad-ud-Din Ahmad Khan

For gallantry in saving a pilot from a burning aircraft Lt. Aitizad-ud-Din Ahmad Khan of the Indian Pioneer Corps has been awarded the M.B.E. (Military) and 346316 Pioneer Zainal Abidin and 267896 Pioneer Abdul Rab have received the B.E.M. (Military) for assisting their officer in this rescue. When Lt. Ahmad Khan and his men were working on a runway on an advanced airfield, a fighter aircraft crashed while taking off and immediately burst into flames. With the two Pioneers, this officer hurried to the spot and succeeded in removing the pilot from the burning plane to a place of safety where, after his burning clothes had been taken off, they handed him over to a first-aid party. Returning to the aircraft they made every effort to extinguish the fire even though ammunition was exploding and desisted only when ordered, as the machine was beyond saving.

Lt. Ahmad Khan belongs to the ruling family of Loharu (Punjab States), being the second son of Sahibzada Mirza Aitizad-ud-Din Ahmad Khan, Imperial Police.

COLONEL GIVES LIFE TO SAVE DOCKHANDS

Among the many stories of heroism in the recent fire in the Bombay dock area one of the most outstanding concern the action of Colonel J. Eric Bain, who was killed when the ship on which he was working blew up.

Several hundred dockhands were engaged in discharging the cargo of a ship which had caught fire. Colonel Bain knew that an explosion was likely to occur at any moment but, in spite of the danger, immediately took charge of the situation. He had successfully moved the dockhands from the area when the explosion occurred in which he was killed.

INDIAN INFORMATION, MAY 15, 1944

Colonel Bain had been with Movements Directorate at G.H.Q., India, for a considerable time. He was well-known in shipping circles in the East, having had 20 years' experience of Indian shipping and general transportation problems with the firm of Mackinnon, Mackenzie and Company. Early in 1942 he played a prominent part in tackling the huge problem created by the sudden influx into Indian ports of diverted war materials originally intended for Burma and the East Indies, and also in shipping from India the stores urgently needed for the campaigns in the Middle East, particularly at the time of El Alamein. More recently, he was largely responsible for India's preparedness to receive the vast flow of stores for operations within South-East Asia Command.



The Commander-in-Chief inspects the Boys Squadron... (Below): Mock tank battle in progress.

I.A.C. STAGE MOCK BATTLE

In the shadow of Delhi's ancient walls, roaring tanks and armoured cars of the Indian Armoured Corps, their guns spitting flame in a mock battle, thrilled 40,000 citizens on the Ram Lila grounds.

General Sir Claude Auchinleck, C-in-C., India, who was received by the Adjutant General, Lt-Gen. R. B. Deedes, in a short speech said that although the Indian Armoured Corps only came into being in 1939 it had behind it all the tradition and the spirit that had gone to make the Indian Cavalry. The sower of the I.A.C. had splendid opportunities for learning skilled trades which would be useful to him when the machines of war became the machines of peace.

Leaving his seat in the stand, General Auchinleck walked over to talk to members of the Boys Squadron of the I.A.C. Training Centre who later gave a display of physical training. After the mock battle, crowds streamed on to the field and swarmed over the tanks.



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INDIAN INFORMATION





At the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Prof. H. J. Bhabha, F.R.S., explains to the Persian Cultural Mission one of his experiments in the properties of Matter. (See pages 494-6). Sir J. C. Ghosh, Director of the Institute (second from left) is one of seven Indian Scientists invited to visit England, as reported on page 474.

Vol. 14, No. 136. INDIAN INFORMATION MAY 1, 1944

MAIN CONTENTS

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 gratefully 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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COVER PAGE PICTURE: Dogras scrambling up the Arakan hill-feature known as "Wrenost," after it had been wrested from the Japs in a daring daylight attack.

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



A tank on patrol along the twisting Imphal-Ukhrul road.

17TH INDIAN DIVISION'S GREAT ACHIEVEMENT

HERE is the story of how the 17th Indian Division, commanded by Major-General David Tennant Cowan, D.S.O., M.C., fought its way through the Chin Hills, from Tiddim to Imphal, over a period of three weeks, during which the Japanese radio announced on three occasions that the Division had been annihilated!

The Japanese force moved against the 17th Division at the beginning of the second week in March. Its Chin Hills forces split into two, crossed the Manipur River to the south of Tiddim and drove into the hills to the north via Paidim. The Jap plan was to cut the road, which they did in several places, and isolate the 17th Division. In this they failed.

Drawing in its advance columns, the 17th Division concentrated and for three weeks fought its way northwards towards Imphal clearing blocks as they appeared, wiping out Jap strong points, never losing its cohesion. For those three weeks the Division had been cut off by road from Imphal.

During this long fight up the tortuous road, the Division was maintained by air and kept

itself intact. Its success may be judged by the fact that it saved and evacuated 80 to 90 per cent of its transport which could not leave the vulnerable road. Its casualties, brought out by air, were very much smaller than the number it had inflicted.

An Epic

An official photographer and myself met the advance guard of the 17th Division on the slender dusty Tiddim Road. The guards' job was to clear the road of any remaining Japs and ours to visit the Division which had defied all attempts to cut it off, thrashed the Japanese and left them tending their wounds in the Chin Hills, writes a 14th Army Observer.

The incredible speed with which the Division drew in its octopus-like tentacles

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in those wild hills and met the Japanese as a solid fighting force was the principal factor in the frustration of the enemy operation designed to annihilate the Division and facilitate the enemy advance into the Imphal Plain.

The Division's exploits could only have been achieved by the soundest of staff work and the magnificent fighting spirit of seasoned troops who had already met the Jap and knew that they had the measure of him. How the Division beat the opposition plan by some 24 hours and decimated the special task force which the Japanese Division sent against them is an epic.

The Japanese employed specially trained groups with a high officer and N.C.O. percentage and a "Pursuit" group of tanks, sappers, artillery and guerillas. All these forces have now been disorganised, while some units are wandering aimlessly through the Chin Hills, uncertain of their role, firing a few shots at our troops and then running. Proof of their weakening effort came when a British regiment and Gurkhas liquidated the Jap force on the last remaining road hindrance. One private soldier said: "We captured five of their guns and turned them on the Japs. And didn't they scream!"

"If we could keep the Jap on the move", said Major-General Cowan, "we knew we had him. Give him time to bunker in and he is difficult to shift. I am glad to say we were ahead of him all the while."

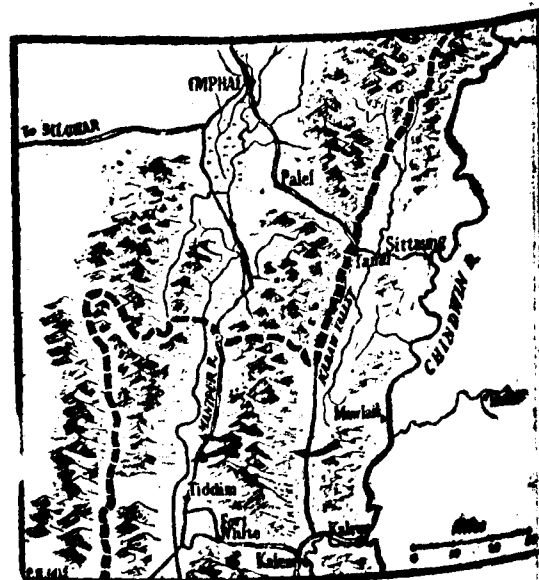
Three times the Jap radio announced the "annihilation" of this 17th Division. Once it declared that 10,000 casualties had been inflicted.

"All ranks of the Division were very much amused by the Jap broadcast," said the General, "and we hope to meet the commentator one day."

In this action the 17th Division inflicted a minimum of 1800 casualties on the Japs. "These are actual figures of dead and wounded seen", said General Cowan. "One must not forget that the Jap is very quick and resolute in getting his dead away. One formation has counted 400 but is certain that it has caused 1,000 casualties."

Japanese Plan

The Japanese plan for the annihilation of the Division consisted of several phases. The enemy hoped to cover their moves by bombarding Kennedy Peak and by crossing the Manipur River to the south of Tiddim and moving west. This latter move was spotted by our patrols. The real plan would have gone into operation when the Japs occupied positions at milestones 100 and 109 and had captured Tongzang, a position some 20 miles north of Tiddim, dominating the road.



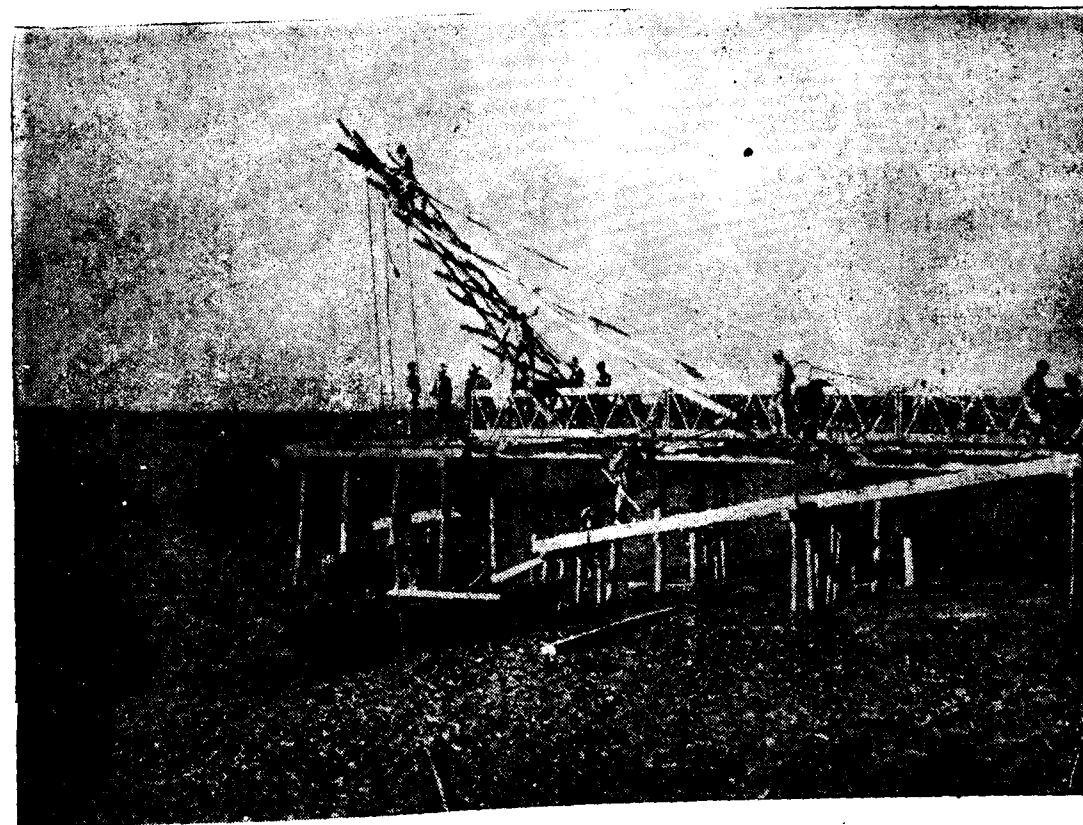
The first Jap thrusts (arrows) came to the south of Imphal, where two newly-constructed motor roads connected the base with our forward position in the Chin Hills. The Tiddim road was severed. Tiddim was abandoned and the 17th Indian Division forced its way through the Jap road blocks to Imphal.

Lastly, the Japs presupposed the 17th Division would not try to pull out of Tiddim until besieged. In this they made a grave mistake. Though at one time the Japs did occupy 100 and 109 they never won Tongzang—the pivot of their plan—until it was too late. They were "beaten to it" by the rapid reinforcement of our garrison there.

In one of their many attacks on Tongzang the Japanese used tanks. Four of these ran on to a minefield and were blown up. Our Sappers then picked up most of the mines they had laid and put them somewhere else.

The Division moved out of Tiddim 24 hours ahead of schedule. In itself this was a remarkable feat for at that time the formation was dispersed over a 62 miles front with a line of communication of 60 miles—the forward troops were in fact 30 miles forward of Tiddim. Yet within 27 hours of the order nearly all the men, vehicles and animals were safely boxed some 20 miles north of Tiddim.

During this first night's move the General himself marched over 20 miles with his troops and continued doing so until he was satisfied that all valuable stores and wounded had been evacuated.



Waterways are used as supply routes on the Burma Front. Madras Sappers and Miners build a jetty on one of the main outlets of the River Naaf.

Tiddim was left a blazing furnace. The Japanese in occupation of the important feature Tuitum Saddle were exterminated by Gurkhas and artillery.

From then onward the Saddle was held by us and this enabled the Division to move freely down to the Manipur River—a point where the Japanese hoped to blow up the bridge. Our securing of the Manipur River crossing was one of the things the enemy had not counted on.

The Japs at milestone 109 had some time to bunker themselves in but the Division performed a manoeuvre which seemed almost impossible. British and Gurkha troops advanced on a wide front in this wild mountainous country, swung and attacked the Jap position from some high ground. To execute this, some troops had to scramble up 2,500 feet while the Sappers followed up and built a track for mules. Gurkhas closed in for hand-to-hand fighting and one Gurkha was later found dead in a bunker with many dead Japanese lying around him.

Among the first to re-enter the milestone 109 area was a senior Sapper officer. Previously he had sent forward one of his units which, with others in 109, had been forced out by the Japanese.

nese. Walking in to the old Sappers Mess the officer was surprised to find the table laid for breakfast—grapefruit ready and eggs in the cook-house. We carried on where the Sappers had left off.

6,000-ft. Peak Occupied

A special force consisting of volunteer British Gurkha infantry gunners and Sappers were at the same time operating on an independent mission off the road. Going through great hardships in almost continuous rain that made sleep impossible, they occupied a 6,000-foot peak. At times they had to crawl on their hands and knees up the incline and cut their way through the jungle with kukris.

When a British regiment and Gurkhas routed the Japanese from a 5,800-foot peak, the road to milestone 82 was clear. Here the Division began to evacuate their wounded by air from a rough airstrip in a small green field constructed during operations.

The last block remained. Again British and Gurkha infantry advanced on a broad front and turned the defences. By this time the Japs had little fight left and their force disintegrated.

With the road clear, among the first to travel down it were the wounded protected by an advance guard of carriers, infantry, and tanks and, as the General and his Staff moved out of 82—the General for the first time using transport—the Japs made one despairing artillery shoot, hitting the General's Mess—some time after the Mess Sergeant had packed up and left.

R. A. F. Praised

Major-General Cowan visited a Royal Air Force Mess personally to thank the men who had helped him in his movement of the Division from Tiddim.

Aircrews from Hurricane and Hurribomber Squadrons were gathered together with the Air Officer Commanding the Group and all his officers to hear the General's story of the fierce battles which his troops fought—and defeated the Japanese attempt to wipe out his Division.

After relating the story of the battles, the General said: "It is the opinion of all ranks that you—the R.A.F.—did a grand job. It is extremely hard for you to know what damage you did. Your support was given at very short notice but with extreme accuracy and you got right on top of them. On more than one occasion, you alone were responsible for enabling our forces to counter-attack in the face of heavy opposition. Unfortunately we cannot tell you when you get a bull's-eye. I have well over two years experience of fighting in this country and I can assure you that you are producing one hundred per cent bull's-eyes. I do want to thank you very much and sincerely from all ranks of the 17th Division for your intense support to us during our march. I assure you that when we smash the Japanese here—as we shall do—we shall again be together and your part will be second to none."

The 17th Division covered the withdrawal of the Burma Army in March and April, 1942, and so staunch and courageous was its rearguard action that the army came out without great losses and the Division inflicted very heavy casualties in such bloody battles as Prome Road, Shewdaung and Sittaung.

Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, paying a surprise flying visit to the Imphal battle area, made a special trip to meet men of the 17th Indian Division.

Jumping into a Jeep, which he drove himself, Lord Louis led a flying column sometimes driving at 45 miles an hour. As the small convoy roared down road and track kicking up a cloud of dust Military Police tentatively raised their hands and suddenly realising it was the Supreme Com-



Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten.

mander, waved him on. With only a few hours to spare, Lord Louis wanted to talk to the men who had fought the battle.

After speaking to Major-General Cowan, Lord Louis collected, surprised and delighted men of a British Battalion round him and spoke frankly and informally and reminded them of the last time he had seen them at Kennedy Peak. This Battalion had been in the thick of it all the time, and, congratulating them on the grand way they had fought, he said it was one of the best battles of the war. The 1,800 Jap wounded and dead was significant of our superiority.

He finished by telling the officers and men that this was their chance of crushing the Jap in Northern Burma and laughingly said it was not a pep talk; he knew they would do it. Waving good-bye to the men and shaking hands with the C.O., the Supreme Commander left for the airport and continued his journey in "Sister Ann" his plane.

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BACKGROUND TO FIGHTING ON BURMA FRONTIER

Here are seven background points which may be useful in following events in Burma.

1. The India-Burma frontier runs roughly north-east and south-west and is about 600 miles in length. Very crudely, we are across that frontier into Burma at its two extremities while the Japanese are across it into India at its centre.

2. At the north end of the frontier we have two bases, Ledo and Fort Hertz. Ledo is the railhead on the line from Calcutta. Our forces (Chinese, Gurkhas, Burmese, Chin and Kachins under General Stilwell) based on these two places are advancing south and have penetrated about 80 miles into the area of Jambu Bum and Shaduzup. More than 80 miles further south, British air-borne troops (the Chindits) threaten the Japanese-held line to the Myitkyina railhead in which their troops facing Stilwell are based.

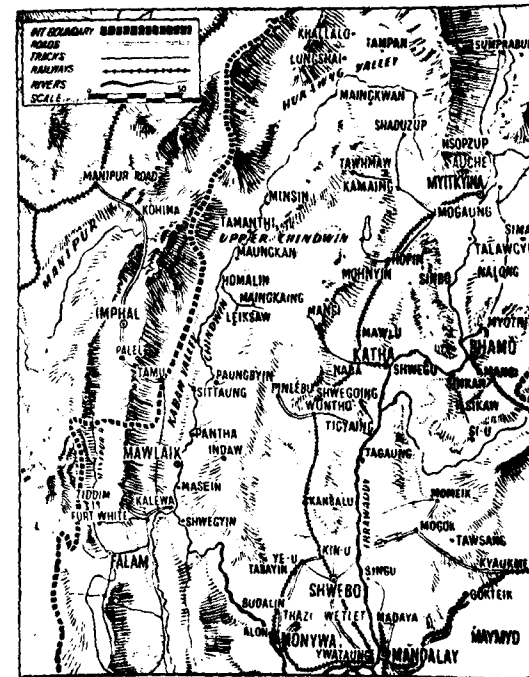
3. At the south end of the frontier, British, Indian and West African troops of the 14th Army have penetrated into the Arakan and Kaladan areas.

4. These advances at either end of the front are part of the strategic whole planned by Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Commander.

5. In the centre of our base is Imphal. This is not on a railway but is supplied by road from the railway at Manipur Road (Dimapore about 6 miles in the north). This latter place is on the Calcutta-Ledo line. The Japanese have succeeded temporarily in cutting the road, west of Ukhrul.

6. In all the Burmese fighting, it should be remembered, distances are considerable; also that columns can operate in dense jungle out of sight of air reconnaissance and that opportunities for one side to get in the flank or the rear of the other are limitless. The fact that the Japanese have cut the Imphal-Manipur road highway is not a sign of Allied weakness in this area but is simply the result of fighting in an extensive area, covered with thick jungle, where the enemy's movements cannot properly be observed. Similarly, if it were not for the cover of the jungle, we could not have staged our air-borne landings.

7. Finally, it should be borne in mind that our undoubted air superiority allows us to maintain columns by air in case of need, an advantage which is denied the Japanese.



GIFT PARCELS FOR TROOPS ABROAD

No export licence is now necessary for the despatch of occasional gift parcels to Indian and British troops serving abroad by their friends and relations in India, said a Press Note issued by the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, on April 15. It continued:

The parcels, however, should not exceed 5 lb. gross weight each and should bear the entry "Gift Parcel for Troops Abroad" as well as the name and address of the sender. No communication can be enclosed.

The parcels should contain only the following articles: (a) mustard oil not exceeding 1 lb.; (b) religious emblems in the case of Sikhs, and tobacco of all kinds not exceeding 1 lb. in the case of troops other than Sikhs; (c) small items of clothing, e.g., socks, scarf, etc., not exceeding 1 lb. in all; (d) sweetmeats not exceeding 2 lb.; (e) toilet requisites not exceeding Rs. 5 in value.

All the articles mentioned above should be of Indian origin or manufacture. The responsibility of compliance with the conditions will be that of the senders. Parcels which do not comply with these conditions will be returned to the senders.

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JAPS PAY DEARLY IN IMPHAL PUSH

TO-DAY, as the Jap forces try to advance closer to Imphal from the east and north-east, the main feature of the fighting is the number of Japs killed in the last few days, wrote an Indian Army Observer, on the Imphal Front, on April 10.

Apparently the enemy is still under-estimating our strength. During the past four days and nights every yard he has advanced has cost him dearly. Roughly 350 Japs have been counted as killed in the last 96 hours. A Sikh pepoy who had been taken prisoner by the Japs some nights ago and escaped yesterday reports that during the six days he was with a Jap Battalion H.Q. he was kept busy—without food—moving casualties of which there were hundreds.

The enemy received a big knock a few nights ago when an Indian battalion operating along the Ukhrul-Imphal Road killed at least 80 Japs out of an attacking force of over 100, in a matter of a couple of hours.

In another area another battalion bagged 150 in four nights and later cornered some 500 to 600 Japs in a defile where they were shelled by our tanks and artillery.

A platoon of British troops got another 25 Japs in minor actions a few miles out of Imphal on the road to Kohima and, last night, a handful of British troops in the same sector killed another 10 in beating off a night attack. Some of the dead were found hanging on the perimeter wire.

Our casualties, including killed and wounded, in contrast to Jap losses have been slight and in a number of actions our troops have inflicted heavy losses without losing a single man.

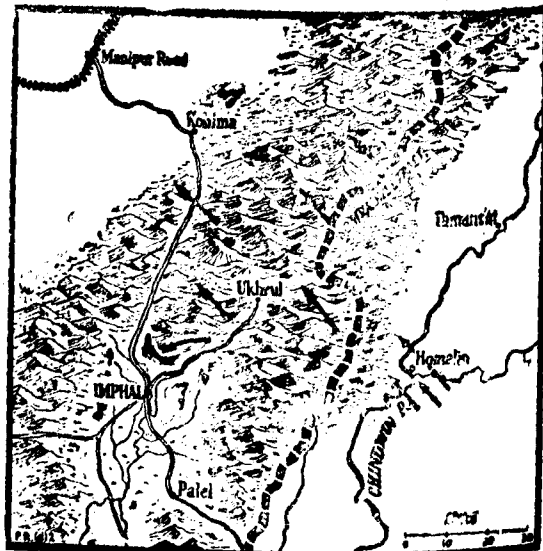
ATTACK REPULSED: 80 JAPS KILLED

After a week of patrolling and comparative inactivity the spotlight was again turned on the Ukhrul area when the Japs made an early morning attack on a forward company of Indian troops, says a delayed despatch from an Indian Army Observer.

The defensive action lasted less than two hours and the first light of day revealed seven Jap dead lying outside the company perimeter which remained intact.

The total number of Japs counted dead in this and subsequent operations was 80. The enemy's strength was estimated to be over a hundred. The attack started at 4 a.m., and the last thrust was beaten off before dawn.

After withdrawing, the Japs started digging themselves in on a feature about 100 yards from



Crossing the Chindwin, north and south of Homalin, the Jap "counter-Wingate" forces fanned out to strike at the road connecting our forward troops and vital Imphal base with the Manipur Road railhead and India. Filtering through the wild Naga Hill country they showed themselves momentarily on the northern edge of the Manipur Plain, but the main thrust crystallised towards Kohima. They crossed the road and Imphal might have been cut off but for our strong arm, the air.

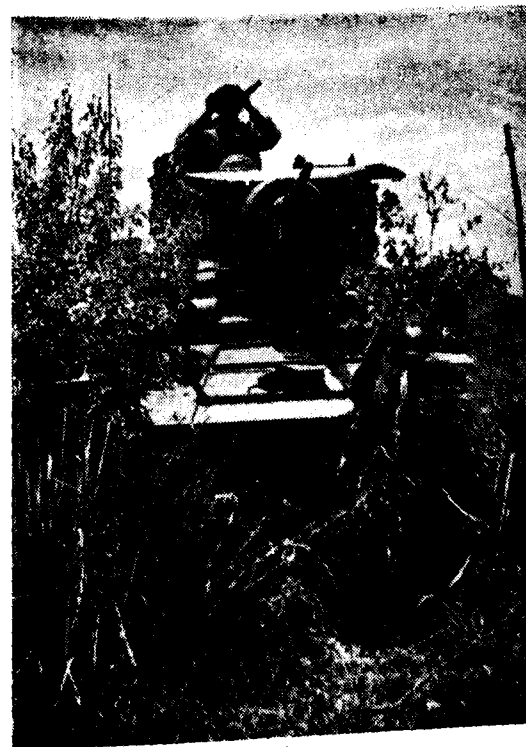
our position. They were immediately engaged by three-inch mortar fire which was later reinforced by shelling from our tanks. While trying to escape down a defile between this feature and another the enemy was met by one of our platoons, and in the hand-to-hand fighting which followed at least 20 Japs were killed.

The tanks, manned by Indian crews, went into action for the second time when visibility improved and it became possible to pin-point the enemy positions. In less than 30 minutes the Japs were blasted out of their dug-outs and the maximum casualties were inflicted by the tanks when the enemy started moving down the slopes.

Later, some of the Japs were seen running across open paddy fields and again provided an excellent target. They left much equipment including weapons. Investigation of the dug-outs revealed that the Japs, sure of a walk-over, had even brought elaborate bedrolls with them. It took two trucks to bring back the ammunition and equipment captured.

On another night recently a patrol of the same Indian unit had inflicted numerous casualties without suffering any loss themselves.

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Indian-maned light tank on reconnaissance along the lines of communication near the Imphal-Ukhrul road.

JAP COMPANY ROUTED BY 20 INDIANS

Facing odds of seven to one, two sections—comprising 20 men—of an Indian company holding a forward feature to the north-east of Imphal counter-attacked in broad daylight and dislodged a full strength Jap company. The enemy position was a "pimple" which they had wrested the previous night from a standing patrol of four men, wrote an Indian Army Observer on April 9.

The action, the first of a series which continued for the following three nights, lasted only 10 minutes. Unaware at the time of the Jap numerical superiority, our two sections, led by a young Jat from the Punjab, Jemadar Abdul Hafiz, charged up the hill yelling their war cries. Heavy fire was encountered but our Indian troops went in with the bayonet. Bitter hand-to-hand fighting ensued and soon the enemy broke and started running down the other side of the feature. Forty-five Japs were counted dead in a nullah at the foot of the feature, but further counting in this and another creek a short distance away, which also contained enemy

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dead, had to be abandoned because the Japs covered the area with light machine-guns from a neighbouring crest.

Included in the equipment captured were two swords, three light machine-guns and two grenade dischargers. Acts of individual bravery were again witnessed when two Jap companies surrounded two weak platoons of the same regiment the following night. This action lasted about four hours. In addition to fighting the Japs these men faced blinding rain, a high wind and poor visibility.

During the attack a young Naik, although wounded in the stomach, refused to fall out of line and asked for a tommy-gun in place of his bren-gun because he could not fire it from his waist whereas he could fire the tommy-gun from his shoulder.

The enemy was later blasted out of this area by our planes. After the fourth night, the enemy had been pushed off most of the features in the area.

Yesterday afternoon 500 to 600 Japs were reported to have taken shelter in a defile a short distance away. Our tanks and guns immediately went into action and shelled the enemy for about an hour.

It has not so far been possible to form an estimate of the enemy casualties but, considering that the tanks were firing from about 100 yards, his losses must have been considerable. However, there is still some enemy in the area.

At 5-30 this morning about 50 Japs attacked another position held by the Jats. Only five Japs got back. It was a desperate and badly planned attack and was more like target practice for the Jats, who did not suffer a single casualty.

BATTLE FOR KOHIMA TOWNSHIP

The greatest activity during the past 48 hours has been reported from the second of the two main battlefields on this front—the Kohima township, wrote an Indian Army Observer on April 9.

A Home Counties regiment claims 70 enemy casualties in the battle for Kohima. Fifteen were killed in one action on April 7, while 49 bodies were recovered from yesterday's encounter. Fighting still goes on in the Naga part of Kohima—a cluster of rough wooden houses built on a spur to the east of the Manipur Road which here, over 5,000 ft. high, hugs the mountainside with valleys leading deep into the Somra Hill tracts to the east.

The Japs have stretched their tentacles to three sides of Kohima, but the road to Dimapur—the railhead 46 miles away—remains open. That the initiative does not rest with the enemy is clear from the strong counter-attacks we have been putting in with British, Punjabi and Rajput infantry.

On Imphal Plain

On the Imphal Plain, life goes on very much as usual though bazar prices are higher than for many months. Manipuris realise that luxuries from outside have to make way for Army priorities. Traffic which once rode up and down the 300-mile-long line of communication between Tiddim and Dimapur is kept to a minimum on the starfish-shaped routes feeding the several fronts on the 800 square miles lozenge-shaped plain.

Only a mile behind one forward position, I saw Manipuri women selling fruit and vegetables to the military, while further back aircraft were constantly landing on an airfield overlooked by the enemy astride a hill 1,800 ft. above. The enemy have shown no signs of interfering with the strip which is well within the range of gunfire. Close to the strip I saw British gunners playing water polo in a pond—as they have done every day for months past.

Tanks and dive-bombers, in addition to Gurkha infantry, have been worrying the Jap force concentrated in the Kanglatombi area about ten miles north of Imphal. This is just a minor sign of our coming offensive.

ROAD BLOCKS CLEARED NORTH OF KOHIMA

Tanks and British Infantry have cleared the Jap road blocks four miles north of Kohima where Rajput, Punjabi and British troops were involved in heavy fighting against strong enemy forces, wrote an Indian Army Observer, in a despatch, dated April 18.

Our troops are everywhere actively patrolling and any interference with our communications will meet the same fate as that which has just been dealt with within view of Kohima.

Recently I watched a vigorous artillery duel in this area. It was the same as I had experienced on the Arakan and Imphal battle fronts. The Jap used a couple of infantry guns in an attempt to silence our field guns which had been successfully hitting a convoy seen moving along a track on a ridge four miles away—close to the north-eastern corner of Kohima. Barely had half a dozen shells dropped near us when

our own guns took up the challenge. Their reply was five times that of the enemy and after half an hour he had had enough.

Everyone in Dimapur—normally railhead for the Burma front—has now an operational role. In my *basha* in a rest camp, all four officers are constantly at work either patrolling in the hills or else commanding troops guarding the line of communications or important installations.

MAHRATTAS' GALLANTRY IN SANGSHAK BATTLE

After an enemy attack had been stemmed with grenades and rifle-fire, a Mahratta Havildar, although seriously wounded in the chest, continued to direct his men as he lay in agony at the bottom of his trench, writes an Indian Army Observer from the Assam-Burma front.

Havildar Sambhaji, of Kolhapur State, Deccan, commanding two detachments of mortars during the recent Sangshak battle when the Japs overran the Mahratta perimeter, jumped on top of his emplacement, ignoring heavy fire, and held up the enemy advance until another company took over the position. He continued to give orders from his trench and, in spite of his wounds, marched back to the Imphal plain in four days.

Subedar Shripad Vishwas Rao, of Ratnagiri district, Bombay Presidency, himself evacuated 25 casualties, reconnoitred three lay-back positions and collected stragglers.

Jemadar Laxuman Desai, also of Ratnagiri district, leading his platoon to blitz the Japs, held a deep road block, silenced two enemy machine-guns, killed three snipers and then went on to push the enemy off a wooden knoll. Wounded in the third attempt, he lay there giving orders until he lost consciousness. L/Naik Appa Desai, from the same district, rescued him and returning to rescue another man, hurled grenades and fired his tommy-gun from ten yards' range. He ran out of ammunition and shouted abuse at the enemy. Although he was himself wounded, he refused attention and continued to encourage his men.

L/Naik Ganpat Kashid, when his platoon were pinned down, reconnoitred alone through thick jungle under fire locating enemy positions. Although wounded by a grenade, he did the march back to Imphal.

Mahratta, Punjabi, Pathan and Gurkha Infantry all covered themselves with glory in this battle. Enemy casualties were 900 dead.

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Indian Engineers help to repair a bridge blown up the previous night by a Jap patrol.

CHINDITS CUT JAP COMMUNICATIONS

FIRMLY entrenched in the heart of Japanese-occupied Burma, Long Range Penetration groups of the Special Force—the Chindits—have blown up a bridge carrying a first-class motorable road on a main highway, 200 miles in the enemy's rear. The demolition was carried out by Gurkha troops who pushed through 100 miles of thick, hilly country.

The bridge is on a road which is one of the main Japanese lines of communication. First reports state that it may take a month to repair, by which time the monsoon will almost have broken. An 80-foot span is missing.

For a month now, columns, audaciously launched across the Chindwin and Irrawaddy Rivers by gliders into Japanese-held northern Burma in the most successful air-borne operation in history, have been cutting across communications, killing Japanese, blowing up dumps

and drawing off enemy troop reserves. For both sides the coming monsoon must play an important part in the operation. For the Japanese the weather may well be a deciding factor, since we hold air superiority.

General Wingate lived long enough to see the success of his much-discussed technique of "going where the enemy is not" and establishing air landing grounds far enough away from enemy aerodromes and sufficiently isolated from ground forces to be free from observation—the theory of the stronghold ready to encircle the infiltrating Japanese, acting as a nut-cracker ready to be tightened at will.

First objectives to help General Stilwell's Allied forces thrusting southward down the Hukawng Valley have been achieved. The enemy's road, rail and water communications have been nipped. The Japanese are now reacting to our groups and various concentrations have been reported. To date (April 9) we have inflicted at least 1,000 casualties. The proportion is well in our favour, almost everywhere being higher than four to one.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 443)

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AIRMEN FORM DEFENSIVE BOXES

WITH over 6,000 airmen under arms, a fighter group of Air Marshal Sir John Baldwin's Tactical Air Force, Eastern Air Command, is now completely operating inside its own defensive boxes from forward airfields against the Japanese who are attacking the Imphal Valley. It has adapted the Army system to its special requirements. Every airfield is ringed by an array of boxes, and from them pilots of many squadrons fly from dawn to dusk, and often round the clock, to smash the enemy's lines of communication and troop concentrations.

Clerks and Fitters, Wireless Operators and Cooks, have manned posts so that the work of the Group can continue according to plan. Pilots who by night sleep armed beside their aircraft, maintain the vital sorties which are destroying the enemy's transport, ammunition dumps, and convoys. They carry on their task just as coolly and effectively as if they were flying from airfields far inside India.

By standing firm and not retreating to a rear base, this Group is making a vast difference to the air support which is so essential to the ground troops. This front-line air support enables us to put on a sortie at a moment's notice against any target the Army Commander may decide upon.

One evening, as dusk was creeping over the hills, a message was received that a large number of Japanese were moving down a valley. One Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron had "stood down" about 15 minutes before the call came through and pilots were either having a bath or making their way to their bachelors. The Intelligence Officer's message reached them, and they hurried away to the Operations Room, dressing as they came. A 22-year-old Flying Officer from Argyllshire, Scotland, was the first to reach the Operations Room. He dashed in and yelled "Where are they?"—grabbed a map—and disappeared in search of an aircraft. Other pilots as they hurried into the Intelligence Officer asking for the enemy's location, were told to follow the Flying Officer.

Within 10 minutes of the receipt of the message nine aircraft from that Squadron were in the air.

This, and other Squadrons went in and so effectively strafed the area that they stopped the enemy from advancing any further. Pilots came back and complained that they could hardly move around in the valley because of the large

numbers of aircraft diving to attack, but all were pleased with the results obtained.

By day, the ground crews service, refuel and rearm the aircraft, watching them take off from well-protected airfields under the shadow of precipitous, forest-clad peaks. By night they retire into defensive boxes, powerfully armed, braving stormy weather, and peering into the pitch blackness of the jungle for signs of enemy penetration. Every man is on the alert. It is a unique experience for many of these airmen. They have the satisfaction of knowing that not just one airfield, but the whole intricate organization of air operations in this area, is being kept going at high pressure. They arranged their own defences, which were planned by the Army. But, more important, they are manning these defences themselves.

Far above them, at 1,000 feet and more up on a ring of hilltops, men of the R.A.F. Regiment have taken over our outposts. They watch for the first signs of an enemy attack. They keep in wireless touch with base areas where men of the Regiment, as well as airmen off duty, are all ready to throw up a wall of fire within a few minutes.

Order of the Day

The Air Officer Commanding this Group recently issued the following Order of the Day—
"Bands of the enemy in small numbers have been reported near the Imphal Valley. We have gone into our defensive boxes, and must be ready and alert for sniping, sabotage, or small-scale attacks. These may never occur, but we must be ready in all respects to meet and beat them if they do. Sentries and listening posts must be kept quiet and keenly alert. Positions must be well sited and dug. If shots are fired, maintain fire discipline and do not blaze away without any definite target, thereby giving away our own positions. If a box is attacked it must, I repeat must, hold out, reporting the attack to Group or Corps, who will send tanks which can mop up the enemy. We must keep our landing strips safe to use, and our aircraft to fly. We can then beat the enemy for certain. This may be the biggest opportunity yet to prove that our own standard of discipline in the R.A.F. is sound and that we can take it, and fight calmly and with proper control. If the test comes I look to every officer and airman to act with discipline and determination. Air Force humour will beat the Jap, who has none. Good luck and good shooting!"

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Air Marshal Sir John Baldwin receives an account of an I.A.F. Hurricane Squadron's activities from their C.O., Squadron Leader Mehar Singh, D.S.O. (See story below).

PHOTOGRAPHING JAP AIRFIELDS

A HIGHLY successful photographic sortie over Japanese-occupied territory aroused the keen interest of Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Peirse, Air Commander-in-Chief, South-East Asia, when he visited a Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron of the Third Tactical Air Force during a recent tour of Bengal Forward Areas.

This Hurricane Squadron, commanded by a 27-year-old Squadron Leader from London, has built up a picture of many hundreds of square miles of Burmese Territory. The Pilots of this Squadron took 2,000 photographs in four days recently, all giving information of vital importance about airfields in the area.

The Air Commander-in-Chief was shown photographs taken a few hours previously of a Japanese airfield. While his visit to the Squad-

ron was in progress the two Pilots who had brought back the photographs were flying again—this time to "beat-up" the same airfield.

They were a 21-year-old Canadian Flying Officer and a 22-year-old Flight Sergeant from Norfolk, England.

I.A.F. Squadron's Good Work

Air Chief Marshal Peirse also spent a long time with one of the First Indian Air Force Squadrons operating against the Japanese. Equipped with Hurricanes and commanded by 25-year-old Squadron Leader Mehar Singh, D.S.O., from Lyallpur, Punjab, it has been in action in Burma and the North-West Frontier. Its Pilots have a versatile range of work in their daily intrusions over enemy territory. Offensives against road and river communications; reconnaissance sorties, and photographic operations are all part of the day's work for the Indian Air Force Pilots.

Sir Richard Peirse spoke to these Pilots, many of whom come from Madras, the United Provinces, Bengal, Bombay and the Punjab. He

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visited I.A.F. ground crews at work, saw their living quarters, and was particularly interested in the facilities for recreation off-duty. Throughout the tour he was accompanied by Air Marshal Sir John Baldwin, Air Commander, Third Tactical Air Force, and Air Commodore F. J. Vincent, D.F.C., A.F.C.

1,500 Prints in 24 Hours

From an I.A.F. air-conditioned photographic trailer tucked away in a small clearing an average of 16,000 prints are turned out each month by the photographic section of this squadron.

Describing his work, Corporal M. Rashid, who has been in the I.A.F. for three years and a half and who comes from Rawalpindi, said: "My section works on a watch basis and we have turned out as many as 1,500 prints in 24 hours. Our job starts right from the unloading of the cameras, the developing and rapid drying of the film to the making of hundreds of contact prints for urgent delivery to Army and R.A.F. units."

OUTSTANDING RECORD

Spitfire, Hurricane, Hurribomber and Vultee Vengeance dive-bomber Squadrons of Sir John Baldwin's Tactical Air Force have created an outstanding operational record for the month of March in their defence of the Imphal Valley, wrote an R.A.F. Public Relations Officer on April 11.

The Japanese forces which have entered Manipur State have been relentlessly pounded and the lines of communication, supply dumps and stores have suffered merciless attacks day and night. Nearly 4,500 sorties by these aircraft were flown during the month, and throughout the last 10 days they have averaged 250 sorties a day. These have included defensive interceptions; and patrols and escorts by Spitfires and Hurricanes, which destroyed ten enemy aircraft, probably destroyed four and damaged another 12.

Tactical and Photographic reconnaissance, strafing and bombing attacks by night and day were carried out by Hurricanes and Hurribombers. One Tactical reconnaissance Squadron alone carried out 450 sorties for the month, a total of 780 operational flying hours. In attacks by these aircraft, rivercraft have been sunk, tanks destroyed. Transports, which included motor vehicles, steam rollers, bullock carts, horses, mules and elephants were effectively strafed. Bridges have been demolished, enemy-occupied villages have been set on fire, while buildings and dumps and stores were blasted by lightning attacks. Casualties among Japanese

ground forces have steadily mounted as a result of this formidable air offensive.

Vultee Vengeances and Hurribombers have dropped a total of 1,053,520 lbs. of bombs on enemy objectives by day and 46,500 lbs. of bombs by night; Vengeances which can carry a larger bomb load than the Hurribomber dropped about 75 per cent of the total weight of bombs on enemy camps and supply dumps. When targets are difficult to find and require accurate precision bombing, Hurribombers are used. They have played an important part in demolishing bridges.

The Japanese are realising to their cost the need of effective air support. They have suffered heavily as a result of our attacks and their morale is being weakened. Proof of this was given by a prisoner who escaped and returned to our lines. He was standing looking at a Japanese camp when one of our aircraft flew overhead.

A Japanese officer ran up to him in terror and cried in English: "Put that cigarette out! We will be bombed!"

TRAINING SCHEME FOR SCHEDULED CASTE BOYS

The Government of India have introduced a scheme for training suitable boys from scheduled castes as artisans in the printing industry at the Government of India Presses, said a Press Note issued by the Labour Department, Government of India on April 8. It continued:

Under this scheme, sanctioned for the present for a period of 5 years with effect from April, 1944, 20 boys will be selected every year as apprentices for training in the various branches of the printing trade. For the present, 8 apprentices will be trained in each of the Government of India Presses, New Delhi and Calcutta, and 4 in the Government of India Press, Simla. This ratio is, however, subject to readjustment between the Presses. During the period of apprenticeship (2 years) the selected candidates will be given a subsistence allowance of Rs. 20 p.m. if matriculates and Rs. 15 p.m. if non-matriculates.

Apprentices who will pass the final test held by the Managers of the Presses will be given a suitable certificate. On completion of the training no apprentice will have any claim to appointment in any of the Government of India Presses but his case will be considered for any vacancy in any particular trade for which he is qualified, provided such vacancy is unreserved or reserved for Scheduled Caste candidates.

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SOUTH-EAST ASIA COMMAND H.Q.

Moved From New Delhi to Ceylon

ADMIRAL Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander in South-East Asia, has transferred his headquarters from New Delhi to Kandy (Ceylon).

For five months the South-East Asia Command has worked in New Delhi in close co-operation with India Command. Admiral Mountbatten and his Anglo-American staff have been in daily contact with General Sir Claude Auchinleck, C-in-C., India, and his staff, and together they have prepared and planned for the future.

Now the South-East Asia Command has moved from its training and supply base—India—to its operational headquarters, Ceylon.

Unlike India, Ceylon comes within the South-East Asia Command. So the Supreme Allied Commander may be said to have moved into his own territory. The South East Asia front extends for many hundreds of miles from the northern point of Burma to the South-East Asia front as a whole.

Admiral Mountbatten's frequent visits to the Burma front will only take him a couple of hours longer by air from Ceylon than they do from Delhi, which will ensure his retaining his previous close contact with this section of the front.

It must be pointed out, too, that Ceylon contains the main naval bases in South-East Asia, so that this move will bring the Supreme Allied Commander into close touch with the Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet. It is clear that the sea bases of Ceylon must play an important part in the re-conquest of Japanese-occupied territory in the South-East Asia Theatre.

The move of the headquarters was made by rail and air. The majority of Lord Louis' staff travelled by special train down the whole length of India and then over the Adam's Bridge ferry to Ceylon. While this move was in progress, key personnel continued to work in Delhi, and it was not until the main party was established in Ceylon that the command changed. The

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CHINDITS CUT JAP COMMUNICATIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 449)

In one area we are astride the road and railway from Indaw to Myitkyina. Thirty miles of this railway are unusable. Japanese troops are still licking their wounds in the fierce battle at the block in which they suffered 300 casualties. Our patrols later hacked their way through the undergrowth 15 miles to the north without encountering opposition.

BATTLE FOR THE STRIP: JAPS LOSE 200 MEN

A quiet period has developed at our airstrip known as "Wingate's box," following the sharp defeat inflicted on the Japanese in a three and a half day battle for this stronghold at the end of last month. Two hundred casualties were inflicted by British troops and Gurkhas when the Jap threw in a strong battalion and was sent reeling back to the north. The attack began on March 27 when a patrol surprised an enemy encampment of 200 north-west of the stronghold.

Sniping, grenade-throwing and automatic fire continued that night with the enemy established 200 yards away from our perimeter. We continued to evacuate wounded by air and to receive air drops. One enemy attempt—the first yet reported—to supply his troops by air failed. A bomber came over, dropped ammunition in our lines and was promptly shot down by anti-aircraft fire. Its companion bomber made off.

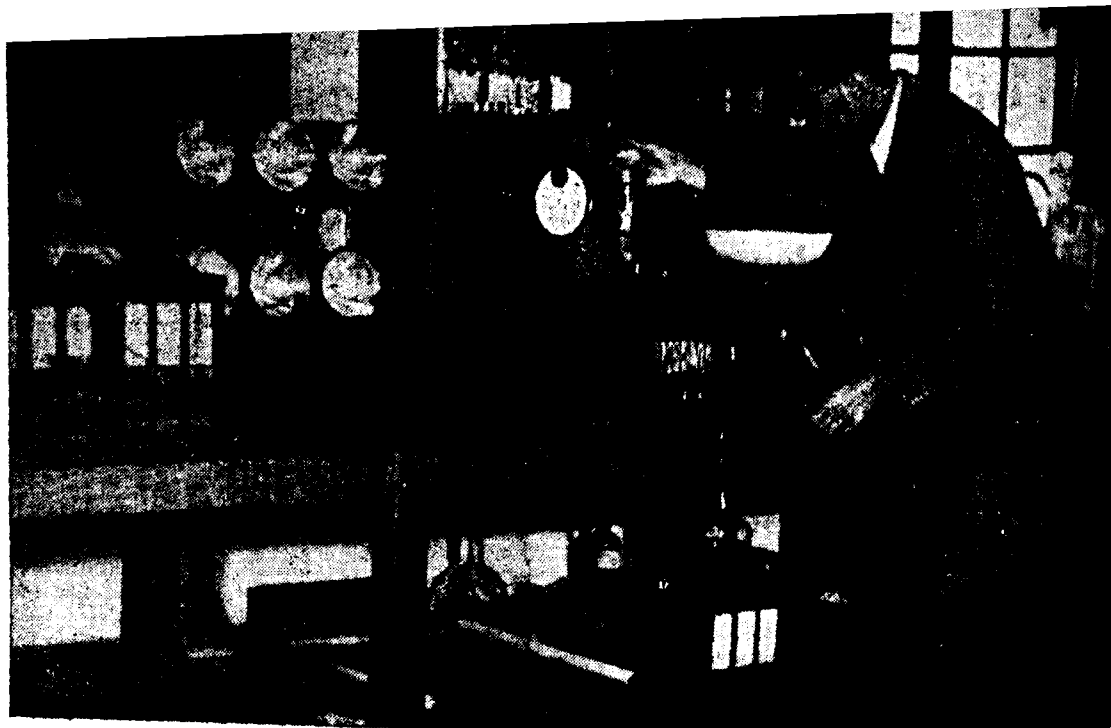
THEY BUILD RAILWAY SIDINGS

Punjabi and Madrassi engineers work together in a section of a Railway Construction Company in a forward area near the Burma front, writes an Indian Army Observer. These men are to-day so well trained that without outside assistance they have built sidings on Assam airfields.

This section is commanded by Lieut. Dwarkanath, formerly of the Chief Engineer's Office, Nizam's State Railway, Hyderabad State.

Delhi party then rejoined the main headquarters by air.

Lord Louis' new headquarters is a temporary camp—contrasting with the imposing Delhi Secretariat—one wing of which he has just vacated. It is doubtful whether the new headquarters took as many weeks to build as the old one did years.



PLANS TO DOUBLE INDIA'S FOREST AREA

"We shall need, as our development plans mature, an additional corps of officers fully equipped with the requisite scientific knowledge to extend their activities to 700,000 villages which make India. We must plan for the training of additional staff from now and expand considerably facilities for training if men are to be available to carry out our plans," said the Hon'ble Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, in his address at the joint convocation of the Indian Forest College and Indian Forest Rangers College at Dehra Dun on April 1.

Sir Jogendra announced that he was asking the Inspector General of Forests (Sir Herbert Howard) to work out a project of the future requirements to provide for the training of increased number of students in both colleges.

"Our plans," he said, "visualise the creation of another 100,000 square miles of forest in British India, thus doubling the present area which would be just about the correct percentage of



forest for a country like India." This forest, he added, would be created at the villagers' doorstep and the first return of fuel would come

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from thinnings within five years of planting. Cowdung (now used as fuel) thus saved for land would manure 72 million acres or 30 per cent of our sown area; and he estimated that this would increase the total food production of India by about 50 per cent.

Research Institute's War Effort

Referring to the contribution of the Forest Research Institute to the war effort, Sir Jogendra Singh said: "Indeed the Institute has every reason to be proud of its achievement. It has solved many problems which have led to the starting of a number of factories and thus providing paying employment for labour. Your research workers have shown how to protect timber from insect damage, how to manufacture ephedrine, extract medicinal creosote from pine wood, cream rubber latex, how to make diluents for rubber and size textiles. You have produced substitutes for certain important waxes, made numerous containers to pack Ordnance stores and adhesives required for all forms of laminated wood. You have made compregnated wood which is being used at this moment for the manufacture of air-screws for the Royal Air Force.

"In the month of February alone, the Institute advised the Master General of Ordnance on packing materials for bottles and medical stores, examined samples from the aircraft timber depots to discover defective timbers, tested certain aircraft spruce and fir sent by the Timber Directorate, did work on *semul* tea chests to save shipping space on imported stocks, advised on seasoning timber for the manufacture of air-screws, made samples of stern tube bearings of a twin-screw barge from compregnated wood of cotton, supplied compregnated shuttle banks, continued to convert bonsum for test fans, repaired propellers, made wax-sized paper for maps, trained war technicians, investigated the protection of *salai* logs for ammunition boxes, investigated certain resin from pine stumps to see whether it possesses the necessary qualities to consolidate earth for making aeroplane runways, etc., etc.

"Out of the 49 publications reviewed in the last issue of the Empire Forestry Journal, 27, or more than 50 per cent. were publications of this Forest Research Institute. This is an indication of the increased work at the Institute and calls on the time of the Inspector-General of Forests."

Post-war Problems

Continuing, Sir Jogendra said: There are a great many problems to be considered directly the war is over. Some of them are facing us now. As a layman I feel that there are three main problems which outweigh all others in importance. These problems are, firstly, to bring the existing reserved forests back to their pre-war position and to produce the maximum sus-



tained yield of which the soil is capable; secondly, the problem of run-off, floods and erosion and its consequence, the problem of areas that are becoming dry and unproductive—an enormous tract of land is crying out for afforestation; and thirdly, the urgent problem of bringing forests to the help of agriculture.

The best example of agriculture is seen in operation in our forests. The trees protect the soil from direct action of sun. They weave a canopy of leaves to break up the rain into spray which converts litter of plant and animal refuse into food for the soil. The trees not only give fuel and timber but turn the winds into gentle currents, control and conserve moisture. There is a remarkably little run-off of rain from primeval forests.

I do not propose to say much about the first problem. I understand that excessive fellings due to meet war demands have not affected our reserved forests from the point of view of protection from floods and erosion. Over-felling



Determining the moisture content of wood by means of the Electric Moisture Meter (designed at the Forest Research Institute)—quicker and easier than the oven-drying method.

there has certainly been and these advance fellings have been made on the best trees in the most accessible areas. It is not possible to calculate its immediate effects. It will need years of careful nursing to fill the gaps. Many intricate problems will arise to bring these forests back to full production.

Problem of Erosion

The second problem of run-off, floods and subsequent erosion, is perhaps the most important single problem facing India, nay the whole world, to-day. Those of you who have seen what has happened in the Hoshlarpur district, the hideous ravines of the Jumna and the Chambal, and the terrible devastation in the Punjab foothills, know the extent of the damage that has already been done. This is not the end of the story. Erosion is removing soil from areas not so easily noticed. You have seen how muddy the rivers become after a heavy shower of rain. The quantity of such soil taken away in this way by rivers and even small streams is almost incredible. This process continues from year to year.

This is not the only form of loss of soil. In the desiccated areas of Rajputana, wind erosion alone has removed, I am told, as much as

six crores (60,000,000) or maunds of soil per square mile in certain places during the last 100 years. The hot dry winds sweeping across these desert or semi-desert areas dry out even the meagre rainfall which they receive. At Jodhpur, which gets about 13 inches of rain, the surface evaporation of water is about 7½ feet per year, a terrible state in an area of scanty rainfall.

Soil Conservation

The general problem of soil conservation is of the utmost importance both for Forest and Irrigation officers. If the run-off at the headwaters of streams could be controlled, much of the subsequent damage would be avoided. It is disforestation of areas in the Himalayas and the northern part of Central India which causes floods in the Ganges and affects the health and happiness of the people of Bengal. The problem, therefore, goes far beyond provincial and State boundaries. The preservation of forests and afforestation of new areas is of supreme importance to agriculture.

I have been dreaming from my boyhood for a better life for our people. In my closing years I am anxious to rescue from the ghostland of hopes and possibilities some tangible plan to relieve poverty by developing new sources of production and employment and prevent ill-health by providing a well-balanced diet for our increasing population.

I now come to the problem directly connected with agriculture. Taking very rough figures the area of British India is approximately 800,000 square miles. Of this, about 400,000 square miles, or roughly half, is either cultivated land or current fallow and just over 100,000 square miles is forest, i.e., 13 or 14 per cent. of the total.

I hold that most of the area classified as culturable is capable of yielding crops of trees or grass. Areas which cannot produce crops can produce trees and there is room for developing village forests. With this view my friend, Sir Herbert Howard, entirely agrees. There is nothing basically wrong with Indian soil. The reserved forests of India, which have been properly managed for the past 80 years, compare favourably in production with the best European forest soils.

An average quality oak or beech forest in Europe produces about 95 cubic feet of timber and fuel per acre per annum, while an average quality sal forest in India produces well over 100 cubic feet per acre per annum. Or if you turn to coniferous species, our average production per acre is 130 c.ft. per acre per annum of chitr pine to 90 c.ft. of timber and fuel of Scots pine forest.



Instead of paper, leaves are used to enclose powdered tobacco in making the beedi. Owing to the war, this cottage industry has expanded rapidly and the Forest Research Institute has produced a leaflet containing suggestions for improved selection and grading of leaves and better drying methods, to yield better smokes.

Forest soils in India produce at least as much as forest soils in Europe. Nor is this only true of forest crops. On freshly cleared forest soils, the wheat crop has produced twice as much per acre as on ordinary zamindari agricultural land. On a well-manured graduate's farm in the Punjab wheat yielded 50 maunds to the acre.

Wood to Replace Cowdung

Our problem is to provide the villager with wood to burn instead of cowdung. I am frequently pressed by my friends in the Legislature to procure and produce chemical fertilizers. I am doing all I can to meet their wishes, but I feel that our first duty is to secure the cowdung for the land which is calculated to give 250 million tons a year, capable of manuring 72 million acres or 30 per cent. of our sown area. An additional quantity of food for soil and for our livestock can be secured by crushing all the soil seeds in the country itself.

The effect of manure on crop production varies considerably. But assuming that the food production on manured area would be approximately trebled, it means that this cowdung, used for its legitimate purpose as manure and not burnt,

would increase the total food production of India by some 50 per cent. The peasant is extremely conservative and extremely poor. He is not always easy to convince of the advantage of chemical manures and he is too poor to buy them even if he were convinced. But he needs no convincing of the value of cowdung as manure.

Now a glance at any map showing the distribution of forests in India will convince you that the villager burns cowdung because he has no other source of fuel. He has no village forests which could supply him with timber and fuel. This is especially true of the northern half of India from Karachi to Calcutta. What we need is the creation of forests at the villager's doorstep. Land is undoubtedly available to grow these small agricultural forests. Cultivation and forest occupy over 500,000 square miles, leaving 300,000 square miles of waste land available in British India. It is undoubtedly possible to find at least another 100,000 square miles capable of growing short rotation agricultural forests.

Sir Herbert Howard has been examining the problem and he is confident that suitable land exists and he can raise forests. He does not exclude the whole of the dry areas of Sind, the

Punjab and Rajputana. Where irrigation is available, there is no difficulty whatever in growing forest even in areas of under 5 inches rainfall. Plenty of such forests can already be seen down the Indus both in the Punjab and in Sind. Sir Herbert Howard tells me that in areas of an average rainfall greater than 12 inches the problem, though difficult, can be solved and becomes increasingly easier as the rainfall increases. Naturally the forest in these low rainfall areas will be of poor type, but it will provide the fuel and small timber which the agriculturist needs, and, above all, a blanket of vegetation to stop the evaporation from the soil of whatever rainfall it gets.

The Forest Department are now engaged on the problem of trying to afforest areas with a rainfall of even less than 12 inches. We shall watch their experiment in expectation of good results. But areas with rainfall above 12 inches include everything north and east of a line running roughly from Zhob to Bannu, across to Lyallpur, then south through Bikaner to the borders of Jodhpur and then south-west to the Rann of Cutch.

Sir Herbert's Address

Earlier, Sir Herbert Howard welcomed Sir Jogendra Singh to the convocation. He referred to Sir Jogendra's interest in agriculture and said: "In a country such as India, planning of agriculture must go hand in hand with the planning of forestry. Because that fact has not always been sufficiently recognised in the past, India to-day suffers so greatly from poverty and insufficient production of food for its many million of inhabitants."

Addressing the students who were leaving colleges to start in their profession, Sir Herbert said that Rangers were the backbone of the service and emphasised that each part of the service was complementary to each other part. Without that co-operation, he said, "the forest will not attain that full production of increment from the soil at which we aim." They ought to be proud of their function which "turns the chaos of a virgin forest into that ordered beauty which is the forester's ideal."

Sir Herbert Howard further pointed out that the work of the forest staff had a very direct bearing on the war itself. Students that were passing out from the two colleges, he said, "will be concerned with the direct and necessary supplies of timber to the armies who are fighting this war. Timber in modern war is an absolute essential and without it the war would cease by the defeat of those who lacked it. Timber, simply as timber, is being used for railway sleepers, telegraph poles, hutting timber, bridge timber, jetty piles, boats, barges, for lorry bodies, in air-

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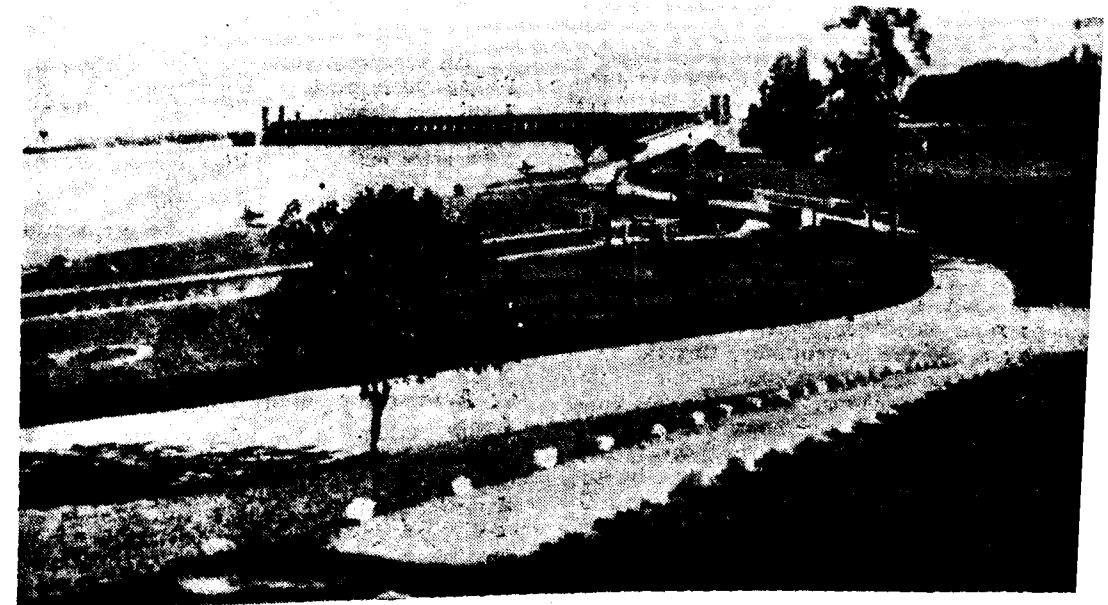
CHANGE IN INDIAN ARMY UNIFORM: Soon to be introduced in all units (except Sikhs and Gurkhas) is the cap and bottle-green lightweight battle-dress and cap, worn by the "old soldier" seen chatting with a Nalk, wearing the old uniform of khaki shorts, shirt and pugree.

craft construction, for air-screws, for aeroplane hangars, and, in fact, it comes in somewhere at almost every stage. Apart from civilian demands, the forest services of India are supplying to the army something like a million tons of timber a year, or, at any rate, that is the last figure I have. To visualise a million tons is difficult but as I have said elsewhere, placed end to end, it would make a track some 10 ft. wide round the world at the equator."

VICEROY'S WAR PURPOSES FUND

Contributions of Rs. 11,17,306 during February, 1944, have brought the total of H.E. the Viceroy's War Purposes Fund to Rs. 9,88,56,931. Notable donations were Rs. 1,00,000 each from H.H. the Maharaja of Baroda, the Provincial War Committee, Orissa, and the Provincial Joint War Committee, Bombay, for the Central Red Cross War Organisation; Rs. 2,57,435 from Khairpur State and Rs. 1,50,000 from H.E.H. the Nizam of Hyderabad for general purposes; and Rs. 45,831 from Prince Aly Khan's Ismailia War Fund (Africa) for amenities for troops.

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General view of the Lower Ganges Canal Head works in the United Provinces.

REGIONAL POWER DEVELOPMENT IN INDIA

SIR William Stampe, Irrigation Adviser to the Government of India, addressing the Punjab Engineers' Congress held in Lahore said:

"It is an honour for me to be asked to address you today and it was an equal pleasure when my friend, Mr. Haigh, invited me three months ago to assist the Punjab by procuring plant from the U.K. (under the emergency irrigation procedure recently sanctioned), for his important subsoil pumping schemes for your Grow-More-Food campaign.

"Perhaps he will tell the cultivators that immediate help is coming in the form of 126 two-cusec motor-pumps and other equipment now being manufactured overseas. In a flight the other day over the Lower Chenab Canal, Mr. Haigh pointed out some of the large tube-wells now being sunk. These comprise several interesting new features such as wooden strainers instead of metal, locally fabricated tubes instead of imported pipes and other improvisations which are the product of the dynamic Punjab engineer's mind. I congratulate Mr. Haigh and his staff on the constructive resilience which they have shown in meeting the scarcity of imported materials. This is real engineering.

"We also saw from the air the sites the Chief Engineer has selected for a further 150

canal feeder pumps to be installed near Sahiwal. These, being for the moment outside your electrified zone, are to be driven, temporarily at least, by Diesels.

"To sum up: the additional 80,000 tons of food which these 276 pumps will produce in the Rabi of 1945-46 are capable of keeping Lahore with its half million people alive for almost a year."

Punjab's Pumping Scheme

Sir William Stampe went on to describe the arrangements being made to produce for "hungry India's food campaign" 400 tube-well motor pumping sets with their transformers and switchgears for the United Provinces—Bihar—Baroda emergency schemes. He continued: Even in humid Bengal where irrigation, generally speaking, does not help much, six pilot river pumps are now being installed. These activities are capable between them of irrigating more than half a million new acres next year and producing 180,000 tons of extra foodgrains yearly. The argument that this represents some 30 full shiploads was, I believe, conclusive in securing the manufacture and shipping facilities at a critical time in the war.

But there is more in the Punjab project than this, like Shakespeare's "mercy." These canal pumps are twice blessed in that by removing 620 cusecs from the waterlogged

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regions along the canals to waterless zones to the south they will not only bring 250,000 additional acres of food crops under irrigation but will also enable better crops, and in some places new crops, to be sown in the upper zones to be drained by their aid.

Important as these so-called minor projects are to me, to you, Punjabis, with your lavish canal systems and your great Thal project about to start, in spite of the war, they may perhaps rank as rather trivial measures. But you may agree that, eventually, this incipient pumping scheme will spread and assume an important strategic function. Flying as I do from province to province I am impressed not only by the difference in irrigation intensity (which is perhaps just a tactical feature) but by the more important strategic contrast between conditions in the west U.P. and those prevailing in the Punjab.

In the U.P. as one's 'plane passes over the sadly too conspicuous "colour contrast"—the green and khaki belts—one feels a series of "bumps" resembling something between a green woodpecker's flight and the action of a spirited polo pony. This is particularly noticeable in the tube-well zone.

Now, is there a physical connection between this undulating flight and the underground water conditions or is it merely a flight of the imagination? Flying to Sargodha at sunset the other evening we saw through the dust haze to the south, traced in ethereal outline, rocky ridges out-cropping here and there in a way which to me was very suggestive.

Silently Rising Water-Table

Were not these out-crops the outward sign of an invisible ridge connected, so geologists hint, with the Aravallis to the south-east? If so might not this very stillness of the upper air be caused by the silently rising water-table below, imprisoned as it may be by the hidden bulkhead to the south and fed by the lavish canal system from the north? That you all appreciate the significance of this sinister question was shown in various practical ways: By the surface drains which were constantly being dug below us, by the substantial reaches of canals that were being lined and the other remedial works we saw in hand. But, in addition to all this, may I suggest to this august assembly—this time with my shoes off, hands folded and voice lowered—that some at least of the falls on the great Bari-Doab canal, faintly outlined away to the north-east, should be developed on a strategic scale to dewater, by means of really deep drains, vast areas of the saturated plains?

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An occasional visitor to your province is perhaps more anxious even than you are about this steadily increasing menace which, I understand, is even now forcing 50,000 of your acres out of cultivation every year.

In this regard may I point out to you that a great power project is now under preparation in the east U.P. where a helping hand is likely soon to be held out across the Sone to aid Bihar to dewater millions of acres of flooded land, thereby adding perhaps 10 per cent or more to the local rice-growing area.

Our American "Guru"—Mr. Savage

Now perhaps is the moment for us to fly to your north-east frontier valleys where another scheme is afoot whereby the Punjab's left hand will grasp the U.P.'s right to lift, by true co-operative action, the toiling cultivators of the plains below on to a better economic footing.

The origin of these regional projects is perhaps worthy of brief mention in that it marks the opening of what I make bold to believe is a great new effort to help humanity by the joint owners of our border rivers. Hitherto any unilateral action on one bank has usually met with a jealous frown from the other! As the result of a conference held in Government House, Naini Tal, only last June at which each side sank its individuality in the common good, a new spirit has arisen which I venture to hope will soon inspire engineers throughout this backward land. The same motive prevailed in the Jumna valley recently when several of us set about tapping the spacious mind of our American 'Guru', Mr. Savage, who it is good to see here today. The mutual desire was to exploit the full resources of the border rivers for the cultivators of both sides.

And now may I tell you about a flight we recently made up the Jumna valley on our way to Lahore? Leaving Delhi and its committees rather late we first passed over 50 miles of the U.P. western tube-well zone where more than half a million acres of waist high wheat are now growing, often, too, in places where ten years ago even grass dare not raise its head.

But just beyond were the great snow slopes—those infinite reserves of power—and as we entered the lower Himalayas a picture lay a mile below us that I shall not easily forget. Out of the mountains into the sunset came two winding blue streams, one the Giri—the Punjab's left hand—clasping the other—the Tons—the U.P.'s right. Below the confluence the great Jumna flowed on to feed its far canals.

And so we circled west to Ambala inspired afresh to carry out this prospect of better times for cultivators toiling beyond the haze.

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W.A.C.(I) Officers, attached to the Royal Air Force, on parade in New Delhi.

W.A.C. (I)'S 2ND BIRTHDAY: LADY WAVELL'S APPEAL

TO-DAY, April 9, 1944, is the second birthday of the women's Auxiliary Corps (India). It was formed for a single purpose: That women should enlist to release men for work in forward areas. It is not a separate women's

By H. E. Lady Wavell, Commandant-in-Chief of the W.A.C. (I).

A Broadcast from the Delhi station of All India Radio.

Army; it is part of the Forces of the Crown—part of the Navy, Army and Air Forces in India.

A real debt is owed to the first Chief Commander of the Corps—Lady James. By her clear vision and forward planning initial obstacles were surmounted and subsequent difficulties easily overcome, as they arose. Her recent

resignation owing to ill-health is a sad loss to the Women's Auxiliary Corps (India). The soundness of her pioneer work will not be forgotten.

The Corps is nearly 8,000 strong: it is a voluntary service. It has shown here in India what had already been proved in Great Britain, in Russia and in other Allied countries, that women can play a vital part in war, that they can give a tangible contribution towards victory. Two years of considerable experience have shown what a variety of work women in India can do and do well. In the Auxiliary Corps they are typists, storewomen, dispensers, kitchen supervisors, wireless mechanics, quarter-masters, clerks, secretaries, A.D.Cs., staff officers, adjutants and platoon commanders.

And here, I must make special mention of the Platoon Commanders in this women's Corps.

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Teacher grooms her pupils, before class begins at a modern nursery school.

ERADICATION OF ILLITERACY IN INDIA

IF the illiterates of India marched past at 25 miles a day it would take them 10 years to pass a stationary object!

This graphic picture of the extent of illiteracy in the country was given by one of the speakers in the first of the new All India Radio series "India To-morrow" broadcast from all A.I.R. stations on March 20. The subject under discussion was "Eradication of Illiteracy," with

*The first broadcast in the A.I.R. series—
"India To-morrow"*

Sir Rustom P. Masani in the chair and three other speakers, Miss Amy Rustomjee, Miss Kapila Khandvalla and Prof. R. Choksi, educationists who have been associated for a number of years with literacy campaigns in Bombay and other parts of India.

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The discussion started with a classification of those who do not believe in the literacy movement. Among these were mentioned the large-scale employer of labour who distrusts ideas of education for the working man, because it may put notions into his head; people who regard literacy as a new-fangled notion that would make for political unrest; those who consider there are more important things than literacy, like bread, and those who always warn us against mere literacy as it is not culture.

There was general agreement on the statement of Prof. Choksi: "It cannot be too often repeated that for laying the foundations of a proper education there is no substitute for literacy. If you cannot make people literate because numbers are too large and there is no money, do not pretend to educate them by boosting the resources of modern science."

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In giving a picture of the literacy problem in the country, Miss Rustomjee quoted figures from the last census. She graphically described the extent of the problem by stating that if the illiterates of India walked in a procession at 25 miles a day they would take 10 years to pass a stationary object. Only 8.62 per cent of the male and 2.63 of the female population of India are in educational institutions. In primary schools, there are 86 lakhs (8,600,000) of boys but only 28 lakhs of girls. In the secondary stage there are 23 lakhs boys and only 4 lakhs girls while at the university stage there are 134,000 young men and only 11,000 girls in all India. The Province with the lowest school attendance was given by Miss Rustomjee as the Central Provinces for boys and Bihar for girls. Even in Bombay nearly 36 per cent of the inhabited villages, i.e. 7,899, are without schools.

On the question of adult education Prof. Choksi mentioned the literacy campaign in Bombay city of 1939 which resulted in nearly a lakh, that is about 9 per cent of the city's population, becoming literate.

Ways And Means

The discussion then turned on ways and means of making India literate with the question, "Who should be responsible for it?" It was agreed that the only suitable agency was the State; for such a large-scale enterprise only the State could have the necessary powers and finances. But the State should be a democratic one with an enlightened Legislature and a Cabinet Minister responsible for education. In such a State there would be two education fronts—one, to make primary education free and compulsory so that every child would attend a primary school for at least 4 years and two, to educate all adults between 15 and 50. In primary schools the children would be supplied with books, paper, slates, pencils, etc. and a midday meal free of charge. State management of education would not exclude private institutions which would be able to continue under State control.

In regard to adult education it was pointed out that this problem was different from that of primary education. One could compel children, but it was difficult to compel adults who worked for the greater part of the day. A solution of the problem was suggested by Miss Khandvalla who said that compulsion might be put on employers of labour to run compulsory literacy classes. The workers would like to become literate if their wages were increased as soon as they passed the literacy test. It had also been definitely established that the efficiency of a literate worker was much higher than that

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of an illiterate. Another measure to spread literacy among adults would be to lay down as an essential condition of joining Government or municipal service or the Army, Navy or Police forces that the candidate must be in possession of a literacy certificate.

Properly organised classes should also be conducted in prisons while for the domestic servants employers should be made responsible. As for the agricultural population, Miss Khandvalla pointed to Russia which first organised a statistical agency and then proceeded to open classes in every single village.

The scheme would require a very large number of teachers, and for this purpose Miss Khandvalla suggested a scheme put forward by Miss Rustomjee some time ago under which Indian matriculates would be made to go to industrial and agricultural areas where they would have to conduct literacy classes before they could enter college.

Miss Khandvalla suggested that, apart from books, pictures, plays, exhibitions, newspapers, the radio and organised expeditions should be used in educating the masses.

The discussion was wound up by Sir Rustom P. Masani in these words: "Government and Government officials will, of course, have their part to play but the issues will be decided by men and women whose convictions, decisions and actions are the foundation upon which rest governments. No government will succeed if the public is apathetic, and if the Indian people can be convinced of the evils of illiteracy, we shall have taken the first step towards its eradication."

2000 A.D.: POPULATION OF 700 MILLIONS!

That India in 1943, had twice as many people to feed as in 1857, was pointed out in the course of a discussion on "The Problem of Population" broadcast from A.I.R. Stations on March 27. This was the second discussion in the series, "India To-morrow" and the speakers taking part were:—

Mr. P. K. Wattal (Chairman), Mr. F. W. Bustin,

*The second broadcast in the A.I.R. series—
"India To-morrow"*

Dr. E. D. Lucas, Mr. V. G. Kiernan and Mr. M. L. Chowla. At the present rate of increase India would have, by 2000 A.D., a population of 700 millions, according to Mr. Wattal's estimate.

Various aspects of the problem were discussed and a number of solutions suggested. While

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Mr. Bustin was for collective farming. Mr. Wattal thought that the countryside had to be drained of a large superfluous population by intensive industrialisation. It would, however, be a formidable task to find work for every able-bodied adult in the new industries which could be established in the near future. Dr. Lucas thought that district committees would help in drawing together and canalising the progressive forces of a community, particularly in the sphere of rural mass education. Education would increase the sense of social responsibility and make the individual hesitate to burden the world with ill-cared-for offspring.

Winding up the discussion, the Chairman remarked that the problem of population was primarily a biological and economic one and would have to be dealt with as such.

"What we have to consider," he said, "is whether at the rate at which our population is growing there is a possibility of achieving an adequate improvement in the standard of living by an all-round development of our economic resources." He suggested that in formulating economic and social policies for our country, due regard should be paid to the existing size and composition of the population and its probable growth in the future.

LADY WAVELL'S APPEAL

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Their work is never-ending, their responsibilities heavy. They must be efficient, for the welfare of the members of their Platoon depends upon their efficiency. They must be human, as the happiness and contentment of their Platoon depends on their kindness and tact.

To all who have joined, sincere congratulations and thanks. To those who have not, I say this: By leaving your home and being willing to lead this new, busy, disciplined life, you will prove your love for that home and for your country. You will also be a far more useful citizen when you return. If you have qualifications, or the wish, to nurse the sick and wounded, do so. It is woman's primary duty in war. If not, join the women's Auxiliary Corps if you are free to enlist; for there every type of talent can find its especial use. There is work for all. The only essential is a determination to serve the Allied cause.

May the daughters of India and the daughters of Britain, here in this country, go forward side by side as are their fathers, husbands, brothers and sons, until the menace of barbarism and tyranny has been swept into oblivion.

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THE Lingua Franca OF INDIA

BOTH Hindi and Urdu should be weaned from certain influences under which they have been functioning and which have made them drift further and further apart from each other, and should adjust and reconcile themselves to the needs of the times and to the requirements of the people.

These two points were brought out in the course of a discussion on "What should be the *lingua franca* of India?"—fourth in the A.I.R. series, "India To-morrow"—broadcast on April 10.

Mr. A. G. Shirreff, Adviser to the Governor of the United Provinces, who presided over the discussion, was sure that if these two points were constantly and diligently kept before our minds, they would, in the not too distant future, result in the evolution of a common language for India.

The fourth broadcast in the A.I.R. series—
"India To-morrow."

Rai Krishna Dass and Rai Bahadur Ram Babu Sexena advocated their respective case for Hindi and Urdu, while Dr. Tara Chand looked upon Urdu and Hindi as two extremes of a single medium of speech. "Urdu goes on absorbing indiscriminately more and more Arabic and Persian words," he said, "while Hindi continues to imbibe a large number of Sanskrit words." Dr. Tara Chand observed that in evolving a national language for India no political or religious considerations should colour our judgment.

The discussion started with the postulate that the *lingua franca* of India should be a language most widely spoken or understood and must be one which had naturally grown from the genius of people. The *lingua franca*, whatever it might be, should not replace any of the local or provincial languages but should serve as a means to inter-provincial intercourse.

W.A.C. (I.) BIRTHDAY PARADES

On April 10, there were W.A.C. (I.) Birthday Parades throughout India. Members of the Corps stationed in Delhi paraded on Kingsway. The Guard of Honour was formed by girls of the Navy, Army and Air Force Wings. Acting Chief Commander M. E. Douglas took the salute.

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Young India learns to Keep Fit. Drill at a modern nursery school.

What Should be the Complexion of our Education?

THE main indictment brought against the present system of education is that it is not merely unsuited but even inimical to the genius of India. This was pointed out by Prof. Mirza Mohd. Said in the course of his opening remarks at the third discussion entitled, "What should be the Complexion of Our Education?" broadcast from A.I.R. Stations on April 3, in the series, "India To-morrow."

The third broadcast in the A.I.R. series—
"India To-morrow."

Those who took part in the discussion were Dr. Zakir Hussain, Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao and Mrs. Hannah Sen. The lines on which education in this country should be reorganised, from the primary stage to the University, were discussed.

Dr. Zakir Hussain outlined what he considered a sound system of basic education which, besides making children literate, would aim at a minimum general cultivation of the mind and formation of character and equip them with

"the skill in living and working together," the basic skill of democratic life. This basic education must be free, compulsory and on a nation-wide scale. The minimum period of primary education would be seven to eight years.

A system of diversified schools—literary, scientific, technical, artistic—was suggested for the secondary stage. Such schools with domestic economy classes attached to them would be needed for girls.

Radical changes in the scope of university education were advocated by Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, who was of the opinion that the primary function of universities should be to provoke intellectual curiosity, train the mind and stimulate contributions to knowledge. Dr. Rao also emphasised the need for industrial and agricultural education on a nation-wide scale.

The speakers realised the necessity for improvement in the social and financial status of school and university teachers and examined the problem of financing their schemes. It was agreed that neither the money nor the supply of trained teachers, that would be required, were insurmountable difficulties.

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UNPRECEDENTED VOLUME OF TRAFFIC: ANNUAL REPORT OF P. AND T. DEPARTMENT

HANDLING of an unprecedented volume of postal, telephone and telegraph traffic, a record surplus of Rs. 4½ crores and putting into effect part of the 16-crore scheme for the development of telecommunications are highlights of the annual report of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for 1942-43.

The Telecommunications Development Scheme, the report reveals, is scheduled to be completed by the end of 1944-45. It provides for a large number of additional long-distance telephone and telegraph circuits, connecting all the important centres of India, and the erection of some 123,000 miles of wire and 11,000 miles of new post route. The scheme also includes the construction of a large number of circuits of a local nature required for operational purposes involving some 150,000 miles of wire and 12,500 miles of new post route. The construction of these additional outlets will not only relieve the

wartime congestion on the wires but will also be of considerable advantage in the post-war period of reconstruction.

The greatly increased volume of industrial and governmental activities resulting from the war are reflected in large increases in traffic of all kinds. *The number of postal articles handled rose from 1,272 millions to 1,370 millions, money orders from 48 to 51 millions, telegrams from 22½ to 24 millions, telephone subscribers from 102,000 to 106,000 and trunk telephone calls from 3.2 millions to 3.7 millions.* Owing partly to this increase in traffic and partly also to certain increases in rates, the year closed with a surplus of Rs. 4½ crores, the largest since 1925-26 from which year the accounts of the Department were put on a commercial basis.

Arrangements were completed in 1942-43 for the purchase of the telephone systems of companies operating in Bombay, Calcutta.

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L.Naik T. N. Srinivasan from Tanjore (Madras Presidency) franking letters at an Indian Field Post Office in Cyprus. Besides money order and savings bank facilities, about 2,000 letters and parcels are handled daily.

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NETWORK OF AIR CONNECTIONS

A NETWORK of air connections between the commercial and political centres of India and with extensions to capitals of adjacent countries is suggested by the Posts and Air Department of the Government of India in their memorandum on post-war civil air transport development, prepared for submission to the Post-War Reconstruction Policy Committee.

The plan contemplates the establishment of daily services on the main trunk air routes covering India north to south and east to west with link routes connecting trunk routes at suitable points. These services would cover an air route mileage of 10,500 with an annual flying mileage of 7,500,000 and with the aircraft of the class contemplated the total transport effected would amount to 12½ million ton-miles a year. As compared with the air services operating before the war, the annual flying mileage contemplated would be five times and the ton-mileage 15 times.

Primary Consideration

The scheme, it is pointed out, is not planned to force the development of air travel and the air consciousness of the people. Further development, with these objects, would have to be framed in a supplementary plan. The primary consideration kept in mind in framing the post-war plan is to provide a system of air services which are essential in modern conditions for the proper development of India as a whole socially, commercially and industrially.

The air services of the post-war era in and around India are planned to be as follows: International (Empire and foreign) air services; Indian trunk air services (including essential connections with neighbouring countries); and essential links between the trunk air services.

The development of trunk air services and essential links between them represents the basic plan. The development of international services will depend on the degree of co-operation which is brought about in the sphere of world air transport. This is now forming the subject of inter-national discussions and the Indian attitude at these discussions will be to agree to "freedom of the air" subject to the reservation of "cabotage" to Indian companies and full reciprocal rights for Indian operation outside India.

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For the development of Indian trunk air services, the Government of India will take the initiative in planning and organisation. They comprise the air services which, by their geographical extent and the importance of their potential traffic, constitute the main units of the air lines network. To serve their purpose they should be operated with a frequency of not less than one return service daily and must operate by night whenever and wherever practicable. The essential links between the trunk air services will be treated in the same way as the trunk services.

The development of local air services, the memorandum suggests, may safely be left to local and private enterprise and all that Government might do is to give assistance in the matter of ground organisation.

At pre-war prices, the capital cost of the fleet required to run the essential services is estimated at Rs. 150 lakhs. The annual cost of operation will be Rs. 2.53 crores during the first year, falling to Rs. 1.90 crores in the fifth year. The services will earn revenue by carrying mails, freight and passengers. It is estimated that the revenue in the first year will fall short of the cost of operation by Rs. 160 lakhs but in the fifth year will show a profit of Rs. 13 lakhs. The services, the memorandum adds, may be established and operated either by State, a statutory corporation, a single monopoly company or a limited number of companies.

CHEAP AND EFFICIENT TRANSPORT FOR ALL

The use of each means of transport for the traffic for which it is best suited is recommended by the Technical Sub-Committee on the future of Road Transport and Road-Rail Relations of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of the Governor-General's Executive Council.

Cheap and efficient transport for all, it says, can be achieved only if the transport resources available and to be made available are utilised to the best advantage possible, with due regard to the specific needs of the various sections of the community and avoiding overlapping with consequent waste both of transport capacity and financial resources of the country.

The Committee suggests a unified and co-ordinated transport policy, administered with the concurrence and co-operation of the Provinces, and with the single purpose of providing efficient transport. This policy necessarily requires regulation and control of all forms of transport.

There are many gaps within the network of Indian Railways which only road transport can

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nil. The introduction and development of motor transport in rural areas, the Committee says, will be of very great advantage and benefit to the rural population as well as to the trade, industry and general prosperity of the country as a whole. The picture of the future of rural India is one in which motor transport will penetrate to the remotest villages connecting them with the main transport system; and will play a gradually increasing part in marketing between village and market town and in distribution between town and village. Thus the villager will have at his disposal modern means of transport, readier communication with the outside world, medical attention and other social services to no less a proportionate degree than the town dweller. To attain this result, active development of road and constructive development of road transport are necessary.

Motor Transport On Sound Lines

The Committee recommends that a start should be made now, during the war, to develop motor transport on sound lines. The Central Government are distributing new motor vehicles for uses and under conditions approved by it. Circumstances are, therefore, favourable for introducing and establishing motor transport where it is needed. A start now made will, besides lessening the magnitude of the post-war problem, lay a strong foundation for future progress. In the post-war period, it points out, further development will be easily possible with the large number of vehicles and drivers which will be released after the war. This will also assist in resettling demobilised drivers.

Motor transport, not likely to be used to any appreciable extent in the near future for marketing staple crops, should be encouraged to assist special forms of agriculture, such as market gardening and fruit growing. The transfer to the roads of short-haul goods traffic, in which field motor transport can compete economically with railways, should be encouraged. Except where long distance goods traffic by road is in the public interest, competition between road and rail should be prevented by a system of regulation, combining expert judgment of the merits of each case on the basis of public and economic need with scientific zoning.

Indian Road Board

The Committee considers healthy competition between road and rail in the carriage of passengers desirable. The principle of maximum amalgamation of passenger service operators to form substantial concerns on main routes, and of controlled monopolies on light traffic routes, should be the basis of policy. Subject to salutary conditions, there should be no restriction on the range or numbers of passenger motor transport. Minimum fares for both road and rail

should be fixed by agreement. Railways, the Committee further suggests, should now develop closer co-operation with road passenger transport and ultimately acquire a commanding interest. There is, however, no advantage in railways operating or participating in motor transport of goods on parallel routes.

The Committee recommends that machinery should be set up, as soon as possible, to promote the rational development of motor transport and road-rail relations. In each Province there should be a whole-time Transport Commissioner. He should be the Chairman of the Provincial Transport Authority for passenger motor transport and controller of goods transport. The Committee further recommends a Central Transport Budget for transport as a whole, in which Provinces should share for pooling of revenues and balancing of capital expenditure on both road and rail. A small Expert Committee should be appointed immediately to make recommendations as to the structure of the Central Transport Budget.

The creation of an Indian Road Board is also recommended. Its functions would be to examine in greater detail the complex problems involved; to prepare for the launching of the road plan; to make a beginning in the regulation and co-ordination of transport and the development of closer road-rail relations; and ultimately to be responsible for the development of roads and road transport and to implement the policy of road-rail co-ordination.

20-YEAR ROAD PROGRAMME

The co-ordinated plan of road communications for India evolved at the Chief Engineers' Conference at Nagpur in December last has been published by the Posts and Air Department of the Government of India. Though no decisions have been reached on the views expressed by the Conference, its report will serve as the blue-print for post-war road development.

It suggests a 20-year programme for building 400,000 miles of roads at a total cost of Rs. 450 crores.

The development programme is divided in two parts, a long-term programme to give elaborate road communications throughout India and a short-term programme to deal with immediate problems arising out of the war. The latter includes the immediate making good of damage to roads due to war conditions of increased traffic and short supplies and the use of demobilised men together with machinery released at the end of the war.

The long-term programme divides roads into

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"Trails" for developing and opening up large tracts deficient in communication, Provincial or State Highways, District Roads and Village Roads.

The National Highways and the "Trails" are to be the framework within which the road system of the country is to be developed. These are to be the financial responsibility of the Centre both for construction and maintenance. Provincial Highways and rural communications, both village and district roads, are to be designed and constructed by the Highway Department of the Province or State.

Classification and other standards for the various roads have been laid down in the report. It is estimated that the total approximate lengths of hard crust roads will be 147,000 miles and of earth roads 253,000 miles, as against existing mileages of about 79,000 and 163,000 respectively. The maintenance costs, after completion of the programme, are anticipated to be Rs. 16 crores.

Skeleton Schemes

The report suggests that all Provinces and States should prepare skeleton schemes or Project Estimates for submission to the Centre by the end of August, 1944. The Provinces and States are required to indicate priority for the Projects proposed for construction during the first two years after the war. The Centre would decide the priorities for National Highways. Priorities for other types of Highways and roads will be decided by the Provinces and States themselves. Detailed estimates for all projects are required to be ready by December, 1944.

The report visualises the possibility of using demobilised personnel and machinery that would be available from Army surplus. Indents, it is suggested, should be placed for 1,200 rollers, one-third diesel and two-thirds steam. The immediate formation of a Road Board is also suggested. The Board, it is laid down, will balance rival claims for priority in construction; co-ordinate and direct the efforts of all construction agencies; phase work so as to make the best use of demobilised men and plant released by the Army; regulate competition between the various construction agencies for labour and material; decide rival claims for priority in bridge construction; decide on allocation of available tools and plant; discourage recruitment of staff on a parochial rather than a qualification basis; and deal with similar difficult and controversial matters. It will be guided in its policy by the recommendations of an Advisory Council.

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P. AND T.: ANNUAL REPORT

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Madras, Karachi and Ahmedabad. The entire telephone system of the country thus came under State management and the total number of telephones under the Department almost trebled.

A substantial increase in foreign parcel traffic was registered during the year. The airgraph service was introduced in February, 1942, and over 9,000,000 airgraphs were despatched and a little less than that number was received. Further concessions were granted to members of the Fighting Forces in respect of posting of letters, including the concession of free transmission of letters posted in the Eastern Army area, the Madras District and the Deccan Independent area of the Southern Army.

There was further extension of postal facilities, particularly in rural areas. Of 905 experimental post offices, 191 (27 urban and 164 rural) were made permanent, 49 (12 urban and 37 rural) were closed and 665 (134 urban and 531 rural) continued on an experimental basis.

The report records the loyal conduct of the Posts and Telegraphs staff during the disturbances of 1942. Rewards amounting to Rs. 15,167 were granted to 483 officials for exemplary behaviour and devotion to duty during the disturbances when 60 post and telegraph offices were completely destroyed and 270 offices were seriously damaged. Telegraph and telephone lines were tampered with on 12,000 occasions. The estimated loss to Posts and Telegraphs property as a result of the disturbances was Rs. 3½ lakhs.

Articles Without Address

The total number of postal articles dealt with by the Dead Letter Offices during the year under review was 8½ millions as compared with 6½ millions in the preceding year. Most of these were re-issued for delivery to addresses and the number of articles deposited as "dead" was 732,805, or approximately five in every 10,000 received for delivery. On an average, 244 articles were posted in India daily without any address.

Out of its War Purposes Fund, the Department presented two ambulance cars and one amenities carrier to the fighting forces. A sum of Rs. 19,000 was given to organisations and funds associated with war relief work.

A comforts fund started by the Department for its officials on field service continued to be useful work and over 600 parcels were sent during the year.

BRITISH EXPERIENCE APPLICABLE IN PLANNING POST-WAR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

"IN the last few years a number of committees and other bodies have been set up (in the United Kingdom), or have formed themselves, to consider the place of scientific research and technical education in relation to national welfare in its many aspects. Their findings are applicable, *mutatis mutandis*, in many ways to conditions in India."

Thus observes Prof. A. V. Hill, O.B.E., F.R.S., M.P., Secretary of the Royal Society, who studied at the invitation of the Government of India, the question of post-war scientific research in this country, in his preface to a book containing a collection of eight reports and articles on scientific research in the United Kingdom, issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department of the Government of India under the caption "Scientific Education and Research in Relation to National Welfare."

Importance of Scientific Research

Recently in the United Kingdom, as elsewhere, observes Prof. Hill, the part which scientific and technical education and research can play, indeed must play, in all future plans of national welfare and development has been much more fully realised than before. In the reconstruction of the world at large many of the gravest problems in agriculture, food, health, natural resources, power, transport, etc., will require first class scientific and technical knowledge and their resolute application for their solution. Also, in connection with colonial development, there is a growing conviction that the primary object must not be the exploitation of the natural resources of the colonial territories but the welfare and betterment of the colonial people themselves. This requires widespread application of scientific methods to colonial problems, for example, to health, population, agriculture, fisheries, new industries, raw materials, geological and other surveys, education, etc. Further, there is a common desire—as evidenced for example by the enthusiasm for the Beveridge Report—for better social, industrial and agricultural conditions and for improving the security and amenities of life all of which demand the use of new methods which science and technology alone would appear to offer.

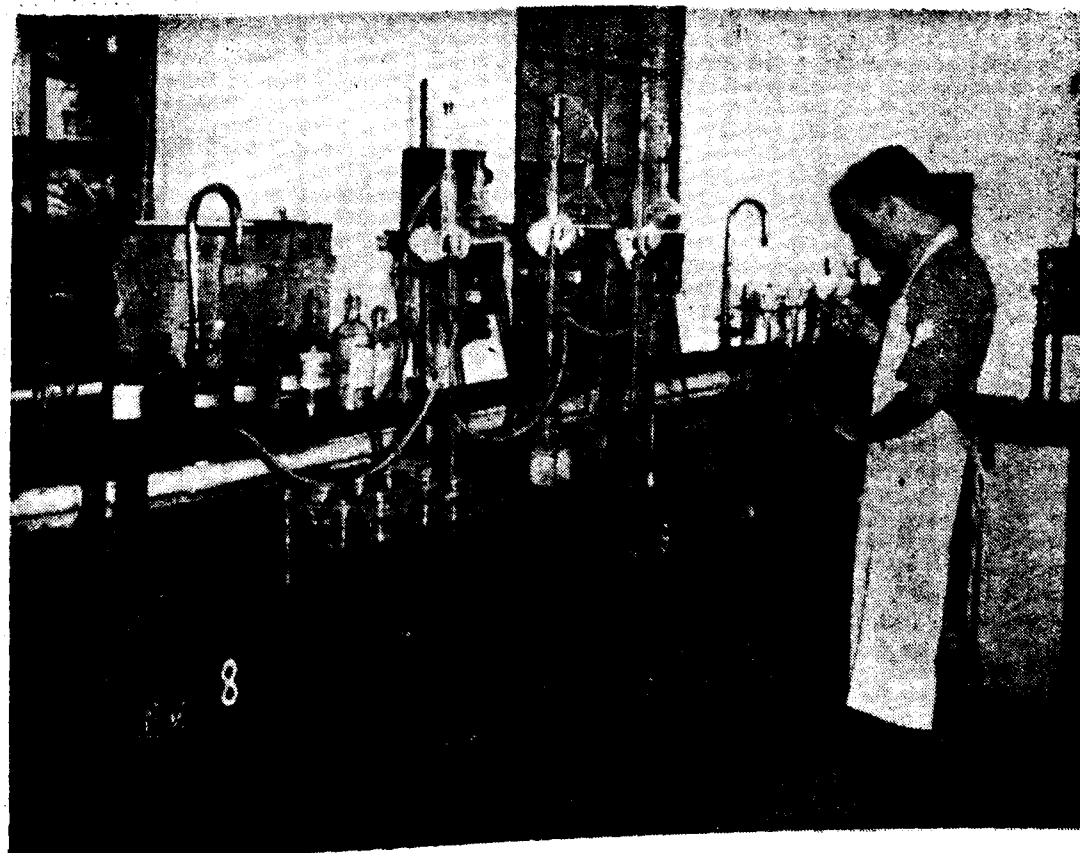
The British Commonwealth Science Committee of the Royal Society, says Prof. Hill, has suggested the desirability of maintaining permanent scientific and technical representation in London and possibly also in other capital cities

of the English-speaking world. It is further of the opinion that "if scientific and technical representatives of the Dominions and India are permanently established in London, these, together with official representatives of Science in the United Kingdom and the Colonies, should be constituted into a British Commonwealth Collaboration Committee, to act with the Royal Society in the discussion of topics of common interest, to keep in touch with all agencies and organisations for the collection and dissemination of scientific information, to further schemes for co-operation in research and to make such recommendations and proposals for common action as seem fit."

Prof. Hill thinks that, if this plan could be carried out, very great advantage might result not only to India but to all the other countries concerned as "two-way traffic between all important points in the scientific system is essential." He hopes that the absence of any representatives of Indian science in London to attend the meetings of the British Commonwealth Science Committee may soon be put right as the real object in setting up this Committee was, in the first instance, to plan co-operation in scientific research within the Empire, the Dominions, India and the Colonies, leading in due course to a more general collaboration.

Wanted—A Bolder Research Policy

That in the post-war period in Great Britain research and its application must be on a far bolder and more imaginative scale than in the period 1919-1939, is the opinion of the Parliamentary Scientific Committee, an unofficial Parliamentary Group devoted to the advancement of scientific knowledge, whose report on "Scientific Research and the Universities in Post-war Britain" is published in the book. "We ought, in fact, to look forward," says the report, "to spending at least ten times as much annually after the war on research and development in order to provide the necessary basis without which neither our agriculture nor our industry can meet the needs of the future." With this object in view, it recommends, *inter alia*, the expansion of the Universities and Technical Colleges and an all round improvement in the teaching of science and scientific principles at all stages of education for the whole school population of the country and a capital grant to the Universities of the United Kingdom of £10,000,000, to be spread over the first five post-war years.



The Army in India has established various centres where ghee (unclarified butter) is purified and laboratory-tested before being distributed to the Indian Army. Ghee differs according to the age of the supply animal, its food and the climate to which it has been accustomed.

The report of Nuffield College on "Industry and Education" explains Prof. Hill, stresses the importance of technical bias in education. "It is of the greatest importance," states the report, "to raise the prestige of high manual skill and to persuade boys, parents and schoolmasters alike that the skilled crafts offer at least as promising and interesting a prospect, and as good an opportunity of advancement, as many 'white-collar' jobs. Unless this is done, the development of industry is bound to be seriously prejudiced and productivity to remain at too low a level to satisfy the reasonable aspirations of the main body of the people."

Prof. Hill endorses this opinion and observes, "It is no service to the young people or their country to increase the number of unemployed middle class. That is exactly what we have been doing by exalting clerical jobs at the expense of technical ones. If only ourselves, our administrators, our officials had been brought up with less knowledge perhaps of Latin, Greek, Ancient Philosophy and the Law but with greater knowledge of agriculture, craftsmanship,

industry and health and of the real world in which we all have to live, if only the teachers in our schools had had a wider experience of that real practical world, how much happier we, they and their pupils might all be!"

Commenting further on the concluding sentence of the Nuffield Report that to make industry more fruitful it is essential that the spectre of unemployment should be removed from men's minds and that no vested interest should be allowed to stand in the way of the fullest possible production, or of the use of full production for the single purpose of improving the quality of human life, Prof. Hill pungently remarks that "if that makes one a socialist, then most of us are socialists to-day."

Discussing the relationship of Research Associations to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in England, the article on the subject by Mr. A. L. Hetherington gives interesting details of expenditure on scientific research in Great Britain. It states that these

Associations were started at the end of the last war with the help of a million-pound sterling fund voted by the Government to the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and that there are now 24, all self-governing bodies, supported voluntarily by firms engaged in the industries for which they cater, or in a few cases by a levy on the raw materials of the industry in question. The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research supports the associations financially by means of annual grants to an amount depending on the subscriptions from industry.

This year the total income of the Associations will be over £800,000, of which £275,000 will be Government grant. The subscriptions vary with the size of the member firm, being in some cases as low as £10 annually for the smallest unit. Most of the associations possess their own laboratories, but some of their work is done in Government or University laboratories or in the laboratories of member firms. The control of the associations is in the hands of Councils elected by the members; the results of the work are confidential to members in the first instance, but in fact, much of it is subsequently published and added to the general fund of knowledge.

Achievements of Research

What research has meant in peacetime to Britain can be seen from the savings that have come from a few inventions, observes the article on "Industrial Research: What it means to British Industry" by Sir Harold Hartley. It is estimated that the gas-filled lamp developed by Langmuir represents an annual saving in the cost of domestic lighting in the United Kingdom alone of £50,000,000. The improvement in the efficiency of the petrol engine due to lead ethyl saves over 2,000,000,000 gallons of petrol a year. The use of accelerators for vulcanising rubber has saved capital outlay on moulds estimated at £16,000,000. Research on motor tyres has increased their average life from 3,000 miles to over 20,000 miles. Naturally, these vast savings have been reflected in the profits, and prosperity of the industries and firms responsible for these great technical advances.

The Federation of British Industries, whose views on industrial research are published in the book, emphasises the need for intensive research by individual firms. It recommends, among other things, that every manufacturing firm should take stock of its position to ensure that it is devoting to research and development the maximum effort and funds, commensurate with the nature of its problems. Wherever possible it should maintain its own research department. The firms comprising the industries which have

their own collective research associations should give them adequate financial and other aids so that they can further the interests of industry as a whole. Finally, every industry which has not created a collective research association should set up a co-operative research committee and take steps to create and maintain a research fund.

The suggestions contained in the above articles, observes Prof. Hill, refer particularly to industry. "But what is true of industry," he says, "is true of most other forms of human activity. The same things could be said *mutatis mutandis* about agriculture, about health and nutrition, about tropical medicine, about fisheries, about transport and communications—and about the making of war; and I suppose it could be said also about those other fields of human activity to which the social rather than the natural sciences apply."

Prof. Hill, pleading for a scientific outlook in administration, observes that the more a Government office is staffed by persons having an appreciation of science and research, the more progressive and adaptable to changing circumstances it is likely to be. The general scientific outlook of Government, he says, must be raised if the understanding and appreciation of new scientific inventions, discoveries and developments are to be increased.

In his opinion, if only one per cent of the total value of industrial production were spent on research and development, the increased productive efficiency and employment capacity would yield an annual return of many times such expenditure.

Colonial Research and India

Observing that the need of and the problems for scientific work in many of the colonial territories are much more similar to those of India than to those of the United Kingdom, Prof. Hill states that "in India research has gone so far in various directions, for example, in the utilisation of tropical raw materials for new industrial purposes, that there would be great advantage in the work of the Colonial Research Committee if it could secure the closer collaboration of Indian scientific workers. Very often it has happened in the past that India could learn, and has learnt, from elsewhere; in this case it is likely that the boot will be on the other leg and that the initial advantage will be the other way round. Traffic, however, in scientific research is certain to come both-ways and the advantage will ultimately be to both parties."

In conclusion, Prof. Hill makes one or two observations regarding research for knowledge

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and the application of scientific research to the practical problems of industry or of human welfare. "On the average and in the long run," he says, in respect of the former aspect of research, "the pursuit of knowledge is one of the most fruitful occupations of mankind and to attempt to tie it down too closely to immediate practical results will be to deny it the possibility of growing to its full structure. In simple words, opportunities must always be given for the pursuit of science as a thing in itself and for its own sake, and a scientist must be valued by his fellowmen and his fellow-scientists for his capacity for original thinking and discovery, not for the financial or practical value of his results."

As regards research in its application to practical problems, he says that "it is no good leaving the direction to practical men alone if these have no knowledge or experience of science. Such direction must be a joint concern between the scientist and the practical man, and among the practical men, as the report of the F.B.I. emphasizes, there must be some with active knowledge of science and experience of research. The scientist, some foolish man has said, must be "on tap but not on top." He need not be on top but he must in fact be treated as an equal partner in the enterprise of applying science to obtain a practical result. With- ing science to obtain a practical result. With- out that equal partnership between science and administration or business; at the level of policy and direction, the best results will never be obtained."

PLANNING UNDER SINGLE NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Addressing a Press Conference in New Delhi on April 4, Prof. Hill said:

I am returning to England by air this week and hope, as soon as possible, to follow up and there many of the discussions we have had and plans we have made here, particularly in regard to co-operation between the scientific people in India and the United Kingdom. The visit of the Indian scientific men to England has now been definitely fixed for May. They will be very warmly received: they will see everything possible in the time at their disposal; and I hope that the arrangements resulting from their visit will ensure much closer contact and collaboration in future.

I should not like to leave India without expressing to the Press my deep appreciation of the welcome I received here: not only from my scientific colleagues, many of whom I know or knew about already, but from everybody. The

friendliness of the Press to the purpose of my visit, and to what I have done and said, has meant a great deal in this, and I should like to express my warm and sincere thanks. As I said in my earliest talks here, if there is any subject in which people ought to be able to collaborate and be fair, friendly and reasonable to each other, it is Science. This is one of the great contributions which Science can make to the world. People in India obviously believe that as strongly as I do.

I recorded last week a broadcast talk to be given after I have left. (The text of the talk is published on page 475). In it I refer to the four different processes:—Education; Research; Development or experimental trial; Production or large-scale application. In some form or other almost every aspect of National Development (agriculture, health, food, industry, communications, transport, etc.) involves these four processes. In India the situation is further complicated by the existence of a number of different Provinces and States. If National Development in India is to become a consistent organic whole all these different processes in all the different subjects and in all the different regions must be planned somehow together. Otherwise vital things will be neglected. I cannot see how this can be done properly unless the whole business of planning is put under a single national authority with a proper planning staff.

"All-India Medical Centre"

In this process of National Development the scientific method and outlook are wanted to leaven the whole lump. This means a great increase in scientific education, particularly in the higher stages, and the latter requires, for the present at least, that young Indian scientists, engineers, doctors, etc., should go abroad for advanced study and training. In the long run it will require also a number of special institutions in India in the various subjects—medicine, technology, etc.—in which people can be trained to the very high standards required to-day. An "All India Medical Centre" at which the medical teachers and research workers of the future can be trained is one such requirement. Nothing but the best should be good enough for these special institutions, by which the national standard in the various fields would be set and maintained.

In addition to organisations for medical, agricultural and industrial research, I think that others are required for Civil Engineering (roads, irrigation, bridges, soil erosion, structures, air-fields, etc.) and for Surveys and Natural Resources. The latter is very important. The natural resources of India are very great but

nobody knows yet exactly what or where they are. These five scientific organisations should be tied together in some way to ensure a consistent policy.

India has done a very great deal in the scientific and technical fields in the last 25 years—in fact more, in many respects, than in all previous history. The foundations have been well laid. Now if all goes well we can look to great developments.

INDIAN SCIENTISTS TO VISIT U.K.

Invitations on behalf of His Majesty's Government are being extended to seven Indian scientists to visit England for six weeks to meet and have discussions with various scientific bodies.

The scientists to be invited are: DR. SIR S. S. BHATNAGAR, F.R.S., Director of Scientific and Industrial Research, and President-elect of the Indian Science Congress; DR. S. K. MITRA, Chairman, Radio Research Committee of the Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, and Secretary, Indian Science Congress Association; COL. S. L. BHATIA, Deputy Director General, Indian Medical Service, a Member of the British Physiological Society, a former Dean of the Grant Medical College and Superintendent of the J.J. Group of Hospitals, Bombay; SIR PHEROZE KHAREGAT, Vice-Chairman, Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; SIR J. C. GHOSH, Head of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, Chemical Technologist and President of the National Institute of Sciences of India; PROF. M. N. SAHA, F.R.S., Professor of Physics in the University of Calcutta, astrophysicist and Editor of *Science and Culture*; and DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR, Vice-Chancellor, Madras University, and a Member of the Health Survey and Development Committee.

The party will leave India early in May and the programme in England includes meetings and discussions with bodies like the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, the Medical Research Council, the Agricultural Research Council, the Radio Board and the Royal Society.

MICA PRODUCTION

Questions relating to mica production in India were discussed on April 10, at a conference attended by representatives of the Central Government, mica industry and mica labour. The Hon'ble Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, Labour Member, presided.

The agenda for the Conference included proposals to amend the Mica Control Order, 1940. The possibility of the Labour Member visiting mica centres was mentioned at the meeting.

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NEW LABORATORIES FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

At a meeting of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research held in Delhi recently, the Hon. Sir Azizul Haque, the President, and Member for Commerce, Industries and Civil Supplies, referred to the munificent gift of Tatas to the Council which now amounts to Rs. 20 lakhs, Rs. 11.70 lakhs being for the proposed National Metallurgical Laboratory and Rs. 8.30 lakhs for the proposed National Chemical Laboratory.

He also referred to the additional grant of Rs. 10 lakhs, announced in the budget, for building a Central Fuel Research Station and Central Glass and Silicate Research Institute and, for planning a National Chemical, National Physical and National Metallurgical Laboratories, to the promise therein of a grant of a crore of rupees within three or four years after the cessation of hostilities.

The Council agreed to the proposal by the Director that the present laboratories of the Director of Scientific and Industrial Research should be divided into two sections—a chemical laboratory and a physical laboratory—so that their amalgamation with the proposed National Chemical and National Physical laboratories might be easier. This would also, it was pointed out, relieve the Director of routine laboratory duties, which would be done for the time being by Dr. Siddiqui and Dr. Verman, respectively, the present Assistant Directors, who have been appointed officiating Directors of the two laboratories.

The Director has been entrusted with the task of planning the new institutions with the aid of committees consisting of unofficial and official experts and industrialists. Tentative plans for the National Chemical Laboratory are ready and are being examined by local and foreign experts.

The formation of an Atmospheric Research Committee at the suggestion of Prof. M. N. Saha and Dr. C. W. B. Normand was approved. The Governing Body also sanctioned seven new research schemes.

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A GREAT, BOLD AND IMAGINATIVE PLAN OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

THIS talk is the beginning of a series, each dealing with some special application of science. This, the first of the lot, refers to science applied to social welfare—which really covers most other applications of science as well. I am not competent as a natural scientist to talk about the social sciences, indeed a bit of confusion is apt to arise from the use of the word science for two such different things. It is true that they merge into one another in various ways, because of the enormous impact to-day of natural science on human affairs: and the best exponents of the social sciences are trying to work in the same objective dispassionate way as those of the natural sciences.

Their task is more difficult, but the example of medicine can hearten and guide them. Medicine, if anything, could be called a social science: except perhaps for astronomy, it is the oldest natural science and the mother of most others; and its dispassionate study of disease, as

By Prof. A. V. Hill, O.B.E., M.P.,
F.R.S., Secretary of the Royal Society.

(A broadcast on All India Radio, April 6,
initiating a series entitled "Science and
Social Welfare.")

a thing in itself, apart from—but not disregarding—the emotions of its victims, is what has made so much progress possible. That will be true of the other social sciences too, as they come to use more and more the methods of careful observation and—where possible—of experiment.

Hitherto the chief applications of natural science have been in physics, chemistry and engineering: but in future the biological sciences are going to have their turn too. Man after all, as an individual and in human society, is a biological unit: and as the biological sciences advance, with the aid it is true of the physical sciences, they will have a greater and greater application to human affairs, they will merge more and more into the social sciences. That will require a far more widespread knowledge of biology—more biological education, more biological research, a more general realisation of the ways in which biology can influence human welfare. The practical problems of India, as I have often said, are largely biological ones, connected with food and health and disease, with

population, with the uses of plants and animals, and indeed with human behaviour in the family and in larger communities. The solution of these problems cannot come from industrialisation alone, or from engineering, transport or communications alone—important as those are. It requires a wider general knowledge and appreciation of biological facts and principles.

Four Phases

There are four phases in the impact of science on social welfare; first, education; second, research; third, technical development or experimental trial; and fourth, industrial production or large-scale application. We must not neglect any one of these phases. My particular purpose has been to emphasise the role of research out I am very well aware of the necessity of all of them. They too merge into one another, but so do most things, and that is no reason for not keeping them all in mind as largely separate processes. If we do not, we may find that one or other has been badly neglected.

Scientific education and research are good things in themselves—not least, I sometimes think, because scientific people on the whole are less inclined than others to believe in magic. Magic of various kinds is the source of a great deal of trouble in the world: big trouble, like that produced by the racial ideas of the Germans and the Japs, social and economic troubles like those due to taboos and unreasoning prejudice, minor troubles like those caused by fraudulent claims and advertisements for worthless objects. Scientific education and discovery also add breadth and stature to the human mind—which, surely, is a desirable end in itself. If, however, the new knowledge is to be applied practically to human welfare—and, God knows, there is enough dumb misery in the world, demanding its application—then it is somebody's business to set about the third and fourth phases. We research scientists can influence the third phase, that of technical development or experimental trial: though it is not strictly our job, and it is not much good unless the fourth phase, of industrial production or large-scale application, is in view. The fourth phase requires that the National purpose, should be clearly in mind—that some great plan of National Development should be there to supply the motive power, to provide the resources and to guide the way.

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The idea of a great and bold and imaginative plan of National Development for India is in the air. If it is to succeed it will require a common sense of the National Purpose, the co-operation of all men of goodwill, and the use of all available resources whether of men or material; together with a conviction that the end can be reached not by political conjuring but only by hard and devoted work. In that task Science can play an essential part, but only a part, many other things are necessary, though one may hope that the principles of Science and its objective methods will penetrate the whole business. I make big claims for science, but not of any magical qualities. Much else is needed, particularly of initiative, co-operation and hard work in the fourth and last phase, the phase of production of large-scale application—by private enterprise and by Government alike. Without that phase the fruits of practical results will not be harvested.

The scientific method is not equally applicable to all aspects and in all stages of social welfare. The medical needs of India, for example, are partly of more and more scientifically trained doctors, of higher medical and surgical standards, of more knowledge and more research, but to an appalling degree they are also of more nurses, more midwives, more hospitals, more health centres and more equipment. The needs of public health are partly of improved scientific knowledge, and of more and better trained personnel but largely of vigorous administrative action based on existing knowledge and methods for avoiding disease. The needs of agriculture are partly of new knowledge, and of more scientifically trained men but largely again of clear decision and vigorous action in applying methods and principles already known. The same is true in transport and communications, in electrification, in irrigation, in forestry, in soil maintenance, in food, and in building up a modern and progressive industry.

Practical Application

All this practical application of existing knowledge will inevitably turn up new problems requiring research—it always does. At intervals in the practical application we shall get badly stuck unless the research man is available to help us over new and unexpected obstacles. It very often happens that research started in that way leads to new and valuable discovery. Practical application is often the best stimulus to pure research. If, therefore, we intend to go in for great national developments, in industry, or agriculture, or health, we must lay down, not only the plant and the trained workmen and executives, but the trained research workers as well.

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Large-scale industry or agriculture without adequate research is like a battleship or cruiser without an escort of destroyers or aircraft—it is pretty likely to get sunk!

The trouble is that there are not yet enough men, trained to a high enough standard in science and technology, to go round. They are wanted, not only for research but in all the other phases of development and application. If we want to apply existing knowledge, then somebody at a high enough level—where policy is decided—must know it. If in a works or the field a snag turns up somebody must be there to recognise that a scientific problem is involved, and know how to express it in scientific terms and where to turn for a solution. These men must be trained in a research atmosphere, not just taught out of books. That's one of the reasons for greatly extended research facilities in universities and other institutions. Science must leaven the whole lump of National Development—and it must be real science, based not on hearsay but on practical experience.

Foundations Well Laid

It is commonly said that for a country of its size and natural resources, and considering the innate ability of its people, not nearly enough is being done in India in these scientific and technical matters. That's perfectly true, but sometimes when my Indian friends talk too dolefully or impatiently about it I have to tell them not to be pessimists. For in fact a vast deal has been done, and the foundations have been laid for the great developments to come. The curve of growth always rises slowly at first, becoming gradually steeper and it is no good grumbling because growth didn't begin earlier. It's a good thing to grumble and be impatient—but not too much or all the time: occasionally one ought to look back and take heart from what has actually been done.

In Tropical Medicine, for example, India has made some of the greatest contributions of all. In irrigation a vast amount of experience has been gained. In the last 25 years indeed the growth of science in India has been greater than in all previous history—in the foundation of scientific societies and journals, in the establishment of scientific institutions, in agriculture, in building up technical industry, and in actual research work published: not so bad a record! In a country so vast, with such vast potentialities, but till recently so undeveloped, we must not be too impatient with the progress already made. It is true that there is more than enough crying out to be done; but some of it is being done already and if things go right much more will be done in the next few years.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 480)

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HEALTH SURVEY AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

THE following statement was issued by Sir Joseph Bhore, Chairman, Health Survey and Development Committee, on April 10:

The Health Survey and Development Committee has had many difficulties to contend with in its work so far. The provision of adequate Secretariat staff equipped with the requisite qualifications to deal with the mass of highly technical and complicated subjects with which the Committee is concerned has been a major problem which has only been solved in the past few days.

The Committee members are drawn from all parts of India and come from Baluchistan in the west to Calcutta in the East, from the Punjab in the North to Madras in the South. The difficulty of getting a Committee so composed to meet frequently and to keep in the close touch necessary to carry on intensive work of the nature involved in our enquiry needs no stressing. The difficulty has been reduced only through the readiness of my colleagues to make the personal sacrifices involved in giving very high priority to the work of the Health Committee. The issue of the detailed questionnaires by the Advisory Committees constituted from among the members of the Health Committee to deal with the main heads of our enquiry has resulted already in the receipt of much material.

Provincial Governments have sent in replies but the response from private individuals and bodies has been comparatively meagre so far. From members of the public and public associations we have received about 40 memoranda. In addition, 30 witnesses have already been pre-examined, while 157 memoranda have been prepared from material and literature so far available, for the Committee's examination and consideration.

A number of important *ad hoc* Sub-committees have been formed, some of which have made considerable progress with their work. These Sub-Committees are composed of experts in their own subjects who come from all parts of India to give the Health Committee the benefit of their knowledge and advice. These bodies, though they have not as yet completed their tasks, have met the various Advisory Committees for discussion and have rendered most valuable assistance.

The Committee is now breaking up into four groups for the purpose of touring, making local inspections and taking evidence in the Provinces. One group will tour Bengal, Bihar,

Orissa and the Central Provinces. A second will go to Madras and later visit Mysore and Hyderabad States. A third will now visit Bombay, Sind, the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and later the United Provinces and Delhi Province. The fourth, which will investigate the question of Industrial Health, will see as many industrial centres as possible, throughout the country.

Tours have had to be greatly restricted owing to present conditions and to that extent the work of the Committee will be definitely handicapped. The tours will be completed by about the end of May. After the material received by that date has been digested and properly collated it is hoped to hold a meeting of the Main Committee about the middle of July.

CONCESSIONS TO NEWSPAPERS

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on March 30, stated:

In the Press Note issued on February 18, 1944, newspapers were allowed to print extra pages and consume a correspondingly increased quantity of newsprint. These concessions were granted temporarily for a period of six weeks from February 18, to March 31, 1944. The Government of India have decided to extend the concessions for a further period, namely:

- (1) Increase by one-seventh in the number of pages admissible under the Newspaper Control Order, 1942. In cases in which this additional number of pages plus the existing permissible number of pages do not work out to an even number, the resultant figure may be rounded to the nearest even number.
- (2) Increase by one-seventh in the ration of newsprint admissible to newspapers in accordance with the permits issued under the Newsprint Control Order, 1941. This applies both to permits issued for the purchase and use of newsprint and to permits issued only for the use of newsprint from stock.

The increased number of pages will not entitle a newspaper to increase its price correspondingly.

These concessions are subject to review periodically in accordance with the supply position of newsprint.

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EAST AFRICAN IMMIGRATION RESTRICTIONS ARE A TEMPORARY WAR MEASURE

THE assurance that the Government of India will take all possible action to ensure that the recent restrictions on the entry of Indian immigrants into Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika are withdrawn as soon as such justification as there may be for them has disappeared, was given by the Hon'ble Mr. R. N. Banerjee, Secretary, Commonwealth Relations Department, in the Council of State on April 6, speaking on a resolution moved by the Hon'ble Mr. P. N. Saprú recommending to the Governor-General in Council to take immediate steps to secure the withdrawal of the Regulations having the effect of restricting the entry of Indian immigrants into Kenya, which came into force recently. Mr. Banerjee said:—

It was in December, Sir, that we had an intimation from the Tanganyika Government that they were going to introduce certain Defence Regulations prohibiting the entry of fresh immigrants into the Colony unless they held an entry permit to be granted by the Governor of the Colony. The Tanganyika Government stated, Sir, that extreme pressure of housing and other accommodation in urban areas had rendered it necessary to introduce stricter control than hitherto over the entry of non-natives into this territory. They also assured us that this legislation will be in the form of a Defence Regulation and is not intended to be of permanent effect. It has been rendered necessary, they went on to say, by the substantial rate of increase in the non-native population which, owing to an acute shortage of housing accommodation, has produced congestion amounting in some cases to slum conditions. Entry permits are to be granted only to such new entrants as are required in the Colony in furtherance of the local war effort and a certificate to this effect has to be granted by the Director of Man-Power. Persons normally resident in the particular territory would, however, be allowed to enter without an entry permit, provided they have not remained absent from the Colonies for more than two years. Their wives, daughters and minor sons were also similarly exempted from these new restrictions.

These Regulations were brought into force in Tanganyika on February 14, and about the 3rd week of February the Governments of Kenya and Uganda also informed us that they were going to introduce similar Defence Regulations imposing temporary restrictions on the entry of fresh immigrants into their Colonies and these were brought into force on March 1. In addition to the shortage of housing accommodation,

these two Governments urged the shortage of foodstuffs as a further reason for these restrictions.

The House may like, Sir, to know the operative portions of the Regulation. These are as follows:—

"Subject to the provisions of these regulations no person shall enter the Territory unless he is the holder of an entry permit issued to him under the provisions of these regulations.

"Entry permits may be issued only by or under the authority of the Governor or by such person as may be authorised in that behalf by the Governor by notice published in the Gazette.

"An entry permit will not be issued unless the applicant therefor satisfies the Governor or the person authorised to issue entry permits that he proposes to take up employment in an approved occupation."

(These approved occupations, Sir, are more or less what we call "Essential Services.")

"Any person specified in any of the paragraphs set out in the Second Schedule hereto shall be entitled to enter the Territory although he is not the holder of any entry permit issued under the provisions of these regulations."

The Second Schedule, Sir, which gives what I may call "the exemptions" from the Regulations runs as follows:—

(a) Persons normally resident in the Territory who are absent therefrom, provided that such persons have not been absent from the Territory for more than two years;

(b) Wives, sons under 18 years of age and daughters of persons mentioned above.

(c) Persons in the service of the Government of the Territory;

(d) Members of His Majesty's Naval, Military or Air Forces on active service;

(e) Persons in direct transit through the Territory to a destination outside the Territory;

(f) Persons accredited as consuls or vice-consuls in the Territory;

(g) Visitors to the Territory who declare that they do not intend to stay in the Territory for a period exceeding three months; and

(h) Natives, excluding Somalis.

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I should add that Kenya and Uganda have not exempted temporary visitors from these restrictions, although, in response to a reference made by us, they have agreed not to make any difficulty about *bona fide* visitors obtaining entry permits.

Purely Temporary Restrictions

Many countries affected by war conditions have had to impose such temporary restrictions on the influx of outsiders into their territories. These very East African Colonies in December, 1941, imposed similar temporary restrictions on immigration by stiffening their passport regulations. Our first reaction, therefore, was that the new restrictions were only designed to tighten up still further these passport regulations. Government did not see any great risk of hardship to Indians in the general principle of a country affected by war conditions seeking to keep down its floating population by tightening up its passport regulations.

I may tell the House that we have had a categorical assurance from all the three Governments that the restrictions are purely temporary and will be terminated with other wartime control measures, and that they will apply to all non-native immigrants without any discrimination whatsoever.

Now, Sir, as Honourable Members may be aware, the Indian community, in Kenya particularly, is not so utterly helpless as, say, in South Africa. They have about half a dozen representatives in the local legislature, and they have also an Indian member on the Governor's Executive Council. The Indians in Kenya, therefore, are sometimes able to get across to their Government their views and grievances. We, therefore, naturally presumed that these representatives of the local Indian community were not absolutely in the dark about these restrictive regulations.

After the last war determined efforts were made by the European settlers to exclude Asiatics from these colonies. But all such proposals were definitely turned down by His Majesty's Government in a White Paper issued in 1923, and ever since then restriction on the admission of Indians or Asiatics into these colonies has never been a live issue. There has been no active movement in recent years to exclude Indians from these colonies. *Prima facie*, therefore, we have had no reason to challenge the genuineness of the grounds urged by the Colonial Governments, particularly as economic conditions, as Honourable Members are aware, have been abnormal in most countries affected by the war. Nor have we had any reason so far to presume that in giving us the assurances regarding the temporary and non-discriminatory character of these

restrictions the Colonial Governments have had any mental reservations.

Again, as the Honourable Member himself pointed out, immigration of fresh Indians to these Colonies has certainly gone down. I have no information as regards the exact extent of it, but from such unofficial enquiries as I have been able to make, I understand it is almost negligible. We have thus presumed that the number of entirely fresh immigrants which will be affected by these restrictions is really negligible, and we have rather concentrated on eliminating or at least reducing to the minimum such hardships as might be caused by the restrictions to permanent and normal residents in the colonies.

To this end we have been carrying on correspondence very actively with the three Colonial Governments in order to get further clarification of the position of this class of Indians. We have particularly urged that in the practical working of these regulations they must make allowance for the fact that many of these Indians, as pointed out by the Honourable Member, had to leave their homes in the colonies owing to unexpected developments in the war and have been unable to return to their homes for reasons beyond their control.

Shipping Difficulties

Immediately on receipt of information we represented very strongly that the regulation as regards two years' absence must, therefore, be administered in practice with due regard to the fact that, owing to the war conditions and shipping difficulties, long absence must have been inevitable in many cases; and I am glad to say that we have already had an assurance from these Governments that this part of the regulations will be enforced not rigidly but with due allowance for the circumstances of each particular case.

We hope, Sir, that this means that the regulations will not be enforced against normal Indian residents even though they might have been absent for more than two years, if their absence has been caused by reasons beyond their control.

We have also strongly represented that the period of two years must begin from February 14, or March 1, as the case may be. Not only that; we have also urged that all normal residents who have been absent for more than two years should be positively excluded from the scope of the restriction.

These are the facts, and this is the position, and this is all the action that we have been able to take so far. I hope I have made it clear that, so far as the Government of India is concerned, this matter is certainly not closed and we have not accepted it as a sort of *fait accompli*.

It is only during the last four or five weeks that we have had protests and representations from various Indian organisations in the colonies as well as in India. As the Honourable Member pointed out, in these representations the main justification for the issue of these regulations has been challenged, that is to say, the Indian community now has brought to our knowledge facts and figures to show that there could not be any food shortage and that in the many large towns in the colonies there is no lack of housing accommodation.

I am afraid, Sir, we have not got any data or official record to be able to check this information. But immediately after we began to receive the very first representations from the Indian community, we have drawn the attention of these three Governments to these representations. As regards the other fact, that a very large number of Indians had to leave their homes in the colonies in response to unofficial encouragement by the Colonial Governments, as I have already explained, our latest demand has been to have them completely excluded from the scope of these Regulations. It is possible, Sir, that there is more in these Regulations than meets the eye. The large number of Indian representatives who have contacted us unofficially are no doubt in a better position properly to read the trend of events in these colonies and perhaps they have a better perception of the inwardness of these measures. But, as I have already said, from the correspondence that we have had so far, there are no grounds for questioning the genuineness of the assurance given by the Colonial Governments and for our holding that this is but the first step towards the permanent exclusion of Asiatics and Indians from these colonies.

After all, Sir, the Government of a Commonwealth country approached us for our views on a measure which they considered to be essential to meet war conditions and we all hope that they would not take any undue advantage of our anxiety not to embarrass them in a matter of this kind, particularly when a big war is on. I also doubt whether any such step can be seriously undertaken. Such attempts failed in the past, as I have already said, and His Majesty's Government have so far definitely set their face against such attempts. I think the House will agree that it will be hardly possible for any vested interests, however powerful they may be, to steal a march over us in this matter. At any rate, Sir, I can assure the House that Government will leave no stone unturned to prevent any such contingency materialising.

I may perhaps draw the attention of the House to one point. These Regulations have been enacted under the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act. As the House is aware, our Defence of

India Regulations are to expire, I believe, one year after the cessation of hostilities. This Act of the British Parliament under which these Regulations were made is, as a matter of fact, enacted from year to year. So, if and when these Governments do want to place this measure permanently on the Statute Book, they would have to undertake fresh legislation and we will thus clearly have an opportunity to resist any step to make these Regulations permanent. In the meanwhile we are addressing the Governments concerned immediately for still further clarification of the position and I can assure the House that Government will pursue this matter with the utmost vigour and vigilance and will move the Colonial Governments to justify their measures for public scrutiny.

I can further assure the House that all possible action will be taken to ensure that the restrictions are withdrawn as soon as such justification as there may be for them has disappeared. I hope, Sir, the House is satisfied that Government are equally interested in the object of this Resolution and have already taken all the action that they could, particularly in view of the manner in which Government have been hustled in this matter. Sir, I accept the Resolution.

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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We are coming now to the steeper part of the curve; and quality is becoming more important than quantity. Quality in scientific work is obtained by several means, by selecting and training only the best people, by setting up and maintaining a certain number of institutions of very high standard, by frequent meetings of scientific people for discussion and criticism of current work, and by maintaining a close and familiar contact with countries where the standards are already high. All those things will be done in increasing degree, now and after the war. All will contribute both to the standing of Indian science in the world, and to the contribution which Indian science will make to the welfare of its own people.

On that note I shall end. This really is the last time, on this visit, at any rate, that I shall be talking to listeners in India. It has been made perfectly clear, while I have been here, that people in India do want the fullest co-operation with us in England—at least in the fields I am competent to deal with: and I am going home now to follow up some of the plans we have been discussing together. I am sure that something good will come of it all. Once more, then, good-bye—and thank you all for your warm welcome.

AWARDED BRITISH EMPIRE MEDAL

HIS Majesty the King-Emperor has been pleased to award the British Empire Medal to Mr. Mohadeb Chandra Manna of the Bengal Nagpur Railway and to Mr. Selamat Ullah of the Calcutta Port Commissioners Service.

Mr. Manna was on duty during the air raid on December 5, 1943, on Calcutta and was wounded in the head. He went to his Warden's Post for First-Aid treatment. He refused to be taken to hospital, went back to the Goods Shed, collected the earnings, which amounted to over Rs. 21,000 in cash and vouchers, and sealing these in bags, he took them himself to the A.R.P. Central Control Room. He then returned to the Goods Shed and remained on duty till 6 p.m. Mr. Manna's behaviour provided a striking example to all staff during a period of extreme danger.

Mr. Selamat Ullah is a lascar employed in the Port of Calcutta and when the red warning was given before the air raid, he and others were attending to the berthing of a vessel. After bombing had started, he swam out to secure a mooring line, and refused to leave the vessel until it had been safely moored.

Commendations have also been awarded to Mr. Jonab Ali and Mr. Toffail Ahmad, sea cunny, both in the Calcutta Port Commissioners service, for their gallant conduct on the same occasion.

R.I.N. PETTY OFFICER DECORATED

The King has approved the award of the Distinguished Service Medal to Petty Officer Allayar Khan of the Royal Indian Navy for gallantry in action against Japanese aircraft off the Burma Coast. With bomb splinters embedded in his neck and foot, he continued to fire his Oerlikon gun at the enemy, and waited until the Japanese had broken off their attack before asking to have his wounds dressed.

The previous night, ships of the Royal Indian Navy had bombarded Japanese shore positions. We knew the Japanese would try to retaliate, writes an R.I.N. Observer. At 9-45 a.m. enemy reconnaissance bombers came in astern of us, and, keeping out of range of our armament, dropped a few small bombs which fell 50 yards or more ahead. An hour later, bombers and fighters dropped heavy bombs, straddling the



Lt.-Commander H. M. Darbyshire and Petty Officer Allayar Khan. (See story below).

flotilla leader. Bomb splinters flew in all directions, but there was only one casualty. He was Allayar Khan. The impact of the splinters knocked him off his feet, but, leaping up, he swung his gun round to bear on the aircraft and gave them several bursts.

A message from the Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Fleet, congratulating Petty Officer Allayar Khan on his award was recently read to the assembled ship's company by the Senior Officer of the Flotilla, Lieut.-Commander H. M. Darbyshire, R.I.N.V.R., who has been mentioned in despatches for his leadership in this operation against the Japanese.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO GOVERNMENT LOANS

During the period, from February 27, 1944 to March 31, 1944, Rs. 201-3 crores were invested in Central Government Loans, of which Rs. 161-3 crores were subscribed to the Fourth Defence Loan before it closed.

ASSEMBLY APPROVES THE U.N.R.R.A. AGREEMENT

Sir M. Azizul Haque's Speech

THIS Resolution before the House is not an appropriation and in making an appropriation, it will be open to the Government of this country to settle the terms under which the appropriation should be made either in this field of foreign credit or in the shape of supplies excepting that we have to pay for American currency or British currency to the extent of 10 per cent. of our total contributions." Thus stated the Hon'ble Sir M. Azizul Haque, Member for Commerce, Industries and Civil Supplies, Government of India, in the Indian Legislative Assembly on April 4, moving that "this Assembly approves the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration Agreement signed at Washington on November 9, 1943."

The HON'BLE SIR AZIZUL HAQUE said:

It was in September, 1941, while the main theatre of war was still confined to European soil, barring such part of the Chinese territories as were devastated by the Japanese, that a conference was convened, at the instance of His Majesty's Government, called the Inter-Allied Post-War Requirements Committee. It consisted in the main of the European exiled governments and the British Government and was concerned with surveying the European situation as they foresaw it at the end of the war and determining Europe's needs and requirements in order to re-establish production and civilian life in what are at present enemy-occupied territories. Invitations were later issued to the United States and to the Soviet Union, who were not originally parties to the conference, to join in the work. The Soviet Government appointed an observer with the Committee but did not otherwise participate in its work; the U.S.A. for some time had only an observer but later participated with a regular member in the Committee.

Genesis of U.N.R.R.A.

For two years the work went on and a considerable amount of work was done in the way of collection of materials and data for post-war European requirements. By December, 1942, the war spread out to the east and it became a global war. Japan occupied a considerable part of the territories in South-East Asia. In the meantime, both the Soviet Government and the American Government made suggestions for the creation of a truly international organisation with an international Civil Service working, for taking up post-war relief work in all theatres of the war.

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The representative of India at the Inter-Allied Committee also emphasised the need to take steps for post-war relief organisation in the East in view of the enemy occupation of a large part of territories in the Far East, affecting hundreds and thousands of Indians.

Discussions were first held amongst the Governments of Great Britain, the United States, the Soviet Union and China, until the middle of last summer. In June, 1943, the United States Government, with the consent and agreement of the three other Powers, put out for discussion a draft document, proposing a United Nations rehabilitation organisation. Discussions went on with the Governments of various signatory countries and the draft document was redrafted, eliminating many of the criticisms which had been made both internally and externally and was then circulated among the 44 countries. Representatives of all the 44 Governments were invited to a ceremony held at the White House on November 9, last, and the representatives of the 44 United and Associated Governments signed the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Agreement establishing the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration. The next day the representatives of these Nations met at Atlantic City, New Jersey, in the first session of the Council established by the Agreement, to provide for the organisation of the Administration and to lay down the broad policies to guide its activities. The Council met continuously for three weeks to frame its plan and programme.

Constitution of U. N. R. R. A.

The supreme authority of laying down policy and general principles of the administration is vested in a Council which is made up of one representative of each of the 44 signatory nations. The U.S.A., the U.K., Russia and China have one representative each, along with smaller countries, also one each, like Iceland or the Honduras or Cuba. Under this supreme policy-making body, there are 4 main committees. The first is the Central Committee consisting of the representatives of the U.S.A., the U.K., China and the Soviet Union to exercise the power of the Council during adjournments of the Council, subject on important matters to ratification by the Council, with the further proviso that any country whose interests are concerned with any matter before the Central Committee, shall be called in to participate in those discussions. The second is a Committee on Supplies made up of the principal supplying nations, the third is a Committee on European relief, while the fourth

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With the advance of the 5th Indian Division in Italy, Italian refugees poured through the lines, where arrangements were made to feed, house and give them medical aid. Infants receiving biscuits from Indian other ranks.

is a Committee for the Far East and consists of the representatives of Australia, China, India, New Zealand, the Philippines, the U.K., the U.S.A., the Netherlands and the French National Committee.

Though the participant countries have signed the agreement, it has been made entirely and absolutely clear that effective participation resides in the constitutional bodies of the various member governments. In the resolution which has been accepted by the U.N.R.R.A., the words used are in the nature of a recommendation to the participant countries in so far as the financial proposals are concerned. No commitments by any government have been made in that respect and the agreement provides that in each country the law-making body authorised by its constitutional procedure to appropriate money is the only one which can determine the extent of that country's participation as well as the formula under which it will be financed. Thus the agreement is merely the establishment of the framework of an organisation and it will entirely depend on the decision of the legislative bodies of India as to whether it wishes to participate in the agreement. If it does, the House at a later

stage will have to determine what India's contribution should be. If the resolution is not accepted, India will necessarily have to withdraw from the organisation.

Though the Administration has been particularly careful in framing the Agreement not to commit any country in any contributions, it is quite clear that unless the 44 Nations contribute with money or resources, the Agreement and the Administration fall to the ground. The machinery devised becomes meaningless without financial assistance and unless the legislative bodies of the member governments see fit to make contribution, India will have to be out of the great international relief organisation. All that the Administration has so far done is to set up the machinery and give an opportunity to the different countries to say whether they want to start the wheels moving and whether they wish to assist.

The resolution, which I have brought before this House, is thus for the acceptance or otherwise of a most solemn obligation that rests upon the civilized peoples of the world to meet the requirements of the enormous distress and anguish which will undoubtedly

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be there and from which may grow a political and economic chaos which will break down every semblance of human civilization.

The general principle which has been accepted by the U.N.R.R.A. is that every country should attempt to pay 1 per cent. of its national income for the year ending June 30, 1943, as determined by the member government. But it was realised from the beginning that this formula cannot be applicable to a country like India with its low individual income. With our own internal problem of relief and rehabilitation, our contribution must, therefore, depend upon all these considerations and on our budgetary position and the state of our resources. *The U.N.R.R.A. resolution, therefore, specifically recognises that the overall formula may conflict with particular demands arising from the continuance of the war or may be excessively burdensome because of peculiar situations and we are, therefore, free to determine the amount and character of our contributions.*

The plan contemplates a once-for-all contribution including administrative expenses and if the plan works out in accordance with its terms, that contribution should serve to the end of the relief programme. The major part of the work of relief is expected to be completed within two years. Every Government is also free to choose the manner in which supplies should be provided or procured or the finances should be granted.

In terms of the resolution of the U.N.R.R.A. it is open to any country not to pay more than 10 per cent. in foreign credit and if they do not want to pay more than 10 per cent, then the balance of 90 per cent. will be spent in purchasing supplies within that country. In some circumstances it may be to the advantage of a country to supply the whole money in foreign credit so as not to put an added strain on an already overtaxed supply situation, and in any case each Government has the right to determine the manner in which its Government will furnish supplies.

What the Resolution Means

This Resolution before the House is not an appropriation and, in making an appropriation, it will be open to the Government of this country to settle the terms under which the appropriation should be made either in this field of foreign credit or in the shape of supplies excepting that we have to pay for American currency or British currency to the extent of 10 per cent. of our total contributions. America herself is contemplating to make a large part of her contribution in the form of supplies which will incidentally keep up American industrial production at a high level. In any case the resolution before the House recommends India's participation in

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this relief organisation and is merely the approval of our participation in the international relief plan which will be followed up by appropriate financial authorization proposals at a later stage.

Apart from the finances contributed by the signatory countries, the Director General may receive contributions from governments who are not to-day members of the Council, namely, the neutral countries. He may, and undoubtedly will, also receive contributions from private organizations or from private individuals, and he may accept them subject to such conditions as he may deem possible for him to perform. It will be open to neutral countries to join at any stage, now or later, and the generosity of the people of the world will also be available in the shape of money and supplies by way of voluntary contributions.

Scope of Relief

While the scope of relief embraced every country, whether occupied or unoccupied, the administrative expenses are shared mainly by such countries as will be or are able to pay. But such administrative expenses, at the option of the countries participating, will be included in the ultimate contribution towards the relief organization and, as such, whatever may be India's ultimate contribution, her share of administrative expenses will be included within the total share of India.

The estimate of India's share of administrative expenses is roughly Rs. 13 lakhs (Rs. 13,00,000) for the year 1943-44, but this contribution towards administrative expenses, as I have said before, may be included at India's option in the general contribution of the member countries to the U.N.R.R.A.

I need only add that this relief organization though an international body, has not the authority of or is not a substitute for any governmental organization. It has no supply of its own and for this it must depend on the Governments of the supplying countries. It has no shipping of its own, for which it will have to depend on the countries with available shipping space. But it will, in a concerted and organised manner, take necessary steps for getting supply and shipping to send relief to the places needing urgent relief. The task will be gigantic even though the period for which this relief organization will function will be of a very restricted nature, namely, to get over the emergency period—the period of breakdown between enemy control and re-establishment of several governments in those areas.

I may note here that as a result of the realization of the conditions of India with her distressing situations, the United States Congress and the House of Representatives have

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recommended to the U.N.R.R.A. to revise the terms of its agreement, with a view to bringing the distress on India's mainland within the scope of its relief. The wishes of the American legislature will now go to the U.N.R.R.A. for its final decision.

The war is bound to leave in the occupied lands a generation of half-men, under-nourished and crushed in body and spirit, without strength or incentive. The interests of humanity demand that steps should be taken for a rapid and orderly transition from war to peace so that the human and economic resources of each country may be best utilized.

It has been estimated from some sources that from 10 to 20 million people had to leave Soviet territory occupied by the Germans at their farthest point of advance. The problem to-day and immediately after the war is very much more than it was during the last war, and never probably in the annals of human history has there been any such movement of population as this war has brought about. *In China, since 1937, it has been said that nearly 40 million people have been forced to shift from their homes in East China into Central and Western China.*

It has been estimated that the number of people who have been driven or taken away from their homes in Europe is at least over 20 million. The number of displaced persons in the Far East greatly exceeds the figure of Europe. This is in addition to the refugees in a country who have gone from one part of it to another, and mankind is now faced or will soon be faced with one of the most difficult problems in human history.

Unless relief in food, clothing and medicines comes quickly, the worst scourge of diseases with which the world has ever been faced may be spread over the entire globe.

If people break from a camp in which there has been typhus or any other contagious disease and spread themselves all over the face of Europe and Asia, the whole world will have to deal with a public health situation of devastating proportions. People with no hopes, no houses, living in strange surroundings, depending upon doles and charities, having nothing else to do but roam round in a desperate state from place to place, seeking for some employment or other if they can get it—that is the picture of the situation. But as soon as the war is over, I am not certain if the world will at all be able to meet the problem. It is, therefore, in this field of taking care of millions of human souls at a highly critical, highly important, emergency period of post-war conditions that the U.N.R.R.A. will be required.

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The organization establishes a practicable way for the Nations together to solve a supply problem which concerns necessarily all of them. If the administration fails, lives will be lost. People in urgent need of medicine, food and other necessities of life will die if they do not get medicines, food and other necessities in time. Chaos and disease will spread over the whole world.

The success of the U.N.R.R.A. will not only immediately affect the lives of millions of human beings but will also have repercussions on the conduct of the war and upon the peace and economy of the world after the war. The magnitude of the task is unprecedented. Destruction, suffering and privation will undoubtedly increase in intensity as the enemy forces withdraw, step by step, before the liberating armies. The world to-morrow will be faced with the problem of not merely repairing the productive apparatus which has been ravaged by the enemy but probably the whole structure of their economies, their productive patterns, distributive mechanism, credit institutions, monetary systems which have all been disrupted, will have to be reconstructed and rebuilt.

But it is not the entire field of feeding or clothing everybody or bringing medical relief to everybody or reconstructing the entire economic life that the organization has been set up. The U.N.R.R.A. is not going to and cannot furnish all the relief for the needy countries. In fact, it is anticipated that the part to be financed by the U.N.R.R.A. will not exceed 5 per cent of the total needs of world relief. The rest will have to be met by the countries themselves. The fundamental principle is that the countries must help themselves. Much of the life and strength of the occupied countries can only be restored if they rehabilitate themselves through their own efforts and, as such, the help of the U.N.R.R.A. will go to supplement local help and to meet most pressing needs. The other principle is that whatever relief may be needed from outside must be quickly brought.

The dangers of too little and too late are nowhere greater than in the field of relief supplies and we have ourselves witnessed this before our eyes last year. A typhus epidemic will not wait while supplies are accumulated. A starving child will not be helped by a promise of food in a few months. Food cannot be grown and transported, clothing cannot be manufactured, medical supplies cannot be made available in a few days and a few weeks. Many months are needed to bring the pipe line of supply to the front. The general time lag between a decision to provide supplies and their delivery is long. It is only by advance planning and procurement, by having supplies ready when and where they may be needed, that the job can be effectively done.

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On the other hand, the need for relief supplies may not evolve gradually but may come suddenly in great volume. The rapid collapse of the war must be taken into account as a possibility with all its attendant needs for large quantities of supplies. The impact of such needs may be spread over as long a period as possible but this can only be done effectively by advance organization, procurement and gradual accumulation of supplies. The end of the war will find many millions of people—men, women and children, forced labourers, homeless and persecuted. There must be a plan formulated and procedure co-ordinated for their repatriation or return to their homes. No group is an easier prey to epidemics than this horde of refugees who necessarily will lack even the rudiments of shelter or sanitation facilities and often will be without adequate clothing. No one element will cause more confusion than these people if, in an unplanned and unco-ordinated way they all start to return to their homes. We have ourselves seen the miserable plight of the Burman refugees only two years back.

Let us remember that those of us who have suffered no physical harm, have not lost their lands, residences, homes or shelter by the conditions of the war, have, subject to our internal needs in the face of the economic crisis we are passing through, also have an obligation to care for and rehabilitate the men in need.

Nations which have not, or areas which have not, undergone the direct sufferings of the war have an obligation to assist in healing up the wounds and re-establishing the lives of those countries which have suffered enemy occupation and have undergone the highest ordeal which we were spared.

We owe it to ourselves to attempt to preserve the great human resources of all the United Nations for participation in the future world order and opportunities have to be provided for those who have suffered to return at least to the minimum standard of life, efficiency and confidence if chaos and anarchy are to be avoided.

But even though we within India have not had to go through the ordeal of direct suffering, like those in occupied countries, our Indian brethren in the Far Eastern countries were victims of such sufferings. It is estimated that the number of Indian refugees who came to India from territories now under enemy occupation is not less than about 5 lakhs (5,00,000). But leaving aside those who have been refugees to the country, the Indian population in the Far East now under Japanese occupation is estimated to be at least about 13 to 14 lakhs even now. The number of people who normally lived in Burma, Malaya and Singapore before enemy occupation was over 18

lakhs of which only about 5 lakhs could come to India.

As Marshal Chiang Kai-shek said in his references to the importance of the U.N.R.R.A., "The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will be the first piece of international constructive machinery to be set up by the United Nations. If we cannot co-operate on relief and rehabilitation there will be little else on which we could co-operate. We must not fail. Whatever may be the scope of the United Nations' relief, the administration must be world-embracing, for distinctions of region, religion or nationality belong to the pre-war era and cannot serve as a basis for the new era which we hope will come after this war. To give you a total picture of the Chinese situation to-day, I give you a few statistics. Of the estimated population of 460 million, approximately 200 million have or had their homes in occupied China and in the war zones. 220 million live in free China. 10 million are, what I might call, displaced persons.

"Of the 200 million in occupied China about 30 per cent will need relief, i.e., 60 million. Of the 40 million war refugees, about 60 per cent will need relief, that is 24 million. The total population needing relief comes to a figure of 84 million.

"That is an enormous number. But the Chinese Government has no intention of loading the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration with this big burden. Whatever food, clothing and shelter can be procured in China with Chinese currency, the Chinese Government intends to procure itself. Only that part of the supplies and services which China cannot produce or must be procured from foreign sources will be requested of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration."

REPLY TO DEBATE

Winding up the two-day debate (on April 15) the Hon'ble Sir M. Azizul Haque, said:

Sir, as I stated in my speech at the very beginning, I have no hesitation in giving the assurance to this House that the ultimate amount of money which should be payable on India's account would be subject to a Resolution or the financial appropriation proposal, as may be necessary, being brought before this House. So, there should be no compunction on that ground that we have got something up our sleeves and we want to pay the money without taking the House into confidence.

To me it has been almost a surprise that Members after Members have taken up the attitude that we have not taken all steps to consult

the House at an appropriate stage. It will be remembered by the Members of the House that in the July session of last year we tabled a motion for discussing this Rehabilitation and Relief Administration proposal. Not only did we do that but informally we did consult various Members and various Groups. I myself did not remember it but I found a note of mine on the file of that date that the Members desired generally that it should be taken up at a later stage when all appropriate and relevant documents would be available to the Members to enable them to judge the effect of the proposal.

DR. P. N. BANERJEA: May I explain, in this connection, that it was suggested that it should be discussed at a later date when the documents would be available and not after the final decision?

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: I will explain that. This proposed draft agreement was received by the Government of India on June 11, last. And we received it, may I say, in reply to the point as to whether the status of India was recognised to be just the same as that of any other country, direct from the Government of the United States simultaneously as it was sent to the other Governments by the United States of America. We immediately took steps to table a Resolution on the basis of the facts as were then available to us. We gave notice of a motion here as well as in the Upper House (Council of State). Very soon after these papers were circulated to all the Governments, suggestions were made by various Governments, both in Europe and in Asia. We were then informed by the Government of the United States of America that on the representation of various Governments the draft agreement was being reconsidered and revised to improve the plan of relief organisation. And the original idea that this Conference should meet for signature some time in August was abandoned.

Legislature's Approval Intended

Naturally, it was no fault of ours that we thought that it would be better to defer the matter to a later stage, as it was the view of some of the Members. But if any section of the House desired to get information at that stage, I was prepared to give the fullest information to them. The proposed Conference, it was then decided, would be held much later. In the meantime, we did not sit idle. We ourselves considered the effect of the proposal on India and Indian public opinion and all along we took up the attitude that we would not be prepared to sign or participate in the relief plan without placing our proposal before the Legislature. We have all along taken that attitude here as well as elsewhere.

It was in the middle of October that we knew the nature of the ultimate revised draft. In this draft much of the criticisms which were made in the original draft were revised and changed for the better. The Central Committee was only to make emergency decisions subject to ratification by the Council and subject to an objection of a member Government being brought up for discussion and other safeguards. Originally, much of the power was vested in the Central Committee, which consisted of four Powers. Naturally, suggestions were made by the various Governments that it should not be so and that if it was going to be an International Relief Organisation, sufficient safeguards should be there for all countries to be equally represented on it. That was accepted. Then, in the original draft each member Government was required to make contributions of funds, materials, equipment, supplies and services within the limits of its available resources, subject to the requirements of its constitutional procedure.

The Revised Draft

The mistake which my Honourable friend, Mr. Ram Rattan Gupta, made was that he was quoting from the original draft. The revised draft says nothing about the nature of the contribution but provides that the amount and character of the contribution will be determined only by the appropriate constitutional bodies and our representation had some effect, as will be seen from the nature of the Resolutions which were ultimately passed. Then, the reference to available resources was omitted. There were other changes in the constitution and the net effect of all these amendments was that they took away some of the powers and functions of the Central Committee, which is a smaller body, and vested them in the Council, on which every signatory Government was represented. In particular, the arrangement contemplated in the original draft whereby the Central Committee was to exercise all the powers and functions of the Council was abandoned on terms which I mentioned in my original speech.

We were then informed that a meeting of the Conference for the purpose of the signatures of the 44 nations was to be convened on November 9. The House will remember that our session began only on November 8, and we had to communicate our decision as to whether India should be a participant in the Signature Conference or not. It will also be remembered that it was provided in the revised draft that any country might sign it, subject to the reservation that it would be ratified by its Legislature. So, having gone so far as to meet all the objectionable features of the original draft, and having regard to the fact that it was nothing more than commitment of the country on whether it was

prepared to join an International Relief Organisation, after making our position clear, we decided that we should sign it.

If we had not signed it, we would have been the only nation out of 44 which would have been singled out and it would have been said that India was not accepting even the principle of International Relief. We, therefore, informed the House that this has been done and in connection with the adjournment motion which was brought here I made it quite clear at that stage that our action did not commit India to anything beyond this: that India was one of the countries which would participate in International Relief and if the Legislature desired that she should not, she could withdraw.

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: May I ask if the Honourable Member communicated that to the House at once or did he wait for communication?

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: My friends did not wait for communications. On that very day an adjournment motion was tabled and I had to give the reply immediately.

Now, Sir, it will be seen that the administration has gone even further than that. From the very beginning, India has taken up the attitude that a percentage of the overall national income cannot be, in view of economic conditions in India, the criterion by which we shall make our contribution. Sir, that principle has been accepted and the House will remember, and my Honourable friend, Dr. Banerjee, will remember that it was mainly with reference to India that this clause was provided there. But we did not even wait by, merely seeing that these things had been done. We made it quite clear, in giving instructions to our Agent-General, that India could not agree to being tied down to any simple formula like the percentage of national income or otherwise. But any contribution must be on the basis of the capacity of our country to contribute, and we specially emphasised the fact that India was passing through a very severe phase of economic difficulties, with acute economic distress prevailing in several parts of the country, with the considerable strain of war conditions on India's internal economy, and that any contribution which we would make must be after full consideration of all those relevant facts and subject to the vote of the legislature.

Sir, both by formal and informal contacts with the delegates of the Council of the U.S.A. and other countries, our Agent-General made it quite clear that while India will be most willing, as my Honourable friend Mr. Neogy said, India will be really happy, to participate in any organi-

sation of international relief, we have got our own special difficulties arising out of circumstances of the war and the economic difficulties. Sir, we also went further. We specially emphasised that the relief administration must accept as a general principle that in that administration there should be no discrimination in any form against nationals of participating countries in areas in receipt of aid, and, without making it a condition, we desired that Indian public opinion would naturally like that contributions made by India may be devoted in a substantial measure to the relief of adjacent countries with a large Indian population. We also gave full consideration and apprised the U.N.R.R.A. delegates about the economic difficulties in India. A conference was called on November 9, and, as I said, there was no time to consult the legislature. We could not very well refuse to sign, when the final draft met almost every point of view which was raised by India and other countries and was to be subject to ratification, without opening ourselves to criticism in the international world that India was not a participant in the greatest international co-operative organisation which was being made in the interest of humanity.

India's Representation

Sir, my Honourable friends have discussed the question of the location of the Far Eastern Council, the personnel of the Far Eastern Council. May I inform the House that the question of the meeting of the Far Eastern Council was also taken up and for the time being, U.N.R.R.A. has decided, in view of the military situation, the difficulties of finding suitable accommodation and the difficulties in regard to personnel, to have its meeting in Washington for the time being, until the situation is better to enable the administration to bring its relief operation within the Far Eastern zone. We also made it clear that the Government of India would wish to be represented on the Far Eastern Regional Committee and one of the things which we have all along borne in mind is whether we should be participants in other Committees or not. We have not yet been able to adopt a firm attitude without knowing whether we are actually going to be participants, but we have made it clear that, in regard to other Committees, we should like to be represented at least in these Committees through which India's interests might be affected, directly or indirectly.

Sir, as regards the famine question, I should make it quite clear that our instructions to our Agent-General were that we should not be made to appear to be going there with a begging bowl for the relief of our famine areas. We thought that it would be inconsistent with the dignity and self-respect of a country to go with a begging bowl. We made clear our economic diffi-

culties, and our attitude was appreciated. At a public session of the Council, Mr. Acheson expressed the appreciation of the Council at this token of India's co-operation in spite of our widespread distress and he expressed the deepest sympathy with her people with a devout prayer that the efforts of those who were now engaged in the task of repairing the ravages of famine and disease might be successful in swiftly bringing conditions under effective control. Sir, we have also, as has been said by some Honourable Members, made representation for the appointment of a number of Indians in the higher ranks of the administration technical staff.

May I say, again, that Indian refugees from Burma and the Far East and those Indians who are in the occupied countries come within the scope of U.N.R.R.A. relief, and to meet their needs we have pressed the case of Indians being appointed for the purpose of administering the relief organisation. May I add that we have already sent the names of eight Indians, connected with Burma, Singapore and Malaya, for appointment as opportunities may occur. We have also raised the question of the interest of Indians in occupied countries and we shall have to take steps immediately to collect and supply data which may be necessary for the purpose of giving relief to Indians in occupied territories. If any of my Honourable friends is interested in the subject, he can spend five minutes with me, and I shall show him the amount of data which has been collected for the purpose of giving relief to some of the countries devastated by the conditions of war in Europe. We have to prepare a large volume of material to find out as to what should be the nature of the needs and requirements in the shape of food, clothing and housing accommodation, medical needs and other needs of those Indians who are in Far Eastern territories, or for the repatriation of those Indians who left their homes and returned to India. There are technical committees and we have taken steps to place the case of India before them.

Difficulty of Getting Suitable Personnel

But there are certain difficulties. One of the things which the technical administration has rightly emphasised is that in all these technical Committees there should be men who are experts in their subjects. It is of no use my being a Member of a Committee on, say, a matter which is highly technical and which I do not understand. As the situation in India to-day is, my Honourable friends will realise that there is great difficulty in getting suitable personnel. We are having difficulty in finding experts in the various subjects, who can go to Washington and can wait there for the purpose of, say, 15

or 20 meetings in a year. There is to-day a great shortage of personnel, and I do not know if we will be able to spare Indians of the type necessary to be members of these technical committees. There are administrative officers and mittees. There are administrative officers and below them officers in the establishment. We tried to find out what salaries are being proposed, and the salaries which are given there. I am extremely doubtful if we shall be able to send a suitable number of Indians for these posts, especially as the economic conditions in those countries and the prices prevailing there are such that it is not possible for Indians, going from this country, to live there on those salaries.

We also took steps to circulate copies of the agreement and Resolutions to all the Members of the Assembly and, in addition, a copy of the first agreement of April, 1943, was sent to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce. The Federation sent us their views in October; the Indian Merchants' Chamber sent us their views; and in our instructions to the Agent-General we informed him of the viewpoints which were raised by the Indian mercantile and trading and commercial community, and to raise some of the points, which will arise in the nature of the discussion, as an expression of the views of Indian industrialists. A copy of the final draft was also sent to the Chamber. I may also say here that we are not the only country which signed it; 14 countries signed it subject to ratification.

I may also assure my Honourable friends that as representative of India there was no non-Indian there. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai with our Trade Commissioner and Major Qadir, who is the third Secretary, represented India, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai being the Member and the others being the staff to assist him in the task.

Sir, my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, has moved an amendment. I find great practical difficulty in accepting that amendment. After all whoever may be the representative, he must work under the instructions of the Government and he must be prepared to carry out their instructions in day-to-day policy which may be enunciated. It would otherwise be extremely difficult for any Government to accept responsibility for what the delegate does. And I may state that, according to the terms of the Resolution, a member of the Administration is a signatory Government. A question may arise, for example, of appointing a representative on technical and other sub-committees. My Honourable friend's amendment wants this to be brought before the legislature. It would be impracticable to consult the legislature. As I said, it was not possible to get time to consult this

legislature as we wanted, before signature. The legislature may not be in session and no Government has done it. The representatives generally will be representatives of the Government, the meetings of the Council will be held only once or twice, and the legislature may not be in session. It is, therefore, extremely difficult to accept the amendment which my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, has moved. I find it absolutely impracticable to give effect to it. I am aware of the constitutional position. I myself feel the difficulty of the constitutional position more than, sometimes, my friends do. I know that if I were functioning in a legislature which my Honourable friends want it would have been possible to do quite a number of things. But whatever might be the nature of the constitution to-day we have to work under that constitution and make the best of it.

National Income

Sir, I am not crossing swords with my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, as to whether I know the national income of this country or not. I can assure him that I not only know that but I know something more. I know the income of the average wage-earner, I know the income of the humble man behind the plough, I know the income of those associated with the concerns of industrial production, and I know the income of the landowning interests of this country. But all these are foreign to the subject, because we have throughout maintained that India's contribution cannot be judged by the standard of national income. So the national income of this country is altogether foreign to the present discussion; and, as I have said, our viewpoint has been accepted by the U.N.R.R.A. We will contribute within the limit of our resources, having regard to our requirements within the country, having regard to the strain on our resources due to war conditions, having regard to the acute economic shortage in India, having regard to the famine and famine conditions, and, as I have said and given an assurance, subject to the legislation sanction of this House.

MR. T. T. KRISHNAMACHARI: What is the amount that the Honourable Member wants to contribute?

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: It is difficult to give an answer off-hand. There is quite a number of materials which has to be collected before we can formulate what should be our figures.

MR. KRISHNAMACHARI: I merely want to know the Honourable Member's conception of the contribution.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: It should be about 8 or 10 crores of rupees, and I shall be able to satisfy my Honourable friend as to why

it should be that. That is purely my personal estimate. I do not say that that is the amount which I shall bring before the legislature; the House will have the fullest opportunity to decide what should be the amount of contribution at that stage. But that is roughly my personal guess.

Then the question comes as to how much we should pay and in what shape. As I said, that will depend on the extent to which our supplies may be available. And assuming that we contribute about 8 or 10 crores of rupees or £7 million, we may pay the whole of the £7 million in foreign credit, or pay only £700,000 in foreign credit and the rest we can give in supplies. As I said, these are matters which can only be discussed after I am able to consult the trading and industrial organisation to find out whether there is a possibility of supplies being available, what are the things which we can spare, that we want to spare. This is necessary; and I do not want to take that responsibility on me without consulting the trade and commercial interests in the matter. I wish to consult them, men who may be competent to speak on the subject.

But supposing for the time being that there are 13 to 15 lakhs of Indians still in the East and 5 lakhs of refugees in India who will come under the scheme, I cannot shut my eyes to the fact that to a certain extent it is only reasonable that we should meet some of their needs from within India. For example, it may be that we may be required to spare a little cloth or tea or jute or housing material or tents.

MR. KRISHNAMACHARI: Would not that be the Honourable Member's responsibility, apart from the U.N.R.R.A.?

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: So far as our responsibility is concerned, we will discharge it ourselves; but I am speaking for the time being of our responsibility to the U.N.R.R.A. as regards Indian refugees in repatriation.

Need for a Generous View

In fact, from all points of view I sometimes feel that it may help our industries in at least keeping up some of their wartime production if some amount of the manufactured goods may be made available. But, as I said, we agree that it should be after fully meeting the home requirements in view of the economic conditions of India. But a man may be a little more generous and instead of having 14 chattaks of rice every day he may think he will have 12 chattaks and give the additional 2 chattaks to a man who has nothing. So far as foodgrains are concerned, as I said, the question of wheat and rice does not arise for the time being, but it may be that we shall be able to spare some dried fruits or groundnut.

Sir, I have the fullest sympathy with the aims and objects of the amendment of my Honourable friend, Mr. Krishnamachari, but for reasons stated I cannot accept it as a practical proposition. And I am not sure that the carrying of the amendment as he has drafted it will not mean virtually our withdrawal, because it is contingent on a condition which we cannot accept. And therefore if you still carry it I hope you will realise that it will be extremely difficult for us to accept a part and still be a party to the U.N.R.R.A.

MR. K. C. NEOGY: Is not that really a domestic question, as to the method of selecting your representatives? How does it affect the U.N.R.R.A. scheme?

DR. P. N. BANERJEA: It is merely a question of approval.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: I was only talking of the drafting of the amendment.

SIR SYED RAZA ALI: Sir, I may point out to my Honourable friend that in the case of representation of India at the League of Nations at Geneva no difficulty whatsoever was felt in selecting non-official Indians. The head generally used to be an official but there were occasions when the head of the delegation was a non-official. Having regard to that, what is the difficulty of the Honourable Member?

Tribute to Sir G. S. Bajpai

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: I am quite prepared to consider the suggestion whether we may not have a non-official for the purpose of representing India on such matters where questions of policy are concerned. But I cannot give an answer off-hand.

Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, so far as our instruction goes, has done extremely well; he has put India's case as strongly as possible, emphasising it not only in formal meetings but informally, and I must say that he has done extremely well.

I can assure the House that if any major question of policy arises, other than those I explained to the House yesterday and to-day, I propose to consult the Standing Committee whenever the House is in session, or whenever it is otherwise possible I shall be trying to get the views of the Leaders of the different parties. In any case I propose to keep Members of the House informed at every session as to the steps that have been taken, so far as the Administration is concerned. Beyond that I am not prepared.....

SIR SYED RAZA ALI: Why not select non-official Indians?

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: Beyond that I am not prepared to go for the time being and, I

hope, in view of that, my Honourable friend Mr. Krishnamachari, will not press his motion.

Sir, as regards the amendment moved on behalf of the Muslim League Party, I make it quite clear that, as I understand Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan's view, that the amendment is not a condition precedent to our participation. It is in the nature of an additional recommendation. But I do want the House to realise all its implications.

First, the U.N.R.R.A. organisation cannot be completed within, say, at least six or nine months; it is not a governmental organisation; it has no supplies of its own; it has no shipping; it has only money. Bengal needs to-day more food, more medicines, more clothing, more money for the purchase of cattle, implements, seeds, land and more transport facilities. We have ourselves money to pay for all these if we can get them. If Bengal's finances cannot meet all those expenses, there are the means of the Government of India to pay for them. Therefore, the question which I am placing before my Honourable friends to consider is whether—apart from the expression of the general views of the House—it will be consistent with our status in the international world....

NAWABZADA MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: Absolutely.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE:—That we should plead for a particular case of charity from abroad.

NAWABZADA MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: We are not pleading for any charity.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: Apart from the general enunciation of the principle.....

NAWABZADA MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: It is a definite recommendation.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: Apart from that, whether we should particularly press the case of any particular area—that is what I am saying.

NAWABZADA MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: Why not?

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: We shall certainly welcome voluntary assistance. We deeply appreciate and acknowledge with gratitude, and I am sure all sections of the House are with me in appreciating and acknowledging with gratitude, the American people's efforts to bring the conditions of famine and distress within the scope of the U.N.R.R.A.

PANDIT LAKSHMI KANTA MAITRA: What have they done so far?

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: If my Honourable friend will read the proceedings, he will find that all these matters were discussed as between

the Governments of various countries and in various circles, a draft was made by which the U.N.R.R.A. was to operate only with reference to those countries or areas which are under enemy occupation. Both Houses of the American Legislature have, after fully considering the matter, expressed a desire in similar terms as is the amendment of my Honourable friend on the other side....

NAWABZADA MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: They were more human than the Government of India! You are opposing it.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: I have not said that, and I am not doing it. I hope my Honourable friend will wait till I say something on that.

Agreement on Principle

Considering all these factors, I am, on principle, as I have said, in agreement with my Honourable friend. But what I say is this: Without assigning, at the first instance, any particular location we may accept the enunciation of a general principle applicable to the Administration, namely, any area important to military operations of the United Nations which is stricken by famine or disease should be included. After it is accepted—I hope my Honourable friend will understand it—the special case of any area with reference to India may go there.

NAWABZADA MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: The amendment does not mention any particular area.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: I am saying that, in general terms, the case of my Honourable friends will be brought to the notice of the U.N.R.R.A. as the opinion of this Legislature, I will do that. But, as I have said, whether a particular case should be brought before them immediately is a matter in which I have some difference of opinion.

SYED GHULAM BHIK NAIRANG: But who is asking the Government to bring any particular case to their attention? We do not ask that.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: My Honourable friend did refer to it.

NAWABZADA MUHAMMAD LIAQUAT ALI KHAN: Just as you referred to China, I referred to Bengal.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: In so far as that is concerned, I feel that if that is the desire of the House we are quite prepared to support it as our instructions to the delegate and as the attitude of the Indian Legislature in the matter, namely, that the areas which are necessary for military operations of the United Nations should be brought within the scope of the U.N.R.R.A.

DR. P. N. BANERJEA: And famine conditions also.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: Yes. But, as I have said, unless and until it is accepted by the U.N.R.R.A. we cannot bring the special case of India to its notice. I am quite prepared to instruct our representative that the Indian Legislature desire along with the American people that such areas should be brought within the scope of the U.N.R.R.A. activities. I hope I have made the position clear.

SIR SYED RAZA ALI: My Honourable friend mentioned the word 'Indian Legislature' twice. Why not make this recommendation yours, and say, 'the Indian Legislature as well as the Government of India'.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: Naturally. When the Government of India says that this is the opinion of the Legislature, it certainly strengthens the case more than if it is said that it is the opinion of the Government.

Some HONOURABLE MEMBERS: Hear, hear!

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: We will say that this is the desire of the people as represented by the members of the Legislature. I will communicate the views of the Indian Legislature on that subject. It is not because I want to show that there is a difference of opinion between the Legislature and the Executive, but, as I have said, I entirely agree with the expression of the general principle. It is only that India's case should be put up after the U.N.R.R.A. decide to include this within the scope of the U.N.R.R.A. We have our own reasons for that.

Sir, as I have said, we did instruct our representative to bring particularly the case of the economic difficulties to the notice of the delegates with whom he comes into contact. That had its reaction in America and my Honourable friends will also remember that, as a result of this condition being known, help has come without the U.N.R.R.A. from the United States of America, from Canada, from Australia, from South Africa, from China and from the United Kingdom and other places.

DR. P. N. BANERJEA: Not in adequate amounts.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: I am not sure if my Honourable friend should say that. I can say, with all the responsibility I have, that so far as this assistance from abroad is concerned, I wholly owe my debt of gratitude to all those who have sent their contributions.

DR. P. N. BANERJEA: The amounts have not been sufficient.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: Speaking about the amounts contributed from abroad, I can also speak of the amounts contributed within India.

DR. P. N. BANERJEA: Large sums of money have been spent by charitably minded persons.

Foreign Help For India

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: I do not want to enter into a controversy over this matter till at least the food crisis is over. But, as I have said, I know all these facts and I can say that whatever assistance has been given has been ungrudgingly given, most generously given, and given with a heart feeling the distress, and without having any obligation and without knowing anything more than the fact that the areas are under famine conditions. In that connection, I may be permitted only to give another instance. When there was a devastating flood in Midnapore and I was then the High Commissioner for India in London, the result of one 5-minute broadcast showing conditions in Bengal, brought about, day after day for three weeks, 3 or 4 man-loads of letters containing cheques and small contributions to the extent that the total contribution was over Rs. 5 lakhs in a few days.

That was an expression of generosity and I was touched by this—I am not speaking of men who contributed in pounds, but I must say that I was deeply touched by the generosity of people who sent me sixpence, nine pence, and so on and these contributions were from old pensioners, school-children, hospitals, churches, etc.

India has at least awakened the sympathy of other nations in cases which have been brought to their notice. As I have said, it is purely my personal feeling that probably it would be better if we refrain from saying anything, even in general terms, as it will naturally bring the whole picture before them that we might be referring to our own case. But, in any case, if my Honourable friend thinks that it is a necessary item, I will certainly leave it to the decision of the House—I am not opposing the amendment—as to whether it should accept the amendment, or not.

Congress Party's Absence Deplored

Sir, I have tried to give replies to almost all the points which have been raised. All I say in conclusion is that I deeply deplore the absence of my friends, the Congress, on the other side. If they had not participated in the other proceedings of the House, if they had not taken any part in other matters which had been brought before this House, I could have understood their abstention. But I do feel that their

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abstention in a matter of the greatest international co-operation might be misunderstood abroad. However, I do hope that my resolution will be carried by the House in all the generosity of the principle behind it.

DR. P. N. BANERJEA: Will the Honourable Member forward to the United Nations the various suggestions and recommendations which have been made from this side of the House?

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: I am not sure if I do forward all the speeches, it will do much good.

DR. P. N. BANERJEA: I said, recommendations and suggestions.

SIR M. AZIZUL HAQUE: We will certainly forward the whole proceedings to our representatives. We will scrutinise all the points, and I can assure my Honourable friend that if there is any point on which the case of India should be represented, I am prepared to draw up a memorandum and send it to our representatives.

As reported in our issue dated April 15, the Assembly passed the following resolution:

"This Assembly approves of the U.N.R.R.A. Agreement, signed at Washington on November 9, 1943. In expressing its approval, this Assembly recommends that any area important for the military operations of the United Nations which is stricken by famine or disease should be included in the benefits to be made available by the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration."

(The text of the Agreement was published in our issue dated December 15, 1943.)

DIRECTOR GENERAL OF RAILWAYS, CALCUTTA AREA

Sir Robert Marriott, General Manager of the East Indian Railway, has been appointed Director-General of Railways, Calcutta Area. Rai Bahadur N. C. Ghosh, O.B.E., Chief Operating Superintendent, East Indian Railway, is to officiate as General Manager.

Mr. F. C. Badhwar, M.B.E., will officiate as Secretary, Railway Board, when Mr. J. D. Michael, O.B.E., proceeds on leave shortly, said a Press Note issued by the Railway Board on April 14.



H.E. Ali Asghar Hikmat speaking at a reception to the Mission, at the Government Mohammedan College, Madras.

PERSIAN MISSION LEADER'S IMPRESSIONS OF TOUR

WE have been touring India for three weeks and during this short period we have visited nine of the most important Universities and many educational and cultural centres in North and South India. We have seen libraries, museums, industrial and agricultural institutions and ancient monuments and have had the benefit of discussions and consultations with the authorities concerned.

By H. E. M. Ali Asghar Hikmat,
Leader of the Persian Cultural Mission.

The thing that has created a profound impression on our minds and which indeed has come to us as a pleasant surprise is the fact that in spite of the conditions brought about by the war, educational and cultural institutions in India are being maintained not only at their pre-war level but are also showing definite signs of progress.

While no doubt from each university young men have gone out to fight for their country and in well-equipped science laboratories Indian scien-

tists are making their contribution to the war against the forces of evil, still the pursuit of arts and sciences goes on as ever. This shows that while India is in the war she has been mercifully spared its horrors, a blessing for which the mighty Allied services as also the Government and the peoples of British India and Indian States deserve the highest praise.

We have been, so to say, eye-witnesses to the excellent morale of our Indian cousins. It was in the course of our tour that the Japanese ventured to cross the Indian frontier. Yet everywhere that we went we found a sense of confidence underlying all the war and non-war activities.

Ours is the first cultural mission that has come to India and will, we hope, be the prelude to many such contacts. We are sincerely grateful to the Government of India for making it possible for us to study the educational and cultural conditions of this country at first hand. We are also grateful for this to our own Government who, under the inspiring leadership of His Majesty the Shah of Iran is playing its full part in contributing to the final victory of the United Nations of which Iran, too, is a proud member.

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Members of the Persian Mission talking to Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Vice-Chancellor of Madras University (extreme right), who is one of the Indian scientists invited to visit the United Kingdom, as reported on page 474 of this issue.

Brief as our stay in this country has been, we have learnt many things and made many contacts which we hope will prove of the highest value in furthering the object of our mission, namely, that the two great and ancient nations of the East, India and Iran, which have sprung from a common stock and have a common cultural heritage, should renew and revitalise their centuries-old ties and as in the past make yet another lasting contribution to civilisation and humanity after the war.

Exchange of Students

Wherever we went, we were given a warm welcome and were assured of the fullest sympathies of the authorities of Universities and other institutions for our schemes for exchange of students and professors between Indian Universities and our own University of Teheran and developing a new relationship such as correspondence and exchange of literature and exhibits etc. Just at a time when the world is passing through the horrors of war, and the very foundations of organised Society, of culture and civilization, seem to be shaking, it may seem a little incongruous to talk of culture and cultural missions. But as the old Persian saying goes, "Blessed are those that look ahead." With the help of God, final

victory will undoubtedly be ours and a new world of peace and security will be built on the ruins of the war.

Both India and Iran, as inheritors of the two most ancient civilizations and cultures, will have an important part to play in the post-war world, both have much to learn from each other. We hope that before long it will be possible, under the auspices of the Government of India and the Government of Iran, for a cultural mission from this country to proceed to Iran. We shall receive them with open arms. Let us, therefore, get together and keep together so that not only the cause of the Allies but also of civilised world and of humanity may prosper once again.

Once again, at this moment of our departure, we express our sincerest thanks to all those who have helped to make our short stay in India so useful and profitable to ourselves. We are also grateful to the great Indian Press for its interest and co-operation. We hope we shall continue to enjoy this co-operation and that, irrespective of all considerations of caste and creed, the Indian Press will pull its full weight in bringing the two sister nations closer and ever closer. Long live India! Long live Iran!

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PERSIAN LEADER'S TRIBUTE TO MYSORE

"Brief as our stay in Mysore State has been it has nevertheless been rich in experience and inspiration. We have seen two of its most important cities—Bangalore and Mysore—which are delightful models of cleanliness and town planning," observed H.E.M. Ali Asghar Hikmat, in an interview during the Mission's stay at Bangalore.

He continued: "Our visits to educational and industrial centres of the State have been both instructive and illuminating. Even more inspiring and encouraging, however, was our audience with His Highness Sri Jaya Chamarajendra Wadiyar, the charming young Maharaja of Mysore. His Highness received us with true princely courtesy. Himself a keen scholar of History, he was very much interested in the objects of our Mission. I think we can rely upon the sympathies of His Highness and of His Government towards future schemes for heralding a new era of cultural relationship between Iran and India."

Referring to the progress made by Mysore State, His Excellency said, "Bounties of nature, far-sighted statesmanship of her administrators, one of the most prominent of whom, we are glad to say, was an Iranian (Sir Mirza Ismail) and the benevolence of her enlightened rulers—all these have contributed towards making modern Mysore one of the most progressive and advanced States of India from points of view of administration, education and industrialisation. Here we have seen the Indian Institute of Science which, under the able direction of Sir Jnan Chandra Ghosh, is undoubtedly one of the most famous centres of scientific research in the East. It was a matter of legitimate pride for us Iranians to learn that this institution which now enjoys generous patronage of the Government of India, the Mysore Durbar and a number of other Indian States owes its existence to the munificence of a son of Iran, the late Sir Jamshedji Tata. It offers excellent opportunities for training future scientists of our country."

Pioneer Work

Describing his impressions of other institutions visited by the Mission, His Excellency said that he was highly impressed by the work being done by the Forest Research Institute in Mysore.

"The Occupational Institute of Bangalore," he continued, "with its branches for training in cinematography, radio and printing is doing pioneer work in diverting vocational talent from literary courses of the University and bids fair to become the best polytechnic in India. At the factories of Mysore Chemicals and Fertilisers, Limited, we saw the most modern plants for the manufacture of sulphuric acid and ammonia. This firm, which is the only one of its kind in India,

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is doing excellent work in supplying fertilisers like ammonium sulphate to agriculturists. India needs many more such concerns and Iran will only be too glad to profit from experiences of her neighbour in this and allied fields."

Concluding the Leader of the Mission said, "Our only regret is that our stay in this progressive State has been all too short to allow us to make a more detailed survey than has been possible. We shall always cherish the memories of our visit to Mysore State which we hope will continue to progress and prosper under her benign and enlightened ruler. We are highly grateful to all those who have helped to make our brief stay so fruitful and profitable from our point of view."

The Mission returned to Bangalore on March 30 after visiting Mysore and the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam. At the latter place they saw the famous Krishnaraja Sagar Gardens which were specially illuminated for them at night. The Leader of the Mission described it as "a scene from the *Arabian Nights*." In Mysore, they also visited the Oriental Library and the Archaeological Museum.

In Bangalore the Mission were given an "At Home," attended by Ministers of the State, by the Mysore State Journalists' Association. On this occasion Prof. Rashid Yasemi recited his latest composition. After attending a party given in their honour at the Residency in the evening the Mission left for Madras, where they emplaned for Karachi, en route to Persia.

INDIA'S WAR SUPPLIES TO RUSSIA

A graphic picture of the work of Indian troops in carrying war materials for Russia through Persia and Iraq will shortly be available in a film which is now being prepared by a special team of cameramen.

The film tells the complete story of a gigantic undertaking from start to finish: from the time goods are landed at a port in Iraq to their final delivery into Russian hands in North-West Persia. The whole journey of some thousand miles by river, rail and road—through varied landscape and weather—shows Indian soldiers at work as engineers, labourers, drivers and sentries, all performing their allotted task with skill and patience, often in the most trying conditions.

FILM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Government of India have appointed a Film Advisory Committee to advise Government on matters pertaining to the film industry as a whole arising out of the working of the Raw Cinematograph Film (Control of Distribution) Order. The first meeting of the Committee is expected to be held in New Delhi shortly.

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NO INCREASE IN RAILWAY FARES

A Resolution, issued by the Finance Department, Government of India, and published in a *Gazette of India Extraordinary* on April 15, 1944, stated:

The statements relating to the Revised Estimates for 1943-44 and the Budget Estimates for 1944-45, which were presented to the Central Legislative Assembly and the Council of State on February 29, 1944, have been reconsidered by the Governor-General-in-Council. The changes made are explained below and the revised statements are now published as usual for general information.

2. The Legislative Assembly voted the demands for 1944-45 with the following reductions:

Railway Demands		Rs.
Demand No. 1—Railway Board		300
Demand No. 10—Appropriation to Reserve		10,00,00,000
General Demands		
Demand No. 12—Executive Council		2,34,999
Demand No. 15—Home Department		100
Demand No. 21—Finance Department		1

It also refused its assent to the following Supplementary Demands for 1943-44.

General Demands		Rs.
Demand No. 17—Department of Information and Broadcasting		1,85,000

Of these, the Governor-General-in-Council has, under Section 67-A (7) of the Government of India Act as set out in the Ninth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935, declared that Demand No. 12—Executive Council for 1944-45 and Supplementary Demand No. 17—Department of Information and Broadcasting for 1943-44 are essential to the discharge of his responsibilities. The remaining reductions have been accepted, but the reductions, except under Railway Demand No. 10—Appropriation to Reserve, do not affect the figures in the statements which are in round thousands of rupees.

3. Consequent on the decision of the Governor-General-in-Council not to increase railway fares as originally proposed, the Railway Revenue Estimate has been reduced by Rs. 10 crores, and, as stated above, there will

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CENTRAL ADVISORY COUNCIL (RAILWAYS)

A meeting of the Central Advisory Council for Railways was held on April 6, 1944, in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Sir Edward Benthall, Member for War Transport, Government of India.

The Council considered the amalgamation of the O. & T. Railway Local Advisory Committees in the United Provinces and elected Members from the Council to serve on Local Advisory Committees of Railways.

The Railway Board placed a memorandum before the Council on measures taken to eradicate corruption which had increased during the war as it had in the last war, although this phenomenon was not peculiar to Railways. Two Special Tribunals had been set up, one at Lahore and one at Calcutta for the expeditious disposal of cases and a third Tribunal would probably also be set up.

Special Staff under the War Department had been appointed for the detection of corruption and up to the quarter ending December, 1943, 151 cases had been taken up. Eighty-two cases had been sent for trial and 45 convictions had been secured. In 33 other cases, departmental action had been taken and 14 railway employees had been dismissed or discharged.

Publicity had been used to instruct the public in the correct procedure in obtaining facilities for transport and publicity had been given to convictions and punishment. The Council to convictions and punishment. The Council unanimously supported the measures taken by the Railway Board. The Members advocated deterrent punishment and made suggestions on how public co-operation could be achieved by publicity and by other means.

A previous Advisory Council, when discussing overcrowding of trains, had recommended that a nation-wide publicity campaign should be undertaken to discourage unnecessary travel. This recommendation had been accepted and a representative of the Department of Information and Broadcasting gave details of the campaign now being launched and the proposed course of action was approved by the Council.

be an equivalent reduction in the Railway Expenditure Estimate on account of the transfer to the Railway Reserve Fund.

4. The amendments to the Finance Bill will not result in any material alteration of the estimates for 1944-45 as previously adopted and no change has accordingly been made therein.

5. In the result, the net estimated revenue deficit for the year 1944-45 has not undergone any change.

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Major-General D. Stuart, C.I.E., O.B.E., accompanied by the Relief Commissioner, Mr. O. M. Martin, recently visited riverside villages in Bengal to inspect famine relief measures.

ARMY AID IN BENGAL FAMINE RELIEF

MILITARY aid in famine relief in Bengal has now been given during a period of approximately five months—that is, two months longer than the original estimate of the C-in-C., General Sir Claude Auchinleck, who at a Press Conference on November 6, 1943, gave three months as a reasonable time for the Army to be engaged in this work.

In effect the Army was called in to assist the civil power in an emergency over a limited period. By general consent, the Military authorities have done all, and more than, they set out to do.

Figures are now available which reveal the extent and value of the assistance provided by the Army. To date (April 4) more than 1,700,000 maunds of foodgrains have been carried by military motor vehicles, which have covered a total of more than 610,000 miles in the course of their relief duties. Apart from this total, large consignments have been moved by rail and other means by the Department of Civil Supplies.

These efforts were invaluable in getting reserves of food out to the districts in advance of the winter harvest. Since then the Army has continued to assist the civil power in moving stocks of grain procured from the abundant *Aman* crop to the deficit areas in accordance with the long-term programme of creating reserves of food to guard against the possibility of any emergency which might develop in the future.

Medical Relief

Army aid, which, in the beginning, was concentrated on the rapid movement of food to reduce starvation conditions, has since that time developed in numerous directions. In particular, medical relief has been developed on a large scale. Having regard to the vast wartime commitments of the Army Medical Services, medical resources have been made available to the people of Bengal in the most generous fashion.

Sixteen military hospitals, containing from 100 to 300 beds according to their size, and 61

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Maj.-Gen. Stuart chats with patients at an emergency hospital established by the military at Barisal.

Army mobile treatment centres are now in full operation in affected areas of the Province. 750,000 medical cases have been treated by these hospitals and dispensaries. Of this number 599,511 were malaria cases. Nearly a million and a half people have been given inoculation and vaccination. Preventive measures continue.

The military hospitals and dispensaries have been located at places specially chosen out of consideration for the urgency of local needs. But to carry medical aid as far as possible to the remotest villages and less accessible places, the Army Medical authorities instituted a system of patrols, which operated from local headquarters. These patrols consisted of small bodies of soldiers, in the charge of an officer or N.C.O., who penetrated deeply into outlying districts and then reported to their headquarters on health conditions. As a result of this system it was frequently possible to bring medical aid and medicines without delay to isolated parts in which sudden outbreaks of disease had been detected. In many cases, medical officers with

haversacks filled with medicines were sent out on horses, on bicycles and on foot to give treatment in small villages and settlements which could not be reached by road.

The patrols and medical officers soon received a warm welcome from the village people, who in the early days of famine relief had displayed a certain timidity when they came face to face with soldiers. The excellent relations which have been established throughout the Province between soldiers and civilians are a tribute to the practical nature of the aid which the Army has succeeded in bringing to the Government, and there is reason to believe that the high reputation which the Army has earned in Bengal villages will remain long after the troops have left on other duties.

In addition to the movement of grain and medical aid, the Army has provided famine relief in numerous other ways. The Royal Indian Army Service Corps have made avail-

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ARMY'S FOOD PRODUCTION DRIVE

THE Indian Army has launched a determined food production drive. It will grow more fresh vegetables and potatoes, produce more eggs and poultry and raise more goats, rabbits and pigs.

A Development of Local Resources Branch has been set up at G.H.Q., India Command, to direct the new drive and aims at making the Army increasingly self-supporting in food supplies.

The first step is to make good deficiencies in certain commodities and to this end chains of mass production poultry farms and piggeries are in process of formation, as also goat and sheep farms. Thousands of tons of vegetables are already being produced by static military units in various parts of the country. The Fourteenth Army have introduced a Gardeners' Unit of experienced malis and intend to bring vast areas under cultivation. In addition, troops near the Indo-Burma front are encouraged to become gardeners in their spare time. Engineer units have made it a definite part of their policy to grow cabbages, potatoes and peas with as much care as they devote to the issue of stores for roadmaking or bridge-building.

Installations of ice plants and refrigerator vans to take meat and vegetables to forward areas is also envisaged. Refrigerator ships with Argentine beef and New Zealand mutton will arrive at Indian ports and the meat will be quickly conveyed, still in cold storage, to front-line troops.

As the Army's scheme will not be 100 per cent self-supporting for some time, limited purchases will continue to be made in the open market, but in consultation with the civil authorities. Regional areas corresponding with civil divisions are to be created throughout the country for this purpose.

Co-ordination Committees

Co-ordination Committees, on which local civil officials will sit, will study all purchases to be made by or on behalf of the Defence Services. Only commodities available after civilian needs have been taken into account will be purchased by the Army, thus preventing competitive buying from civil resources.

Extensive food production schemes planned in Southern Army in conjunction with the provincial governments are now in full operation. Southern Army are 80 per cent self-supporting as regards fresh vegetables and certain other fresh supplies. Producers Co-operative Societies

ARMY AID IN BENGAL FAMINE RELIEF

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able a number of Supply Sections which have been engaged in detailed distribution of food-stuffs in distressed areas. These sections have also undertaken the training of civil officials in this duty. Many military units have also provided cookery lessons for the benefit of village people. The object of these demonstrations was to popularise the use of other foodgrains, such as bajra, and to assist the people to live on the country's varied produce in times of emergency. Many of the lessons taught were learned by the soldiers themselves as part of their jungle warfare training.

A training school organised by the Army was also established in Calcutta for the training of inspectors and sub-inspectors of supplies at food receiving and clearing centres. The training is to equip them to distinguish between the various qualities of grain and to supervise loading and unloading arrangements, as well as to check supplies arriving by wagon.

Two other directions in which military aid has been given are in the rehabilitation of children, rendered necessary by the large number of adults who died during the famine, and in the movement of clothing and blankets, which was such an important part of relief work during the cold weather.

Recently, soldiers have been doing work of great value in connection with the salvage and repair of derelict country boats along Bengal rivers and waterways. Substantial quantities of engineers stores have been released and despatched to repair centres. Already approximately 1,500 boats have been repaired and delivered to the Civil authorities.

Famine relief is normally, and must remain, a function of the Civil government. The work of the Army in Bengal in the past few months had provided a striking demonstration of how military resources can be applied to aid and reinforce civil power in a work of mercy.

have been formed to supply vegetables to the Army.

Joint military and civil schemes have been launched in the Bombay Presidency and the United Provinces. Both provinces are conducting "chicken and egg" drives, while in Bombay nearly 12,000 acres are under vegetables—all the result of co-operation between the Army and civil authorities.

CONTROL OF BASIC FOODS IN BRITAIN

A subject connected with rationing in India that has recently attracted attention is that while certain basic foods, such as bread, potatoes and cereals, are not rationed in the United Kingdom the reverse is the case in India where foodgrains are being rationed.

Interviewed, Mr. W. H. Kirby, Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, agreed that the question was one of much importance, though he pointed out that rationing of the main basic food cereals in India does not prevent people from supplementing the rationed foods by the many unrationed foods. He drew attention to the fact that what were basic foods in the U.K. were not so in India and vice versa. Another important fact which is often forgotten, he felt, was that the U.K., had evolved a system of total rationing of all essential foods after five years of unremitting effort, and there was complete ownership or control by Government not only of all commodities but of all trading.

In the process of tackling the country's food problem the British Ministry of Food has become the biggest food concern ever known, buying from all parts of the world and distributing to 45,000,000 people in all parts of Britain including Northern Ireland. The fact that the British ration is now a balanced diet is due to an absolute food administration backed by the self-discipline of the people to eat the food that is made available to them.

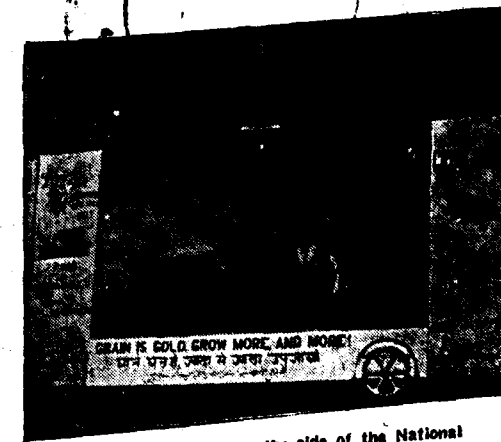
To assume that because bread is not rationed it is uncontrolled is entirely erroneous. The distribution, delivery and transport of bread to consumers is rationalised throughout Great Britain. A rigid Bread Control, through the Area Bread Officers, ensures that the flour content per head works out to about 1 lb. per day, which is less than the pre-war figure.

Similarly in the case of potatoes, very strict control is exercised through the Potato Marketing Organisation and the Potato Area Officers, a system which guarantees fixed prices and equitable distribution.

Answering the argument that about 12 million "full" meals a day are provided in canteens "outside" the ration, Mr. Kirby agreed that this might be correct, but he drew attention to the fact that the figure probably related to meals served in all catering establishments, which included all hotels, restaurants, institutions, factory canteens, mobile canteens, children's school feeding schemes, pit-head canteens,

etc. It is to be realised at the same time that when using the word "full" meal, the amount of rationed foods must be borne in mind, such as one pennyworth of meat, 1/10th of an ounce of sugar, etc., which, when cooked in bulk, plus plenty of vegetables, give a satisfying meal.

The Food Department of the Government of India, continued Mr. Kirby, was urging upon industrialists to set up canteens in their factories where employees could be given wholesome food "outside" their ration at an inexpensive price.



One of the paintings on the side of the National War Front Rajputana Exhibition Coach, now touring Rajputana and Ajmer-Merwara.

CHEAP GRAIN SHOPS FOR RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

The loss on the working of the Cheap Grain Shops Scheme for railway employees, which has been in operation since the middle of last year, is expected to be Rs. 10 crores (Rs. 10,00,00,000) for 1943-44 and Rs. 11½ crores for 1944-45, or Rs. 21½ crores for both years.

There are now over 520 shops, of which 130 are in travelling vans. Over 7½ lakhs (7,75,000) railway employees are receiving the benefit and the turnover is about a million maunds a month.

Selling prices have been regulated so as to protect the employee from any rise in prices since the summer of 1942; and the range of the commodities supplied has also expanded. The result is that, as against the original anticipation of a loss of Rs. 3 crores on the working of the grain shops in 1943-44, it is now expected that the loss for the year will be Rs. 10 crores.

During December, 1943, the aggregate relief afforded to the staff was calculated at Rs. 65 lakhs. The average relief per ration card holder throughout the country was Rs. 8-6-0.

STATUTORY MAXIMUM WHEAT PRICE

A Press communique issued by the Food Department, Government of India, on April 2, stated:

In order to give practical shape to their intention to safeguard the interests of producers while enforcing a strict policy of statutory price control in the interests of consumers, the Government of India have decided to announce their willingness to accept all wheat of fair average quality offered for sale in the main assembling markets of the Punjab, U.P. and Sind, at a price of Rs. 7-8 per maund, should prices fall.

This decision anticipates the publication by the governments of the main producing areas, after consultation with the Government of India, of notifications under the Defence of India Rules, announcing the statutory maximum prices above which it will be an offence to buy or sell wheat in wholesale markets for the next 12 months.

The statutory maximum prices so fixed follow the recommendations of the Price Advisory Committee. The Government of India's offer holds good until further notice and, in any case, for a period of not less than 12 months from the date of this announcement. Details of the terms of purchase and the centres at which this offer will be implemented as well as of agents who will receive grain tendered for sale, will be published shortly.

MEATLESS DAYS IN BENGAL

The Bengal Government's scheme to enforce two meatless days a week will save 50,000 head of cattle per annum in Calcutta alone. Prices of plough cattle in Bengal have been increasing steadily due both to heavy losses during last year's famine and to slaughter. In spite of the Bengal Government's help to impoverished cultivators who had sold their cattle, by granting loans to buy them back, the results were not encouraging, as prices remained prohibitive. The enforcement of two meatless days is expected to contribute to a reduction in cattle prices and also give a fillip to the Grow More Food campaign.

MORE SUGAR FOR BENGAL

In response to Bengal's request for larger supplies of sugar, the Central Food Department has increased Bengal's sugar quota from 132,000 to 140,000 tons, of which 10,000 tons will be local production. Similarly the *gur* quota has been raised from 37,000 to 60,000 tons.

UNLICENSED GRAIN TRADERS

To eliminate speculators from the grain trade, the Central Food Department has discouraged the granting to new entrants of licences required by the Foodgrains Control Order. A recent decision of the Madras High Court in respect of Clause 3 of the Foodgrains Control Order is, therefore, of special interest. Clause 3 requires every wholesale or retail dealer in foodgrains to take out a licence. The Madras Government preferred an appeal against the Order of a Sessions Judge who held that the Clause was *ultra vires*, in as much as its effect was to 'prohibit' trade. The High Court has held that not only is the Clause *intra vires* but also that storage for sale without a licence is as much an offence as sale without a licence.

MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM PRICES FOR RAW JUTE

The Government of India have issued a Notification on April 5, 1944, fixing maximum and minimum prices for raw jute at Calcutta, said a Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on April 8. It added:

This is in pursuance of the decision reached as a result of a conference held in New Delhi, in January last, between the representatives of the Government of India and the Government of Bengal.

The conference recommended that the Government of India should fix maximum and minimum prices for raw jute on the basis of Rs. 17 and Rs. 15 per maund, respectively, for Indian Jat Middles at Calcutta. The prices specified in the notification have been calculated on this basis.

By the same Notification the Government of India have also fixed maximum prices for manufactured jute goods sold for export.

SCRAP RUBBER FOR RECLAIM PURPOSES

The most valuable type of scrap rubber for reclaim purposes is that contained in unserviceable tyres and tubes. Other types of rubber scrap—hose, belting, footwear, miscellaneous articles, etc., produce only a very low grade of reclaim and as considerable accumulations of this type of scrap now exist, no further collections will be made from civil sources.

All unserviceable motor vehicle tyres and tubes are, however, still required and in accordance with the provisions of the Tyre Rationing Order, 1944, no person, except with the permission of the Area Rationing Authority concerned, may retain in his possession any unserviceable tyre or tube for a period of more than 10 days.

ANTI-PROFITEERING ORDINANCE AMENDED

A comprehensive Amending Ordinance to the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance has been issued as a *Gazette of India Extraordinary*. These amendments are based on experience gained in the working of the Ordinance during the last seven months. They will, on the one hand, make things easier for honest dealers and traders and, on the other, afford greater relief to consumers by providing for more efficient enforcement of the provisions of the Ordinance.

It will now be permissible for a dealer to add to his costs a profit margin even exceeding 20 per cent. of the landed cost, if the article is imported, or of the price at which it was sold to him by the producer, if it is locally manufactured, provided it was the normal trade practice to do so before August, 1939. The fact of this increased profit margin should, however, be intimated to the Controller-General of Civil Supplies. So long as the Controller-General of Civil Supplies does not modify this margin, either by a special or a general order, it will be permissible for the dealer to continue to charge the margin reported by him, even though it may be in excess of 20 per cent.

Certificates of Landed Cost

The Controller-General has further been authorised to issue certificates as to what the landed cost of a particular imported article or group of imported articles is. These certificates will be of special value to dealers inasmuch as it is provided that such certificates will be accepted by Courts as conclusive evidence of the landed cost of the article or articles covered by them.

Another important amendment is that it will now be for an accused person to prove that he has not in his possession articles in excess of the limits prescribed under Section 5 of the Ordinance or that he has not charged a price in excess of that permitted under Section 6 of the Ordinance. Provision has also been made for summary trials, for sales by auction and for punishment of offences committed by a Company or a Corporation. The practice of forcing a purchaser, as a condition of sale, to purchase at the same time any other article has been made illegal.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER ORDINANCE

Dealers, wholesale and retail, of fountain pens, fountain pen nibs and inks, boot polishes, "Vita" brand razor blades and cigarettes are directed, according to Notifications published in the *Gazette of India*, under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, to exhibit prominently in their shops a price list of their

articles showing clearly their selling prices as already fixed by the Central Government. Price lists should be shown to purchasers, if demanded.

Direct importers of "Vita" brand razor blades and producers of cigarettes should allow a discount, in accordance with the usual trade practice which prevailed immediately before the war, to retail dealers who depend on them for their stocks.

Other Notifications revise the maximum prices of the main classes of fountain pens and boot polishes sold in the market, and also fix the maximum retail prices which may be charged by a dealer or producer in respect of both imported and locally produced electric bulbs. All dealers in electric bulbs have been further directed to mark bulbs exposed or intended for sale with the sale price or, where the marking is not feasible, to exhibit on the premises a price list showing correct controlled selling prices as fixed by the Central Government. Producers are also directed to print the retail selling price on the carton in respect of all bulbs leaving their godowns on or after May 1, 1944.

Bicycles tyres and tubes, electrical goods and certain specified counts of Japanese staple fibre and artificial silk yarn have been notified by the Controller General of Civil Supplies as coming within the operation of Section 7 of the Ordinance, which limits the quantity and period of consumers' stocks.

Dealers in woollen cloth, articles and goods in Behrampur and Jeypore (Orissa Province), are directed to mark, within a fortnight (from March 31) woollen articles exposed or intended for sale with their sale price, or exhibit a price list of those articles where marking is not feasible.

PRICE FIXED FOR WOOLLEN GOODS

A Notification under the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, published in the *Gazette of India* dated April 15, 1944, fixes the maximum prices, wholesale and retail, which a dealer may charge in respect of specified woollen goods. Prices have been fixed for about 50 varieties which are specified in the Notification. By another Notification, all dealers in woollen goods, wholesalers and retailers, are directed to exhibit prominently in their shops a price list showing clearly the retail selling prices as fixed by the Central Government.

Goods of English manufacture must be stamped "Made in England" every three yards

on the selva. Goods which are not stamped "Made in England" will be treated as "Made in Japan" or of other make, and in such cases the prices in the Notification should be reduced by 40 per cent.

For widths up to 60-inch the prices are to remain the same as mentioned in the Notification. If, however, the width is 52-inch or less, they must be reduced *pro-rata*. If the weight varies from that given in the Notification, then too the prices should be increased or reduced, as the case may be, *pro-rata*. For special types of woollen goods not included in the Notification, or where the prices mentioned in it are not workable for any reason, a dealer may submit necessary particulars, to enable the Controller-General of Civil Supplies to fix special prices for such lines. As regards Viyella and Clydella fabrics, manufactured by Messrs. William Hellins & Co., Ltd., England, wholesale dealers are entitled to a maximum margin of 10 per cent. on the net landed cost and retail dealers to not more than 12½ per cent. and 28 per cent. at ports and elsewhere, respectively, over the wholesale prices.

Standard Cash Memo

A standard cash memo form has been devised, which came into effect on April 5, 1944. Old unused forms may, however, be used so long as information prescribed in the standard form is also given in the cash memo that may be issued.

Publishers are directed to allow to book-sellers a discount of not less than 15 per cent on the published price.

IMPORTERS WARNED

A Press Note issued by the Commerce Department, Government of India, on March 28, stated:

The Government of India in the Commerce Department have examined the question of the action to be taken against importers of commodities of common use who show themselves hostile to the purposes of the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention Ordinance, apart from any action that may be taken against them under the Ordinance itself. They wish to make it clear that they will not hesitate to refuse to grant an import licence to any importer who is found to be operating on the black market, or withholding supplies from normal trade channels, or appropriating higher profit margins than was the custom before the war, or generally acting in a manner prejudicial to the achievement of the objects underlying the Ordinance.

HIDES MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER

An Order entitled "The Hides Movement (by rail) Control Order, 1944" came into force on April 10, imposing an obligation on consignors of hides not to move by rail any consignment of hides without securing a permit.

For the proper administration of this Order, India has been divided into 6 zones i.e. Lahore, Agra, Cawnpore, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras; and except at Madras, Zonal Officers have been appointed at all these centres. While the movement of hides from within a place in the Zone to the Zonal centre will be free, the transport of hides to any other place either within or outside the zone will be subject to a permit to be issued by the Zonal Officer. The sixth Zone, i.e., Madras, has been exempted from the restrictions imposed by the Order and the movement of hides from any place in this Zone to any other place in India will not require a permit. Permits will be issued freely for varieties of hides the export of which out of India is not prohibited.

While, generally speaking, the Order imposes restrictions on the movement of hides, it is likely to stimulate the production of better types of leather in India by canalising the movement of hides towards centres equipped with modern methods of tanning. The measure will also enable the departmental officers concerned to plan the issue of permits with a view to avoiding unnecessary or double transport of hides by rail which is taking place at present.

DISTRIBUTION MARGIN ON SALES OF YARN

A Press Note issued by the Industries and Civil Supplies Department, Government of India, on March 13, stated:

On the recommendation of the appropriate Committee of the Textile Control Board, it has been decided to apportion as follows the 15 per cent distribution margin on sales of yarn recently announced by the Textile Commissioner.

A dealer shall not buy or sell, except to a consumer, yarn at a price either ex-any godown or storage or F.O.R. any station of dispatch, being a godown or station within 100 miles of the manufacturer's premises, which exceeds by more than 3 per cent, or in the case of a godown or station not within 100 miles of the manufacturer's premises at a price which exceeds by more than 7½ per cent, the ex-mill maximum price or the ex-mill contract price, whichever is less.

INTERNAL CENSORSHIP

A Press communique issued by General Headquarters, on April 13, stated: Military security is vital to any nation at war. Its importance is increased when the enemy is within reach of a country's land and sea frontiers. It becomes even more important when the enemy is thrown on the defensive but is still in contact and expects an attack, for he will then redouble his efforts to obtain information from within the base from which an attack on him can be launched. India has now reached this latter stage as it has become a major base for offensive operations against the Japanese, and in view of its increasing operational importance, the whole problem of security has been reviewed.

Despite widespread propaganda to stop careless talk and careless correspondence, there is still a considerable element, both in official and non-official circles, which fails to understand what extensive harm can result from gossip, especially in correspondence, about matters of military importance.

Not only the lives of Indian and Allied soldiers, sailors and airmen but also the security of Indian civilian lives and property are endangered by the leakage of military information.

The majority of the public, and the Press in particular, fully appreciate the need for military security, but it is clear that, owing to the thoughtlessness and carelessness of a small minority, the essential degree of military security has not yet been achieved. Solely in the interest of military security, the Government of India, therefore, find it imperative to exercise their powers of censorship in respect of non-official internal postal and telegraphic correspondence, and to issue a warning that anyone, found guilty of a serious breach of security in the course of correspondence, will be severely dealt with.

U. K. Precedent

The effect of this decision is to bring India into line with the practice already existing in other countries involved in major military activities, such as the United Kingdom itself. Every endeavour will be made to avoid delay to correspondence and inconvenience to the public and it is stressed that the censorship will only be exercised in respect of matters which would be detrimental to the conduct of operations if leakage to the enemy occurred. All correspondence

opened in this censorship will be clearly marked "Opened by Examiner," but no notice will be given of the areas in which, and the period for which, the censorship will operate from time to time.

Attention is drawn to some of the more important matters which must not be conveyed in private postal and telegraphic correspondence, for example:

(i) location, numbers or movements—past, present or future—of convoys, or any naval, military or Air Force units, detachments or ships, and the arrival or non-arrival of reinforcements;

(ii) Armaments or equipment of any kind;

(iii) distinguishing signs for the identification of formations, units and their transport;

(iv) communications, such as the construction, use, condition or probable extension of ports, roads, aerodromes, railways or other transportation facilities;

(v) details of damage or casualties caused by enemy action in military installations and major public utility concerns.

CIVIL DEFENCE IN CEYLON

Mr. N. V. H. Symons, Director-General and Brigadier A. J. Reeve, Director (Technical), Civil Defence, have returned to Delhi after a ten-day tour to see the progress of A.R.P. in Ceylon, at the invitation of the Ceylon Government.

There has always been the closest liaison between the two Governments in Civil Defence matters and the Government of India have made available to the Ceylon Government the same technical advice on Civil Defence measures that has been made available to Provincial Governments in India. In addition, candidates from Ceylon have been trained as officers and instructors in the Government of India Civil Defence Schools and the Ceylon Government have more than once sent an officer to study the development of Civil Defence in India.

At the end of their tour they addressed a large conference of A.R.P. and Civil Defence officials, presided over by Sir Oliver Goonetilleke, the Civil Defence Commissioner, and gave their impressions of the Ceylon organization, which is very similar to the organization set up in India.

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Indian mortar detachment helps to wrest Lama Peligna (Italy) from the Germans. This mechanized Indian Lancer regiment participated in the Battles of the Rivers Trigno, Sangro and Moro.

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